

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 985
SPONSOR(S): Van Zant

Peddling at Camp Meetings

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2128

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council	13 Y, 0 N	Mato	Havlicak
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill repeals a ban on peddling merchandise and refreshments, or, without permission, establishing gaming, shows, or exhibits within one mile of a camp meeting for religious purposes.

The bill appears to have no fiscal impact.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation:

Section 871.03, F.S. prohibits hawking or peddling goods, wares, merchandise, or without permission from the authorities having charge of such meeting, establishing any tent or booth for vending of provisions or refreshments, or practices or engages in gaming or horseracing, or exhibits, or offers to exhibit, shows or plays within one mile of camp or field meetings for religious purposes. It makes any of these activities a second degree misdemeanor, but makes an exception for any person having his or her regular place of business within the one mile boundary.

The statute was created in 1868. There have been no substantive amendments to the statute in the last eighty years.

A camp meeting is a religious gathering that originated in the 18th century on the American Frontier in response to the limited number of places of worship and clergy. The meetings would last for days or weeks and require participants to camp at the location of the religious service.¹ Camp meetings still occur today in certain Christian denominations.²

There have been 19 convictions for violations of s. 871.03, F.S., with the last conviction occurring in 1988.

Effect of the bill:

The bill repeals s. 871.03, F.S.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 – repeals s. 871.03, F.S., relating to peddling at camp meetings.

Section 2 – Provides and effective date of July 1, 2010.

¹ Camp Meeting. Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_meeting

² Christian Camp Conference and Association. Available at: <http://www.ccca.org/>

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

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 does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure to funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES