

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: RCS 03/23/2011

The Committee on Transportation (Latvala) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 17 - 21

and insert:

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Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 20.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.23 Department of Transportation.—There is created a Department of Transportation which shall be a decentralized agency.

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(b) The secretary may appoint positions at the level of deputy assistant secretary or director which the secretary deems

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necessary to accomplish the mission and goals of the department, including, but not limited to, the areas of program responsibility provided in this paragraph, each of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the secretary. The secretary may combine, separate, or delete offices as needed in consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor. The department's areas of program responsibility include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Administration;
- 2. Planning;
- 3. Public transportation;
- 4. Design;
- 5. Highway operations;
- 6. Right-of-way;
- 7. Toll operations;
- 8. Information systems;
- 9. Motor carrier weight inspection compliance;
- 10. Management and budget;
- 11. Comptroller;
  - 12. Construction;
- 13. Maintenance; and
- 14. Materials. 34

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 20.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 20.24 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.-There is created a Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- (2) The following divisions, and bureaus within the divisions, of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor



Vehicles are established:

- (a) Division of the Florida Highway Patrol.
- 1. Office of Motor Carrier Compliance.

Between lines 68 and 69

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Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 316.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

316.302 Commercial motor vehicles; safety regulations; transporters and shippers of hazardous materials; enforcement.-

- (4) (b) In addition to the penalties provided in s. 316.3025(3)(b), (c), (d), and (e), any motor carrier or any of its officers, drivers, agents, representatives, employees, or shippers of hazardous materials that do not comply with this subsection or any rule adopted by a state agency that is consistent with the federal rules and regulations regarding hazardous materials commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. To ensure compliance with this subsection, enforcement officers of the Motor Carrier Compliance Office within the Department of Transportation and state highway patrol officers may inspect shipping documents and cargo of any vehicle known or suspected to be a transporter of hazardous materials.
- (5) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation may adopt and revise rules to assure the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation may enter into cooperative agreements as provided in 49 C.F.R. part 388. Department of Transportation personnel may conduct motor carrier

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and shipper compliance reviews for the purpose of determining compliance with this section and s. 627.7415.

- (6) The state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation shall perform the duties that are assigned to the Field Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration under the federal rules, and an agent of that department, as described in s. 316.545(9), may enforce those rules.
- (7) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle solely in intrastate commerce shall direct to the state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation any communication that the federal rules require persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Transportation to direct to that department.
- (8) For the purpose of enforcing this section, any law enforcement officer of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation or duly appointed agent who holds a current safety inspector certification from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance may require the driver of any commercial vehicle operated on the highways of this state to stop and submit to an inspection of the vehicle or the driver's records. If the vehicle or driver is found to be operating in an unsafe condition, or if any required part or equipment is not present or is not in proper repair or adjustment, and the continued operation would present an unduly hazardous operating condition, the officer may require the vehicle or the driver to be removed from service pursuant to the North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria, until corrected. However, if continuous operation would not present an unduly hazardous operating

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condition, the officer may give written notice requiring correction of the condition within 14 days.

- (a) Any member of the Florida Highway Patrol or any law enforcement officer employed by a sheriff's office or municipal police department authorized to enforce the traffic laws of this state pursuant to s. 316.640 who has reason to believe that a vehicle or driver is operating in an unsafe condition may, as provided in subsection (10), enforce the provisions of this section.
- (b) Any person who fails to comply with an officer's request to submit to an inspection under this subsection commits a violation of s. 843.02 if the person resists the officer without violence or a violation of s. 843.01 if the person resists the officer with violence.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 316.3025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.3025 Penalties.-

(6)(a) Only an officer or agent of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation is authorized to collect the penalty provided by this section. Such officer or agent shall cooperate with the owner or driver of the motor vehicle so as not to unduly delay the vehicle.

Delete lines 69 - 89

and insert:

Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 316.3026, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

316.3026 Unlawful operation of motor carriers.-

(1) The Office of Motor Carrier Compliance of the Department of Transportation may issue out-of-service orders to

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motor carriers, as defined in s. 320.01(33), who, have after proper notice, have failed to pay any penalty or fine assessed by the department, or its agent, against any owner or motor carrier for violations of state law, refused to submit to a compliance review and provide records pursuant to s. 316.302(5) or s. 316.70, or violated safety regulations pursuant to s. 316.302 or insurance requirements found in s. 627.7415. Such out-of-service orders shall have the effect of prohibiting the operations of any motor vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise operated by the motor carrier upon the roadways of this state, until such time as the violations have been corrected or penalties have been paid. Out-of-service orders issued under this section must be approved by the director of the Division of the Florida Highway Patrol Secretary of Transportation or his or her designee. An administrative hearing pursuant to s. 120.569 shall be afforded to motor carriers subject to such orders.

