

SB 624 – Drones (Identical HB 471)

This bill amends s. 330.41, F.S., defining the term “fixed-site facility,” including state correctional institutions, secure detention centers/facilities, high-risk residential facilities, maximum-risk residential facilities, and county detention facilities as part of this term. Furthermore, it adds fixed-site facilities to those areas which 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. However, an **unranked, 2nd degree felony** is added for someone who uses “a drone to introduce contraband...into a fixed-site facility, or upon the grounds of or within the secured perimeter of the fixed-site facility.”

Per FDLE, in FY 16-17, there have been no arrests for misdemeanors associated with s. 330.41, F.S. since this law went into effect on July 1st, 2017.

Per DOC, in FY 16-17, there were 912 (adj.) offenders sentenced for introducing contraband into state prisons, juvenile justice facilities, and county detention centers, and 275 (adj.) were sentenced to prison (mean sentence length=27.1 m, incarceration rate: 30.2% adj.-30.1% unadj.). It is not known how many of these involved the use of a drone.

In FY 16-17, the incarceration rate for an unranked, 2nd degree felony was 30.9%.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: Senate