

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** CS/CS/CS/HB 163 Weapons and Firearms

**SPONSOR(S):** Judiciary Committee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Gaetz and others

**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 300

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Criminal Justice Subcommittee	8 Y, 4 N, As CS	White	White
2) Justice Appropriations Subcommittee	7 Y, 6 N, As CS	McAuliffe	Lloyd
3) Judiciary Committee	12 Y, 4 N, As CS	White	Havlicak

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Currently, Florida law generally prohibits the open carrying of firearms and certain weapons. Under s. 790.053, F.S., it is a second degree misdemeanor for a person to openly carry on or about his or her person any firearm or electric weapon or device. The bill amends this provision to authorize concealed carry licensees to openly carry firearms or weapons and to require an openly carried firearm to be in a holster, case, or bag.

Section 790.02, F.S., currently authorizes an officer to make a warrantless arrest for the carrying of a concealed weapon in violation of s. 790.01, F.S., when the officer has reasonable grounds or probable cause to believe such offense has been committed. The bill amends this provision to clarify that it only applies to the unlicensed carrying of a concealed weapon and to substitute "reasonable suspicion" for "reasonable grounds."

The bill creates s. 790.0015, F.S., to provide that it is a violation subject to liability for any person or entity to infringe on certain rights to bear arms or defend one's self and to specify that no immunity applies to such infringement. The section also specifies that the rights of an owner or lessee of real property or a private employer are not diminished and that they may prohibit the possession of a firearm on their property.

The bill creates s. 790.0016, F.S., to provide that an employee does not have a cause of action against an employer, including termination of employment, resulting from the employee's failure to comply with the employer's orders regarding the carrying or not carrying of, or the manner of carrying, a weapon during work hours.

Finally, the bill amends s. 790.25(1), F.S., to specify that the Legislature finds that the possession and carrying of weapons and firearms by law-abiding individuals for lawful purposes, including self-defense, enhances public safety.

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference met on October 28, 2015, and determined that the impact of this bill on Department of Correction's prison beds is indeterminate but will likely decrease prison beds. The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local governments and the private sector. (See Fiscal Impact Statement)

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

# FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

#### Right to Bear Arms for Self-Defense, State Regulation, and Judicial Review

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”<sup>1</sup> With respect to this provision, the U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the amendment guarantees “the individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation.”<sup>2</sup> According to the Fourth District Court of Appeals, the amendment encompasses the right to carry a gun both inside and outside the home for self-defense.<sup>3</sup>

Article I, section 8(a) of the Florida Constitution states, “The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.” Regarding this provision, the Florida Supreme Court has stated, “Although [sic] the Legislature may not entirely prohibit the right of the people to keep and bear arms, it can determine that certain arms or weapons may not be kept or borne by the citizen. We have specifically held that the Legislature can regulate the use and the manner of bearing certain specific weapons.”<sup>4</sup>

Regulations regarding the bearing of weapons and firearms in Florida have been adopted by the Legislature in ch. 790, F.S., entitled “Weapons and Firearms” and regulations regarding self-defense have been adopted by the Legislature in ch. 776, F.S., entitled “Justifiable Use of Force.”

With respect to judicial review of the constitutionality of Florida’s regulations relating to the right to bear arms for self-defense, the Fourth District Court of Appeals in *Norman v. State*, recently held that intermediate, rather than strict, scrutiny is the applicable standard for regulations that do not “destroy the core right of self-defense enshrined in the Second Amendment.”<sup>5</sup> Intermediate scrutiny “require[s] (1) the government’s stated objective to be significant, substantial, or important; and (2) a reasonable fit between the challenged regulation and the asserted objective,” whereas “strict scrutiny ‘requires the Government to prove that [a challenged law] ‘furthers a compelling interest and is narrowly tailored to achieve that interest.’”<sup>6</sup>

Under the intermediate scrutiny standard, the Court upheld the constitutionality of s. 790.053, F.S., which prohibits the open carrying of certain firearms and weapons, agreeing with the state’s assertion that it had a paramount interest in public safety which was furthered by the ban on open carry and finding that a reasonable fit existed between the challenged law and the state’s asserted objectives.<sup>7</sup>

#### Legislative Preemption of Firearm Regulation

In s. 790.33(1), F.S., the Florida Legislature has preempted “the whole field of regulation of firearms<sup>8</sup> and ammunition, including the purchase, sale, transfer, taxation, manufacture, ownership, possession, storage, and transportation thereof.” Local government authority to regulate firearms and ammunition is prohibited, “except as otherwise expressly provided by the State Constitution or general law....”<sup>9, 10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Const. Amend. II.

