

HB 279 – Traveling Across County Lines with Intent to Commit a Felony (Identical SB 1354)

This bill amends s. 843.22, F.S., adding the felony violations of “grand theft, as prohibited under s. 812.014, F.S.” and “trafficking in a controlled substance, as prohibited under s. 893.135, F.S.” to the existing provisions related to burglary for “a person who commits a felony offense” and “travels any distance with the intent to commit the felony offense in a county in this state other than the person's county of residence.” When this occurs, “the degree of the felony offense shall be reclassified to the next higher degree if the purpose of the person's travel is to thwart law enforcement attempts...” If this occurs, the felony offense a person commits would be ranked one level above its specified ranking.

Per FDLE, there has been one arrest since 2014 where the offense was elevated for committing a burglary with the purpose to thwart law enforcement. It is not known how many additional grand theft and drug trafficking offenders would be impacted by this change in language.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: House