

**STORAGE NAME:** h1799a.go  
**DATE:** April 13, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
ANALYSIS - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

**BILL #:** HB 1799  
**RELATING TO:** Flagler Co./Deputies  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Patterson and others  
**TIED BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS YEAS 5 NAYS 0
  - (2) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

This bill creates a career services act for the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, including provisions for applicability, permanent status, and job security provisions for employees for transitions from the administration of one Sheriff, to that of the following Sheriff.

This bill provides policies and procedures for receiving, handling, investigating, resolving and disposing of complaints against employees, both criminal, and non-criminal.

This bill provides for ad hoc Career Service Appeals Boards for employees who are subject to personnel actions resulting in dismissal, suspension, demotion or reduction in pay.

This bill provides for promotions, and includes policies and procedures related to promotional eligibility testing, opportunity noticing, applications for promotion, oral review boards, and the promotions themselves.

This bill provides an effective date of upon becoming a law.

The Police Benevolent Association provided the Economic Impact Statement in which the union found this bill resulted in no fiscal impact other than nominal expense related to the cost of administration, implementation and enforcement.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Current career service policies of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office are rudimentary. The Sheriff has negotiated a comprehensive set of career service policies with the Police Benevolent Association (PBA), and provided them to the county delegation for ratification.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill creates an unnumbered section of Florida Statute providing a career services act for the employees of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office. See Section-By-Section Analysis for details.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

**Section 1 -**

1) Establishes applicability to all employees of the Sheriff's Office, except:

- The Sheriff;
- Special Deputy Sheriffs appointed pursuant to s. 30.09(4), F.S.;
- Members of the Sheriff's Posse or Reserve Unit; and
- Individuals appointed as part-time deputy sheriffs, unless such person is also employed full-time by the Sheriff's Office; and

2) Provides criteria for "permanent status" after serving for one calendar year, except:

- If an employee is terminated, then rehired, said employee must serve one calendar year after being rehired (when said employee shall be granted the right of appeal;
- If an employee is required to serve a probationary period attendant to a promotion, shall retain permanent status, but may be demoted to his or her prior rank during the probationary period; and
- If an employee has attained permanent status, said employee may only be suspended or dismissed for just cause (with conditions). *This bill enumerates the types of "cause", and includes habitual drug abuse.* NOTE: This particular cause may conflict with law enforcement certification provisions. An amendment is expected to modify this language; and

3) Provides for continued employment of all employees when a new Sheriff assumes office, except:

- If cause for dismissal exists;

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- The incoming Sheriff has the option of keeping personnel in the positions of Administrative Assistant, Chief Deputy, Legal Advisor, and Director, or not;
- If the incoming Sheriff replaces personnel in the positions of Administrative Assistant, Chief Deputy, Legal Advisor, and Director, those personnel (if certified law enforcement officers) shall be reduced to the permanent rank of Captain, with attendant salary reductions;
- If the Administrative Assistant is replaced, another position the person is qualified for must be found within the Sheriff's Office; and

4) Provides a grant of rulemaking authority to the Sheriff to implement this act, but nothing in this act shall be construed as affecting the budget-making powers of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Section 2** - Provides for ad hoc Career Service Appeals Boards (Board); their functions; membership; and procedures with respect to appeals arising out of personnel actions brought under office rules or policies which result in dismissal, suspension, demotion, or reduction in pay. Decisions of the Board are final, and binding on appealing employees and the Sheriff, alike.

**Section 3** - Provides the methodology for receiving, handling, investigating, resolving and disposing complaints related to employee behavior. Provisions include complaints of criminal activity, non-criminal activity, and internal investigations.

Before any interview is conducted with an employee, the "Garrity Rule" must be read to the employee, who confirms that it was read to him or her by signing the "Garrity Rule" form, or sheet upon which it appears. The "Garrity Rule" is a statement which discusses responsibilities and rights of employees with respect to interviews, and is based on Garrity v. New Jersey (1967), and Gardner v. Broderick (1968).

**Section 4** - Provides for promotional eligibility testing procedures to those who are qualified.

**Section 5** - Provides for promotional opportunity noticing.

**Section 6** - Provides procedures for applications for promotions.

**Section 7** - Provides procedures for oral review boards.

**Section 8** - Provides for the composition of oral review boards.

**Section 9** - Provides that final selections for promotion are made by the Sheriff from the top three applicants recommended by the oral review board.

**Section 10** - Provides for promotion eligibility lists, and the period applicants remain on the list.

**Section 11** - Provides minimum requirements for promotion.

**Section 12** - Provides a "grandfather clause" for employees of the Sheriff's Office who, on the effective date of this act, have served one calendar year. Such employees will be

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considered permanent employees. Others will be considered permanent employees upon reaching their one calendar year service anniversary date.

**Section 13** - Provides that full-time deputy sheriffs employed by the county shall be deemed public employees, enjoying all the benefits and protections of being public employees, including those afforded under part VII of ch. 112, F.S.

**Section 14** - Provides an effective date of upon becoming a law.

III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN? February 6, 2000.

WHERE? The News-Journal, Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes  No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached  No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached  No

IV. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

This bill provides a grant of rule-making authority to the Sheriff.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

At its meeting on April 12, 2000, the Committee on Governmental Operations adopted one amendment modifying a provision dealing with discipline for "habitual drug abuse", modifying it to read "drug abuse". The bill was reported favorably, with the amendment traveling with it.

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VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Russell J. Cyphers, Jr.

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