<sup>2</sup> *Dist. of Columbia v. Heller (Heller I)*, 554 U.S. 570, 592 (2008).

<sup>3</sup> *Norman v. State*, 159 So.3d 205, 212 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2015) rev. pending, no. SC15-650.

<sup>4</sup> *Rinzler v. Carson*, 262 So.2d 661, 665 (Fla. 1972).

<sup>5</sup> *Norman*, 159 So.3d at 220-22.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 220.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 222-24.

<sup>8</sup> Section 790.001(6), F.S., defines the term “firearm” as “any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device; or any machine gun. The term ‘firearm’ does not include an antique firearm unless the antique firearm is used in the commission of a crime.”

<sup>9</sup> s. 790.33(1), F.S.

Section 790.33(3), F.S., specifies that any person, county, agency, municipality, district, or other entity that violates the preemption by enacting or causing to be enforced any local ordinance or administrative rule or regulation impinging upon such exclusive occupation of the field is subject to the following liability:

- The court is required to declare the improper ordinance, regulation, or rule invalid and issue a permanent injunction against the local government prohibiting it from enforcing such ordinance, regulation, or rule. Acting in good faith or upon advice of counsel is not a defense.
- If the court determines that a violation was knowing and willful, the court must assess a civil fine of up to \$5,000 against the elected or appointed local government official or officials or administrative agency head under whose jurisdiction the violation occurred. Additionally, a knowing and willful violation by a person acting in an official capacity for any entity that commits a violation is cause for termination of employment or contract or removal from office by the Governor.
- A county, agency, municipality, district, or other entity is liable to a prevailing plaintiff for actual damages, up to \$100,000, and attorney fees and costs, including a contingency fee multiplier, if the plaintiff is found to have been adversely affected by any ordinance, regulation, measure, directive, rule, enactment, order, or policy promulgated or caused to be enforced in violation of the preemption.

Unless required by applicable law, public funds may not be used to defend or reimburse the unlawful conduct of any person found to have knowingly and willfully committed a violation.<sup>11</sup>

Section 790.33(4), F.S., states that the section does not prohibit:

- Certain zoning ordinances that encompass firearms businesses along with other businesses.
- A law enforcement agency from enacting and enforcing regulations pertaining to firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories issued to or used by peace officers in the course of their official duties.
- Any entity subject to the section from regulating or prohibiting the carrying of firearms and ammunition by an employee of the entity during and in the course of the employee's official duties, except as provided in s. 790.251, F.S., relating to the protection of the right to keep and bear arms in motor vehicles for self-defense and other lawful purposes.
- A court or administrative law judge from hearing and resolving any case or controversy or issuing any opinion or order on a matter within the jurisdiction of that court or judge.
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission from regulating the use of firearms or ammunition as a method of taking wildlife and regulating the shooting ranges managed by the commission.

#### Florida's Regulations Relating to the Open and Concealed Carry of Weapons and Firearms

Generally, in Florida, an individual is authorized to own, possess, and lawfully use a firearm and other weapon<sup>12</sup> without a license if the individual is not statutorily prohibited from possessing a firearm or weapon<sup>13</sup> and such possession and use occurs in a lawful manner and location.<sup>14</sup>

*Open Carry:* Florida law prohibits the open carrying of firearms and certain weapons unless an exemption applies. Specifically, s. 790.053, F.S., makes it a second degree misdemeanor<sup>15</sup> for a

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<sup>10</sup> The Legislature has expressly authorized local government regulation of the location and construction of a sport shooting range. s. 823.16(7), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> s. 790.33(3), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 790.001(13), F.S., defines "weapon" as "any dirk, knife, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon except a firearm or a common pocketknife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife."

