

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Criminal Justice Committee

BILL: SB 1780

INTRODUCER: Senators Baker and Bullard

SUBJECT: Lights on Motor Vehicles

DATE: March 29, 2007 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Boyd	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.	Erickson	Cannon	CJ	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill revises provisions restricting the use of certain colored lights; providing for lights on vehicles owned or leased by private security agencies; and removing reference to watch, guard, and patrol agencies licensed under specified provisions.

This bill substantially amends section 316.2397 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Current statutes allow “private watch, guard, or patrol agencies licensed pursuant to chapter 493” to display amber colored lights while patrolling condominium, cooperative, and private residential and business communities by which employed and which traverse public streets or highways.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill enables those vehicles “owned or leased by private security agencies” to display green and amber lights while engaged in security duties on private or public property. By striking the current language, “private watch, guard, or patrol agencies licensed pursuant to chapter 493,” the bill allows a broader range of security providers to display green and amber lights. Many private security providers in Florida are proprietary services and not required to be licensed. Such services are authorized by s. 493.6102(4), F.S.

In addition, the bill allows the color green to be displayed by such security vehicles, when current statute only allows the color amber. The bill specifies either color may be no greater than 50 percent of the lights displayed.

The bill also allows security vehicles to display the green and amber lights over an increased area, by allowing the lighted vehicles on “private or public property.”

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

CS/SB 1342, which relates to crimes that involve or may facilitate the false personation of a law enforcement officer or other person, was recently approved by the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice. CS/SB 1342 and the bill both amend s. 316.2397, F.S., but CS/SB 1342 amends penalties and the bill does not, so there is no conflict between the bills.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
