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| Tab 1 | SB 174 by Rodriguez ; Identical to H 00033 Transportation Facility Designations/Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue |
| Tab 2 | SB 388 by Arrington ; Specialty License Plates/Florida Wildflower |
| Tab 3 | SB 470 by Wright ; Similar to H 00639 Fraternal Order of Police License Plate |
| Tab 4 | SB 488 by Massullo ; Similar to H 00937 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles |
| Tab 5 | SB 490 by Massullo ; Similar to H 00939 Public Records/E-mail Addresses Collected by the Department of Highway Safety for Providing Renewal Notices |
| Tab 6 | SB 584 by Avila ; Identical to H 00953 Commercial Driving Schools |
| Tab 7 | SB 628 by Gaetz ; Identical to H 00403 Transportation Facility Designations/Warrior Sacrifice Way |

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION
Senator Massullo, Chair
Senator Avila, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Monday, January 12, 2026

TIME: 4:00—6:00 p.m.

PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Massullo, Chair; Senator Avila, Vice Chair; Senators Arrington, Davis, Jones, Martin, McClain, Truenow, and Wright

| TAB | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER | BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS | COMMITTEE ACTION |
|-----|---|---|------------------|
| 1 | SB 174 Rodriguez (Identical H 33) | Transportation Facility Designations/Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue; Providing an honorary designation of a certain transportation facility in a specified county; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers, etc. | |
| | | TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |
| 2 | SB 388 Arrington | Specialty License Plates/Florida Wildflower; Increasing the annual use fee for the Florida Wildflower license plate and providing a discount for owners purchasing the plate for more than a specified number of vehicles, etc. | |
| | | TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |
| 3 | SB 470 Wright (Similar H 639) | Fraternal Order of Police License Plate; Deleting a restriction on who may be issued the Fraternal Order of Police license plate; revising the distribution and use of annual use fees collected from sales of the Fraternal Order of Police license plate, etc. | |
| | | TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |
| 4 | SB 488 Avila (Similar H 937, Compare H 543, H 939, Linked S 490) | Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; Requiring licensure in lieu of registration of motor carriers operating certain qualified motor vehicles; revising due dates for motor fuel use tax returns submitted by licensed motor carriers; authorizing the department to inspect records necessary to verify the tax returns of motor carriers, motor fuel retail dealers, and motor fuel wholesale distributors; revising the apparent amount of property damage which requires the driver of a vehicle involved in a crash to notify law enforcement of the crash, etc. | |
| | | TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Transportation

Monday, January 12, 2026, 4:00—6:00 p.m.

| TAB | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER | BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS | COMMITTEE ACTION |
|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| 5 | SB 490 Avila (Similar H 939, Compare H 937, Linked S 488) | Public Records/E-mail Addresses Collected by the Department of Highway Safety for Providing Renewal Notices ; Expanding an exemption from public records requirements for e-mail addresses collected by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for providing renewal notices to include e-mail addresses collected for use as a method of notification generally and not only for the purpose of providing renewal notices; expanding the exemption to include e-mail addresses collected for use as a method of notification related to vessel registrations; providing retroactive applicability; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |
| 6 | SB 584 Avila (Identical H 953) | Commercial Driving Schools; Authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to enter into interagency agreements with tax collectors for a specified purpose; specifying that such an interagency agreement is a delegation of authority of the department to the tax collector; providing that such an interagency agreement may include, but need not be limited to, certain grants of authority, etc. TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |
| 7 | SB 628 Gaetz (Identical H 403) | Transportation Facility Designations/Warrior Sacrifice Way; Providing an honorary designation of a certain transportation facility in a specified county; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers, etc. TR 01/12/2026 ATD FP | |
| Other Related Meeting Documents | | | |

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 174

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations/Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Johnson | Vickers | TR | Pre-meeting |
| 2. | | | ATD | |
| 3. | | | FP | |

I. Summary:

SB 174 designates that portion of S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W. 24th Street and S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street in Miami-Dade County as “Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue” and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

FDOT estimates its cost to install the required designation markers is \$2,400. See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement below for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides that legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Such designations may not be construed as requiring any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes.¹

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility.²

FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² Section 334.071(2), F.S.

road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, each affected local government must pass resolutions supporting the designations before the installation of the markers.³

Charlie Kirk

Born in 1993, Charlie Kirk founded Turning Point USA, which mobilized young conservatives across the United States. He also wrote books, hosted a radio show, organized conferences, and appeared on college campuses, where he engaged in political debate. Mr. Kirk was assassinated in Utah on September 10, 2025.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates an undesignated section of Florida law designating that portion of S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W. 24th Street and S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street in Miami-Dade County as “Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue” and directs FDOT to erect suitable markers.

Section 2 provides that this bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

³ Section 316.071(3), F.S.

⁴ Charlie Kirk, *Britannica.com*, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charlie-Kirk#ref440983> (last visited January 5, 2026).

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

FDOT estimates that its cost to erect the designation markers required by this bill to be \$2,400. This assumes that a minimum of two markers are required at FDOT's cost of no less than \$1,200 each.⁵ This estimate includes labor, materials, manufacturing, and installation. FDOT expects to absorb this cost within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁵ Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Transportation, RE. Transportation Facility Designation Costs, December 9, 2024. (On file with Senate Committee on Transportation). Confirmed by an email from Jack Rogers, RE SB 174 – Charlie Kirk Designation, October 22, 2025. (On file with Senate Committee on Transportation).

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00403-26

2026174__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transportation facility designations; providing an honorary designation of a certain transportation facility in a specified county; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.-

(1) That portion of S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W. 24th Street and S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as "Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue."

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue as described in subsection (1).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 388

INTRODUCER: Senator Arrington

SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates/Florida Wildflower

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. Shutes | Vickers | TR | Pre-meeting |
| 2. _____ | _____ | ATD | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | FP | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 388 increases the annual use fee for the existing Florida Wildflower specialty license plate from \$15 to \$25, consistent with the annual use fee amount applicable to all new specialty license plates. The bill provides that for a vehicle owner purchasing the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate for more than 10 vehicles registered to that owner, the annual use fee remains \$15 per plate.

The bill will likely have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the private sector. ***See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.***

The bill takes effect October 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

According to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), as of October 2025, there are 132 specialty license plates authorized by the Legislature. Of these plates, 118 are available for immediate purchase and 14 are in the presale process.¹ Specialty license plates are available to an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay an annual use fee, ranging from \$15 to \$25, paid in addition to required license taxes and service fees.² The annual use fees are distributed to organizations in support of a particular cause or charity signified on the plate's design and designated in statute.³

¹ Email from Jonas Marquez, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, RE: Specialty License Plates, regarding specialty license plate sales (November 25, 2025).

² Section 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., provides that except if specifically provided in s. 320.08056(4), F.S., the annual use fee for a specialty license plate is \$25.

³ Section 320.08058, F.S.

Use of Specialty License Plate Fees

The annual use fees collected by an organization and any interest earned from the fees may be expended only for use in this state unless the annual use fee is derived from the sale of specified United States Armed Forces and veterans-related specialty plates.⁴ Additionally, organizations must adhere to certain accountability requirements, including an annual audit or attestation document affirming that funds received have been spent in accordance with applicable statutes.⁵

The annual use fees collected by an organization and the interest earned from those fees may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, or general or administrative expenses, unless authorized by s. 320.08058, F.S.⁶ Additionally, the annual use fees and interest earned from those fees may not be used for the purpose of marketing to, or lobbying, entertaining, or rewarding, any employee of a governmental agency that is responsible for the sale and distribution of specialty license plates, or any elected member or employee of the Legislature.⁷

Florida Wildflower Specialty License Plate

Current law provides that the \$15 annual use fee from the sale of the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate shall be distributed to the Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The proceeds must be used to establish native Florida wildflower research programs, wildflower educational programs, and wildflower grant programs to municipal, county, and community-based groups in this state.⁸

According to DHSMV, as of December 2025 there were 37,885 total sales of the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate.⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.08056, F.S., to increase the annual use fee of the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate from \$15 to \$25, except for an owner purchasing the specialty license plate for more than 10 vehicles registered to that owner, the annual use fee remains at \$15 per plate.