<sup>13</sup> There are numerous prohibitions in statute specifying individuals who may not lawfully possess a gun. *See, e.g.*, ss. 790.22 and 790.23, F.S., (prohibiting the possession of firearms and certain weapons by minors, convicted felons, and delinquents, except under specified circumstances).

<sup>14</sup> *See* s. 790.25, F.S.

person to openly carry on or about his or her person any firearm or electric weapon or device. This section does not apply to a person who has a license to carry concealed weapons or concealed firearms<sup>16</sup> if the licensee briefly and openly displays the firearm to the ordinary sight of another person, unless “the firearm is intentionally displayed in an angry or threatening manner, not in necessary self-defense.”<sup>17, 18</sup>

*Concealed Carry:* In order to lawfully carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm, a person, unless exempted, must obtain a license from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.<sup>19</sup> If a person is unlicensed, s. 790.01, F.S., specifies that it is a:

- A first degree misdemeanor<sup>20</sup> for the person to carry a concealed weapon<sup>21</sup> or electric weapon or device<sup>22</sup> on or about his or her person.<sup>23</sup>
- A third degree felony<sup>24</sup> to carry a concealed firearm.<sup>25, 26</sup>

These prohibitions do not apply to:

- A person who carries a concealed weapon, or a person who may lawfully possess a firearm and who carries a concealed firearm, on or about his or her person while in the act of evacuating during certain mandatory evacuation orders.
- A person who carries for purposes of lawful self-defense in a concealed manner:
  - A self-defense chemical spray.<sup>27</sup>
  - A nonlethal stun gun or dart-firing stun gun<sup>28</sup> or other nonlethal electric weapon or device that is designed solely for defensive purposes.<sup>29</sup>

The carrying of a concealed weapon in violation of s. 790.01, F.S., is statutorily designated as a breach of peace for which an officer may make a warrantless arrest if the officer has reasonable grounds or probable cause to believe that the offense of carrying a concealed weapon is being committed.<sup>30</sup>

Licensees are limited with regard to where they may carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm. Section 790.06(12)(a), F.S., specifies that the license does not authorize a person to openly carry a handgun or carry a concealed weapon or firearm into:

- Any place of nuisance as defined in s. 823.05.
- Any police, sheriff, or highway patrol station.

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<sup>15</sup> A second degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in county jail and a \$500 fine. ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> The term “concealed weapons or concealed firearms” is defined as “a handgun, electronic weapon or device, tear gas gun, knife, or billie, but the term does not include a machine gun ....” s. 790.06(1), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> s. 790.053(1), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 790.053(2), F.S., also specifies that a person may openly carry for purposes of lawful self-defense a self-defense chemical spray and a nonlethal stun gun or dart-firing stun gun or other nonlethal electric weapon or device that is designed solely for defensive purposes.

<sup>19</sup> s. 790.06, F.S.

<sup>20</sup> A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in county jail and a \$1,000 fine. ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 790.001(3)(a), F.S., defines the term “concealed weapon” as “any dirk, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon carried on or about a person in such a manner as to conceal the weapon from the ordinary sight of another person.” The weapons listed in this definition require licensure to carry them in a concealed manner.

<sup>22</sup> Section 790.001(14), F.S., defines the term “electric weapon or device” as “any device which, through the application or use of electrical current, is designed, redesigned, used, or intended to be used for offensive or defensive purposes, the destruction of life, or the infliction of injury.”

<sup>23</sup> s. 790.01(1), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Section 790.001(2), F.S., defines the term, “concealed firearm” as “any firearm, as defined in subsection (6), which is carried on or about a person in such a manner as to conceal the firearm from the ordinary sight of another person.”

<sup>26</sup> s. 790.01(2), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 790.001(3)(b), F.S., defines the term “self-defense chemical spray” as “a device carried solely for purposes of lawful self-defense that is compact in size, designed to be carried on or about the person, and contains not more than two ounces of chemical.”