(2) Any motor carrier enjoined or prohibited from operating by an out-of-service order by this state, any other state, or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration may not operate on the roadways of this state until the motor carrier has been authorized to resume operations by the originating enforcement jurisdiction. Commercial motor vehicles owned or operated by any motor carrier prohibited from operation found on the roadways of this state shall be placed out of service by law enforcement officers of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation, and the motor carrier assessed a \$10,000 civil penalty pursuant to 49 C.F.R. s. 383.53, in addition to any other penalties imposed on the driver or other responsible person. Any person who knowingly drives, operates, or causes to

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be operated any commercial motor vehicle in violation of an outof-service order issued by the department in accordance with this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082(3)(d). Any costs associated with the impoundment or storage of such vehicles are the responsibility of the motor carrier. Vehicle out-of-service orders may be rescinded when the department receives proof of authorization for the motor carrier to resume operation.

(3) In addition to the sanctions found in subsections (1) and (2), the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation may petition the circuit courts of this state to enjoin any motor carrier from operating when it fails to comply with out-of-service orders issued by a competent authority within or outside this state.

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 316.516, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.516 Width, height, and length; inspection; penalties .-

(1) Any law enforcement officer, as prescribed in s. 316.640, or any weight inspector and safety officer of the Department of Transportation, as prescribed in s. 316.545(1), who has reason to believe that the width, height, or length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and the load thereon is not in conformance with s. 316.515 is authorized to require the driver to stop and submit such vehicle and load to measurement of its width, height, or length.

Section 9. Subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2), paragraph (b) of subsection (4), and subsections (5), (9), and (10) of section 316.545, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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316.545 Weight and load unlawful; special fuel and motor fuel tax enforcement; inspection; penalty; review.-

- (1) Any officer of the Florida Highway Patrol weight and safety officer of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation having reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful is authorized to require the driver to stop and submit to a weighing of the same by means of either portable or fixed scales and may require that such vehicle be driven to the nearest weigh station or public scales, provided such a facility is within 5 highway miles. Upon a request by the vehicle driver, the officer shall weigh the vehicle at fixed scales rather than by portable scales if such a facility is available within 5 highway miles. Anyone who refuses to submit to such weighing obstructs an officer pursuant to s. 843.02 and is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Anyone who knowingly and willfully resists, obstructs, or opposes a weight and safety officer while refusing to submit to such weighing by resisting the officer with violence to the officer's person pursuant to s. 843.01 is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (2)(a) Whenever an officer of the Florida Highway Patrol or a weight inspector of the Department of Transportation, upon weighing a vehicle or combination of vehicles with load, determines that the axle weight or gross weight is unlawful, the officer or inspector may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until a determination can be made as to the amount of weight thereon and, if overloaded, the amount of penalty to be assessed as provided

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herein. However, any gross weight over and beyond 6,000 pounds beyond the maximum herein set shall be unloaded and all material so unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at the risk of such owner or operator. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, to facilitate compliance with and enforcement of the weight limits established in s. 316.535, weight tables published pursuant to s. 316.535(7) shall include a 10-percent scale tolerance and shall thereby reflect the maximum scaled weights allowed any vehicle or combination of vehicles. As used in this section, scale tolerance means the allowable deviation from legal weights established in s. 316.535. Notwithstanding any other provision of the weight law, if a vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed the gross, external bridge, or internal bridge weight limits imposed in s. 316.535 and the driver of such vehicle or combination of vehicles can comply with the requirements of this chapter by shifting or equalizing the load on all wheels or axles and does so when requested by the proper authority, the driver shall not be held to be operating in violation of said weight limits.

(b) The officer or inspector shall inspect the license plate or registration certificate of the commercial vehicle, as defined in s. 316.003(66), to determine if its gross weight is in compliance with the declared gross vehicle weight. If its gross weight exceeds the declared weight, the penalty shall be 5 cents per pound on the difference between such weights. In those cases when the commercial vehicle, as defined in s. 316.003(66), is being operated over the highways of the state with an expired registration or with no registration from this or any other jurisdiction or is not registered under the applicable

