

SB 420 – Animal Abuse

This bill amends s. 828.126, F.S., increasing the penalty for sexual activities involving animals from a 1st degree misdemeanor to a **Level 4, 3rd degree felony**. It also increases the penalty for fighting or baiting animals under s. 828.122, F.S. from a Level 1, 3rd degree felony to a **Level 4, 3rd degree felony**.

Per FDLE, in FY 18-19, there were 6 arrests under s. 828.126, F.S. with one adjudication withheld. There were 3 arrests in FY 19-20, with 2 guilty/convicted and one adjudication withheld. In FY 20-21, there were 11 arrests with one adjudication withheld. Per DOC, there have been no new commitments to prison for a violation of s. 828.122, F.S. for the last three fiscal years.

In FY 18-19, the incarceration rate for a Level 4, 3rd degree felony was 22.3%, and in FY 19-20 the incarceration rate was 19.3%. In FY 20-21, the incarceration rate for a Level 4, 3rd degree felony was 19.1%.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: Senate