The \$25 annual use fee is consistent with the amount established in s. 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., which is applicable to all new specialty license plates.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2026.

⁴ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

⁵ Section 320.08062, F.S.; Such fees may be used to pay for the cost of this required audit or report. See s. 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

⁶ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

⁷ Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

⁸ Section 320.0858(27)(b), F.S.

⁹ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Specialty License Plates*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates/specialty-license-plates/> (last visited December 31, 2025).

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the annual use fee increases from \$15 to \$25, the Florida Wildflowers Foundation, Inc., will experience an indeterminate positive fiscal impact associated with increased revenues available to the foundation.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill amends section 320.08056 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Arrington

25-00015-26

2026388__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to specialty license plates; amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; increasing the annual use fee for the Florida Wildflower license plate and providing a discount for owners purchasing the plate for more than a specified number of vehicles; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

(4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

(p) Florida Wildflower license plate, \$25, except that for an owner purchasing the specialty plate for more than 10 vehicles registered to that owner, the annual use fee shall be \$15 per plate.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 470

INTRODUCER: Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Fraternal Order of Police License Plate

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. Shutes | Vickers | TR | Pre-meeting |
| 2. _____ | _____ | ATD | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | FP | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 470 deletes the restriction on who may be issued the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate which will expand the eligibility for the purchase of the specialty plate. The bill also redirects the funds associated with the sale of the plate to the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

The bill will likely have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the private sector. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill will take effect October 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

The Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate was established in 2009 and has a \$25 annual use fee. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) may issue the plate only to an applicant who submits a notarized letter from the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police stating that the applicant is a member of the lodge in good standing or a member of a lodge member's family, together with other fees and documents required for a specialty license plate.¹

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate are distributed to the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of the Police. A maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate, to administer the license plate program, and to pay administrative costs directly associated with the state Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial. The

¹ Section 320.08058(67)(a), F.S.

remaining funds are to be used by the foundation to fund projects, programs, events related to the memorial or to fund improvements, maintenance, or other support of the memorial.²

According to the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police website, the “Fraternal Order of Police is the world’s largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 373,000 members and more than 3,100 lodges.”³ The Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation (a nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) honors those who died in the line of duty and are added to the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial located at the State Capitol.⁴ The Memorial Foundation also provides a state scholarship program that consists of a variety of scholarships that range anywhere from \$500 to a four-year renewable scholarship of \$2,000.⁵

According to DHSMV, as of December 2025 there were 4,756 total sales of the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.08058(67), F.S., to delete the requirement that applicants provide a notarized membership verification letter from the Fraternal Order of Police in order to purchase the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate. The elimination of the membership verification will significantly expand the eligibility for the purchase of the specialty plate.

The bill redistributes the funds from the sale of the specialty license plate to the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc., and specifies that those funds must be used in accordance with the foundation’s articles of incorporation. The bill also eliminates the stipulation that a maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate, to administer the license plate program, and to pay administrative costs directly associated with the Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

² Section 320.08058(67)(b), F.S.

³ Florida Fraternal Order of Police, *Our History*, [Our History | Florida State Lodge FOP](#) (last visited December 30, 2025).

⁴ Florida Fraternal Order of Police, *Memorial Service*, [Memorial Service | Florida State Lodge FOP](#) (last visited December 30, 2025).

⁵ Florida Fraternal Order of Police, *Scholarships*, [Scholarships | Florida State Lodge FOP](#) (last visited December 30, 2025).

⁶ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Specialty License Plates*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates/specialty-license-plates/> (last visited December 31, 2025).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill will significantly expand the number of persons eligible to purchase the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate, which will have an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on the recipient organization.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill will have an insignificant fiscal impact on DHSMV.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Wright

8-00441-26

2026470__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Fraternal Order of Police license plate; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; deleting a restriction on who may be issued the Fraternal Order of Police license plate; revising the distribution and use of annual use fees collected from sales of the Fraternal Order of Police license plate; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (67) of section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(67) FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) ~~1-~~ The department shall develop a Fraternal Order of Police license plate as provided in this section. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the words "Fraternal Order of Police" must appear at the bottom of the plate.

~~2. The department may issue the plate only to an applicant who submits a notarized letter from the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police stating that the applicant is a member of the lodge in good standing or a member of a lodge member's family, together with other fees and documents required for a specialty plate.~~

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the Florida State Lodge ~~of the~~ Fraternal Order of Police Memorial

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

8-00441-26

2026470__

Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The ~~which shall retain all proceeds until the startup costs to develop and establish the plate have been recovered. Thereafter, the proceeds shall be distributed to the Florida State Lodge Memorial foundation shall distribute the proceeds for use according to the foundation's articles of incorporation of the Fraternal Order of Police and used as follows:~~

~~1. A maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate, to administer the license plate program, and to pay administrative costs directly associated with the state Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial.~~

~~2. The remaining proceeds shall be used by the foundation to fund projects, programs, or events related to the memorial or to fund improvements, maintenance, or other support for the memorial.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 488

INTRODUCER: Senator Massullo

SUBJECT: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. Shutes | Vickers | TR | Pre-Meeting |
| 2. _____ | _____ | ATD | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | FP | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 488 amends various provisions related to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), including motor vehicle registration, licensing, and tax-related requirements. Specifically, the bill:

- Revises the short title of s. 207.001, F.S., to the “Florida Motor Fuel Use Tax Act.”
- Specifies the requirements for calculating and reporting the motor fuel use tax and updates other definitions and requirements under the Florida Motor Fuel Use Tax Act.
- Creates penalties for counterfeiting or illegally altering fuel tax licenses and the related permits.
- Amends the required procedures for due dates, electronic submissions, and methods of communications related to motor carriers and fuel taxes.
- Revises penalties and interest calculations for delinquent tax payments and revises the provisions related to the inspection and discontinuation of business operations for motor carriers.
- Provides penalties for specific offenses related to the misuse of motor fuel-tax related documents and establishes detailed requirements for recordkeeping by motor carriers.
- Increases the amount of estimated damage resulting from a crash that is required to be reported to law enforcement from \$500 to \$2,000.
- Amends requirements related to the application process for motor vehicle registrations.
- Expands the types of transactions and circumstances in which DHSMV may use email in lieu of the United States Postal Service to communicate with customers.
- Updates the definition of a “tank vehicle” to place Florida in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the DHSMV’s expenditures through the use of electronic mail. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Diesel Fuel and Motor Fuel Use Tax Act of 1981

In 1981, the Florida Legislature passed Chapter 207, F.S., as the “Florida Diesel and Fuel Motor Use Tax Act of 1981,” which levied taxes for the privilege of operating any commercial motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state. In 1987, responsibility was moved from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and authority to enter into a cooperative reciprocal agreement with other states was enacted. In 1991, the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) was formed.

