Bill No. HB 889 (2016)

Amendment No. 1

	COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION
	ADOPTED (Y/N)
	ADOPTED AS AMENDED (Y/N)
	ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION (Y/N)
	FAILED TO ADOPT (Y/N)
	WITHDRAWN (Y/N)
	OTHER
1	Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Criminal Justice
2	Subcommittee
2	Representative Metz offered the following:
4	Representative Metz offered the forfowing.
5	Amendment (with title amendment)
6	Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:
7	Remove everything arter the chatting tradet and insert.
8	Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 932.701, Florida
9	Statutes, is amended to read:
10	932.701 Short title; definitions
11	(1) Sections 932.701-932.7062 932.706 shall be known and
12	may be cited as the "Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act."
13	Section 2. Subsections (1), (2), and (6) of section
14	932.703, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
15	932.703 Forfeiture of contraband article; exceptions
16	(1)(a) <u>A</u> Any contraband article, vessel, motor vehicle,
17	aircraft, other personal property, or real property used in
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18	violation of any provision of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture
19	Act, or in, upon, or by means of which any violation of the
20	Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act has taken or is taking place,
21	may be seized <u>only upon the arrest of the owner of the property</u>
22	for a violation of a criminal law that renders the property a
23	contraband article and shall be forfeited subject to the
24	provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.
25	(b) Once property is seized pursuant to the Florida
26	Contraband Forfeiture Act, regardless of whether the civil
27	complaint has been filed, all settlements must be personally
28	approved by the head of the law enforcement agency making the
29	seizure. If the agency head is unavailable and a delay would
30	adversely affect the settlement, approval may be given by a
31	subordinate of the agency head who is designated to grant such
32	authority Notwithstanding any other provision of the Florida
33	Contraband Forfeiture Act, except the provisions of paragraph
34	(a), contraband articles set forth in s. 932.701(2)(a)7. used in
35	violation of any provision of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture
36	Act, or in, upon, or by means of which any violation of the
37	Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act has taken or is taking place,
38	shall be seized and shall be forfeited subject to the provisions
39	of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.
40	(c) 1. At the time of seizure or entry of a restraining
41	order, the state acquires provisional title to the seized
42	property. A forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture
43	Act is not final, and title or other indicia of ownership, other
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44 than provisional title, do not pass to the seizing agency until 45 the title to the seized property is perfected in accordance with 46 the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act All rights to, interest 47 in, and title to contraband articles used in violation of s. 932.702 shall immediately vest in the seizing law enforcement 48 49 agency upon seizure. 50 2. If at least 90 days has elapsed since the arrest of the 51 owner of the property, and the seizing agency has failed to 52 locate the owner after making a diligent effort, the seized

53 property will be deemed a contraband article and is subject to 54 forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

(d) The seizing agency may not use the seized property for any purpose until the rights to, interest in, and title to the seized property are perfected in accordance with the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. This section does not prohibit use or operation necessary for reasonable maintenance of seized property. Reasonable efforts shall be made to maintain seized property in such a manner as to minimize loss of value.

62 (2) (a) Personal property may be seized at the time the 63 property owner is arrested of the violation or subsequent to the 64 arrest violation, if the person entitled to notice is notified 65 at the time of the seizure or by certified mail, return receipt requested, that there is a right to an adversarial preliminary 66 67 hearing after the seizure to determine whether probable cause 68 exists to believe that such property has been or is being used in violation of a criminal law that renders the property a 69

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70 contraband article the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. 71 Seizing agencies shall make a diligent effort to notify the 72 person entitled to notice of the seizure. Notice provided by 73 certified mail must be mailed within 5 working days after the 74 seizure and must state that a person entitled to notice may 75 request an adversarial preliminary hearing within 15 days after 76 receiving such notice. When a postseizure, adversarial preliminary hearing as provided in this section is desired, a 77 78 request must be made in writing by certified mail, return 79 receipt requested, to the seizing agency. The seizing agency 80 shall set and notice the hearing, which must be held within 10 81 days after the request is received or as soon as practicable 82 thereafter.

83 (b) Real property may not be seized or restrained, other than by lis pendens, subsequent to the arrest of the owner of 84 85 the property for a violation of a criminal law that renders the 86 property a contraband article the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act until the persons entitled to notice are afforded the 87 88 opportunity to attend the preseizure adversarial preliminary 89 hearing. A lis pendens may be obtained by any method authorized 90 by law. Notice of the adversarial preliminary hearing shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested. The purpose of the 91 92 adversarial preliminary hearing is to determine whether probable 93 cause exists to believe that such property has been used in 94 violation of a criminal law that renders the property a 95 contraband article the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. The

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96 seizing agency shall make a diligent effort to notify any person 97 entitled to notice of the seizure. The preseizure adversarial 98 preliminary hearing provided herein shall be held within 10 days 99 of the filing of the lis pendens or as soon as practicable.

