



**COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY &
PUBLIC SAFETY**

COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**ROOM
REED HALL
(102 HOB)**

ACTION PACKET

Marco Rubio
Speaker

Sandra "Sandy" Adams
Chair

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Attendance:

| | <i>Present</i> | <i>Absent</i> | <i>Excused</i> |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Sandra Adams (Chair) | X | | |
| Jennifer Carroll | X | | |
| Luis Garcia | X | | |
| Gayle Harrell | X | | |
| Doug Holder | X | | |
| Matt Hudson | X | | |
| Evan Jenne | X | | |
| Paige Kreegel | X | | |
| Ari Porth | | | X |
| William Snyder | X | | |
| Totals: | 9 | 0 | 1 |

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

HB 9 : Persons Injured by Crime

Favorable

| | <i>Yea</i> | <i>Nay</i> | <i>No Vote</i> | <i>Absentee Yea</i> | <i>Absentee Nay</i> |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jennifer Carroll | X | | | | |
| Luis Garcia | X | | | | |
| Gayle Harrell | X | | | | |
| Doug Holder | X | | | | |
| Matt Hudson | X | | | | |
| Evan Jenne | X | | | | |
| Paige Kreegel | X | | | | |
| Ari Porth | | | X | | |
| William Snyder | X | | | | |
| Sandra Adams (Chair) | X | | | | |
| Total Yeas: 9 | | Total Nays: 0 | | | |

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

HB 61 : Offenses Against Officers

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Favorable | | | | | |
| | <i>Yea</i> | <i>Nay</i> | <i>No Vote</i> | <i>Absentee Yea</i> | <i>Absentee Nay</i> |
| Jennifer Carroll | X | | | | |
| Luis Garcia | X | | | | |
| Gayle Harrell | X | | | | |
| Doug Holder | X | | | | |
| Matt Hudson | X | | | | |
| Evan Jenne | X | | | | |
| Paige Kreegel | X | | | | |
| Ari Porth | | | X | | |
| William Snyder | X | | | | |
| Sandra Adams (Chair) | X | | | | |
| Total Yeas: 9 | | Total Nays: 0 | | | |

Appearances:

HB 61--Offenses Against Officers by Scionti
 Gary Bradford (Lobbyist) - Proponent
 Florida Police Benevolent Association
 300 East Brevard Street
 Tallahassee Florida 32301
 Phone: 850-222-3329

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

HB 105 : Secondary Metals Recyclers

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>Favorable With Recommended Council Substitute</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Yea</i> | <i>Nay</i> | <i>No Vote</i> | <i>Absentee Yea</i> | <i>Absentee Nay</i> |
| Jennifer Carroll | X | | | | |
| Luis Garcia | X | | | | |
| Gayle Harrell | X | | | | |
| Doug Holder | X | | | | |
| Matt Hudson | X | | | | |
| Evan Jenne | X | | | | |
| Paige Kreegel | X | | | | |
| Ari Porth | | | X | | |
| William Snyder | X | | | | |
| Sandra Adams (Chair) | X | | | | |
| Total Yeas: 9 | | Total Nays: 0 | | | |

Appearances:

HB 105--Secondary Metals Recyclers by Troutman
 Mitchell Rubin (Lobbyist) (At Request Of Chair) - Proponent
 Florida Beer Wholesalers Assoc.
 215 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee Florida 32301
 Phone: 850-224-2337

HB 105--Secondary Metals Recyclers by Troutman
 Jim MaGill (Lobbyist) - Proponent
 Trademark Metals Recycling
 101 North Monroe Street Suite 1090
 Tallahassee Florida 32712
 Phone: 850-681-0411

HB 105--Secondary Metals Recyclers by Troutman
 Keyna Cory (Lobbyist) - Proponent
 Associated Industries of Florida
 P.O. Box 1347
 Tallahassee Florida 32302
 Phone: 850-681-1065