In 1992, Florida joined IFTA, and in 1996, Congress enacted 49 USC 31701-31707, requiring all states (except Alaska and Hawaii) to join IFTA. The legislation provided authority to each state to establish, maintain, or enforce a law or regulation requirement, including any tax reporting form, only if the requirement conforms with IFTA. It also detailed how payment, collection, and proportional sharing of fuel use taxes would work among member states. Chapter 207, F.S., contains language that no longer conforms with the federal IFTA Articles of Agreement.¹

International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)

The IFTA simplifies fuel tax reporting for interstate carriers, such as commercial motor vehicles. Commercial motor vehicles qualify for IFTA if they are used, designed, or maintained for the interstate transportation of persons or property and:

- Have two axles and a gross vehicle weight (GVW) or registered GVW exceeding 26,000 pounds; or
- Have three or more axles, regardless of weight; or
- Are used in combination with a trailer, for a combined GVW or registered GVW in excess of 26,000 pounds.²

The IFTA is a reciprocal agreement, meaning that an IFTA license issued by the jurisdiction where the motor carrier is based, is valid in all the other IFTA member jurisdictions. Additionally, the licensee reports and pays all motor fuel taxes to the base jurisdiction, which handles distribution to all the other member jurisdictions in which the licensee travelled and incurred motor fuel use tax liability. The IFTA member jurisdictions are the lower 48 states and the 10 Canadian provinces.³

IFTA Credentials

Each calendar year, Florida will issue an IFTA license and a set of two IFTA decals per each qualified vehicle. The original IFTA license is kept with the carrier’s records, and copies of the original must be kept in each vehicle, and IFTA decals must be affixed to the outside of each of those vehicles. By having copies of the licenses, and the decals affixed to the outside of the

¹ DHSMV, *2026 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 488* (October 3, 2025) at p. 3 (on file with the Senate Transportation Committee).

² Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *International Fuel Tax Agreement*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/commercial-motor-vehicle-drivers/international-fuel-tax-agreement/> (last visited December 30, 2025).

³ *Id* at 2.

vehicles, it qualifies them to be operational in all other IFTA jurisdictions without the need for obtaining additional licenses from those jurisdictions.⁴ The IFTA licenses and decals are valid for one calendar year (January 1 – December 31), and reporting for motor fuel taxes is divided into four reporting periods. There is no annual fee associated with the IFTA license, and IFTA decals are \$4.00 per set.⁵

Crash Reporting – Damage Thresholds

A driver of a vehicle involved in a crash that results in injury or death of any person, or results in damage to any vehicle or other property in an apparent amount of at least \$500, must give immediate notification to local law enforcement whether a municipality, county, or Florida Highway Patrol. A violation of this provision is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation. The statutory base fine is \$30, but with additional fees and court costs, the total fine may be up to \$108.⁶

In 1989, the amount of property damage necessary to require notification to law enforcement was increased from \$100 to \$500.⁷ Currently, the normal amount for a deductible for vehicle insurance contracts within the insurance industry is between \$500 and \$1,500.⁸ From 2021 to the present, the typical vehicle crash damage repair cost ranged between \$1,000 to \$1,499. The second highest percentage was \$2,000 to \$2,499. Within the same period 60 percent of the vehicle crashes resulted in more than \$2,500 in damage.⁹

Application and Issuance for Certificate of Title

If a certificate of title has not previously been issued for a motor vehicle or mobile home in this state, the application, unless otherwise provided, must be accompanied by a proper bill of sale or sworn statement of ownership, or a duly certified copy thereof, or by a certificate of title, bill of sale, or other evidence of ownership required by the state or county from which the motor vehicle or mobile home was brought into this state.¹⁰ The application must also be accompanied by:

- A sworn affidavit from the seller and purchaser verifying that the vehicle identification number shown on the affidavit is identical to the vehicle identification number shown on the motor vehicle; or
- An appropriate DHSMV form evidencing that a physical examination has been made of the motor vehicle by the owner and by a duly constituted law enforcement officer in any state, a licensed motor vehicle dealer, a license inspector as provided by s. 320.58, F.S., or a notary public commissioned by this state, and that the vehicle identification number shown on such form is identical to the vehicle identification number shown on the motor vehicle; and

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Florida Association of Clerks of Court, *2023 Distribution Schedule*, p. 39.

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.flclerks.com/resource/resmgr/publicationsanddocuments/2023_Distribution_Schedule_e.pdf (last visited December 30, 2025).

⁷ Section 1, Chapter 89-271, Laws of Florida.

⁸ Insurance, L. M. (n.d.). Car Insurance Deductibles: Frequently Asked Questions, *Liberty Mutual*.

<https://www.libertymutual.com/insurance-resources/auto/car-insurance-deductibles-faqs> (last visited December 30, 2025).

⁹ *Id.* at 2.

¹⁰ Section 319.23(3), F.S.

- If the vehicle is a used car original, a sworn affidavit from the owner verifying that the odometer reading shown on the affidavit is identical to the odometer reading shown on the motor vehicle in accordance with the requirements of certain federal regulations.

Verification of the vehicle identification number is not required for any new motor vehicle; any mobile home; any trailer or semitrailer with a net weight of less than 2,000 pounds; or any travel trailer, camping trailer, truck camper, or fifth-wheel recreation trailer.¹¹

Vehicle Registration Requirements – Permanent Address

With limited exceptions, every owner or person in charge of a motor vehicle that is operated or driven on the roads must register the vehicle in this state. The owner or person in charge must apply to the DHSMV or to its authorized agent for registration of each vehicle on a form prescribed by the DHSMV. A registration is not required for any motor vehicle that is not operated on the roads of this state during the registration period.¹²

The application for registration must include the street address of the owner's permanent residence or the address of his or her permanent place of business and be accompanied by personal or business identification information. An individual applicant must provide a valid driver license or identification card issued by Florida or another state or a valid passport. A business applicant must provide a federal employer identification number, if applicable, or verification that the business is authorized to conduct business in the state, or a Florida municipal or county business license or number.¹³

If the owner does not have a permanent residence or permanent place of business, or if the owner's permanent residence or permanent place of business cannot be identified by a street address, the application must include:

- If the vehicle is registered to a business, the name and street address of the permanent residence of an owner of the business, an officer of the corporation, or an employee who is in a supervisory position.
- If the vehicle is registered to an individual, the name and street address of the permanent residence of a close relative or friend who is a resident of this state.¹⁴

If the vehicle is registered to an active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is a Florida resident, the active-duty member is exempt from the requirement to provide the street address of a permanent residence.¹⁵

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Section 320.02(1), F.S.

¹³ Section 320.02(2)(a), F.S.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

Electronic Notification to Customers – Use of Email

Notices related to the cancellation, suspension, revocation, or disqualification issued under the provisions of chs. 318, 320, 322, 324, or ss. 627.732-627.734, F.S.,¹⁶ must be given via personal delivery to the customer via the United States Postal Service at which it is placed in an envelope, first class, postage prepaid and addressed to the customer at his or her last known mailing address that has been furnished to the DHSMV.

Currently, the DHSMV is authorized to collect and utilize email addresses for the limited purpose of providing certain motor vehicle registration and driver's license renewal notices.

Definition of Tank Vehicles

Section 322.01(44), F.S. defines a “tank vehicle” as a vehicle that is designed to transport any liquid or any liquid gaseous material within a tank either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle, if such tank has a designed capacity of 1,000 gallons or more.

According to the DHSMV, this definition is not currently aligned with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMSCA) definition.¹⁷ The FMSCA has the power to withhold federal funding from the state should they find that the DHSMV is not in compliance with the applicable federal legal requirements.¹⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

International Fuel Tax Agreement

The bill amends various sections of ch. 207, F.S., to update Florida law to reflect the changes in federal regulations pertaining to IFTA so that Florida remains compliant with those federal regulations. For example, the bill:

- Specifies the requirements for calculating and reporting the motor fuel use tax and updates other definitions and requirements under the Florida Motor Fuel Use Tax Act.
- Establishes a licensing system for motor carriers in lieu of registration and mandates electronic submission for tax and licensing documents.
- Creates penalties for counterfeiting or illegally altering fuel tax licenses and the related permits.
- Amends the required procedures for due dates, electronic submissions, and methods of communications related to motor vehicles and fuel taxes.

