

SB 952 – Cruelty to Animals (Identical HB 473)

This bill amends s. 828.12(2), F.S., increasing the Level 3, 3rd degree felony for torturing any animal with intent to inflict intense pain, serious physical injury, or death to a **Level 5, 3rd degree felony**.

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 a Level 3, 3rd degree felony was 10.9%. The incarceration rate for a Level 5, 3rd degree felony was 21.7%.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: Senate