HB 105--Secondary Metals Recyclers by Troutman
 Frank Messersmith (Lobbyist) - Proponent
 Florida Sheriff's Association
 2901 Lake Bradford Road
 Tallahassee Florida
 Phone: 850-576-5858

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 1 (for drafter's use only)

Bill No. **HB 105**

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED — (Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED — (Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION ~~—~~ (Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT — (Y/N)
WITHDRAWN — (Y/N)
OTHER _____

ADOPTED

~~_____~~

1 Council/Committee hearing bill: Homeland Security & Public
2 Safety

3 Representative(s) Troutman offered the following:

4

5 **Amendment (with directory and title amendments)**

6 Remove line(s) 112-123 and insert:

7 address of any secondary metals recycler registered to do
8 business within the official's jurisdiction.

9 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 538.26, Florida
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11 538.26 Certain acts and practices prohibited.--It is
12 unlawful for a secondary metals recycler to do or allow any of
13 the following acts:

14 (4) Purchase regulated metals property from any seller who
15 presents such property for sale at the registered location of
16 the secondary metals recycler when such property was not
17 transported in a motor vehicle ~~unless the seller can prove~~
18 ~~ownership of the regulated metals property.~~

19

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 2 (for drafter's use only)

Bill No. 105

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED _____ (Y/N)
 ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____ (Y/N)
 ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION (Y/N)
 FAILED TO ADOPT _____ (Y/N)
 WITHDRAWN _____ (Y/N)
 OTHER _____

ADOPTED

1 Council/Committee hearing bill: Homeland Security & Public
 2 Safety
 3 Representative(s) Carroll offered the following:

Amendment (with directory and title amendments)

Remove line(s) 124 and insert:

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 812.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

812.014 Theft.--

(2)(a)1. If the property stolen is valued at \$100,000 or more or is a semitrailer that was deployed by a law enforcement officer; or

2. If the property stolen is cargo valued at \$50,000 or more that has entered the stream of interstate or intrastate commerce from the shipper's loading platform to the consignee's receiving dock; or

3. If the offender commits any grand theft and:

a. In the course of committing the offense the offender uses a motor vehicle as an instrumentality, other than merely as a getaway vehicle, to assist in committing the offense and thereby damages the real property of another; or

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 2 (for drafter's use only)

22 b. In the course of committing the offense the offender
23 causes damage to the real or personal property of another in
24 excess of \$1,000, or

25 c. The theft is of nonferrous metal as defined in s.
26 538.18(4) which causes the interruption of services provided by
27 a utility or communications services provider or interference
28 with the ability of a utility or communications services
29 provider to provide service;

30
31 the offender commits grand theft in the first degree, punishable
32 as a felony of the first degree, as provided in s. 775.082, s.
33 775.083, or s. 775.084. For the purposes of this paragraph,
34 "utility" means any person, firm, corporation, association, or
35 political subdivision, whether private, municipal, county, or
36 cooperative, which is engaged in the sale, generation,
37 provision, or delivery of gas, electricity, heat, water, oil, or
38 sewer service. "Communications services" means the transmission,
39 conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any
40 other information or signals, including cable services, to a
41 point, or between or among points, by or through any electronic,
42 radio, satellite, cable, optical, microwave, or other medium or
43 method now in existence or hereafter devised, regardless of the
44 protocol used for such transmission or conveyance.

45 "Communications services provider" includes any person, firm,
46 corporation, association, or political subdivision, whether
47 private, municipal, county, or cooperative, which is engaged in
48 the sale, generation, provision, or delivery of communications
49 services.

