

SB 360 – Traveling Across County Lines to Commit a Burglary (Identical HB 6037)

This bill amends s. 843.22, F.S., deleting “if the purpose of the person’s travel is to thwart law enforcement attempts to track the items stolen in the burglary” from the existing provisions related to burglary when that person “travels any distance with the intent to commit the burglary in a county in this state other than the person’s county of residence.” Therefore, by removing this obstacle to arrest and prosecution, more burglaries could be subject to being reclassified and ranked one level above their specified ranking under the Criminal Punishment Code when traveling across county lines is involved.

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, although that offense was not prosecuted under s. 843.22, F.S. Per DOC, in FY 18-19, there were 3,839 new commitments to prison for burglary, while in FY 19-20 there were 2,686 new commitments and in FY 20-21 there were 2,245 new commitments. It is not known how many burglary offenders would be impacted by this change in language.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Indeterminate

Requested by: House