<sup>28</sup> Section 790.001(15), F.S., defines the term “dart-firing stun gun” as “any device having one or more darts that are capable of delivering an electrical current.”

<sup>29</sup> s. 790.01(3), F.S.

<sup>30</sup> s. 790.02, F.S.

- Any detention facility, prison, or jail.
- Any courthouse.
- Any courtroom, except that nothing in this section would preclude a judge from carrying a concealed weapon or determining who will carry a concealed weapon in his or her courtroom.
- Any polling place.
- Any meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or special district.
- Any meeting of the Legislature or a committee thereof.
- Any school, college, or professional athletic event not related to firearms.
- Any elementary or secondary school facility or administration building.
- Any career center.
- Any portion of an establishment licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, which portion of the establishment is primarily devoted to such purpose.
- Any college or university facility unless the licensee is a registered student, employee, or faculty member of such college or university and the weapon is a stun gun or nonlethal electric weapon or device designed solely for defensive purposes and the weapon does not fire a dart or projectile.
- The inside of the passenger terminal and sterile area of any airport, provided that no person shall be prohibited from carrying any legal firearm into the terminal, which firearm is encased for shipment for purposes of checking such firearm as baggage to be lawfully transported on any aircraft.
- Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.

A person who knowingly and willfully carries a concealed weapon or firearm into any of the above-listed locations commits a second degree misdemeanor.<sup>31</sup>

*Exemptions from Open Carry Prohibitions and Concealed Carry Licensing Requirements:* Section 790.25(3), F.S., provides that certain persons under specified circumstances are exempt from the requirements for a license to carry concealed weapons or concealed firearms in s. 790.06, F.S., and the limitations on open carrying in s. 790.053, F.S. These persons and circumstances include:

- Members of the Militia, National Guard, Florida State Defense Force, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, organized reserves, and other armed forces of the state and of the United States, when on duty, when training or preparing themselves for military duty, or while subject to recall or mobilization.
- Citizens of this state subject to duty under certain sections of law if on duty or when training or preparing themselves for military duty.
- Persons carrying out or training for emergency management duties under chapter 252, F.S.
- Sheriffs, marshals, prison or jail wardens, police officers, Florida highway patrol officers, game wardens, revenue officers, forest officials, special officers appointed under the provisions of chapter 354, F.S., and other peace and law enforcement officers and their deputies and assistants and full-time paid peace officers of other states and of the Federal Government who are carrying out official duties while in this state.
- Officers or employees of the state or United States duly authorized to carry a concealed weapon.
- Guards or messengers of common carriers, express companies, armored car carriers, mail carriers, banks, and other financial institutions, while actually employed in and about the shipment, transportation, or delivery of any money, treasure, bullion, bonds, or other thing of value within this state.
- Regularly enrolled members of any organization duly authorized to purchase or receive weapons from the United States or from this state, or regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for target, skeet, or trap shooting, while at or going to or from shooting practice; or regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for modern or antique firearms collecting, while such members are at or going to or from their collectors' gun shows, conventions, or exhibits.

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<sup>31</sup> s. 790.06(12)(d), F.S.

- A person engaged in fishing, camping, or lawful hunting or going to or returning from a fishing, camping, or lawful hunting expedition.
- A person engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or representative of any such person while engaged in the lawful course of such business.
- A person firing weapons for testing or target practice under safe conditions and in a safe place not prohibited by law or going to or from such place.
- A person firing weapons in a safe and secure indoor range for testing and target practice.
- A person traveling by private conveyance when the weapon is securely encased or in a public conveyance when the weapon is securely encased and not in the person's manual possession.
- A person while carrying a pistol unloaded and in a secure wrapper, concealed or otherwise, from the place of purchase to his or her home or place of business or to a place of repair or back to his or her home or place of business.
- A person possessing arms at his or her home or place of business.
- Investigators employed by the public defenders and capital collateral regional counsel of the state while carrying out official duties.<sup>32</sup>

