

SB 200 – Animal Cruelty

This bill creates s. 828.127, F.S., stating that “any person who maliciously or capriciously kills a dog or cat commits” an **unranked, 3rd degree felony**. Under current law, s. 828.12, F.S. includes the killing of an animal under a 1st degree misdemeanor, as well as a Level 3, 3rd degree felony for torturing any animal with intent to inflict intense pain, serious physical injury, or death.

Per FDLE, in FY 16-17, there were 84 guilty convictions and 36 adjudications withheld for the 1st degree misdemeanor of animal cruelty. Per DOC, in FY 16-17, there were 135 (adj.) offenders sentenced for felony animal cruelty offenses, and 8 (adj.) were sentenced to prison (mean sentence length=21.4 m, incarceration rate: 5.9% adj.-5.7% unadj.).

In FY 16-17, the incarceration rate for an unranked, 3rd degree felony was 9.5%.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: Senate