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provisions of chapter 320, the penalty herein shall apply on the basis of 5 cents per pound on that scaled weight which exceeds 35,000 pounds on laden truck tractor-semitrailer combinations or tandem trailer truck combinations, 10,000 pounds on laden straight trucks or straight truck-trailer combinations, or 10,000 pounds on any unladen commercial motor vehicle. If the license plate or registration has not been expired for more than 90 days, the penalty imposed under this paragraph may not exceed \$1,000. In the case of special mobile equipment as defined in s. 316.003(48), which qualifies for the license tax provided for in s. 320.08(5)(b), being operated on the highways of the state with an expired registration or otherwise not properly registered under the applicable provisions of chapter 320, a penalty of \$75 shall apply in addition to any other penalty which may apply in accordance with this chapter. A vehicle found in violation of this section may be detained until the owner or operator produces evidence that the vehicle has been properly registered. Any costs incurred by the retention of the vehicle shall be the sole responsibility of the owner. A person who has been assessed a penalty pursuant to this paragraph for failure to have a valid vehicle registration certificate pursuant to the provisions of chapter 320 is not subject to the delinquent fee authorized in s. 320.07 if such person obtains a valid registration certificate within 10 working days after such penalty was assessed.

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(b) In addition to the penalty provided for in paragraph (a), the vehicle may be detained until the owner or operator of the vehicle furnishes evidence that the vehicle has been

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properly registered pursuant to s. 207.004. Any officer of the Florida Highway Patrol or agent of the Department of Transportation may issue a temporary fuel use permit and collect the appropriate fee as provided for in s. 207.004(4). Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6), all permit fees collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be transferred to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to be allocated pursuant to s. 207.026.

(5) Whenever any person violates the provisions of this chapter and becomes indebted to the state because of such violation in the amounts aforesaid and refuses to pay said penalty, in addition to the provisions of s. 316.3026, such penalty shall become a lien upon the motor vehicle, and the same may be foreclosed by the state in a court of equity. It shall be presumed that the owner of the motor vehicle is liable for the sum. Any person, firm, or corporation claiming an interest in the seized motor vehicle may, at any time after the lien of the state attaches to the motor vehicle, obtain possession of the seized vehicle by filing a good and sufficient forthcoming bond with the officer having possession of the vehicle, payable to the Governor of the state in twice the amount of the state's lien, with a corporate surety duly authorized to transact business in this state as surety, conditioned to have the motor vehicle or combination of vehicles forthcoming to abide the result of any suit for the foreclosure of such lien. It shall be presumed that the owner of the motor vehicle is liable for the penalty imposed under this section. Upon the posting of such bond with the officer making the seizure, the vehicle shall be released and the bond shall be forwarded to the Department of

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Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation for safekeeping. The lien of the state against the motor vehicle aforesaid shall be foreclosed in equity, and the ordinary rules of court relative to proceedings in equity shall control. If it appears that the seized vehicle has been released to the defendant upon his or her forthcoming bond, the state shall take judgment of foreclosure against the property itself, and judgment against the defendant and the sureties on the bond for the amount of the lien, including cost of proceedings. After the rendition of the decree, the state may, at its option, proceed to sue out execution against the defendant and his or her sureties for the amount recovered as aforesaid or direct the sale of the vehicle under foreclosure.

(9) Any agent of the Department of Transportation who is employed for the purpose of being a weight and safety officer and who meets the qualifications established by law for law enforcement officers shall have the same arrest powers as are granted any law enforcement officer for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of weight, load, safety, commercial motor vehicle registration, and fuel tax compliance laws.

(9) (10) The Department of Transportation may employ weight inspectors to operate its fixed-scale facilities. Weight inspectors on duty at a fixed-scale facility are authorized to enforce the laws governing commercial motor vehicle weight, registration, size, and load and to assess and collect civil penalties for violations of said laws. A weight inspector may detain a commercial motor vehicle that has an obvious safety defect critical to the continued safe operation of the vehicle or that is operating in violation of an out-of-service order as

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reported on the federal Safety and Fitness Electronic Records database. The weight inspector may immediately summon a law enforcement officer of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation, or other law enforcement officer authorized by s. 316.640 to enforce the traffic laws of this state, to take appropriate enforcement action. The vehicle shall be released if the defect is repaired prior to the arrival of a law enforcement officer. Weight inspectors shall not be classified as law enforcement officers subject to certification requirements of chapter 943, and are not authorized to carry weapons or make arrests. Any person who obstructs, opposes, or resists a weight inspector in the performance of the duties herein prescribed shall be quilty of an offense as described in subsection (1) for obstructing, opposing, or resisting a law enforcement officer.

Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 316.640, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.640 Enforcement.—The enforcement of the traffic laws of this state is vested as follows:

- (1) STATE.-
- (a) 1.a. The Division of Florida Highway Patrol of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; the Division of Law Enforcement of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of Environmental Protection; law enforcement officers of the Department of Transportation; and the agents, inspectors, and officers of the Department of Law Enforcement each have authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state on all the streets and highways thereof and elsewhere throughout

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the state wherever the public has a right to travel by motor vehicle.