### Other State Open Carry Laws

*States that Generally Permit Open Carry of Firearms.*<sup>33</sup> Forty-three states permit the open carrying of both long guns and handguns.<sup>34</sup> Of these states, 26 do not require a license and do not restrict whether the firearm is loaded or unloaded.<sup>35, 36</sup> Connecticut,<sup>37</sup> Georgia,<sup>38</sup> Maryland,<sup>39</sup> New Hampshire,<sup>40</sup> Rhode Island,<sup>41</sup> and Tennessee<sup>42</sup> require a license to openly carry a handgun, but not a long gun, such as a rifle or shotgun. Conversely, Massachusetts,<sup>43</sup> Minnesota,<sup>44</sup> New Jersey,<sup>45</sup> Texas,<sup>46</sup> and Utah<sup>47</sup> require a license to openly carry any firearm. The remaining six states permit open carry, but impose special limitations on the circumstances in which a person can openly carry a firearm.<sup>48</sup> For example, North Dakota limits the hours during which an unlicensed person may openly carry an unloaded handgun.<sup>49</sup>

Three states permit openly carrying specific types of firearms. South Carolina<sup>50</sup> permits openly carrying a long gun without a license, while prohibiting openly carrying a handgun in any circumstance. Hawaii<sup>51</sup>

<sup>32</sup> s. 790.25(3), F.S.

<sup>33</sup> "Firearms" refers to both handguns and long guns.

<sup>34</sup> These states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

<sup>35</sup> These states include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

<sup>36</sup> The status of Arkansas law is based on Attorney General Opinion No. 2015-064 issued August 28, 2015.

<sup>37</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §29-35.

<sup>38</sup> GA. CODE ANN. §§16-11-126 and 129(a).

<sup>39</sup> MD. CODE ANN. CRIM. LAW §4-203.

<sup>40</sup> A license is required if carrying a firearm in a vehicle or if carrying a loaded handgun, regardless of whether the firearm is concealed or openly carried. N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. §159:4.

<sup>41</sup> R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. §11-47-18.

<sup>42</sup> A license is only required if openly carrying a *loaded* handgun. TENN. CODE ANN. §§39-17-1308 and 1351.

<sup>43</sup> MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 140 §131.

<sup>44</sup> MINN. STAT. ANN. §§624.714 and 7181.

<sup>45</sup> A license is required to carry a handgun in an open or concealed manner. N.J. STAT. ANN. §2C:39-5(b). A license is also required to openly carry an *unloaded* long gun. Loaded long guns may not be openly carried. N.J. STAT. ANN. §2C:39-5(c) and §2C:58-3.

<sup>46</sup> TEX. PENAL CODE ANN. §46.02 and 46.15(b).

<sup>47</sup> A person may not carry a loaded firearm openly or concealed in most places. UTAH CODE ANN. §76-10-505. However, this restriction does not apply to holders of a concealed weapon license issued under UTAH CODE ANN. §53-5-704. UTAH CODE ANN. §76-10-523(2)(a).

<sup>48</sup> Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania

<sup>49</sup> N.D. CENT CODE ANN. §62.1-03-01.

<sup>50</sup> S.C. CODE ANN. §16-23-20.

<sup>51</sup> HAW. REV. STAT. §§134-9 and 134-25.

permits openly carrying a handgun with a license and prohibits openly carrying a long gun in any circumstance. Oklahoma<sup>52</sup> permits openly carrying a handgun with a license and prohibits openly carrying a long gun in most circumstances.

