

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCS for HB 165 Sexually Transmissible Diseases

SPONSOR(S): Criminal Justice Subcommittee

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Criminal Justice Subcommittee		Brummett	White

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Section 384.24, F.S., prohibits a person from having “sexual intercourse” if the person:

- Knows he or she is infected with one or more specified sexually transmissible diseases (STDs);
- Has been informed that the STD is transmissible to another person through sexual intercourse; and
- Has not first informed the other person of the presence of the STD and gained the person’s consent to the sexual intercourse.

The specified STDs are: (1) chancroid; (2) gonorrhea; (3) granuloma inguinale; (4) lymphogranuloma venereum; (5) genital herpes simplex; (6) chlamydia; (7) nongonococcal urethritis (NGU); (8) pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)/acute salpingitis; (9) syphilis; and (10) human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

A violation of the prohibition is punishable as a first degree misdemeanor for any specified STD except HIV infection. If HIV infection is present, a first-time violation is punishable as a third degree felony and a second or subsequent violation is punishable as a second degree felony.

Currently, the term “sexual intercourse” is not statutorily defined, and, as a result, criminal defendants have challenged the term’s meaning on appeal. The Third and Fifth District Courts of Appeals (DCAs) have held that the term includes sexual conduct between persons regardless of gender, while the Second DCA has held that the term only describes the placement of a male’s sex organ inside a female’s sex organ. The Florida Supreme Court has not ruled on the issue.

The proposed committee substitute (PCS) amends s. 384.24, F.S., to substitute the term “sexual conduct” for the term “sexual intercourse.” The PCS defines “sexual conduct” to mean conduct between persons, regardless of gender, which is capable of transmitting a STD, including but not limited to contact between a: (a) penis and a vulva or an anus; or (b) mouth and a penis, a vulva, or an anus. Accordingly, under the PCS, the scope of prohibited conduct for persons with specified STDs is expanded beyond the interpretation set forth by the Second DCA. Additionally, the PCS adds human papillomavirus and hepatitis to the list of specified STDs for which certain sexual conduct is prohibited.

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference has not yet met to determine the impact of this PCS. It is anticipated that the PCS will increase the need for prison beds due to its expansion of prohibited sexual conduct that is punishable as a third degree felony. The PCS may also increase the need for jail beds due to its expansion of prohibited sexual conduct and the list of STDs which are subject to first degree misdemeanor penalties. Please see “FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT,” *infra*.

The PCS takes effect on October 1, 2017.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Chapter 384, F.S., is entitled the, "Control of Sexually Transmissible Disease Act" (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). Section 384.22, F.S., specifies that the intent of the Act is to "provide a program that is sufficiently flexible to meet emerging needs, [that] deals efficiently and effectively with reducing the incidence of sexually transmissible diseases, and [that] provides patients with a secure knowledge that information they provide will remain private and confidential."

Under the Act, certain sexual behavior is prohibited for persons infected with specified sexually transmissible diseases (STDs). Specifically, s. 384.24, F.S., makes it unlawful for a person to have "sexual intercourse" if the person:

- Knows he or she is infected with one or more specified STDs;
- Has been informed that the STD is transmissible to another person through sexual intercourse; and
- Has not first informed the other person of the presence of the STD and gained the person's consent to the sexual intercourse.

The specified STDs are: (1) chancroid; (2) gonorrhea; (3) granuloma inguinale; (4) lymphogranuloma venereum; (5) genital herpes simplex; (6) chlamydia; (7) nongonococcal urethritis (NGU); (8) pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)/acute salpingitis; (9) syphilis; and (10) human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.¹ This list of STDs has not been statutorily updated since 1988.² Since that time, human papillomavirus (HPV)³ and hepatitis types A through E⁴ have been identified as sexually transmissible diseases.⁵

A violation of the prohibition is punishable as a first degree misdemeanor⁶ for any specified STD, except HIV infection.⁷ If HIV infection is present, a first-time violation is punishable as a third degree felony⁸ and a second or subsequent violation is punishable as a second degree felony.^{9, 10}

¹ s. 384.24(1) and (2), F.S.

² See Ch. 88-80, s. 27 (1988).

³ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, *Human Papillomavirus (HPV)*, <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/whatishpv.html> (last visited January 29, 2017)(stating "HPV is transmitted through intimate skin-to-skin contact. You can get HPV by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the virus. It is most commonly spread during vaginal or anal sex.").

⁴ NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES, *Hepatitis A through E (Viral Hepatitis)*, <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/liver-disease/viral-hepatitis> (last visited January 29, 2017)(indicating that hepatitis A through E is transmissible through sexual conduct and other means).

⁵ See also Rule 64D-3.028(23), F.A.C. (last amended November 24, 2008)(Florida Department of Health rule defining "Sexually Transmissible Disease" as "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Chancroid, Chlamydia trachomatis, Gonorrhea, Granuloma Inguinale, Hepatitis A through D, Herpes simplex virus (HSV), Human immunodeficiency virus Infection (HIV), Human papillomavirus (HPV), Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV), and Syphilis.").

⁶ A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

⁷ s. 384.34(1), F.S.

⁸ A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.084, F.S.

⁹ A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.084, F.S.

¹⁰ Other Florida Statutes criminalize additional behavior that could result in the transmission of STDs. See, e.g., s. 381.0041, F.S. (makes it a third degree felony for a person who knows he or she is infected with HIV and who has been informed that they may communicate the disease by donating blood, plasma, organs, skin, or other human tissue, to donate blood, plasma, organs, skin, or other human tissue); s. 775.0877, F.S. (makes it a third degree felony for a person, who has previously undergone HIV testing pursuant to a court order and to whom positive test results have been disclosed, to commit a subsequent enumerated offense involving the transmission of bodily fluids from one person to another; and s. 796.08, F.S. (makes it a third degree felony for a person with HIV and a first degree misdemeanor for a person with other STDs to commit or procure prostitution if the person knew he or she had a positive test result and that it was possible to communicate the disease through sexual activity).

Currently, the term “sexual intercourse” is not statutorily defined for purposes of the aforementioned offenses. As a result, criminal defendants charged with the offenses have argued on appeal that the term’s meaning should be limited to heterosexual penetration of the female sex organ by the male sex organ. Two District Courts of Appeal (DCAs) have rejected this argument:

- The Third DCA has held that “sexual intercourse” describes “more than just penetration of the female sex organ by the male sex organ and includes ...fellatio and penile-anal penetration....” Further, the term embraces such conduct regardless of gender.¹¹
- The Fifth DCA has held that, ““sexual intercourse” includes “vaginal, anal, and oral intercourse between persons, regardless of their gender.”¹²

In contrast, the Second DCA has held that, "sexual intercourse" is an act where a male's penis is placed inside a female's vagina and, therefore, s. 384.24(2), F.S., did not apply to the conduct in the case, i.e., oral sex and digital penetration between two women.¹³

The Florida Supreme Court has not ruled on this issue.

Effect of Bill

The bill amends s. 384.24, F.S., to substitute the term “sexual conduct” for the term “sexual intercourse.” In s. 384.23(3), the bill defines “sexual conduct” to mean conduct between persons, regardless of gender, which is capable of transmitting a STD, including but not limited to contact between a:

- Penis and a vulva¹⁴ or an anus; or
- Mouth and a penis, a vulva, or an anus.

Accordingly, under the bill, the scope of prohibited sexual conduct for persons with specified STDs is expanded beyond the interpretation set forth by the Second DCA.

The bill also updates the list of specified STDs to add human papillomavirus and hepatitis.

Finally, the bill reenacts s. 384.34(1) and (5), F.S., to incorporate amendments made by the bill to s. 384.24, F.S.

The bill takes effect on October 1, 2017.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 384.23, F.S., defining the term “sexual conduct”.

Section 2. Amends s. 384.24, F.S., expanding the scope of unlawful acts by a person infected with a STD.

Section 3. Reenacts s. 384.34(1) and (5), F.S., relating to penalties pertaining to transmission of STDs.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of October 1, 2017.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

¹¹ *State v. Debaun*, 129 So. 3d 1089, 1090, 1095 (Fla. 3d DCA 2013).

¹² *State v. D.C.*, 114 So. 3d 440, 442 (Fla. 5th DCA 2013).

¹³ *L.A.P. v. State*, 62 So. 3d 693, 694 (Fla. 2d DCA 2011).

¹⁴ “Vulva” is defined as “the external parts of the female sex organs considered as a whole. Included are the labia majora, the labia minora, the clitoris, the entrance to the vagina, the opening of the urethra, the vestibule, and the mons pubis (mons veneris).”

ATTORNEY’S DICTIONARY OF MEDICINE (2016).

STORAGE NAME: pcs0165.CRJ

DATE: 2/1/2017

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues: The bill does not appear to have any impact on state revenues.
2. Expenditures: The Criminal Justice Impact Conference has not yet met to determine the impact of this bill. It is anticipated that the bill will increase the need for prison beds due to its expansion of prohibited sexual conduct that is punishable as a third degree felony.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues: The bill does not appear to have any impact on local government revenues.
2. Expenditures: The bill may increase the need for jail beds due to its expansion of prohibited sexual conduct and the list of STDs which are subject to first degree misdemeanor penalties.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR: None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS: None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill appears to be exempt from the requirements of article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution because it is a criminal law.

2. Other: None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY: This bill does not appear to create the need for rulemaking or rulemaking authority.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS: None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

N/A