¹⁶ These chapters govern the disposition of traffic infractions, motor vehicle registration, driver licensing, financial responsibility, and motor vehicle insurance.

¹⁷ 49 CFR 383.5, provides that a “tank vehicle” means any commercial motor vehicle that is designed to transport any liquid or gaseous materials within a tank or tanks having an individual rated capacity of more than 119 gallons and an aggregate rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more that is either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or the chassis. A commercial motor vehicle transporting an empty storage container tank, not designed for transportation, with a rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more that is temporarily attached to a flatbed trailer is not considered a tank vehicle.

¹⁸ DHSMV, *2025 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 1290* (February 26, 2025) at p. 5 (on file with the Senate Transportation Committee).

- Revises penalties and interest calculations for delinquent tax payments and revises the provisions related to the inspection and discontinuation of business operations for motor carriers.
- Provides penalties for specific offenses related to the misuse of motor fuel-tax related documents and establishes detailed requirements for recordkeeping by motor carriers.
- Incorporates numerous conforming provisions throughout ch. 207, F.S.

Crash Reporting – Damage Thresholds

The bill amends s. 316.065, F.S., to require the driver of a vehicle that is involved in a crash that results in injury or death of any person, or results in damage to any vehicle or other property in an apparent amount of at least \$2,000 (currently \$500), must give immediate notification to local law enforcement or the Florida Highway Patrol.

Motor Vehicle Registration – Permanent Address

The bill amends s. 320.02, F.S., to provide that an application for registration of a motor vehicle must include the street address of the owner's Florida residence or the address of his or her permanent place of business in Florida and be accompanied by specified personal or business identification. The bill repeals the current authorization for a vehicle owner who does not have a permanent address or place of business in Florida to register a vehicle under certain conditions.

Specifically, the bill provides that an applicant for a motor vehicle registration is required to have a valid, REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card issued by Florida or another state, a valid unexpired United States passport, or a valid, unexpired passport issued by another country and an unexpired Form I-94 issued by the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. According to the DHSMV, there are currently 262,167 driver licenses in Florida that are not yet REAL-ID compliant, and the federal REAL-ID deadline is May 7, 2025.¹⁹

The bill also stipulates that if a vehicle is registered to a service member of the U.S. Armed Forces as defined in s. 322.57(4)(a), F.S., who is a Florida resident, the registrant is exempt from the requirement to provide a street address for a permanent Florida residence.

Electronic Notification of Customers Via Email

The bill amends ss. 320.95, 322.08, 322.18, 322.21, 322.251, 322.2616, 322.64, 324.091, and 328.30, F.S., to expand the types of transactions and circumstances in which DHSMV may use email in lieu of the United States Postal Service to communicate with customers. Specifically, the bill authorizes email to be used as a method of general notification for various notices and orders issued by DHSMV, including, but not limited to, notices related to driver licenses, identification cards, motor vehicle registrations, motor vehicle insurance, and vessel registrations.

¹⁹ *Id* at p. 6

SB 490, which is linked to this bill, expands provisions related to current public record exemptions for email addresses held by the DHSMV used in connection with:

- Motor vehicle title transactions.
- Motor vehicle registration renewal notices.
- Driver license renewal notices.
- Vessel title transactions and liens.

Definition of Tank Vehicles

The bill amends s. 322.01(44), F.S., to change the definition of a “tank vehicle” to a vehicle designed to transport any liquid or gaseous material within one or more tanks, each with a capacity above 119 gallons and an aggregate rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more. A commercial motor vehicle transporting an empty storage container that is not designed for transportation but that is temporarily attached to a flatbed trailer is not a tank vehicle. This change places Florida in substantial compliance with Parts 383 and 384 of the FMCSA.

The bill includes various conforming provisions and corrects several cross-references.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

Not applicable. The bill does not impose or raise a state tax or fee nor repeal a state credit or exemption.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on state government as DHSMV's expenditures could decrease as a result of notices and orders being provided via electronic mail and not through the United States Postal Service.

According to the DHSMV, FHP and tax collector training will be required to implement several provisions of the bill.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 207.001, 207.002, 207.003, 207.004, 207.005, 207.007, 207.008, 207.011, 207.013, 207.014, 207.019, 207.023, 207.0281, 212.08, 316.065, 316.545, 318.15, 319.35, 320.02, 320.95, 320.95, 322.01, 322.08, 322.18, 322.21, 322.251, 322.2616, 322.64, 324.091, 324.091, 324.171, 328.30, and 627.7415.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Massullo

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Department of Highway Safety
 3 and Motor Vehicles; amending s. 207.001, F.S.;
 4 revising a short title; reordering and amending s.
 5 207.002, F.S.; defining terms and revising
 6 definitions; amending s. 207.003, F.S.; conforming
 7 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
 8 207.004, F.S.; requiring licensure in lieu of
 9 registration of motor carriers operating certain
 10 qualified motor vehicles; requiring motor carriers to
 11 obtain fuel use decals in lieu of identifying devices;
 12 requiring that qualified motor vehicles carry a copy
 13 of the license or make the license available
 14 electronically; requiring that fuel tax decals be
 15 conspicuously displayed on qualified motor vehicles
 16 while the vehicles are operated on public highways;
 17 requiring the department or its authorized agent to
 18 issue licenses and fuel tax decals; requiring that
 19 fuel tax decal renewal orders be submitted
 20 electronically through an online system beginning on a
 21 certain date; providing an exception; revising
 22 required contents of temporary fuel-use permits;
 23 deleting provisions for driveaway permits; amending s.
 24 207.005, F.S.; revising due dates for motor fuel use
 25 tax returns submitted by licensed motor carriers;
 26 requiring that tax returns be submitted electronically
 27 through an online system beginning on a certain date;
 28 providing an exception; amending s. 207.007, F.S.;
 29 revising the method of calculating interest due for

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30 certain delinquent taxes; prohibiting a person from
 31 knowingly making, or assisting any other person in
 32 making, a false statement in connection with an audit;
 33 prohibiting a person from counterfeiting, altering,
 34 manufacturing, or selling fuel tax licenses, fuel tax
 35 decals, or temporary fuel-use permits except under
 36 certain circumstances; providing penalties; amending
 37 s. 207.008, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes
 38 made by the act; amending s. 207.011, F.S.;
 39 authorizing the department to inspect records
 40 necessary to verify the tax returns of motor carriers,
 41 motor fuel retail dealers, and motor fuel wholesale
 42 distributors; amending ss. 207.013 and 207.014, F.S.;
 43 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 44 amending s. 207.019, F.S.; requiring motor carriers to
 45 destroy fuel tax decals and notify the department upon
 46 the discontinuance, sale, or transfer of the business;
 47 amending ss. 207.023, 207.0281, and 212.08, F.S.;
 48 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 49 amending s. 316.065, F.S.; revising the apparent
 50 amount of property damage which requires the driver of
 51 a vehicle involved in a crash to notify law
 52 enforcement of the crash; amending s. 318.15, F.S.;
 53 conforming a provision to changes made by the act;
 54 amending s. 320.02, F.S.; requiring vehicle
 55 registration applicants to provide a Florida address;
 56 providing an exception; requiring an applicant to
 57 provide satisfactory proof of address and certain
 58 documentation; defining the term "REAL ID driver's

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license or identification card"; amending s. 320.95, F.S.; revising the purpose for which the department may use e-mail; amending s. 322.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "tank vehicle"; amending s. 322.08, F.S.; revising the purpose for which the department may use e-mail; amending ss. 322.18, 322.21, and 322.251, F.S.; authorizing the department to provide certain orders and notices by e-mail notification; amending ss. 322.2616, 322.64, 324.091, and 324.171, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 328.30, F.S.; revising the purpose for which the department may use e-mail; amending s. 627.7415, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending ss. 316.545 and 319.35, F.S.; conforming cross-references; making a technical change; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 207.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.001 Short title.—This chapter shall be known as the "Florida ~~Diesel Fuel~~ and Motor Fuel Use Tax Act ~~of 1981~~," and the taxes levied under this chapter shall be in addition to all other taxes imposed by law.

