

## **OFFENSES BY PUBLIC SERVANTS**

### **HB 847 — Offenses by Public Servants**

by Rep. Goodlette and others (CS/SB 2030 by Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Sebesta)

The bill rewrites and modifies criminal provisions governing offenses by public servants. It incorporates several recommendations embodied in the Public Corruption Study Commission's Report to the Governor (December 15, 1999).

Specifically, the bill amends definitions and increases a number of existing criminal penalties from a third-degree to a second-degree felony, and creates a number of new crimes for the following offenses: bribery; unlawful compensation; official misconduct; disclosure or use of confidential criminal justice information; and bid tampering in connection with public contracts.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2003.

*Vote: Senate 37-0; House 116-0*

## **ELECTION VACANCIES**

### **HB 1051 — Elections; Vacancies**

by Rep. Goodlette and others (SB 2318 by Senator Lee)

The bill clarifies an ambiguity created by conflicting provisions in the State Constitution which currently provide that, upon a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the Governor shall appoint a successor unless there are more than 28 months remaining in the term, in which case the appointee serves until the first Tuesday following the next general election (s. 1(f), Art. IV, State Constitution) and the provision which requires the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run jointly (s. 5, Art. IV, State Constitution).

Specifically, the bill provides that upon a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the Governor shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. If, following such appointment, a vacancy in the office of Governor should occur and there are more than 28 months left in that term of office, electors shall select a Governor and Lieutenant Governor at the next general election.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 26-12; House 115-2*

