

## **The Convenience Business Security Act (Two Pages)** **(from the Office of the Attorney General - Criminal Justice Programs)**

The Bureau of Criminal Justice Programs provides training to law enforcement officials and certifies officers in the area of Convenience Business Security. This training allows students to conduct security audits of convenience stores in response to the Convenience Business Security Act of 1992. The Convenience Business Security Act was implemented to protect convenience businesses from violent crimes. The Act established minimum security standards for the operation of convenience businesses. The Attorney General's Office is responsible for the enforcement and training is provided on how to conduct convenience store inspections; security standards and devices required by law; and to provide a model Robbery Deterrence and Safety Training Program.

The Convenience Business Security Act requires that certain security devices and standards be established at all convenience businesses open any time between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. The Act, which is contained in sections 812.170 - 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 \$5,000.00. 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 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 immediate family (spouse, mother, father, brother, sister or child) working on the premises between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

### **Minimum Security Standards**

- Training in robbery deterrence and safety for each 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 \$50.00 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.
- A security camera system that is capable of retrieving an identifiable image of an offender, including an annual test photo and a maintenance log showing maintenance every four months
- A silent alarm
- Additional security measures, if required (see below)

Additional security measures are required when: Convenience businesses at which a murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, 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 the hours of 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 requirements 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 with the Office of the Attorney General.

**[Convenience Business Security Act Brochure](#)**

**For More Information:**

For more specific information on the Convenience Business Security Act, call Bureau of Criminal Justice Programs at (850) 414-3360 or write to:

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PL-01, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050**