

HB 7021 – Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Identical SB 680)

The bill creates s. 379.412, F.S. related to penalties for feeding wildlife and freshwater fish.

More specifically, a first violation for feeding a bear, alligator, or other crocodilian is a noncriminal infraction (civil penalty of \$100). A second violation, when all violations are related to bears, alligators, or other crocodilians, is a 2nd degree misdemeanor. A third violation results in a 1st degree misdemeanor. A fourth or subsequent violation is an **unranked, 3rd degree felony**.

Per FDLE, 10 people were found guilty and 10 people had adjudication withheld for a violation of s. 379.401(2)(a), F.S. The feeding of alligators or crocodiles is one of twenty-one potential violations listed, but it cannot be separated from the number convicted and found guilty. Bears are likely included in this list as well, under “wildlife.” There were no repeat offenders in this time period.

In FY 13-14, the incarceration rate for an unranked, 3rd degree felony was 9.7%

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: House