

CS/HB 7057 – Corrections (Similar CS/SB 7046)

This bill amends s. 330.41, F.S., adding the following to the definition of critical infrastructure facility: state correctional institutions, private correctional facilities, secure detention centers/facilities, nonsecure residential facilities, high-risk residential facilities, maximum-risk residential facilities, and county detention facilities. With these additions, such facilities are now included as areas where a person may not knowingly or willfully operate a drone over, allow a drone to make contact with, or allow a drone to come within a distance which is close enough to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility. Penalties for these activities remain 2nd and 1st degree misdemeanors. This bill also amends s. 943.13, F.S., decreasing the age requirement for employment as a correctional officer from 19 to 18, which could impact the 2nd degree misdemeanor for false official statements.

Per FDLE, in FY 17-18, there have been no arrests for misdemeanors associated with s. 330.41, F.S.; this law went into effect on July 1st, 2017. However, one arrest was recorded in December 2018, but there have been no convictions or adjudications withheld in that time period. While a small number of arrests were recorded for s. 837.06, F.S., it is not known if any of these were connected to s. 943.13, F.S.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: No Impact

Requested by: House