

DOMESTIC SECURITY

SB 288 — Seaport Security Plan Open Government Sunset Review

by Domestic Security Committee and Senator Wilson

This bill reenacts and amends s. 311.13, F.S., to continue the public records exemption for seaport plans and certain specific documents related to those plans. The exemption applies to seaport authorities created by acts of the Legislature or to the seaport departments of any county or municipality that operates an international seaport.

The exemption of public disclosure of seaport security plans and certain photographs, maps, blueprint drawings, and other similar materials that depict critical seaport operating facilities is necessary to ensure the safety and security of Florida's public seaports.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2005.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0

HB 1715 — Domestic Security Oversight Council

by Domestic Security Committee and Rep. Adams and others (CS/SB 1414 by Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee and Domestic Security Committee)

This bill amends ss. 943.03101, 943.0311, and 943.0312, F.S., and creates s. 943.0313, F.S.

The bill establishes legislative findings regarding the need to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts and responses with the state comprehensive emergency management plan. It also revises aspects of the statewide domestic security strategy to add prevention, protection, and recovery along with detection and response in addressing acts of terrorism.

In addition, the bill clarifies and revises the duties of the Chief of Domestic Security related to the continuing security assessment of state buildings, facilities, and structures. The bill codifies the representation of several organizations on the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (RDSTF) and allows the co-chairs of each of the RDSTF to appoint subcommittees and chairs for those subcommittees.

In order to implement the Governor's Executive Orders in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Law Enforcement called together a new oversight panel, generally known as the "State Domestic Security Oversight Board" (DSOB), to assist in coordinating interagency consensus on domestic security issues. This bill codifies the Domestic Security Oversight Council in statute and delineates its organization and functions.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 111-0

HB 1801 — Domestic Security Oversight Public Meetings and Records Exemption

by Domestic Security Committee and Rep. Adams (CS/SB 1416 by Domestic Security Committee)

This bill creates s. 943.0314, F.S. The bill provides for the exemption of portions of meetings and records of the Domestic Security Oversight Council from public-meetings and public records laws. The bill provides criteria for determining when a portion of the council meeting may be closed, how the council chair shall declare closing a portion of the meeting, who may attend a closed council meeting, and what records must be kept of the proceedings of the council during a closed meeting.

In conjunction with codification of the Domestic Security Oversight Council, pursuant to HB 1715, the bill recognizes the need to protect certain subjects brought before the council such as hearing or discussion of active criminal investigative or intelligence information or security system plans information.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect on the same date that HB 1715 takes effect.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 110-0

DOMESTIC SECURITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CS/SB 200 — Florida Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

by Community Affairs Committee and Senator Constantine

This bill (Chapter 2005-5, L.O.F.) updates the applicability of a hazardous substances list in the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). This update will allow for proper inventory procedures, notification required under the federal law, and fee payments. Use of the current hazardous substances list allows the State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Commission to provide assistance and support to local emergency planning committees in performance of their duties.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2005.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 111-0

HCB 6001 (for HBs 337, 737) — Sales Tax/Hurricane Preparedness

by Finance and Tax Committee and Reps. Benson, Greenstein, and others (CS/CS/SBs 1462 and 648 by Government Efficiency Appropriations Committee; Domestic Security Committee; and Senators Baker and Campbell)

This bill provides for a sales tax exemption for the purchase of items of tangible personal property typically associated with hurricane preparedness such as self powered light sources (flashlights), radios, and batteries to power these devices. In addition, the bill provides for a sales tax exemption for the purchase of certain items used to protect a residence or business from possible damage resulting from a hurricane or tropical storm such as tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting and anchoring or tie down systems. Other sales tax exempted items include first-aid kits, small gas or diesel fuel tanks, non-electric food storage coolers, and portable electric generators.

The bill provides maximum allowed purchase price limits for each item and specifies a period of tax exemption from June 1 through June 12, 2005.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-1