(c) When an adversarial preliminary hearing is held, the 100 101 court shall review the verified affidavit and any other 102 supporting documents and take any testimony to determine whether 103 there is probable cause to believe that the owner of the 104 property violated a criminal law that renders the property a 105 contraband article property was used, is being used, was 106 attempted to be used, or was intended to be used in violation of 107 the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. If probable cause is 108 established, the court shall authorize the seizure or continued 109 seizure of the subject contraband. A copy of the findings of the 110 court shall be provided to any person entitled to notice.

If the court determines that probable cause exists to 111 (d) 112 believe that the owner of the property violated a criminal law 113 that renders the property a contraband article such property was used in violation of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, the 114 115 court shall order the property restrained by the least 116 restrictive means to protect against disposal, waste, or continued illegal use of such property pending disposition of 117 the forfeiture proceeding. The court may order the claimant to 118 119 post a bond or other adequate security equivalent to the value 120 of the property.

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121 (6) (a) Property may not be forfeited under the Florida
122 Contraband Forfeiture Act unless the seizing agency establishes
123 by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner either knew,
124 or should have known after a reasonable inquiry, that the
125 property was being employed or was likely to be employed in
126 eriminal activity.

(b) A bona fide lienholder's interest that has been 127 128 perfected in the manner prescribed by law prior to the seizure 129 may not be forfeited under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act 130 unless the seizing agency establishes by a preponderance of the 131 evidence that the lienholder had actual knowledge, at the time the lien was made, that the property was being employed or was 132 133 likely to be employed in criminal activity. If a lienholder's 134 interest is not subject to forfeiture under the requirements of 135 this section, such interest shall be preserved by the court by 136 ordering the lienholder's interest to be paid as provided in s. 137 932.7055.

(b) (c) Property titled or registered between husband and 138 wife jointly by the use of the conjunctives "and," "and/or," or 139 140 "or," in the manner prescribed by law prior to the seizure, may not be forfeited under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act 141 unless the seizing agency establishes by a preponderance of the 142 143 evidence that the coowner either knew or had reason to know, 144 after reasonable inquiry, that such property was employed or was likely to be employed in criminal activity. 145

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146 (c) (d) A vehicle that is rented or leased from a company 147 engaged in the business of renting or leasing vehicles, which 148 vehicle was rented or leased in the manner prescribed by law 149 prior to the seizure, may not be forfeited under the Florida 150 Contraband Forfeiture Act, and no fine, penalty, or 151 administrative charge, other than reasonable and customary 152 charges for towing and storage, shall be imposed by any 153 governmental agency on the company which rented or leased the 154 vehicle, unless the seizing agency establishes by preponderance 155 of the evidence that the renter or lessor had actual knowledge, 156 at the time the vehicle was rented or leased, that the vehicle 157 was being employed or was likely to be employed in criminal 158 activity. When a vehicle that is rented or leased from a company 159 engaged in the business of renting or leasing vehicles is seized 160 under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, upon learning the address or phone number of the company, the seizing law 161 162 enforcement agency shall, as soon as practicable, inform the company that the vehicle has been seized and is available for 163 164 the company to take possession upon payment of the reasonable 165 and customary charges for towing and storage.

166Section 3.Subsections (8), (9), and (11) of section167932.704, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

168

932.704 Forfeiture proceedings.-

(8) (a) Upon clear and convincing evidence that the
 contraband article was being used in violation of the Florida
 Contraband Forfeiture Act, the The court shall order the seized

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172	property forfeited to the seizing law enforcement agency upon
173	clear and convincing evidence that:
174	1. The property has been or is being used in violation of
175	a criminal law that renders the property a contraband article;
176	2. The claimant is the owner of the property; and
177	3. The owner was prosecuted for the criminal violation
178	that formed the basis for the forfeiture proceeding, and has:
179	a. Been placed into a pretrial intervention program;
180	b. Been placed into a diversion program;
181	c. Been placed into a program for confidential informants,
182	as defined in s. 914.28.
183	d. Entered a plea of guilty;
184	e. Entered a plea of nolo contendere; or
185	f. Been found guilty at trial, regardless of adjudication
186	of guilt.
187	(b) The final order of forfeiture by the court shall
188	perfect in the law enforcement agency right, title, and interest
189	in and to such property, subject only to the rights and
190	interests of bona fide lienholders, and shall relate back to the
191	date of seizure.
192	(9)(a) When the claimant prevails at the conclusion of the
193	forfeiture proceeding, if the seizing agency decides not to
194	appeal, the seized property shall be released immediately to the
195	person entitled to possession of the property as determined by
196	the court. If the court finds that a perfected security interest
197	applies to the property or the criminal case that formed the
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198 basis for the forfeiture proceeding was discharged by acquittal, 199 dismissal, or nolle prosequi, the seizing agency shall return 200 the property to the owner within 5 days Under such 201 circumstances, the seizing agency shall not assess any towing 202 charges, storage fees, administrative costs, or maintenance 203 costs against the claimant with respect to the seized property 204 or the forfeiture proceeding.

