

TALLAHASSEE -- Police, prison guards and probation officers would have to refrain from using dart-firing stun guns unless they are being "actively" physically threatened, under a bill that cleared the Florida Senate today.

The bill is intended to cut down on the apparent escalation in stun-gun usage around the state, but Democrats couldn't persuade their Republican counterparts to commission a study on the effects stun-guns.

"We know what a gun and bullet does to a person's body, but we have no idea what a stun gun does," said Sen. Gary Siplin, D-Orlando.

The bill limits dart-firing stun gun usage to situations where police are trying to arrest someone and the suspect either begins physically threatening them or are trying to flee.