Some states regulate the manner of openly carrying a handgun. For example in Texas, licensees must carry the handgun in a shoulder or belt holster.<sup>53</sup> In Oklahoma, licensees may carry a “unconcealed handgun,” which means, “a loaded or unloaded pistol carried upon the person in a belt holster or shoulder holster that is wholly or partially visible, or carried upon the person in a scabbard or case designed for carrying firearms that is wholly or partially visible.”<sup>54</sup>

*States that Prohibit Open Carry:* The District of Columbia,<sup>55</sup> Florida,<sup>56</sup> Illinois,<sup>57</sup> and New York,<sup>58</sup> prohibit the open carry of both handguns and long guns. California does not statutorily prohibit the open carrying of all firearms; however, the restrictions on openly carrying a firearm in the state result in very limited ability to openly carry.<sup>59</sup>

#### Effect of Bill

The bill creates s. 790.0015, F.S., to provide that s. 790.33, F.S., including its penalty provisions set forth in paragraphs (3)(c), (d), (e), and (f), F.S., apply to any person or entity infringing upon the rights conferred by chs. 766 or 790, F.S., s. 8, Art. I of the State Constitution, or the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. As discussed *supra*, s. 790.33(3)(c) through (f), F.S., provide for:

- A civil fine of up to \$5,000 for a local government official or administrative agency head under whose jurisdiction a knowing and willful violation of legislative preemption has occurred. Additionally, such violation by a person acting in an official capacity for any entity that commits a violation is cause for termination of employment or contract or removal from office by the Governor.
- A county, agency, municipality, district, or other entity to be liable to a prevailing plaintiff for actual damages, up to \$100,000, and attorney fees and costs, including a contingency fee multiplier, if the plaintiff is found to have been adversely affected by any ordinance, regulation, measure, directive, rule, enactment, order, or policy promulgated or caused to be enforced in violation of the preemption.

With respect to the aforementioned liability, the bill states, “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no immunity applies to persons or entities infringing upon such rights in violation of s. 790.33.”

The bill further specifies in s. 790.0015(2) and (3), F.S., that:

- The section is not intended to restrict a law enforcement officer's ability or authority to conduct investigations as otherwise authorized by law.
- Chapters 790 and 776, F.S., s. 8, Art. I of the State Constitution, and the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution do not:
  - Modify or diminish the rights of a private owner or lessee of real property or its agent, or a private employer, to prohibit the possession of a firearm on real property or at the place of employment or to communicate such prohibition through written notice or otherwise.
  - Expand any existing duty of, or create any additional duty for, a private owner or lessee of real property or its agent, or a private employer.

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<sup>52</sup> OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 21, §§1290.5 and 1289.6.

<sup>53</sup> TEX. PENAL CODE ANN. §46.02(a-1) (effective January 1, 2016).

<sup>54</sup> OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 21, §§1290.2 and 1290.8.

<sup>55</sup> D.C. CODE §22-4504.01.

<sup>56</sup> s. 790.053, F.S.

<sup>57</sup> ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/24-1(a)(4).

<sup>58</sup> N.Y. PENAL §265.01.

<sup>59</sup> It is illegal to carry any loaded firearm in an open or concealed manner, CAL. PENAL §25850, or to openly carry an unloaded handgun, CAL. PENAL §26350, in any public place in an incorporated city or on a public street in any prohibited area of an unincorporated territory.

The bill creates s. 790.0016, F.S., to provide that an employee does not have cause of action against an employer related to disciplinary action, including termination of employment, resulting from the employee's failure to comply with an order of the employer to carry or not carry, or relating to the manner of carrying, a weapon on his or her person during work hours. The bill also specifies that this section does not impair a cause of action against an employer which arises under another law.

The bill amends s. 790.02, F.S., which authorizes an officer to make a warrantless arrest for the carrying of a concealed weapon in violation of s. 790.01, F.S., when the officer has reasonable grounds or probable cause to believe such offense has been committed, to:

- Clarify that its provisions apply to the *unlicensed* carrying of a concealed weapon.
- Delete authorization for such warrantless arrests based on reasonable grounds and provide that warrantless arrests may only be based upon reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

The bill amends s. 790.053(1), F.S., which currently prohibits any person, unless exempted, to openly carry firearms and electronic weapons or devices, to authorize concealed carry licensees to openly carry firearms or weapons subject to the requirements of s. 790.06, F.S., (license to carry concealed firearm) and s. 790.10, F.S. (improper exhibition of a firearm). The bill also adds a new subsection (2) to this section to specify that a firearm that is openly carried by a licensee may be loaded or unloaded and must be carried in a holster that is wholly or partially visible or carried on or about the licensee in a case or bag that is wholly or partially visible.

