

CS/HB 319 – Interference With Sporting or Entertainment Events (Identical CS/SB 764)

This bill creates s. 871.05, F.S., defining multiple terms, including “covered event,” which is defined as “an athletic competition or practice, including one conducted in a public venue or a live artistic, theatrical, or other entertainment performance event. The duration of such event includes the period from the time when a venue is held open to the public for such an event until the end of the athletic competition or performance event.” A **1st degree misdemeanor** is added for someone to “intentionally touch or strike a covered participant during a covered event against the will of the covered participant, or intentionally cause bodily harm to a covered participant during a covered event...or...willfully enter or remain in a restricted area during a covered event without being authorized, licensed, or invited to enter or remain in such a restricted area.” An **unranked 3rd degree felony (Level 1 by default)** is also added for a person who “solicits another person to” commit these acts “by offering money or any other thing of value to another to engage in specific conduct that constitutes such a violation.”

In FY 18-19, the incarceration rate for a Level 1, 3rd degree felony was 9.1%, and in FY 19-20 the incarceration rate was 8.2%. In FY 20-21, the incarceration rate for a Level 1, 3rd degree felony was 7.5%, and in FY 21-22 the incarceration rate was 8.6%.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: House