50 (b)1. If the property stolen is valued at \$20,000 or more,
51 but less than \$100,000;

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 2 (for drafter's use only)

52 2. The property stolen is cargo valued at less than
53 \$50,000 that has entered the stream of interstate or intrastate
54 commerce from the shipper's loading platform to the consignee's
55 receiving dock;

56 3. The property stolen is emergency medical equipment,
57 valued at \$300 or more, that is taken from a facility licensed
58 under chapter 395 or from an aircraft or vehicle permitted under
59 chapter 401; or

60 4. The property stolen is law enforcement equipment,
61 valued at \$300 or more, that is taken from an authorized
62 emergency vehicle, as defined in s. 316.003,

63
64 the offender commits grand theft in the second degree,
65 punishable as a felony of the second degree, as provided in s.
66 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. Emergency medical equipment
67 means mechanical or electronic apparatus used to provide
68 emergency services and care as defined in s. 395.002(9) or to
69 treat medical emergencies. Law enforcement equipment means any
70 property, device, or apparatus used by any law enforcement
71 officer as defined in s. 943.10 in the officer's official
72 business. However, if the property is stolen within a county
73 that is subject to a state of emergency declared by the Governor
74 under chapter 252, the theft is committed after the declaration
75 of emergency is made, and the perpetration of the theft is
76 facilitated by conditions arising from the emergency, the theft
77 is a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
78 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. As used in this paragraph,
79 the term "conditions arising from the emergency" means civil
80 unrest, power outages, curfews, voluntary or mandatory
81 evacuations, or a reduction in the presence of or response time

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 2 (for drafter's use only)

82 for first responders or homeland security personnel. For
83 purposes of sentencing under chapter 921, a felony offense that
84 is reclassified under this paragraph is ranked one level above
85 the ranking under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 of the offense
86 committed.

87 (c) It is grand theft of the third degree and a felony of
88 the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.
89 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the property stolen is:

- 90 1. Valued at \$300 or more, but less than \$5,000.
- 91 2. Valued at \$5,000 or more, but less than \$10,000.
- 92 3. Valued at \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000.
- 93 4. A will, codicil, or other testamentary instrument.
- 94 5. A firearm.
- 95 6. A motor vehicle, except as provided in paragraph (a).
- 96 7. Any commercially farmed animal, including any animal of
97 the equine, bovine, or swine class, or other grazing animal, and
98 including aquaculture species raised at a certified aquaculture
99 facility. If the property stolen is aquaculture species raised
100 at a certified aquaculture facility, then a \$10,000 fine shall
101 be imposed.
- 102 8. Any fire extinguisher.
- 103 9. Any amount of citrus fruit consisting of 2,000 or more
104 individual pieces of fruit.
- 105 10. Taken from a designated construction site identified
106 by the posting of a sign as provided for in s. 810.09(2)(d).
- 107 11. Any stop sign.
- 108 12. Anhydrous ammonia.

109
110 However, if the property is stolen within a county that is
111 subject to a state of emergency declared by the Governor under

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 2 (for drafter's use only)

112 chapter 252, the property is stolen after the declaration of
113 emergency is made, and the perpetration of the theft is
114 facilitated by conditions arising from the emergency, the
115 offender commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as
116 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the
117 property is valued at \$5,000 or more, but less than \$10,000, as
118 provided under subparagraph 2., or if the property is valued at
119 \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000, as provided under
120 subparagraph 3. As used in this paragraph, the term "conditions
121 arising from the emergency" means civil unrest, power outages,
122 curfews, voluntary or mandatory evacuations, or a reduction in
123 the presence of or the response time for first responders or
124 homeland security personnel. For purposes of sentencing under
125 chapter 921, a felony offense that is reclassified under this
126 paragraph is ranked one level above the ranking under s.
127 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 of the offense committed.

128 (d) It is grand theft of the third degree and a felony of
129 the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.
130 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the property stolen is valued at \$100
131 or more, but less than \$300, and is taken from a dwelling as
132 defined in s. 810.011(2) or from the unenclosed curtilage of a
133 dwelling pursuant to s. 810.09(1).

134 (e) Except as provided in paragraph (d), if the property
135 stolen is valued at \$100 or more, but less than \$300, the
136 offender commits petit theft of the first degree, punishable as
137 a misdemeanor of the first degree, as provided in s. 775.082 or
138 s. 775.083.

