SEAPORT SECURITY

CS/CS/SB 1616 — Seaport Security

by Appropriations Committee; Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports Committee; and
Senator Dockery

This bill amends s. 311.12, F.S., to revise provisions relating to statewide seaport security
standards. A public port without maritime activity may be exempted from the minimum seaport
security standards by the Department of Law Enforcement.

The bill provides additional offenses that prohibit an individual from gaining initial employment
on a seaport or being granted access to restricted areas within the seaport. To qualify for
employment or restricted area access, a person convicted for any listed offense must, after
release from incarceration and any supervision imposed, remain free from any subsequent
conviction for a period of at least 7 years. For purposes of employment and access, seaports are
prohibited from exceeding statewide minimum requirements. An appeal process is authorized for
individuals denied employment on a seaport based upon procedural inaccuracies or discrepancies
regarding criminal history factors.

The bill provides for the implementation of a Uniform Port Access Credential System for use by
all ports subject to the statewide minimum seaport security standards. The Department of
Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) must consult with other agencies and entities to
develop the system and each seaport must operate and maintain the system to control access
security within the boundaries of the seaport.

Specific requirements for the credential system address collection and storage of biometric
identifiers, a methodology for granting and deactivating access permissions, and technology
requirements for each gate on a seaport. A fingerprint-based criminal history check must be
performed on each applicant and each credential card must include photographs, fingerprints,
barcodes, scanning capability, and background color differentials.

DHSMV will set the price of the credential card to include the cost of fingerprint checks and
production and issuance costs, and seaports may charge an additional administrative fee to cover
the costs of issuing credentials.

Seaports must comply with technology improvement requirements necessary to activate the
system no later than July 1, 2004. DHSMV must specify equipment and technology requirements
no later than July 1, 2003. The system must be implemented at the earliest time that all ports
have technology in place, but no later than July 1, 2004.

Provisions for the Uniform Port Access Credential System are contingent on the receipt of federal grant funds necessary to implement the system.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.
Vote: Senate 36-0; House 113-3

SECURITY SYSTEM PLANS/PUBLIC RECORDS

CS/SB 1182 — Security System Plans/Public Records
by Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee and Senator Dockery

This bill amends an existing exemption found in s. 119.071, F.S., to clarify that security system plans of a public or private entity, which plans are held by an agency, are confidential and exempt from the public record requirements. The bill creates an exception to the exemption to allow the disclosure of security system plans by a custodial agency to a property owner or leaseholder.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.
Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0