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CS/HB 255, Engrossed 1

2025 Legislature

1
2 An act relating to aggravated animal cruelty;
3 providing a short title; amending s. 828.12, F.S.;
4 requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to post on
5 its website the names of certain individuals who have
6 violated specified animal cruelty provisions; amending
7 s. 921.0024, F.S.; providing a sentencing multiplier
8 for specified offenses of aggravated animal cruelty;
9 providing applicability; providing an effective date.

10
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
13 Section 1. This act may be cited as "Dexter's Law."

14 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 828.12,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

17 (7) Beginning January 1, 2026, the Department of Law
18 Enforcement shall post on its website, in a searchable format
19 prescribed by the department, the names of those individuals who
20 have been convicted of, or who have entered a plea of guilty or
21 nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a violation of
22 this section.

23 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 921.0024, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 921.0024 Criminal Punishment Code; worksheet computations;

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scoresheets.—

(1) (a) The Criminal Punishment Code worksheet is used to compute the subtotal and total sentence points as follows:

FLORIDA CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT CODE

WORKSHEET

OFFENSE SCORE

Primary Offense

Level	Sentence Points		Total
10	116	=
9	92	=
8	74	=
7	56	=
6	36	=
5	28	=
4	22	=

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42	3	16	=
43	2	10	=
44	1	4	=
45				
46				
47				
48	Additional Offenses			
49	Level	Sentence Points	Counts	Total
50	10	58	x 	=
51	9	46	x 	=
52	8	37	x 	=
53	7	28	x 	=
	6	18	x 	=

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54						
	5	5.4	x	=
55						
	4	3.6	x	=
56						
	3	2.4	x	=
57						
	2	1.2	x	=
58						
	1	0.7	x	=
59						
	M	0.2	x	=
60						
61						Total
62						
63						
			Victim Injury			
64						
	Level	Sentence		Number		Total
		Points				
65						
	2nd degree					
	murder-	240	x	=

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66	death					
67	Death	120	x	=
68	Severe	40	x	=
69	Moderate	18	x	=
70	Slight	4	x	=
71	Sexual penetration	80	x	=
72	Sexual contact	40	x	=
73						
74						Total
75	Primary Offense + Additional Offenses + Victim Injury =					
76	TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE					
77	PRIOR RECORD SCORE					
78	Prior Record					

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79						
	Level	Sentence		Number		Total
		Points				
80	10	29	x	=
81	9	23	x	=
82	8	19	x	=
83	7	14	x	=
84	6	9	x	=
85	5	3.6	x	=
86	4	2.4	x	=
87	3	1.6	x	=
88	2	0.8	x	=
89	1	0.5	x	=
90	M	0.2	x	=

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91	
92	
93	Total
94	TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE.....
95	TOTAL PRIOR RECORD SCORE.....
96	LEGAL STATUS.....
97	COMMUNITY SANCTION VIOLATION.....
98	PRIOR SERIOUS FELONY.....
99	PRIOR CAPITAL FELONY.....
100	FIREARM OR SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPON.....
101	SUBTOTAL.....
102	PRISON RELEASEE REOFFENDER (no) (yes).....
103	VIOLENT CAREER CRIMINAL (no) (yes).....
104	HABITUAL VIOLENT OFFENDER (no) (yes).....
105	HABITUAL OFFENDER (no) (yes).....
106	<u>AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....</u>
107	DRUG TRAFFICKER (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....
108	LAW ENF. PROTECT. (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....
109	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....
110	CRIMINAL GANG OFFENSE (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....
111	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PRESENCE OF RELATED CHILD (no) (yes)
112	(x multiplier).....
113	ADULT-ON-MINOR SEX OFFENSE (no) (yes) (x multiplier).....

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114
115 TOTAL SENTENCE POINTS.....

116 (b) WORKSHEET KEY:

117
118 Legal status points are assessed when any form of legal status
119 existed at the time the offender committed an offense before the
120 court for sentencing. Four (4) sentence points are assessed for
121 an offender's legal status.

122
123 Community sanction violation points are assessed when a
124 community sanction violation is before the court for sentencing.
125 Six (6) sentence points are assessed for each community sanction
126 violation and each successive community sanction violation,
127 unless any of the following apply:

128 1. If the community sanction violation includes a new
129 felony conviction before the sentencing court, twelve (12)
130 community sanction violation points are assessed for the
131 violation, and for each successive community sanction violation
132 involving a new felony conviction.