139 Section 7. This act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

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HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 2 (for drafter's use only)

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove entire title and insert:

An act relating to metals; amending s. 538.18, F.S.; revising the definition of "personal identification card"; deleting an exclusion of transactions under a specified amount from the definition of "purchase transaction" for specified purposes; amending s. 538.19, F.S.; providing for additional seller information to be obtained; requiring an image of the regulated metals being sold; amending s. 538.23, F.S.; providing for enhanced penalties for third or subsequent violations of a specified provision; providing enhanced penalties for violations of specified provisions relating to false verification of ownership or false or altered identification of a seller of regulated metals; amending s. 538.25, F.S.; requiring the Department of Revenue to provide a law enforcement official, upon request, with specified information regarding certain secondhand dealers; amending s. 538.26, F.S.; prohibiting the purchase of any regulated metals property, other than aluminum cans, when presented at the property of a secondary metals recycler and not transported in a motor vehicle; amending s. 812.014; providing penalties; providing an effective date.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 3 (for drafter's use only)

Bill No. **HB 105**

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED _____ (Y/N)
 ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____ (Y/N)
 ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION X (Y/N)
 FAILED TO ADOPT _____ (Y/N)
 WITHDRAWN _____ (Y/N)
 OTHER _____

ADOPTED

~~ADOPTED~~

1 Council/Committee hearing bill: Homeland Security & Public
 2 Safety

3 Representative(s) Kreegel offered the following:

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5 **Amendment (with directory and title amendments)**

6 Remove line(s) 78-106 and insert:

7 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 538.23,
 8 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

9 538.23 Violations and penalties.--

10 (1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a secondary
 11 metals recycler who shall, upon conviction of knowingly and
 12 intentionally:

13 1.(a) Violates ~~Violating~~ s. 538.20 or s. 538.21;

14 2.(b) Engages ~~Engaging~~ in a pattern of failing to keep
15 records ~~as~~ required by s. 538.19; ~~or~~

16 3.(c) Violates ~~Violating~~ s. 538.26(4), or

17 4. Violates s. 538.235;

18

19 commits ~~be guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree,
 20 punishable as provided in s. 775.082.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 3 (for drafter's use only)

21 (b) A secondary metals recycler who commits a third or
22 subsequent violation of paragraph (a) commits a felony of the
23 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
24 or s. 775.084.

25 (3) Any person who knowingly gives false verification of
26 ownership or who gives a false or altered identification and who
27 receives money or other consideration from a secondary metals
28 recycler in return for regulated metals property commits shall,
29 upon conviction, be guilty of:

30 (a) A felony misdemeanor of the third first degree,
31 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s.
32 775.084, if the value of the money or other consideration
33 received is less than \$300.

34 (b) A felony of the second third degree, punishable as
35 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if the value
36 of the money or other consideration received is \$300 or more.

37 Section 4. Section 538.235, Florida Statutes, is created
38 to read:

39 538.235 Method of Payment.-

40 A secondary metals recycler shall not enter into any cash
41 transaction in excess of one thousand dollars in payment for the
42 purchase of regulated metals property. Payment in excess of one
43 thousand dollars for the purchase of regulated metals property
44 shall be made by check issued to the seller of the metal. The
45 check shall be payable to the seller.

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HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 4 (for drafter's use only)

Bill No. **HB 105**

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|
| ADOPTED | ___ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED AS AMENDED | ___ | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION | <u>Y</u> | (Y/N) |
| FAILED TO ADOPT | ___ | (Y/N) |
| WITHDRAWN | ___ | (Y/N) |
| OTHER | ___ | |

ADOPTED

1 Council/Committee hearing bill: Homeland Security & Public
 2 Safety

3 Representative(s) Jenne offered the following:
 4

Amendment (with directory and title amendments)

6 Remove line(s) 39-77 and insert:

7 (7) "Regulated metals property" means any item composed
 8 primarily of any nonferrous metals, but shall not include
 9 aluminum beverage containers, used beverage containers, or
 10 similar beverage containers. The term shall include stainless
 11 steel beer kegs.

