

Tougher Domestic Violence Penalties and Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program

HB 277 – Rep. Debra Tendrich (SB 682 – Sen. Alexis Calatayud)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/HB 277 strengthens Florida law related to domestic violence offenses and protective injunctions. The bill increases penalties for individuals who commit a domestic violence offense when they have a prior domestic violence conviction, effectively reclassifying certain repeat offenses to a higher criminal degree. The legislation also clarifies that sentencing calculations and eligibility for incentive gain-time are determined without considering the penalty enhancement.

The bill establishes an electronic monitoring pilot program for individuals subject to domestic violence injunctions in a designated county. The sheriff is required to design and implement the program in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Courts may order respondents in domestic violence-related injunction cases to participate in electronic monitoring, and the respondent is generally responsible for paying the cost of monitoring services.

Additional provisions revise the information required in petitions for injunctions for protection against domestic violence and update the factors courts may consider when deciding whether to issue such injunctions. The bill also requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to enter injunctions against dating violence and sexual violence into a statewide verification system to improve law enforcement access to protective order information.

Potential County Impact

The bill may affect county governments primarily through impacts on county sheriffs, local detention systems, and court administration.

Sheriffs in the county selected for the pilot program will be responsible for designing and administering the electronic monitoring program for individuals subject to domestic violence injunctions. This could require coordination with the judiciary, victim services providers, and monitoring vendors. Although the bill generally requires the respondent to pay for monitoring, counties may face administrative or operational costs if fees are unpaid or if additional staffing or infrastructure is needed to operate the program.

Local law enforcement agencies may also see operational changes due to improved access to statewide injunction records entered by FDLE, which could affect verification and enforcement activities during domestic violence investigations.

Clerks of court and judicial circuits may need to update procedures or systems related to injunction filings and case processing as petition requirements and judicial considerations are modified.

Overall fiscal impacts on counties are uncertain but may include administrative responsibilities associated with the monitoring pilot program and enforcement of injunction-related provisions.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

Key statutory sections affected include provisions within:

- **s. 741.28, F.S.**
- **s. 741.30, F.S.**
- **s. 784.046, F.S.**
- **s. 921.0022, F.S.**
- Additional related conforming changes to criminal sentencing and injunction procedures.