HB 71 – Traffic Offenses (Identical SB 158)

This bill creates s. 318.195, F.S., adding a 2nd degree misdemeanor for "a person who commits a moving violation that causes serious bodily injury," which will "revoke the person's driver license for at least 30 days." It also adds a 1st degree misdemeanor for "a person who commits a moving violation that causes the death of a vulnerable road user," which will also "revoke the person's driver license for at least 1 year."

While these new misdemeanors will not have a direct impact on the prison population, the revocation of a driver's license will create a larger pool of people who might drive with their license revoked.

Per DOC, in FY 17-18, 4,462 (adj.) offenders were sentenced for driving with a suspended, revoked, cancelled, or disqualified license, with 286 (adj.) sentenced to prison (mean sentence length=23.6 m, incarceration rate: 6.2% adj.-6.2% unadj.). There were 38 (adj.) offenders sentenced for careless operation of motor vehicle with suspended license, resulting in death or serious bodily injury, with 16 (adj.) sentenced to prison (mean sentence length=23.6 m, incarceration rate: 42.1% adj.-42.9% unadj.).

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: House