

SB 294 – Crimes Against Veterans (Identical HB 167)

This bill amends s. 775.0844, F.S., adding “victimizes 10 or more veterans, as defined in s. 101, F.S.” to the current Level 9, 1st degree felony for aggravated white collar crime, which is defined as “engaging in at least two white collar crimes that have the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims, or methods of commission, or that are otherwise interrelated by distinguishing characteristics and are not isolated incidents, provided that at least one of such crimes occurred after the effective date of this act.” Current victims include 10 or more elderly persons, 20 or more persons, the State of Florida, any state agency, any of the state’s political subdivisions, or any agency of the state’s political subdivisions, with the offender having to obtain or attempt to obtain \$50,000 or more.

Per DOC, in FY 18-19, there were 2 offenders admitted to prison for a violation of s. 775.0844, F.S. (mean sentence length=114.5 m). Although sentencing data is not available for FY 18-19, FY 17-18 data indicated that 100% of offenders were sentenced to prison for this offense. However, given the low numbers of offenders, this expansion of the statute should not have a significant effect on prison beds.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: Senate & House