



## CS/HB 7125: Public Safety

- **HB 7125** encompasses a wide array of areas in criminal justice that will further efforts to reform the criminal justice system.
- The bill provides mechanisms to improve fairness and transparency in the criminal justice system.

The bill:

- Allows a court to sentence a defendant to **administrative probation**, which is a non-reporting supervision that is currently available to low-risk offenders only by transfer of the Department of Corrections (DOC) upon completion of half their probationary term.
- Requires a court, subject to certain exceptions, to early terminate or convert to administrative probation if an eligible offender has successfully completed half of his or her probation term, including all conditions, with no violations.
- Authorizes each judicial circuit to create a **community court**, a type of problem solving court that addresses misdemeanor crimes affecting a particular community.
- Increases the threshold values for specified theft offenses, including:
  - Petit theft;
  - Retail theft; and an
  - Grand theft.
- Reforms probation violations and standardizes a system for alternative sanctioning to respond to technical violations of probation.
- Requires each clerk of court to create a **Driver License Reinstatement Days** program to facilitate reinstatement for those who have had their license suspended or revoked.
- Expands **reentry services** for recently released inmates by providing greater job training and career planning opportunities by:
  - Authorizing DOC to expand the use of job assignment credentialing and industry certifications; and
  - Requiring DOC to develop a Prison Entrepreneurship Program and adopt procedures for inmate admission.
- Reduces barriers to occupational licensing for persons with a criminal history record by:
  - Limiting the period for which an agency may consider an applicant's criminal history;
  - Permitting a person incarcerated or on supervision to apply for licensure and to appear by teleconference or video conference at a licensing hearing; and
  - Requiring DOC to cooperate with a licensing board or agency to facilitate an applicant's appearance.
- Expands eligibility for veteran's treatment programs to current or former US Department of Defense contractors or military members of a foreign allied country.
- Creates a new section of law listing ineligible offenses for court-ordered sealing and expunction by name and statute number for clarity and improved readability.
- Creates an automatic sealing process for any criminal history record in which (1) charges were not filed, (2) charges were dismissed, unless dismissal was due to incompetency to proceed, or (3) the defendant was acquitted, by either a verdict of not guilty or a judgment of acquittal.
- Repeals mandatory suspension of driver's license for certain non-driving offenses, such as
  - Providing alcohol to persons under 21,



# HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE DANE EAGLE, MAJORITY LEADER

- Underage possession of alcohol;
  - Underage possession of tobacco,
  - Graffiti for a minor delinquent; and
  - Possession of a firearm by a minor.
- Amends the definition of Prison Release Reoffender to include a person released from a county detention facility for a prison sentence.
  - Prohibits awarding attorney fees in injunction proceedings for repeat, dating, or sexual violence, and stalking.
  - Defines cyberstalking to include accessing, or attempting to access, the online accounts or Internet-connected home electronic systems of another person without that person's permission.
  - Expands the crime of sexual cyber harassment to include electronically disseminating a sexually explicit image.
  - Authorizes qualified active or retired law enforcement or correctional officers to carry a concealed firearm during off-duty hours in any state.
  - Criminalizes possessing, selling, lending, giving away, distributing, transmitting, showing, or advertising an obscene, child-like sex doll.
  - Raises the hydrocodone trafficking mandatory-minimum thresholds to bring them in line with similar controlled substances.
  - Expands eligibility for a pretrial drug court program to a person with up to two prior nonviolent felony convictions.
  - Authorizes a court to sentence a person meeting all other criteria as a youthful offender if he or she was 21 or younger at the time of the offense, regardless of age at the time of sentence.
  - Repeals all mandatory direct file provisions, allowing but not requiring, a state attorney to direct file an information against a child meeting discretionary direct file criteria.