133 2. If the community sanction violation is committed by a
134 violent felony offender of special concern as defined in s.
135 948.06:

136 a. Twelve (12) community sanction violation points are
137 assessed for the violation and for each successive violation of
138 felony probation or community control where:

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I. The violation does not include a new felony conviction;
and

II. The community sanction violation is not based solely
on the probationer or offender's failure to pay costs or fines
or make restitution payments.

b. Twenty-four (24) community sanction violation points
are assessed for the violation and for each successive violation
of felony probation or community control where the violation
includes a new felony conviction.

Multiple counts of community sanction violations before the
sentencing court shall not be a basis for multiplying the
assessment of community sanction violation points.

Prior serious felony points: If the offender has a primary
offense or any additional offense ranked in level 8, level 9, or
level 10, and one or more prior serious felonies, a single
assessment of thirty (30) points shall be added. For purposes of
this section, a prior serious felony is an offense in the
offender's prior record that is ranked in level 8, level 9, or
level 10 under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 and for which the
offender is serving a sentence of confinement, supervision, or
other sanction or for which the offender's date of release from
confinement, supervision, or other sanction, whichever is later,
is within 3 years before the date the primary offense or any

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164 additional offense was committed.

165
166 Prior capital felony points: If the offender has one or more
167 prior capital felonies in the offender's criminal record, points
168 shall be added to the subtotal sentence points of the offender
169 equal to twice the number of points the offender receives for
170 the primary offense and any additional offense. A prior capital
171 felony in the offender's criminal record is a previous capital
172 felony offense for which the offender has entered a plea of nolo
173 contendere or guilty or has been found guilty; or a felony in
174 another jurisdiction which is a capital felony in that
175 jurisdiction, or would be a capital felony if the offense were
176 committed in this state.

177
178 Possession of a firearm, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun:
179 If the offender is convicted of committing or attempting to
180 commit any felony other than those enumerated in s. 775.087(2)
181 while having in his or her possession: a firearm as defined in
182 s. 790.001, an additional eighteen (18) sentence points are
183 assessed; or if the offender is convicted of committing or
184 attempting to commit any felony other than those enumerated in
185 s. 775.087(3) while having in his or her possession a
186 semiautomatic firearm as defined in s. 775.087(3) or a machine
187 gun as defined in s. 790.001, an additional twenty-five (25)
188 sentence points are assessed.

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Sentencing multipliers:

Aggravated Animal Cruelty: If the primary offense is aggravated animal cruelty under s. 828.12(2), which included the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injured, mutilated, or killed the animal, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.25. As used in this paragraph, the term "animal" does not include an animal used for agricultural purposes or permitted as captive wildlife as authorized under s. 379.303.

Drug trafficking: If the primary offense is drug trafficking under s. 893.135, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied, at the discretion of the court, for a level 7 or level 8 offense, by 1.5. The state attorney may move the sentencing court to reduce or suspend the sentence of a person convicted of a level 7 or level 8 offense, if the offender provides substantial assistance as described in s. 893.135(4).

Violent offenses committed against specified justice system personnel: If the primary offense is a violation of s. 775.0823(2), (3), or (4), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 2.5. If the primary offense is a violation of s. 775.0823(5), (6), (7), (8), or (9), the subtotal sentence points

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are multiplied by 2.0. If the primary offense is a violation of s. 784.07(3) or s. 775.0875(1), or s. 775.0823(10) or (11), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

Grand theft of a motor vehicle: If the primary offense is grand theft of the third degree involving a motor vehicle and in the offender's prior record, there are three or more grand thefts of the third degree involving a motor vehicle, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

Offense related to a criminal gang: If the offender is convicted of the primary offense and committed that offense for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a criminal gang as defined in s. 874.03, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5. If applying the multiplier results in the lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory maximum sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the court may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the defendant to the statutory maximum sentence.

Domestic violence in the presence of a child: If the offender is convicted of the primary offense and the primary offense is a crime of domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28, which was committed in the presence of a child under 16 years of age who is a family or household member as defined in s. 741.28(3) with

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the victim or perpetrator, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

Adult-on-minor sex offense: If the offender was 18 years of age or older and the victim was younger than 18 years of age at the time the offender committed the primary offense, and if the primary offense was an offense committed on or after October 1, 2014, and is a violation of s. 787.01(2) or s. 787.02(2), if the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed a sexual battery under chapter 794 or a lewd act under s. 800.04 or s. 847.0135(5) against the minor; s. 787.01(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. 787.02(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. 794.011, excluding s. 794.011(10); s. 800.04; or s. 847.0135(5), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 2.0. If applying the multiplier results in the lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory maximum sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the court may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the defendant to the statutory maximum sentence.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.