

Message From The Attorney General

Convenience businesses serve an important role in Florida, making life easier for our citizens while creating a large number of jobs. Unfortunately, they also provide convenient targets for criminals.

In 1992, the Florida Legislature passed the Convenience Business Security Act to protect convenience businesses from violent crimes. This brochure is designed to help you better understand the requirements of the Act, which establishes minimum security standards for the operation of convenience businesses.

I encourage every convenience business to use this brochure as a handy guide to complying with the law. Together, we can help make sure Florida's convenience businesses provide the safest possible environment for customers and employees alike.



What Is The Convenience Business Security Act?

The Convenience Business Security Act requires that certain security devices and standards be established at all convenience businesses open anytime

between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The Act, which is contained in sections 812.1701–812.175, Florida Statutes, places enforcement authority within the Office of the Attorney General.

Violations of the law may result in civil penalties of up to \$5,000.

What Is A Convenience Business?

Under the Act, a convenience business is defined as one that:

- Is primarily engaged in the sale of groceries, or both groceries and gasoline; and
- Is open for business during any hours between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Excluded from the requirements of the Act are businesses that:

- Are solely or primarily in the restaurant business; or
- Have five or more employees on the premises between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.; or
- Have more than 10,000 square feet of retail floor space; or
- Have the owner or a member of the owner's family working on the premises between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

What Are The Minimum Security Standards?

Training in robbery deterrence and safety for each retail employee, conducted through an approved curriculum

- Drop safe or cash management device that is secured to the floor or counter or that weighs at least 500 pounds
- Lighted parking lot
- Notice at the entrance that the cash register contains \$50 or less
- Height markers at the entrance
- Window sign placement allowing an unobstructed view of the sales transaction area from inside and outside the building
- Window tinting that allows for physical identification of all persons in the sales transaction area from outside the building
- A written cash management policy, kept on-site, that limits cash on hand between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Security camera system that is capable of retrieving an identifiable image of an offender
- A silent alarm
- Additional security measures, if required (see next page)

When Are Additional Security Measures Required?

Convenience businesses at which a murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, or kidnaping or false imprisonment has occurred in connection with the operation of the business must have one of the following additional security measures in place between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.:

- At least two employees on the premises at all times
- A secured safety enclosure made of transparent polycarbonate
- A security guard or off-duty law enforcement officer on the premises
- Locked premises, with business conducted through an indirect pass-through, trap door, or window

The additional security measures must be in place for a minimum of 24 months after the date of the most recent crime. After 24 months, the convenience business may file a notice of exemption from the additional security measures with the Office of the Attorney General.

For More Information...

This brochure is designed for informational purposes only and does not describe in detail the requirements of the law. For more specific information on the Convenience Business Security Act, call (850) 414-3360 or write to:

Bureau of Criminal Justice Programs
Office of the Attorney General
PL-01, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Office of Attorney General Pam Bondi
PL-01, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Convenience Business Security Act



Helping to Create Safer Florida Convenience Businesses



Office of Attorney General
Pam Bondi

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