



# The Florida House of Representatives

**Paul Renner**  
Speaker

## NEWS RELEASE

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## House Approves Bill Requiring Increased Judicial Oversight in Pretrial Release Determinations

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 13, 2023)** — The Florida House of Representatives today passed legislation to increase the safety of our citizens and communities and ensure greater consistency in pretrial release decisions in our criminal courts. House Bill 1627, sponsored by Representative Garrison (R-Fleming Island), establishes statewide uniformity for bond schedules for lower-level crimes and requires courts to evaluate whether certain offenders must be detained prior to their criminal trial.

“Florida is a law and order state. We will protect our communities by ensuring Florida’s pretrial release procedures and bond schedules are consistent, predictable, and transparent – statewide,” said Florida House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). “We are putting the hammer down on these criminals who terrorize our communities and give tools to judges to make sure violent criminals stay behind bars before trial.”

“No matter who you are or where you come from, if you are arrested for a serious criminal offense, and it meets the criteria laid out in statute, you will have a detention hearing – period. It is not optional,” said Representative Garrison. “We have record visitation and lead the nation in in-migration because people feel safe here. We’re going to continue to pass reforms to ensure Florida is the best place to live, work, and play.”

The bill prohibits judges from releasing a person prior to first appearance if the person who has been arrested meets certain criteria and sets forth a process for establishing a statewide minimum bond schedule for misdemeanors and third-degree felonies that are not classified as dangerous

crimes. It requires judges to use the existing statutory criteria for determining bail when considering non-monetary conditions of pretrial release.

It authorizes the court to revoke pretrial release and order pretrial detention when the defendant violates a material term or condition of release. It also adds the crimes of DUI manslaughter, BUI manslaughter, fentanyl trafficking, extortion, and written threats to kill or do bodily harm to the statutory list of dangerous crimes. It prohibits the court from ordering non-monetary pretrial release if the defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime and the judge makes a finding of probable cause. It requires a pretrial detention hearing to be held in cases where a defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime that is a capital, life, or first-degree felony.

For more information on House Bill 1627, visit [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov).

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