205 When the claimant prevails at the conclusion of the (b) 206 forfeiture proceeding, any decision to appeal must be made by 207 the chief administrative official of the seizing agency, or his 208 or her designee. The trial court shall require the seizing 209 agency to pay to the claimant the reasonable loss of value of 210 the seized property when the claimant prevails at trial or on 211 appeal and the seizing agency retained the seized property 212 during the trial or appellate process. The trial court shall also require the seizing agency to pay to the claimant any loss 213 214 of income directly attributed to the continued seizure of 215 income-producing property during the trial or appellate process. If the claimant prevails under this subsection on appeal, the 216 217 seizing agency shall immediately release the seized property to 218 the person entitled to possession of the property as determined by the court, pay any cost as assessed by the court, and may not 219 220 assess any towing charges, storage fees, administrative costs, 221 or maintenance costs against the claimant with respect to the 222 seized property or the forfeiture proceeding.

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223 (11) (a) The Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation 224 with the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association, shall develop guidelines and training 225 226 procedures to be used by state and local law enforcement 227 agencies and state attorneys in implementing the Florida 228 Contraband Forfeiture Act. At least annually, each state or 229 local law enforcement agency that seizes property for the 230 purpose of forfeiture shall periodically review such seizures of 231 assets made by the agency's law enforcement officers, any 232 settlements, and any forfeiture proceedings initiated by the law 233 enforcement agency, to determine whether they such seizures, 234 settlements, and forfeitures comply with the Florida Contraband 235 Forfeiture Act and the guidelines adopted under this subsection. If the review suggests deficiencies, the state or local law 236 237 enforcement agency shall promptly take action to comply with the 238 Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

(b) The determination <u>as to of</u> whether an agency will file
 a civil forfeiture action <u>is must be</u> the sole responsibility of
 the head of the agency or his or her designee.

242 <u>(c) (b)</u> The determination <u>as to</u> of whether to seize 243 currency must be made by supervisory personnel. The agency's 244 legal counsel must be notified as soon as possible <u>after a</u> 245 determination is made.

246 (d) The employment, salary, promotion, or other
 247 compensation of any law enforcement officer may not be dependent
 248 on the ability of the officer to meet a quota for seizures.

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249	(e) A seizing agency shall adopt and implement written
250	policies, procedures, and training to ensure compliance with all
251	applicable legal requirements regarding seizing, maintaining,
252	and the forfeiture of property under the Florida Contraband
253	Forfeiture Act.
254	(f) When property is seized for forfeiture, the probable
255	cause supporting the seizure must be promptly reviewed by
256	supervisory personnel. The seizing agency's legal counsel must
257	be notified as soon as possible of all seizures and shall
258	conduct a review to determine whether there is legal sufficiency
259	to proceed with a forfeiture action.
260	(g) Each seizing agency shall adopt and implement written
261	policies and procedures promoting the prompt release of seized
262	property as may be required by the act or by agency
263	determination when there is no legitimate basis for holding
264	seized property. To help assure that property is not wrongfully
265	held after seizure, each law enforcement agency must adopt
266	written policies and procedures ensuring that all asserted
267	claims of interest in seized property are promptly reviewed for
268	potential validity.
269	(h) The settlement of any forfeiture action must be
270	consistent with the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act and the
271	seizing agency's policy.
272	(i) Law enforcement agency personnel involved in the
273	seizure of property for forfeiture shall receive basic training
274	and continuing education as required by the Florida Contraband
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275	Forfeiture Act. Each agency shall maintain records demonstrating
276	each law enforcement officer's compliance with this requirement.
277	Among other things, the training must address the legal aspects
278	of forfeiture, including, but not limited to, search and seizure
279	and other constitutional considerations.
280	Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section
281	932.7055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
282	932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property
283	(5)
284	(c) An agency or organization, other than the seizing
285	agency, that wishes to receive such funds shall apply to the
286	sheriff or chief of police for an appropriation and its
287	application shall be accompanied by a written certification that
288	the moneys will be used for an authorized purpose. Such requests
289	for expenditures shall include a statement describing
290	anticipated recurring costs for the agency for subsequent fiscal
291	years. An agency or organization that receives money pursuant to
292	this subsection shall provide an accounting for such moneys and
293	shall furnish the same reports as an agency of the county or
294	municipality that receives public funds. Such funds may be
295	expended in accordance with the following procedures:
296	1. Such funds may be used only for school resource
297	officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse
298	education, or drug prevention programs or such other law
299	enforcement purposes as the board of county commissioners or

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governing body of the municipality deems appropriate.