Finally, the bill amends s. 790.25, F.S., to specify that the Legislature finds that the possession and carrying of weapons and firearms by law-abiding individuals for lawful purposes, including self-defense, enhances public safety.

#### B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 790.0015, F.S., relating to the infringement of rights and penalties for such infringement.

Section 2. Creates s. 790.0016, F.S., relating to employer weapons policies.

Section 3. Amends s. 790.02, F.S., relating to warrantless arrests for unlicensed concealed weapon carrying violations.

Section 4. Amends s. 790.053, F.S., relating to the open carrying of weapons.

Section 5. Amends s. 790.25, F.S., relating to lawful ownership, possession, and use of firearms and other weapons.

Section 6. Provides that the bill is effective upon becoming a law.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

##### 1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have any impact on state revenues.

##### 2. Expenditures:

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference met on October 28, 2015, and determined that the impact of this bill on Department of Correction's prison beds is indeterminate but will likely decrease prison beds. In Fiscal Year 2014-2015, there were 1,320 offenders sentenced under s. 790.01, F.S. for carrying a concealed weapon or firearm and 174 of these offenders were sentenced to prison. It is



unknown how many of these offenders were convicted due to a warrantless arrest (the bill now requires probable cause for an arrest) that would not have not been sentenced to prison.

The fines and damages and attorney fee and cost awards under s. 790.0015, F.S., could result in a fiscal impact for violations by state government entities.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

##### 1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have any impact on local government revenues.

##### 2. Expenditures:

The bill limits application of the second degree misdemeanor penalty for the open carrying of firearms and electronic devices to persons who are not licensed to concealed carry. As such, the bill may decrease the need for jail beds.

The fines and damages and attorney fee and cost awards under s. 790.0015, F.S., could result in a fiscal impact for violations by local government entities.

#### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The fines and damages and attorney fee and cost awards under s. 790.0015, F.S., could result in a private sector fiscal impact if applicable to private persons or entities.

#### D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

### III. COMMENTS

#### A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

##### 1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill appears to be exempt from the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution because it is a criminal law.

##### 2. Other:

*Immunity Waiver:* In s. 790.0015, F.S., the bill appears to impose liability on any person or entity entity that, or person acting on behalf of the entity who, without probable cause to believe a crime infringing on an individual's rights to bear arms or defend one's self. The bill further states that, "Notwithstanding any other law, no immunity shall apply to persons or entities infringing on such rights in violation of this s. 790.33." The term "law" is not defined. According to Black's Law Dictionary (10<sup>th</sup> ed. 2014), the term "law" means "[t]he aggregate of legislation, judicial precedents, and accepted legal principles; the body of authoritative grounds of judicial and administrative action; esp., the body of rules, standards, and principles that the courts of a particular jurisdiction apply in deciding controversies brought before them ...."

Law emanating from federal and state statutes, court decisions, and the common law affords a variety of immunities from liability. For example, s. 768.28(9), F.S., provides that an officer, employee, or agent of the state or its subdivisions may not be held personally liable in tort or named as a party defendant in any action for any injury or damage suffered as a result of any act, event, or omission of action in the scope of her or his employment, unless certain exceptions apply. Prosecutorial and judicial immunity derived from the common law is afforded to prosecutors and judges because "a strict guarantee of immunity is necessary to preserve the effectiveness and

impartiality of judicial and quasi-judicial offices.”<sup>60</sup> Qualified or absolute immunity in actions under 42 U.S.C. s. 1983, for a deprivation of civil rights is afforded to legislative, executive, and judicial branch government officials under certain circumstances.<sup>61</sup>

Due to bill’s general waiver of immunity, it is difficult to determine all of the precise immunities that may be waived. The Florida Supreme Court has held that it is a violation of the Separation of Powers Doctrine set forth in Article II, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution for the Legislature to waive prosecutorial or judicial immunity.<sup>62</sup> Additionally, if the bill were construed to waive a federal law immunity, legal challenges might be brought based on an argument that such waiver violates the Supremacy Clause set forth in Article VI, Clause 2 of U.S. Constitution.<sup>63</sup>

#### B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not appear to create a need for rulemaking or rulemaking authority.