12 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 538.19, Florida
 13 Statutes is amended to read:

14 538.19 Records required.--

15 (2) The following information must be maintained on a form
 16 approved by the Department of Law Enforcement for each purchase
 17 transaction:

- 18 (a) The name and address of the secondary metals recycler.
- 19 (b) The name, initials, or other identification of the
- 20 individual entering the information on the ticket.
- 21 (c) The date and time of the transaction.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 4 (for drafter's use only)

22 (d) The weight, quantity, or volume, and a description of
23 the type of regulated metals property purchased in a purchase
24 transaction.

25 (e) The amount of consideration given in a purchase
26 transaction for the regulated metals property.

27 (f) A signed statement from the person delivering the
28 regulated metals property stating that she or he is the rightful
29 owner of, or is entitled to sell, the regulated metals property
30 being sold. If the purchase involves a stainless steel beer
31 keg, the seller must provide written documentation from the
32 manufacturer that the seller is the owner of the stainless steel
33 beer keg or is an employee or agent of the manufacturer.

34 (g) The distinctive number from the personal
35 identification card of the person delivering the regulated
36 metals property to the secondary metals recycler.

37 (h) A description of the person from whom the goods were
38 acquired, including:

39 1. Full name, current residential address, workplace, and
40 home and work phone numbers.

41 2. Height, weight, date of birth, race, gender, hair
42 color, eye color, and any other identifying marks.

43 3. The right thumbprint, free of smudges and smears.

44 4. Vehicle description to include the make, model, and tag
45 number of the vehicle and trailer of the person selling the
46 regulated metals property.

47 5. Any other information required by the form approved by
48 the Department of Law Enforcement.

49 (i) A photograph, videotape, or digital image of the
50 regulated metals being sold.

HOUSE AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL/COMMITTEE PURPOSES

Amendment No. 4 (for drafter's use only)

51 (j)~~(h)~~ A photograph, videotape, or similar likeness of the
52 person receiving consideration in which such person's facial
53 features are clearly visible.

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

HB 107 : Human Smuggling

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Favorable | | | | | |
| | <i>Yea</i> | <i>Nay</i> | <i>No Vote</i> | <i>Absentee Yea</i> | <i>Absentee Nay</i> |
| Jennifer Carroll | X | | | | |
| Luis Garcia | X | | | | |
| Gayle Harrell | X | | | | |
| Doug Holder | X | | | | |
| Matt Hudson | X | | | | |
| Evan Jenne | X | | | | |
| Paige Kreegel | X | | | | |
| Ari Porth | | | X | | |
| William Snyder | X | | | | |
| Sandra Adams (Chair) | X | | | | |
| Total Yeas: 9 | | Total Nays: 0 | | | |

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

HB 117 : Orders of No Contact

| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Favorable | Yea | Nay | No Vote | Absentee Yea | Absentee Nay |
|---|-----|-----|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jennifer Carroll | X | | | | |
| Luis Garcia | X | | | | |
| Gayle Harrell | X | | | | |
| Doug Holder | X | | | | |
| Matt Hudson | X | | | | |
| Evan Jenne | X | | | | |
| Paige Kreegel | X | | | | |
| Ari Porth | | | X | | |
| William Snyder | X | | | | |
| Sandra Adams (Chair) | X | | | | |
| Total Yeas: 9 Total Nays: 0 | | | | | |

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety
12/12/2007 1:00:00PM

Location: Reed Hall (102 HOB)

Summary:

Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

Wednesday December 12, 2007 01:00 pm

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|---------|
| HB 9 | Favorable | Yeas: 9 | Nays: 0 |
| HB 61 | Favorable | Yeas: 9 | Nays: 0 |
| HB 105 | Favorable With Recommended Council Substitute | Yeas: 9 | Nays: 0 |
| HB 107 | Favorable | Yeas: 9 | Nays: 0 |
| HB 117 | Favorable | Yeas: 9 | Nays: 0 |

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 3:12:00PM

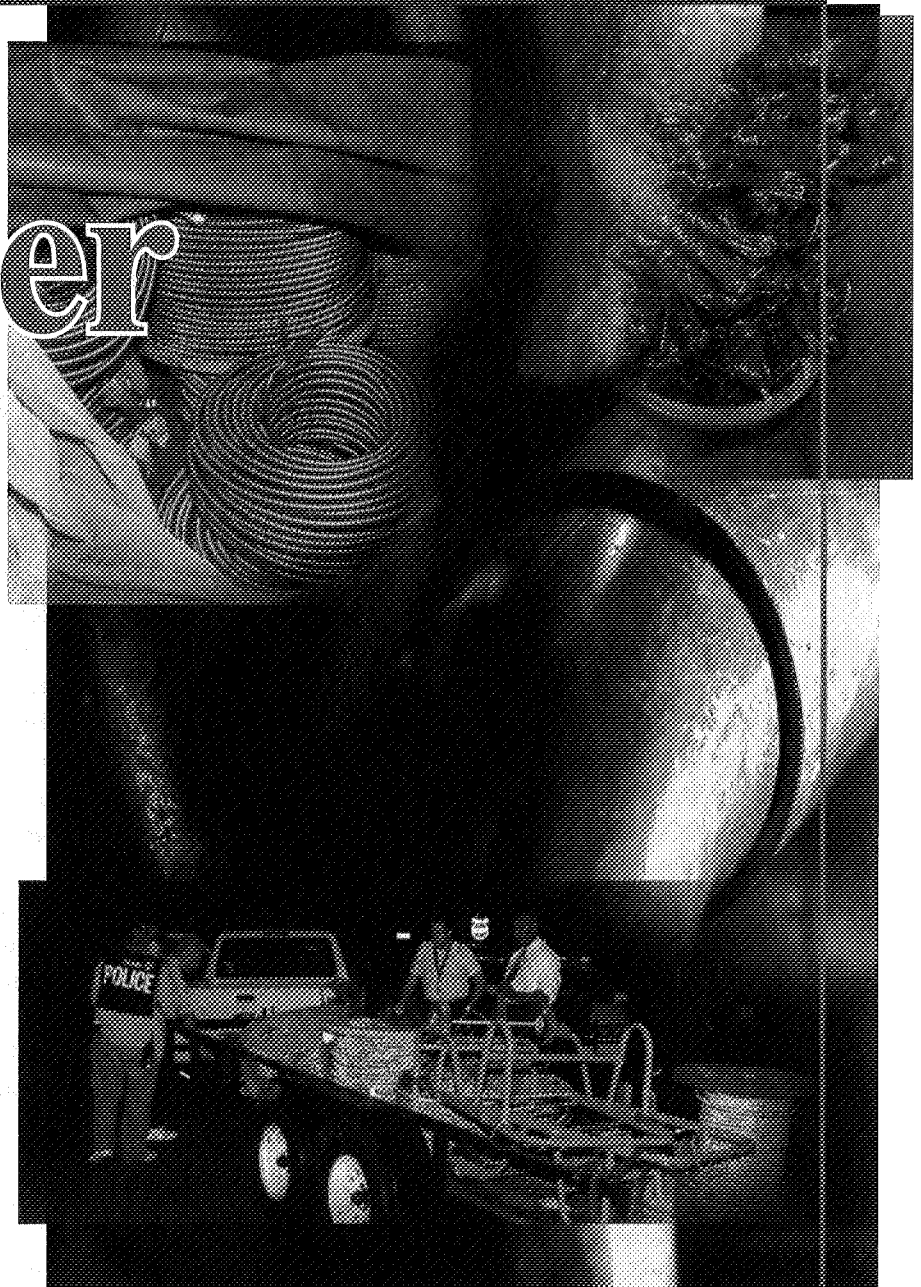
Floridians for

Copper

and

Metal Crime Prevention

*A Coalition to
Stop Secondary
Metal Theft*



The Metal Theft Epidemic

All across Florida, and the rest of the nation, residents and businesses are being targeted by a growing group of criminals ... metal thieves and resellers. Due to the increasing worldwide demand for metals, more and more criminals are stealing copper wiring from construction sites, digging up underground telecommunication wires, cutting utility wires and even stealing beer kegs!

Sought after metal can be found just about anywhere and most of it is unguarded. Homes, churches, businesses and industries like construction, telecommunications, utilities, agriculture and beer are being victimized every day. The metal demand in China and India has surged, causing prices everywhere to peak.

Stolen Metal Sales on the Rise

Theft is just part of the problem. Unscrupulous metals dealers who are willing to resale the stolen property are adding to the demand and supporting criminal activity.

- Thieves can easily sell copper wire and other metals at scrap yards across the state for \$1.50 to \$3 a pound
- In three years, beer kegs scrap value has gone from \$5 per keg to over \$40 per keg
- Florida isn't alone – each year copper and other metal thefts amount to \$1 billion in the U.S.

“Hot Wire” Crimes

- A school electrical supervisor allegedly stole \$271,000 worth of copper wiring from the Broward County School District
- The City of Orlando has had over 200 separate incidents of metal theft in the first 6 months of this year, the city anticipates close to 500 total robberies for the year
- Approximately \$200 in copper metal theft may cost a Seminole Heights church \$50,000 to repair
- Two suspects removed the ground wires on 177 transmission structures between Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties, jeopardizing the safety of dozens of employees, contractors and community members
- The local telecommunications company for Baker County had over 1600 feet of aerial cable stolen; replacement costs are close to \$27,000