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301 2. Such funds shall not be a source of revenue to meet302 normal operating needs of the law enforcement agency.

303 3. After July 1, 1992, and during every fiscal year thereafter, any Any local law enforcement agency that acquires 304 305 at least \$15,000 pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture 306 Act within a fiscal year must expend or donate no less than 25 307 15 percent of such proceeds for the support or operation of any 308 drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime 309 prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer 310 program or programs program(s). The local law enforcement agency 311 has the discretion to determine which program or programs program(s) will receive the designated proceeds. 312

314 Notwithstanding the drug abuse education, drug treatment, drug 315 prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school 316 resource officer minimum expenditures or donations, the sheriff 317 and the board of county commissioners or the chief of police and the governing body of the municipality may agree to expend or 318 donate such funds over a period of years if the expenditure or 319 320 donation of such minimum amount in any given fiscal year would 321 exceed the needs of the county or municipality for such program 322 or programs program(s). Nothing in this section precludes the 323 The minimum requirement for expenditure or donation of 324 forfeiture proceeds in excess of the minimum amounts established 325 in this subparagraph does not preclude expenditures or donations 326 in excess of that amount herein.

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327 Section 5. Section 932.7061, Florida Statutes, is created 328 to read:

329

932.7061 Reporting seized property for forfeiture.-

(1) Every law enforcement agency shall submit an annual 330 331 report to the Department of Law Enforcement indicating whether 332 the agency has seized or forfeited property under the Florida 333 Contraband Forfeiture Act. A law enforcement agency receiving or 334 expending forfeited property or proceeds from the sale of 335 forfeited property in accordance with the Florida Contraband 336 Forfeiture Act shall submit a completed annual report by October 337 10 documenting the receipts and expenditures. The report shall be submitted in an electronic form, maintained by the Department 338 339 of Law Enforcement in consultation with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, to the entity 340 341 that has budgetary authority over such agency and to the Department of Law Enforcement. The annual report must, at a 342 343 minimum, specify the type, approximate value, court case number, type of offense, disposition of property received, and amount of 344 345 any proceeds received or expended.

346 (2) The Department of Law Enforcement shall submit an
 347 annual report to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
 348 Government Accountability compiling the information and data in
 349 the annual reports submitted by the law enforcement agencies.
 350 The annual report shall also contain a list of law enforcement
 351 agencies that have failed to meet the reporting requirements and

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352	a summary of any action taken against the noncomplying agency by
353	the office of Chief Financial Officer.
354	(3) The law enforcement agency and the entity having
355	budgetary control over the law enforcement agency shall not
356	anticipate future forfeitures or proceeds therefrom in the
357	adoption and approval of the budget for the law enforcement
358	agency.
359	Section 6. Section 732.7062, Florida Statutes, is created
360	to read:
361	732.7062 Penalty for noncompliance with reporting
362	requirements.—A seizing agency that fails to comply with the
363	reporting requirements in s. 932.7061 is subject to a civil fine
364	of \$5,000, to be determined by the Chief Financial Officer and
365	payable to the General Revenue Fund. However, such agency is not
366	subject to the fine if, within 60 days after receipt of written
367	notification from the Department of Law Enforcement of
368	noncompliance with the reporting requirements of the Florida
369	Contraband Forfeiture Act, the agency substantially complies
370	with those requirements. The Department of Law Enforcement shall
371	submit any substantial noncompliance to the office of Chief
372	Financial Officer, which shall be responsible for the
373	enforcement of this section.
374	Section 7. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (9) of
375	section 322.34, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
376	322.34 Driving while license suspended, revoked, canceled,
377	or disqualified
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378 (9) (a) A motor vehicle that is driven by a person under 379 the influence of alcohol or drugs in violation of s. 316.193 is 380 subject to seizure and forfeiture under ss. 932.701-932.7062 381 932.706 and is subject to liens for recovering, towing, or 382 storing vehicles under s. 713.78 if, at the time of the offense, 383 the person's driver license is suspended, revoked, or canceled as a result of a prior conviction for driving under the 384 385 influence.

