

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



## Florida Model Jail Standards

The Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) were developed 25 years ago and continue to serve as the minimum standards which jails must meet to ensure the constitutional rights of those incarcerated are upheld. Through these standards, Florida has remained at the forefront of detention related services and continues to stand out as the model for jail standards. Just as our laws continue to evolve, we must continue to review and improve these standards to reflect the changes in good practices and Florida law.

HB 1561 and SB 1236 seek to make several important changes to the FMJS to further strengthen the standards of jails across Florida. This legislation will clarify under Florida law that all jails, including those run by the sheriff, county, city or other entity, are held to the same high standards under the FMJS. Additionally, these bills will ensure all jails across Florida are required to submit to certain inspections each year and will be subject to financial penalties for failing to comply with the standards set forth in the FMJS.

- Require all county level jails to be inspected each year, regardless of whether they are operated by the sheriff or the county commission.
- Add two more members to the current five member FMJS Commission. One must be a Florida licensed physician with at least two years of experience in correctional healthcare and one a Florida licensed psychiatrist with at least two years of experience in correctional psychiatry.
- Create a new statute for the inspection of county and municipal detention facilities that will ensure jails are inspected twice a year (one announced and one unannounced). The additional inspection (unannounced) will improve jail operations.
- The new statute will also add financial penalties for noncompliance of FMJS standards. The penalties are separated into two categories: notable and serious violations.
- The salary of the person in charge of the jail can be withheld for each day they refuse to be inspected.
- Financial penalties shall be paid into the inmate welfare fund of the facility.

**Support SB 1236 Sen. Jones and HB 1561 Rep. Bush III**



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