

Bill Number: FL-HB 2024-###

Title: Florida Signature Pen Act

Purpose: To mandate the use of pens made or assembled in the State of Florida for signing all legislative bills and official documents by the Governor and state officials.

Sponsors: [Names of Sponsors]

Section 1: Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Florida Signature Pen Act."

Section 2: Definitions

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

1. Made in Florida: A pen that has been entirely manufactured within the state boundaries of Florida.
2. Assembled in Florida: A pen whose components, produced domestically or internationally, are put together and finalized within the state boundaries of Florida.
3. Official Document: Any document that requires a formal signature by the Governor or state officials, including but not limited to legislative bills, executive orders, and proclamations.
4. Local Wood/Pen Turning Clubs: Organizations or groups within Florida that engage in the craft of turning and producing pens either as a hobby or as a business.
5. Hobbyist Pen Makers: Individuals or small businesses within Florida who create pens through the process of wood or material turning and assembly, either as a hobby or for commercial purposes.

Section 3: Requirement

1. Pen Usage for Signatures: All official documents and legislative bills signed by the Governor of Florida and other designated state officials must be signed using a pen made or assembled in the State of Florida.
2. Compliance: The Governor's office and all relevant state departments are responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement.

Section 4: Procurement

Procurement Process:

1. The Department of Management Services (DMS) shall establish a list of approved vendors that supply pens made or assembled in Florida.
2. Priority shall be given to pens produced by local wood/pen turning clubs and hobbyist pen makers based in Florida.
3. State offices shall prioritize sourcing these pens from local manufacturers, assemblers, and recognized wood/pen turning clubs as per the established list.
4. The DMS shall review and update the list of approved vendors annually to ensure compliance with this Act and to support the local economy.

Contracts and Agreements:

1. All future contracts for office supplies, specifically writing instruments for the Governor's office and other state officials, shall include provisions for the procurement of pens made or assembled in Florida, with an emphasis on sourcing from local wood/pen turning clubs and hobbyist pen makers.

Section 5: Implementation**Timeline:**

1. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.
2. State offices shall begin transitioning to the use of approved pens by December 31, 2024.

Reporting:

1. The Department of Management Services shall submit an annual report to the legislature detailing compliance, challenges, and recommendations for improvements.

Section 6: Penalties

1. Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be addressed by the DMS, which may impose appropriate administrative measures to ensure adherence.

Section 7: Exceptions**Exemptions:**

2. In cases where a suitable pen made or assembled in Florida is not available or practical, a temporary exemption may be granted by the DMS.
3. Such exemptions must be documented and justified in a report to the state legislature.

Section 8: Severability

If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section 9: Effective Date

This Act shall become effective upon being signed into law, with the procurement and usage provisions becoming mandatory on January 1, 2025.

Filed in the Florida House of Representatives on [Date].

Endorsed by:

[State Representatives Name, Title]

[State Representatives Name, Title]

[State Representatives Name, Title]

Justification:

- Economic Support: Promoting the use of locally made or assembled pens supports Florida businesses, local artisans, and hobbyists, boosting the state's economy.
- State Pride: Utilizing products made or assembled in Florida for official state business reinforces state pride and identity.
- Quality Assurance: Ensures a higher standard and quality control by relying on locally sourced products and craftsmanship.
- Build awareness of a productive hobby in making Pens in the State of Florida.

Legislative Contacts:

For further information or inquiries regarding this bill, please contact:

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