Section 2. Section 207.002, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:

207.002 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(11)(1) "Qualified Commercial motor vehicle" means any

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vehicle not owned or operated by a governmental entity which uses ~~diesel fuel~~ or motor fuel on the public highways; and which has two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, or has three or more axles regardless of weight, or is used in combination when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight. The term excludes any recreational vehicle or vehicle owned or operated by a community transportation coordinator as defined in s. 427.011 or by a private operator that provides public transit services under contract with such a provider.

(1)(2) "Department" means the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

(2) "International Fuel Tax Agreement" means a reciprocal agreement among states of the United States, provinces of Canada, and other such member jurisdictions to provide for the administration, collection, and enforcement of taxes on the basis of fuel consumed, distance accrued, or both, in member jurisdictions.

~~(3) "Diesel fuel" means any liquid product or gas product or combination thereof, including, but not limited to, all forms of fuel known or sold as diesel fuel, kerosene, butane gas, or propane gas and all other forms of liquefied petroleum gases, except those defined as "motor fuel," used to propel a motor vehicle.~~

~~(4) "International Registration Plan" means a registration reciprocity agreement among states of the United States and provinces of Canada providing for payment of license fees or license taxes on the basis of fleet miles operated in various~~

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jurisdictions.

(3)(5) "Interstate" means vehicle movement between or through two or more member jurisdiction states.

(4)(6) "Intrastate" means vehicle movement from one point within a member jurisdiction state to another point within the same member jurisdiction state.

(5) "Member jurisdiction" means a state of the United States, a province of Canada, or any other such jurisdiction that is a member of the International Fuel Tax Agreement.

(6)(7) "Motor carrier" means any person owning, controlling, operating, or managing any motor vehicle used to transport persons or property over any public highway.

(7)(8) "Motor fuel" means any fuel placed in the fuel supply storage unit of a qualified motor vehicle, including an alternative fuel, such as pure methanol, ethanol, or other alcohol; a blend of 85 percent or more alcohol with gasoline; natural gas and liquified fuel produced from natural gas; propane; coal-derived liquified fuel; hydrogen; electricity; pure biodiesel (B100) fuel, other than alcohol, derived from biological materials; P-series fuel; or any other type of fuel or energy used to propel a qualified motor vehicle ~~what is commonly known and sold as gasoline and fuels containing a mixture of gasoline and other products.~~

(8)(9) "Operate," "operated," "operation," or "operating" means and includes the utilization in any form of any qualified commercial motor vehicle, whether loaded or empty, whether utilized for compensation or not for compensation, and whether owned by or leased to the motor carrier who uses it or causes it to be used.

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(9)(10) "Person" means and includes natural persons, corporations, copartnerships, firms, companies, agencies, or associations, singular or plural.

(10)(11) "Public highway" means any public street, road, or highway in this state.

~~(12) "Registrant" means a person in whose name or names a vehicle is properly registered.~~

(12)(13) "Use," "uses," or "used" means the consumption of ~~diesel fuel or~~ motor fuel in a qualified commercial motor vehicle for the propulsion thereof.

Section 3. Section 207.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.003 Privilege tax levied.—A tax for the privilege of operating any qualified commercial motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state shall be levied upon every motor carrier at a rate which includes the minimum rates provided in parts I-III of chapter 206 on each gallon of ~~diesel fuel or~~ motor fuel used for the propulsion of a qualified commercial motor vehicle by such motor carrier within this ~~the~~ state.

Section 4. Section 207.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.004 Licensing Registration of motor carriers; fuel tax decals identifying devices; fees; renewals; temporary fuel-use permits ~~and driveway permits.~~

(1)(a) ~~A~~ No motor carrier ~~may not~~ ~~shall~~ operate or cause to be operated in this state any qualified commercial motor vehicle, other than a Florida-based qualified commercial motor vehicle that travels Florida intrastate mileage only, which ~~that~~ uses ~~diesel fuel or~~ motor fuel until such carrier is licensed

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175 under the International Fuel Tax Agreement and issued fuel tax
 176 decals ~~has registered with the department or has registered~~
 177 ~~under a cooperative reciprocal agreement as described in s.~~
 178 ~~207.0281, after such time as this state enters into such~~
 179 ~~agreement, and has been issued an identifying device or such~~
 180 ~~carrier is has been issued a temporary fuel-use permit as~~
 181 ~~authorized under subsection (5) subsections (4) and (5) for each~~
 182 ~~vehicle operated. The fee for each set of fuel tax decals is~~
 183 ~~There shall be a fee of \$4 per year or any fraction thereof. A~~
 184 ~~copy of the license must be carried in each vehicle or made~~
 185 ~~available electronically. The fuel tax decals for each such~~
 186 ~~identifying device issued. The identifying device shall be~~
 187 ~~provided by the department and must be conspicuously displayed~~
 188 ~~on the qualified commercial motor vehicle as prescribed by the~~
 189 ~~instructions on the reverse side of the decal department while~~
 190 ~~the vehicle it is being operated on the public highways of this~~
 191 ~~state. The transfer of fuel tax decals an identifying device~~
 192 ~~from one vehicle to another vehicle or from one motor carrier to~~
 193 ~~another motor carrier is prohibited. The department or its~~
 194 ~~authorized agent shall issue the licenses and fuel tax decals.~~

195 (b) The motor carrier to whom fuel tax decals have been
 196 issued is an identifying device ~~has been issued shall be~~ solely
 197 responsible for the proper use of the fuel tax decals
 198 ~~identifying device~~ by its employees, consignees, or lessees.

199 (2) Fuel tax decals ~~Identifying devices~~ shall be issued
 200 each year for the period January 1 through December 31, or any
 201 portion thereof, if tax returns and tax payments, when
 202 applicable, have been submitted to the department for all prior
 203 reporting periods. Fuel tax decals ~~Identifying devices~~ may be

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204 displayed for the next succeeding indicia period beginning
 205 December 1 of each year. Beginning October 1, 2026, except as
 206 otherwise authorized by the department, all fuel tax decal
 207 renewal orders must be electronically submitted through an
 208 online system prescribed by the department.

209 (3) If a motor carrier licensed in this state no longer
 210 operates or causes to be operated in this state a qualified
 211 ~~commercial~~ motor vehicle, the fuel tax decals must ~~identifying~~
 212 ~~device shall~~ be destroyed and the motor carrier to whom the fuel
 213 ~~tax decals were~~ ~~device was~~ issued must ~~shall~~ notify the
 214 department immediately by letter of such removal and of the
 215 number of fuel tax decals ~~the identifying device that has been~~
 216 destroyed.

217 (4) A motor carrier must, before operating a qualified
 218 ~~commercial~~ motor vehicle on the public highways of this state,
 219 must display fuel tax decals an identifying device as required
 220 under subsections (1) and (2) or must obtain a temporary fuel-
 221 use permit for that vehicle as provided in subsection (5). A
 222 ~~temporary fuel-use permit shall expire within 10 days after date~~
 223 ~~of issuance. The cost of a temporary fuel-use permit is \$45, and~~
 224 ~~the permit exempts the vehicle from the payment of the motor~~
 225 ~~fuel or diesel fuel tax imposed under this chapter during the~~
 226 ~~term for which the permit is valid. However, the vehicle is not~~
 227 ~~exempt from paying the fuel tax at the pump.~~

228 (5) (a) A ~~registered~~ motor carrier holding a valid
 229 ~~certificate of registration may, upon payment of the \$45 fee per~~
 230 ~~permit,~~ secure from the department, or any wire service
 231 authorized by the department, a temporary fuel-use permit.