386 (c) Notwithstanding s. 932.703(1)(c) or s. 932.7055, when 387 the seizing agency obtains a final judgment granting forfeiture 388 of the motor vehicle under this section, 30 percent of the net 389 proceeds from the sale of the motor vehicle shall be retained by 390 the seizing law enforcement agency and 70 percent shall be 391 deposited in the General Revenue Fund for use by regional 392 workforce boards in providing transportation services for 393 participants of the welfare transition program. In a forfeiture 394 proceeding under this section, the court may consider the extent 395 that the family of the owner has other public or private means 396 of transportation.

397 Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 323.001, Florida398 Statutes, is amended to read:

399 323.001 Wrecker operator storage facilities; vehicle 400 holds.-

401 (4) The requirements for a written hold apply when the 402 following conditions are present:

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(a) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle
should be seized and forfeited under the Florida Contraband
Forfeiture Act, ss. 932.701-<u>932.7062</u> 932.706;

406 (b) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle407 should be seized and forfeited under chapter 379;

408 (c) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle409 was used as the means of committing a crime;

(d) The officer has probable cause to believe that the vehicle is itself evidence that tends to show that a crime has been committed or that the vehicle contains evidence, which cannot readily be removed, which tends to show that a crime has been committed;

(e) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle was involved in a traffic accident resulting in death or personal injury and should be sealed for investigation and collection of evidence by a vehicular homicide investigator;

419 (f) The vehicle is impounded or immobilized pursuant to s. 420 316.193 or s. 322.34; or

421 (g) The officer is complying with a court order.
422 Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
423 328.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

424 328.07 Hull identification number required.-425 (3)

(b) If any of the hull identification numbers required by
the United States Coast Guard for a vessel manufactured after
October 31, 1972, do not exist or have been altered, removed,

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429 destroyed, covered, or defaced or the real identity of the 430 vessel cannot be determined, the vessel may be seized as 431 contraband property by a law enforcement agency or the division, 432 and shall be subject to forfeiture pursuant to ss. 932.701-433 932.7062 932.706. Such vessel may not be sold or operated on the 434 waters of the state unless the division receives a request from 435 a law enforcement agency providing adequate documentation or is 436 directed by written order of a court of competent jurisdiction 437 to issue to the vessel a replacement hull identification number 438 which shall thereafter be used for identification purposes. No 439 vessel shall be forfeited under the Florida Contraband 440 Forfeiture Act when the owner unknowingly, inadvertently, or 441 neglectfully altered, removed, destroyed, covered, or defaced the vessel hull identification number. 442

443 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 444 817.625, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

445 817.625 Use of scanning device or reencoder to defraud;
446 penalties.-

447 (2)

(c) Any person who violates subparagraph (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. shall also be subject to the provisions of ss. 932.701-932.7062 <u>932.706</u>.

451 Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 932.7055, Florida 452 Statutes, is amended to read:

453

932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property.-

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463 464

(3) If the forfeited property is subject to a lien
preserved by the court as provided in s. 932.703(6)(a)(b), the
agency shall:

(a) Sell the property with the proceeds being used towardssatisfaction of any liens; or

(b) Have the lien satisfied prior to taking any actionauthorized by subsection (1).

Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016

TITLE AMENDMENT

465 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert: 466 An act relating to contraband forfeiture; amending s. 932.701, 467 F.S.; revising the applicability of a short title; amending s. 932.703, F.S.; specifying that property may be seized only upon 468 the arrest of the owner of the property for a violation of a 469 470 criminal law that renders the property a contraband article; 471 requiring specified persons approve a settlement; specifying 472 nature of title interest in seized property; providing 473 circumstances when property can be deemed contraband; amending 474 s. 932.704, F.S.; providing circumstances when a court shall 475 order the forfeiture of seized property; providing circumstances 476 for return of seized property to the owner; requiring seizing 477 agency to be responsible for costs in specified circumstances; 478 requiring various review procedures for seizure records held by a seizing agency; prohibiting compensation of law enforcement 479

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480	officers from being dependent on meeting a seizure quota;
481	requiring the adoption and implementation of written policies,
482	procedures, and training; requiring training for personnel
483	involved in property seizure; amending s. 932.7055, F.S.;
484	providing conforming changes; creating s. 932.7061, F.S.;
485	providing reporting requirements for seized property for
486	forfeiture; creating s. 932.7062, F.S.; providing penalties for
487	noncompliance with reporting requirements; amending ss. 322.34,
488	323.001, 328.07, 817.625, and 932.7055, F.S.; providing
489	conforming changes; providing an effective date.

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