Metal Theft ... A Deadly Danger

Stealing wire from utility sites can cause power outages and surges or even worse. If phone wires are ripped from the ground, a person with an emergency may be unable to reach help. If utility wires are cut, electricity will not reach the home of an ill person who uses a medical device. Additionally, an innocent person may come into contact with equipment that has been damaged by metal thieves, potentially causing injury or death.

Public Safety Legislation: *Saving Lives and Preventing Metal Theft*

Thirteen states now have laws to help stop secondary metal theft. In Florida, Rep. Baxter Troutman (HB 105), Rep. Scott Randolph (HB 113), Sen. Lee Constantine (SB 556) and Sen. Victor Crist (SB 748) have filed bills to help to deter this growing and costly problem.

This public safety legislation aims to crack down on theft by requiring secondary metal dealers to keep records including:

- Name and/or description of person from whom the goods were acquired
- Address and workplace
- Home and work phone numbers
- A thumbprint
- Vehicle information and photograph
- Videotape or digital image of the regulated metals being sold

These precautionary actions will help deter thieves from bringing stolen items to a legitimate secondary metal dealer. Those unscrupulous metal dealers who do not provide the required information and receive stolen property can be charged with a felony of the third degree!

Coalition Members

Alarm Association of Florida
Anheuser-Busch Companies
Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida
Associated Builders & Contractors of Florida
Associated Industries of Florida
AT&T
Beer Industry of Florida
Embarq
Florida Associated General Contractors
Florida Association of Electrical Contractors
Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
Florida Farm Bureau
Florida Home Builders Association
Florida Municipal Electric Association
FP&L
Florida Swimming Pool Association
Florida Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association
Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors Association
Florida Fire Sprinkler Association
Florida Wall & Ceiling Contractors Association
Florida Telecommunications Industries Association
Florida Transportation Builders Association
Gulf Power
Independent Electrical Contractors of Florida
Miller Brewing
TECO
Underground Utility Contractors of Florida
Verizon

For more information contact:

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