232 (b) The fee for a temporary fuel-use permit is \$45. A

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temporary fuel-use permit expires 10 days after the date of issuance and exempts the vehicle from payment of the motor fuel tax imposed under this chapter during the period for which the permit is valid. However, this paragraph does not exempt the vehicle from payment at the pump of the fuel tax imposed under chapter 206.

(c) A blank temporary fuel-use permit ~~must, before its use,~~ must be executed by the motor carrier, in ink or type, so as to identify the carrier, the vehicle to which the permit is assigned, and the permit's effective date and expiration date that the vehicle is placed in and removed from service. The temporary fuel use permit shall also show a complete identification of the vehicle on which the permit is to be used, together with the name and address of the owner or lessee of the vehicle. The endorsed temporary fuel-use permit must shall then be carried on the vehicle that it identifies and must shall be exhibited on demand to any authorized personnel. Temporary fuel-use permits may be transmitted to the motor carrier by electronic means and shall be completed as outlined by department personnel prior to transmittal.

(d) The motor carrier to whom a temporary fuel-use permit is issued ~~is~~ shall be solely responsible for the proper use of the permit by its employees, consignees, or lessees. Any erasure, alteration, or unauthorized use of a temporary fuel-use permit renders shall render it invalid and of no effect. A motor carrier to whom a temporary fuel-use permit is issued may not knowingly allow the permit to be used by any other person or organization.

~~(b) An unregistered motor carrier may, upon payment of the~~

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~~\$45 fee, secure from any wire service authorized by the department, by electronic means, a temporary fuel-use permit that shall be valid for a period of 10 days. Such permit must show the name and address of the unregistered motor carrier to whom it is issued, the date the vehicle is placed in and removed from service, a complete identification of the vehicle on which the permit is to be used, and the name and address of the owner or lessee of the vehicle. The temporary fuel-use permit shall then be carried on the vehicle that it identifies and shall be exhibited on demand to any authorized personnel. The unregistered motor carrier to whom a temporary fuel-use permit is issued shall be solely responsible for the proper use of the permit by its employees, consignees, or lessees. Any erasure, alteration, or unauthorized use of a temporary fuel-use permit shall render it invalid and of no effect. The unregistered motor carrier to whom a temporary fuel-use permit is issued may not knowingly allow the permit to be used by any other person or organization.~~

~~(e) A registered motor carrier engaged in driveway transportation, in which the cargo is the vehicle itself and is in transit to stock inventory and the ownership of the vehicle is not vested in the motor carrier, may, upon payment of the \$4 fee, secure from the department a driveway permit. The driveway permits shall be issued for the period January 1 through December 31. An original permit must be in the possession of the operator of each vehicle and shall be exhibited on demand to any authorized personnel. Vehicle mileage reports must be submitted by the motor carrier, and the road privilege tax must be paid on all miles operated within this~~

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291 ~~state during the reporting period. All other provisions of this~~
 292 ~~chapter shall apply to the holder of a driveway permit.~~

293 Section 5. Section 207.005, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 294 read:

295 207.005 Returns and payment of tax; delinquencies;
 296 calculation of fuel used during operations in the state; credit;
 297 bond.—

298 (1) The taxes levied under this chapter are ~~shall be~~ due
 299 and payable on the first day of the month following the last
 300 month of the reporting period. The department may adopt
 301 ~~promulgate~~ rules for requiring and establishing procedures for
 302 annual, semiannual, or quarterly filing. The reporting period is
 303 ~~shall be~~ the 12 months beginning January 1 ~~July 1~~ and ending
 304 December 31 ~~June 30~~. ~~It shall be the duty of~~ Each motor carrier
 305 licensed registered or required to be registered under the
 306 ~~provisions of~~ this chapter must ~~to~~ submit a return by the
 307 following due dates, except that each due date is extended until
 308 the last day of the month of the due date, and, if the last day
 309 of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the
 310 due date is further extended until the next day that is not a
 311 Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday ~~within 30 days after the due~~
 312 ~~date. The due date shall be as follows:~~

313 (a) If annual filing, the due date is January 31. ~~shall be~~
 314 ~~July 1.~~

315 (b) If semiannual filing, the due dates are ~~shall be~~
 316 January 31 ~~and July 31.~~ ~~or~~

317 (c) If quarterly filing, the due dates are ~~shall be~~ January
 318 31 ~~1~~, April 30 ~~1~~, July 31 ~~1~~, and October 31 ~~1~~.

319 (2) The amount of fuel used in the propulsion of any

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320 qualified commercial motor vehicle within this state may be
 321 calculated, if the motor carrier maintains adequate records, by
 322 applying total interstate vehicular consumption of all ~~diesel~~
 323 ~~fuel and~~ motor fuel used as related to total miles traveled and
 324 applying such rate to total miles traveled within this state. In
 325 the absence of adequate documentation by the motor carrier, the
 326 department may adopt ~~is authorized to promulgate~~ rules
 327 converting miles driven to gallons used.

328 (3) For the purpose of computing the carrier's liability
 329 for the fuel ~~road privilege~~ tax, the total gallons of fuel used
 330 in the propulsion of any qualified commercial motor vehicle in
 331 this state shall be multiplied by the rates provided in parts I-
 332 III of chapter 206. From the sum determined by this calculation,
 333 there shall be allowed a credit equal to the amount of the tax
 334 per gallon under parts I-III of chapter 206 for each gallon of
 335 fuel purchased in this state during the reporting period when
 336 the diesel fuel or motor fuel tax was paid at the time of
 337 purchase. If the tax paid under parts I-III of chapter 206
 338 exceeds the total tax due under this chapter, the excess may be
 339 allowed as a credit against future tax payments, until the
 340 credit is fully offset or until eight calendar quarters ~~shall~~
 341 have passed since the end of the calendar quarter in which the
 342 credit accrued, whichever occurs first. A refund may be made for
 343 this credit provided it exceeds \$10.

344 (4) The department may adopt ~~is authorized to promulgate~~
 345 the necessary rules to provide for an adequate bond from each
 346 motor carrier to ensure payment of taxes required under this
 347 chapter.

348 (5) Beginning October 1, 2026, except as otherwise

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349 authorized by the department, all returns must be submitted
 350 electronically through an online system prescribed by the
 351 department.

352 Section 6. Section 207.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 353 read:

354 207.007 Offenses; penalties and interest.—

355 (1) If any motor carrier licensed ~~registered~~ under this
 356 chapter fails to file a return or ~~and~~ pay any tax liability
 357 under this chapter within the time required hereunder, the
 358 department may impose a delinquency penalty of \$50 or 10 percent
 359 of the delinquent taxes due, whichever is greater, if the
 360 failure is for not more than 30 days, with an additional 10
 361 percent penalty for each additional 30 days, or fraction
 362 thereof, during the time which the failure continues, not to
 363 exceed a total penalty of 100 percent in the aggregate. However,
 364 the penalty may not be less than \$50.

365 (2) In addition to any other penalties, any delinquent tax
 366 shall bear interest in accordance with the International Fuel
 367 Tax Agreement at the rate of 1 percent per month, or fraction
 368 thereof, calculated from the date the tax was due. If the
 369 department enters into a cooperative reciprocal agreement under
 370 the provisions of s. 207.0281, the department shall collect and
 371 distribute all interest due to other jurisdictions at the same
 372 rate as if such interest were due to the state.

