

# **Decriminalization of Minor Violations and the Future Effect on Law Enforcement Agencies**

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An independent study examining the issues surrounding the decriminalization of a minor Florida law and how compliance rates with the law were affected by the change. The relationship between users, enforcement officers and compliance with the law requiring a fishing license in the State of Florida were investigated through the use of surveys. User's attitudes, opinions and knowledge about penalties contribute to their decisions to comply with or violate minor laws. Enforcement officers may not agree with penalties attached to laws, but, their commitment to duty outweighs their personal feelings. Users generally do not know how license fees are spent and educating them could lead to an increase in compliance.