



Florida Sheriffs Association 2020 Legislative Priorities

Drones

New exemptions for law enforcement's use of drones should include: (1) crowd and traffic management, (2) collection of evidence at a crime scene or traffic crash, and (3) for the assessment of damage due to a flood, wildfire, or natural disaster.

Support HB 1433 by Rep. Clay Yarborough & SB 520 by Sen. Gruters

Court Security

Sheriffs support legislation that clarifies that the sheriff is in charge of court security and that the chief judge has decision-making authority to ensure the protection of due process rights through the scheduling and conduct of trials and other judicial proceedings. This legislation contains no fiscal impact. Nothing in this legislation provides a sheriff with any other means to increase their budget, and it only clarifies the role of the judge and the sheriff in providing safe and secure trial court facilities.

Support HB 131 by Rep. McClain & SB 118 by Sen. Gruters

Threat to Conduct Violence

There are currently no criminal penalties associated with making verbal threats to conduct mass shootings or acts of terrorism. Recent events have seen people make threats to "shoot up" a school or place of worship and no charges can be brought against the person making the verbal threat. However, if that same person would have written down and sent the threat in an email or letter then they could be arrested and prosecuted for a 2nd degree felony. This legislation proposes making a verbal threat to conduct violence a 3rd degree felony.

Support HB 311 by Rep. Massullo & SB 728 by Sen. Stargel



Florida Sheriffs Association Legislative Platform

Law Enforcement

Drones: Support law enforcement's ability to use drones for critical incidents to ensure public safety.

Marsy's Law: Support legislation to clarify Marsy's Law protects victim information when they ask for their information to be protected.

Jails, Corrections & Re-Entry

Early Release: Support Truth in Sentencing laws requiring convicted criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentence.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: Oppose the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences.

Expunction of Criminal Records: Oppose unlimited expunction of criminal records.

Administration

Florida Retirement System: Support returning length of service to 25 years and the retirement age to 55 years for Special Risk Class employees.

Florida Retirement System: Support reducing the amount of time a law enforcement officer must remain retired before being rehired from 12 months to 30 days.

Florida Retirement System: Support legislation to assess the financial impact and necessary funding required for an ad hoc cost of living adjustment for future Special Risk Class retirees.

Budget

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Funding: Support continued funding to train law enforcement officers to safely assess and identify people in mental health crisis and help connect them with community treatment and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Community Mental Health Funding: Support funding for mental health services that will assist persons after they are released from county jails and have to transition back into the community.