373 (3) A ~~Any~~ person who:

374 (a) Willfully refuses or neglects to make any statement,
 375 report, or return required by ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter;

376 (b) Knowingly makes, or assists any other person in making,
 377 a false statement in a return or report, ~~or~~ in connection with

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378 an application for licensure ~~registration~~ under this chapter, or
 379 in connection with an audit; or ~~or~~

380 (c) Counterfeits, alters, manufactures, or sells fuel tax
 381 licenses, fuel tax decals, or temporary fuel-use permits without
 382 first having obtained the department's permission in writing; or

383 (d) Violates any of the provisions of this chapter, a
 384 penalty for which is not otherwise provided,

385 commits ~~is guilty of~~ a felony of the third degree, punishable as
 386 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. In addition,
 387 the department may revoke or suspend the licensure and
 388 registration privileges under ss. 207.004 and 320.02 of the
 389 violator. Each day or part thereof during which a person
 390 operates or causes to be operated a qualified commercial motor
 391 vehicle without being the holder of fuel tax decals ~~an~~
 392 ~~identifying device~~ or having a valid temporary fuel-use ~~or~~
 393 ~~driveaway~~ permit as required by this chapter constitutes a
 394 separate offense within the meaning of this section. In addition
 395 to the penalty imposed by this section, the defendant is ~~shall~~
 396 ~~be~~ required to pay all taxes, interest, and penalties due to the
 397 state.

398
 399 Section 7. Section 207.008, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 400 read:

401 207.008 Retention of records by motor carrier.—Each
 402 licensed ~~registered~~ motor carrier shall maintain and keep
 403 pertinent records and papers as may be required by the
 404 department for the reasonable administration of this chapter and
 405 shall preserve the records upon which each quarterly tax return
 406 is based for 4 years following the due date or filing date of

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the return, whichever is later.

Section 8. Subsection (3) of section 207.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.011 Inspection of records; hearings; forms; rules.—

(3) The department, or any authorized agent thereof, is authorized to examine the records, books, papers, and equipment of any motor carrier, any retail dealer of motor diesel fuels, and any wholesale distributor of ~~diesel fuels~~ or motor fuels which ~~that~~ are deemed necessary to verify the truth and accuracy of any statement, ~~or~~ report, or return and ascertain whether the tax imposed by this chapter has been paid.

Section 9. Section 207.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.013 Suits for collection of unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest.—Upon demand of the department, the Department of Legal Affairs or the state attorney for a judicial circuit shall bring appropriate actions, in the name of the state or in the name of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the capacity of its office, for the recovery of taxes, penalties, and interest due under this chapter; and judgment shall be rendered for the amount so found to be due together with costs. However, if it ~~is shall be~~ found as a fact that such claim for, or grant of, an exemption or credit was willful on the part of any motor carrier, retail dealer, or distributor of ~~diesel fuel or~~ motor fuel, judgment must shall be rendered for double the amount of the tax found to be due with costs. The department may employ an attorney at law to institute and prosecute proper proceedings to enforce payment of the taxes, penalties, and interest provided for by this chapter and may fix

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the compensation for the services of such attorney at law.

Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 207.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.014 Departmental warrant for collection of unpaid taxes.—

(3) In the event there is a contest or claim of any kind with reference to the property levied upon or the amount of taxes, costs, or penalties due, such contest or claim must shall be tried in the circuit court in and for the county in which the warrant was executed, as nearly as may be in the same manner and means as such contest or claim would have been tried in such court had the warrant originally issued upon a judgment rendered by such court. The warrant issued as provided in this section constitutes shall constitute prima facie evidence of the amount of taxes, interest, and penalties due to the state by the motor carrier; and the burden of proof is shall be upon the motor carrier, retail dealer, or distributor of ~~diesel fuel or~~ motor fuel to show that the amounts or penalties were incorrect.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 207.019, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207.019 Discontinuance or transfer of business; change of address.—

(1) Whenever a person ceases to engage in business as a motor carrier within this the state by reason of the discontinuance, sale, or transfer of the business of such person, he or she shall notify the department in writing at least 10 days before prior to the time the discontinuance, sale, or transfer takes effect. Such notice must shall give the date of discontinuance and, in the event of a sale or transfer of the

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business, the date thereof and the name and address of the purchaser or transferee. All ~~diesel fuel or~~ motor fuel use taxes ~~shall~~ become due and payable concurrently with such discontinuance, sale, or transfer; and any such person shall, concurrently with such discontinuance, sale, or transfer, make a report and, pay all such taxes, interest, and penalties. The person shall immediately destroy the fuel tax decals and notify the department by letter of such destruction and of the number of the fuel tax decals that have been destroyed, and surrender to the department the registration issued to such person.

Section 12. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 207.023, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

207.023 Authority to inspect vehicles, make arrests, seize property, and execute warrants.—

(1) As a part of their responsibility when inspecting qualified motor ~~commercial~~ vehicles, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Transportation shall ensure that all vehicles are properly qualified under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter.

(3) Qualified Commercial ~~Commercial~~ motor vehicles owned or operated by any motor carrier who refuses to comply with this chapter may be seized by authorized agents or employees of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, or the Department of Transportation; or authorized agents and employees of any of these departments also may seize property as set out in ss. 206.205, 206.21, and 206.215. Upon such seizure, the property must ~~shall~~ be surrendered without delay to the sheriff of the county where the

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property was seized for further proceedings.

Section 13. Subsections (1) and (6) of section 207.0281, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

207.0281 Registration; cooperative reciprocal agreements between states.—

(1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may enter into a cooperative reciprocal agreement, including, but not limited to, the International Fuel Tax ~~fuel-tax~~ Agreement, with another state or group of states for the administration of the tax imposed by this chapter. An agreement arrangement, declaration, or amendment is not effective until stated in writing and filed with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

(6) This section and the contents of any reciprocal agreement entered into under this section supersede all other fuel-tax requirements of this chapter for qualified ~~commercial~~ motor vehicles.

Section 14. Paragraph (aa) of subsection (7) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.—Exemptions provided to any entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of the entity by any means,

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including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

(aa) *Certain commercial vehicles.*—Also exempt is the sale, lease, or rental of a qualified commercial motor vehicle as defined in s. 207.002, when the following conditions are met:

1. The sale, lease, or rental occurs between two commonly owned and controlled corporations;
2. Such vehicle was titled and registered in this state at the time of the sale, lease, or rental; and
3. Florida sales tax was paid on the acquisition of such vehicle by the seller, lessor, or renter.

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 316.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.065 Crashes; reports; penalties.—

(1) The driver of a vehicle involved in a crash resulting in injury to or death of any persons or damage to any vehicle or other property in an apparent amount of at least \$2,000 must

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~~\$500 shall~~ immediately by the quickest means of communication give notice of the crash to the local police department, if such crash occurs within a municipality; otherwise, to the office of the county sheriff or the nearest office or station of the Florida Highway Patrol. A violation of this subsection is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in chapter 318.

Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 318.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.15 Failure to comply with civil penalty or to appear; penalty.—

(1)(a) If a person fails to comply with the civil penalties provided in s. 318.18 within the time period specified in s. 318.14(4), fails to enter into or comply with the terms of a penalty payment plan with the clerk of the court in accordance with ss. 318.14 and 28.246, fails to attend driver improvement school, or fails to appear at a scheduled hearing, the clerk of the court must notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of such failure within 10 days after such failure. Upon receipt of such notice, the department must immediately issue an order suspending the driver license and privilege to drive of such person effective 20 days after the date the order of suspension is provided mailed in accordance with s. 322.251(1), (2), and (6). The order also must inform the person that he or she may contact the clerk of the court to establish a payment plan pursuant to s. 28.246(4) to make partial payments for court-related fines, fees, service charges, and court costs. Any such suspension of the driving privilege which has not been reinstated, including a similar suspension imposed outside of

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this state, must remain on the records of the department for a period of 7 years from the date imposed and must be removed from the records after the expiration of 7 years from the date it is imposed. The department may not accept the resubmission of such suspension.