- b. University police officers shall have authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state when violations occur on or within 1,000 feet of any property or facilities that are under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of a state university, a direct-support organization of such state university, or any other organization controlled by the state university or a direct-support organization of the state university, or when such violations occur within a specified jurisdictional area as agreed upon in a mutual aid agreement entered into with a law enforcement agency pursuant to s. 23.1225(1). Traffic laws may also be enforced off-campus when hot pursuit originates on or within 1,000 feet of any such property or facilities, or as agreed upon in accordance with the mutual aid agreement.
- c. Community college police officers shall have the authority to enforce all the traffic laws of this state only when such violations occur on any property or facilities that are under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the community college system.
- d. Police officers employed by an airport authority shall have the authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state only when such violations occur on any property or facilities that are owned or operated by an airport authority.
- (I) An airport authority may employ as a parking enforcement specialist any individual who successfully completes a training program established and approved by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission for parking

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enforcement specialists but who does not otherwise meet the uniform minimum standards established by the commission for law enforcement officers or auxiliary or part-time officers under s. 943.12. Nothing in this sub-sub-subparagraph shall be construed to permit the carrying of firearms or other weapons, nor shall such parking enforcement specialist have arrest authority.

- (II) A parking enforcement specialist employed by an airport authority is authorized to enforce all state, county, and municipal laws and ordinances governing parking only when such violations are on property or facilities owned or operated by the airport authority employing the specialist, by appropriate state, county, or municipal traffic citation.
- e. The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall have the authority to enforce traffic laws of this state.
- f. School safety officers shall have the authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state when such violations occur on or about any property or facilities which are under the quidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the district school board.
- 2. An agency of the state as described in subparagraph 1. is prohibited from establishing a traffic citation quota. A violation of this subparagraph is not subject to the penalties provided in chapter 318.
- 3. Any disciplinary action taken or performance evaluation conducted by an agency of the state as described in subparagraph 1. of a law enforcement officer's traffic enforcement activity must be in accordance with written work-performance standards. Such standards must be approved by the agency and any collective

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bargaining unit representing such law enforcement officer. A violation of this subparagraph is not subject to the penalties provided in chapter 318.

4. The Division of the Florida Highway Patrol may employ as a traffic accident investigation officer any individual who successfully completes instruction in traffic accident investigation and court presentation through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program as approved by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission and funded through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or a similar program approved by the commission, but who does not necessarily meet the uniform minimum standards established by the commission for law enforcement officers or auxiliary law enforcement officers under chapter 943. Any such traffic accident investigation officer who makes an investigation at the scene of a traffic accident may issue traffic citations, based upon personal investigation, when he or she has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person who was involved in the accident committed an offense under this chapter, chapter 319, chapter 320, or chapter 322 in connection with the accident. This subparagraph does not permit the officer to carry firearms or other weapons, and such an officer does not have authority to make arrests.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 320.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.18 Withholding registration.

(1) The department may withhold the registration of any motor vehicle or mobile home the owner of which has failed to register it under the provisions of law for any previous period or



periods for which it appears registration should have been made in this state, until the tax for such period or periods is paid. The department may cancel any vehicle or vessel registration, driver's license, identification card, or fuel-use tax decal if the owner pays for the vehicle or vessel registration, driver's license, identification card, or fuel-use tax decal; pays any administrative, delinquency, or reinstatement fee; or pays any tax liability, penalty, or interest specified in chapter 207 by a dishonored check, or if the vehicle owner or motor carrier has failed to pay a penalty for a weight or safety violation issued by the Department of Transportation or the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Motor Carrier Compliance Office. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may impound any commercial motor vehicle that has a canceled license plate or fuel-use tax decal until the tax liability, penalty, and interest specified in chapter 207, the license tax, or the fuel-use decal fee, and applicable administrative fees have been paid for by certified funds.

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468 ======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========= 469

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 3 - 7

and insert:

Compliance; amending s. 20.23, F.S.; creating a motor carrier weight inspection area of program responsibility within the Department of Transportation, which replaces motor carrier compliance; amending s. 20.24, F.S.; creating the

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Office	of Motor Carrie	er Compliance w	vithin the Division
of the	Florida Highway	Patrol withir	the Department of
Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; amending ss.			
110.205	, 311.115, 316.	302, 316.3025,	316.3026,
316.516	, 316.545, 316.	640, 320.18, 3	321.05, and
324.044	,		