

CS/CS/HB 205 – Unlawful Use of Uniforms, Medals, or Insignia

This bill amends s. 817.312, F.S., adding further criteria for the unlawful use of uniforms, medals, or insignia. Currently, “a person may not misrepresent himself or herself as a member or veteran of the” armed forces or “wear the uniform of or any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans of the” armed forces “for which he or she is not authorized to wear while soliciting for charitable contributions or for the purpose of material gain.” This bill adds “including, but not limited to, obtaining employment or public office resulting in receiving compensation,” further clarifying the pool of potential offenders under this unranked, 3rd degree felony (Level 1 by default).

Per DOC, in FY 18-19, there were no offenders admitted to prison for a violation of s. 817.312, F.S. Given this information, this clarification of the statute should not have a significant effect on prison beds.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: No Impact