

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

BILL: SB 814

INTRODUCER: Senator Fine

SUBJECT: Weapons or Firearms at School-sponsored Events or on School Property

DATE: March 24, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Cellon	Stokes	CJ	Unfavorable
2.			ACJ	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 814 amends s. 790.115, F.S., to provide a person the ability to lawfully possess firearms and weapons on school property, a school bus, or school bus stop, in s. 790.115(2)(a), F.S. The bill specifies that a person may not store a firearm or weapon on such property.

A person may lawfully carry a firearm on the property of any college or university, including, but not limited to, any dormitory or residence hall owned or operated by a college or university, and in any other location he or she is legally authorized to do so.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) may authorize a college or university while hosting or sponsoring a sporting or athletic event, to designate a campus facility or area as a sensitive location in which the possession of a concealed weapon or concealed firearm is prohibited.

The FDLE suggests that the time the department will need to make any necessary programmatic changes will be approximately seven months and, utilizing existing staff resources, will cost approximately \$111,000.¹ See Section V. *Fiscal Impact Statement*.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

The term “school” is defined in s. 790.115, F.S., as any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or nonpublic.

¹ 2025 FDLE Legislative Bill Analysis, SB 814, March 17, 2025. (On file with the Criminal Justice Committee).

Possessing a firearm or weapon on the property of any school, school bus, or school bus stop, is prohibited except under limited circumstances. Section 790.115(2)(a), F.S., provides that a person shall not possess any firearm, electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon as defined in s. 790.001, F.S., including a razor blade or box cutter, except as authorized in support of school-sanctioned activities, at a school-sponsored event, or on the property of any school, school bus, or school bus stop; however, a person may carry a firearm:

- In a case to a firearms program, class or function which has been approved in advance by the principal or chief administrative officer of the school as a program or class to which firearms could be carried;
- In a case to a career center having a firearms training range; or
- In a vehicle pursuant to s. 790.25(4), F.S.; except that school districts may adopt written and published policies that waive the exception in this subparagraph for purposes of student and campus parking privileges.²

It is a third degree felony offense if a person willfully and knowingly possesses a firearm on school property³. It is also a third degree felony if a person willfully and knowingly possesses any electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon as defined in s. 790.001, F.S., including a razor blade or box cutter, except as authorized in support of school-sanctioned activities, in violation of s. 790.115(2)(b), F.S.⁴ Persons who have a concealed weapon or concealed firearm license⁵ are subject to second degree misdemeanor penalties⁶ if they willfully and knowingly violate paragraph (2)(b) or subparagraph (2)(c)1. of s. 790.115, F.S.

According to s. 790.06(12), F.S., a license to carry a concealed weapon or a concealed firearm⁷ does not authorize a person to openly carry a handgun or carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm into:

- Any school, college, or professional athletic event not related to firearms;
- Any elementary or secondary school facility or administration building;
- Any career center;
- 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;
- Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.⁸

The Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1995 amended Section 922(q) of title 18, United States Code, providing that “[i]t shall be unlawful for any individual knowingly to possess a firearm

² Section 790.115(2)(a), F.S.

³ Section 790.115(2)(c)1., F.S. 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The misdemeanor penalties also apply to persons who do not have a concealed carry license but who do carry identification, and otherwise satisfy the criteria for receiving and maintaining such a license under ss.790.01(1)(b), and 790.06(2)(a)-(f) and (i)-(n), (3), and (10), F.S.

⁶ A second degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in the county jail and a \$500 fine. ss.775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

⁷ Sections 790.01(a) and (b), F.S.

⁸ Section 790.06(12)(a), F.S.

that has moved in or that otherwise affects interstate or foreign commerce at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is a school zone.”⁹”

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 790.115 to provide a person, the ability to lawfully possess firearms and weapons on school property, a school bus, or school bus stop, in s. 790.115(2)(a), F.S., by deleting the word “possess,” and specifying that a person may not “store” weapons in such a place.

A person may lawfully carry a firearm on the property of any college or university, including, but not limited to, any dormitory or residence hall owned or operated by a college or university, and in any other location he or she is legally authorized to do so.

The bill creates a new subsection (4) in s. 790.115, F.S., providing that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) may authorize a college or university, while hosting or sponsoring a sporting or athletic event, to designate a campus facility or area as a sensitive location in which the possession of a concealed weapon or a concealed firearm is prohibited. The college or university must submit a security plan to the FDLE for approval. The FDLE shall create and make an electronic form publicly available on its website through which a college or university may submit a security plan.

The bill amends the definition of the term “school” to read “a *public* preschool or any elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, or career center, regardless of whether public or private.

The bill also amends s. 790.06(12)(a)13., F.S., which is the section of law specifying that a concealed carry license does not authorize any person to openly carry a handgun or carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm into any college or university facility.

The bill provides that a person may not carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm on any college or university facility or area the FDLE has authorized the college or university to designate as a sensitive location during an event.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, s. 18, of the State Constitution.

⁹ Section 890, 104th Congress, First Session.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill states that the FDLE “may authorize” colleges and universities to designate a campus facility or area as a sensitive location in which the possession of a concealed weapon or a concealed firearm is prohibited while hosting or sponsoring a sporting or athletic event. The bill requires that to receive such authorization, the college or university must submit a security plan to the FDLE for approval. The FDLE shall create and make publicly available an electronic form on its website through which a college or university may submit a security plan pursuant to the bill. The form must include, at a minimum, the basic information regarding the sporting or athletic event the college or university is hosting or sponsoring and any information needed by the department to make its decision.

The FDLE suggests that the time the department will need to make any necessary programmatic changes will be approximately seven months and, utilizing existing staff resources, will cost approximately \$111,000.¹⁰ The FDLE also suggests an extended effective date.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

¹⁰ 2025 FDLE Legislative Bill Analysis, SB 814, March 17, 2025. (*On file with the Criminal Justice Committee*).

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 790.115, 790.06, 397.417, 420.6241, 435.04, 790.251, 921.0022, 943.051, 943.0585, 943.059, 985.11, 985.557.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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