#### C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

In s. 790.0015, F.S., the bill requires, through cross-references to s. 790.33, F.S., that any person or infringing on specified rights to bear arms or defend one’s self be held liable for civil fines, subject to termination from government employment, and liable for actual damages and attorney fees and costs. Section 790.33, F.S., however, addresses violations by government entities and officials of the Legislature’s preemption of the field of firearms and ammunitions. Due to the differences in the types of violations created by the bill in s. 790.0015, F.S., and in existing law in s. 790.33, F.S., there may not be sufficient guidance in the bill for implementation of the penalty scheme in s. 790.033, F.S., for violations of s. 790.0015, F.S.

### IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On October 6, 2015, the Criminal Justice Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment created a new s. 790.0015, F.S., in Section 2. of the bill so that the bill’s prohibition against persons or entities infringing on specified rights to bear arms or defend one’s self would be set forth in a stand-alone section of law. The amendment also revised terminology in order to use the phrase “right to bear arms or defend one’s self” consistently throughout the bill.

On November 18, 2015, the Justice Appropriation Subcommittee adopted three amendments and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendments:

- Provide that chapters 790 and 776 F.S., s. 8, Art. I of the State Constitution, and the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution: do not modify or diminish the rights of a private owner or lessee of real property, or a private employer to prohibit the possession of a firearm on the property or to post or display written notice or communicate to any person on the property that the possession of a firearm is prohibited on the property; do not expand any existing duty, or create any additional duty, on the part of a private owner or lessee of real property, or its agent, or a private employer.
- Clarifies that those authorized to openly carry firearms or weapons are subject to the requirements of s. 790.06, F.S., (license to carry concealed firearm) and s. 790.10, F.S. (improper exhibition of a firearm).
- Provides that no employee will have cause of action against an employer, including termination of employment, resulting from failure of the employee to comply with the employer’s orders regarding the carrying or not carrying of a weapon during working hours.

<sup>60</sup> *Office of State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida v. Parrotino*, 628 So.2d 1097, 1098-99 (Fla. 1993).

<sup>61</sup> *See, e.g., Junior v. Reed*, 693 So.2d 586 (1st DCA 1997); *Greason v. Kemp*, 891 F.2d 829, 833 (11th Cir.1990); and *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982).

<sup>62</sup> The Florida Supreme Court has stated, “While the legislature has authority to waive immunity for those organs of government within its purview, the legislature cannot take actions that would undermine the independence of Florida’s judicial and quasi-judicial offices. This would violate the doctrine of separation of powers. Art. II, § 3, Fla. Const.” *Office of State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida*, 628 So.2d at 1099.

<sup>63</sup> The Florida Supreme Court has stated, “Under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, U.S. Const. art. VI, cl. 2, state laws may be preempted by federal laws in three situations: (1) where express federal statutory language so provides; (2) where federal law has so thoroughly occupied a legislative field as to create a reasonable inference that there is no room for the state to supplement it; or (3) where a state law conflicts with a federal law.” *Rosado v. DaimlerChrysler Financial Services Trust*, 112 So.3d 1165 (Fla. 2013).

On January 28, 2016, the Judiciary Committee adopted a strike-all amendment that: (a) removed the bill's provisions requiring the judiciary to employ strict scrutiny when reviewing a statute that implicates the right to bear arms or defend one's self; (b) revise the penalty provisions in s. 790.0015(1), F.S., and specify that such penalties apply to "any person or entity," not only public entities and the agents thereof; (c) specify in s. 790.0015(2), F.S., that the section is not intended to restrict certain investigations; (d) authorize warrantless arrests under s. 790.02, F.S., based on reasonable suspicion; and (e) require an openly carried firearm to be carried in a holster, case, or bag.

This bill analysis is drafted to the committee substitute adopted by the Judiciary Committee.