Section 17. Subsection (2) and paragraph (e) of subsection (5) of section 320.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

320.02 Registration required; application for registration; forms.—

(2)(a) The application for registration must include the street address of the owner's permanent Florida residence or the address of his or her permanent place of business in this state and be accompanied by personal or business identification information. If the vehicle is registered to a servicemember, as defined in s. 322.57(4)(a), of the United States Armed Forces who is a Florida resident, the servicemember is not required to provide the street address of a permanent Florida residence.

(b) An individual applicant must provide proof of address satisfactory to the department and:

1. A valid REAL ID driver's ~~driver~~ license or identification card issued by this state or another state; ~~or~~

2. A valid, unexpired United States passport; or

3. A valid, unexpired passport issued by another country and an unexpired Form I-94 issued by United States Customs and Border Protection.

For purposes of this paragraph, the term "REAL ID driver's license or identification card" has the same meaning as provided in 6 C.F.R. s. 37.3.

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(c) A business applicant must provide a federal employer identification number, if applicable, or verification that the business is authorized to conduct business in this the state, or a Florida municipal or county business license or number.

~~1. If the owner does not have a permanent residence or permanent place of business or if the owner's permanent residence or permanent place of business cannot be identified by a street address, the application must include:~~

~~a. If the vehicle is registered to a business, the name and street address of the permanent residence of an owner of the business, an officer of the corporation, or an employee who is in a supervisory position.~~

~~b. If the vehicle is registered to an individual, the name and street address of the permanent residence of a close relative or friend who is a resident of this state.~~

~~2. If the vehicle is registered to an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is a Florida resident, the active duty member is exempt from the requirement to provide the street address of a permanent residence.~~

(d) ~~(b)~~ The department shall prescribe a form upon which motor vehicle owners may record odometer readings when registering their motor vehicles.

(5)

(e) Upon the expiration date noted in the cancellation notice that the department receives from the insurer, the department shall suspend the registration, issued under this chapter, or the license issued under s. 207.004(1), of a motor carrier who operates a commercial motor vehicle or who permits it to be operated in this state during the registration or

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639 license period without having in full force liability insurance,
 640 a surety bond, or a valid self-insurance certificate that
 641 complies with this section. The insurer shall provide notice to
 642 the department at the same time the cancellation notice is
 643 provided to the insured pursuant to s. 627.7281. The department
 644 may adopt rules regarding the electronic submission of the
 645 cancellation notice.

646 Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 320.95, Florida
 647 Statutes, is amended to read:

648 320.95 Transactions by electronic or telephonic means.—

649 (2) The department may collect e-mail ~~electronic mail~~
 650 addresses and use e-mail ~~electronic mail~~ in lieu of the United
 651 States Postal Service as a method of notification ~~for the~~
 652 ~~purpose of providing renewal notices.~~

653 Section 19. Subsection (44) of section 322.01, Florida
 654 Statutes, is amended to read:

655 322.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

656 (44) "Tank vehicle" means a vehicle ~~that is~~ designed to
 657 transport any liquid or gaseous material within one or more
 658 tanks that have an individual rated capacity that exceeds 119
 659 gallons and an aggregate rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more
 660 and that are a tank either permanently or temporarily attached
 661 to the vehicle or chassis. A commercial motor vehicle
 662 transporting an empty tank that is not designed for
 663 transportation, but that is temporarily attached to a flatbed
 664 trailer, is not a tank vehicle, if such tank has a designed
 665 capacity of 1,000 gallons or more.

666 Section 20. Subsection (10) of section 322.08, Florida
 667 Statutes, is amended to read:

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668 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license
 669 and identification card forms.—

670 (10) The department may collect e-mail ~~electronic mail~~
 671 addresses and use e-mail ~~electronic mail~~ in lieu of the United
 672 States Postal Service as a method of notification ~~for the~~
 673 ~~purpose of providing renewal notices.~~

674 Section 21. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section
 675 322.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

676 322.18 Original applications, licenses, and renewals;
 677 expiration of licenses; delinquent licenses.—

678 (8) The department shall issue 8-year renewals using a
 679 convenience service without reexamination to drivers who have
 680 not attained 80 years of age. The department shall issue 6-year
 681 renewals using a convenience service when the applicant has
 682 satisfied the requirements of subsection (5).

683 (a) If the department determines from its records that the
 684 holder of a license about to expire is eligible for renewal, the
 685 department must ~~shall~~ mail a renewal notice to the licensee at
 686 his or her last known address or provide a renewal notice to the
 687 licensee by e-mail notification, not less than 30 days before
 688 ~~prior to~~ the licensee's birthday. The renewal notice must ~~shall~~
 689 direct the licensee to appear at a driver license office for in-
 690 person renewal or to transmit the completed renewal notice and
 691 the fees required by s. 322.21 to the department using a
 692 convenience service.

693 Section 22. Subsection (4) of section 322.21, Florida
 694 Statutes, is amended to read:

695 322.21 License fees; procedure for handling and collecting
 696 fees.—

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697 (4) If the department determines from its records or is
 698 otherwise satisfied that the holder of a license about to expire
 699 is entitled to have it renewed, the department ~~must shall~~ mail a
 700 renewal notice to the licensee at his or her last known address
 701 or provide a renewal notice to the licensee by e-mail
 702 notification, within 30 days before the licensee's birthday. The
 703 licensee ~~must shall~~ be issued a renewal license, after
 704 reexamination, if required, during the 30 days immediately
 705 preceding his or her birthday upon presenting a renewal notice,
 706 his or her current license, and the fee for renewal to the
 707 department at any driver license examining office.

708 Section 23. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (6) of section
 709 322.251, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

710 322.251 Notice of cancellation, suspension, revocation, or
 711 disqualification of license.—

712 (1) All orders of cancellation, suspension, revocation, or
 713 disqualification issued under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter,
 714 chapter 318, chapter 324, or ss. 627.732-627.734 ~~must shall~~ be
 715 given ~~either~~ by personal delivery thereof to the licensee whose
 716 license is being canceled, suspended, revoked, or disqualified;
 717 ~~or~~ by deposit in the United States mail in an envelope, first
 718 class, postage prepaid, addressed to the licensee at his or her
 719 last known mailing address furnished to the department; or by e-
 720 mail notification authorized by the licensee. Such methods of
 721 notification ~~mailing~~ by the department constitute notice
 722 ~~constitutes notification~~, and any failure by the person to
 723 receive the mailed order does will not affect or stay the
 724 effective date or term of the cancellation, suspension,
 725 revocation, or disqualification of the licensee's driving

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726 privilege.

727 (2) The giving of notice and an order of cancellation,
 728 suspension, revocation, or disqualification ~~by mail~~ is complete
 729 upon expiration of 20 days after e-mail notification or, if
 730 mailed, 20 days after deposit in the United States mail for all
 731 notices except those issued under chapter 324 or ss. 627.732-
 732 627.734, which are complete 15 days after e-mail notification
 733 or, if mailed, 15 days after deposit in the United States mail.
 734 Proof of the giving of notice and an order of cancellation,
 735 suspension, revocation, or disqualification in such either
 736 manner ~~must shall~~ be made by entry in the records of the
 737 department that such notice was given. The entry is admissible
 738 in the courts of this state and constitutes sufficient proof
 739 that such notice was given.

740 (3) Whenever the driving privilege is suspended, revoked,
 741 or disqualified under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter, the period
 742 of such suspension, revocation, or disqualification ~~must shall~~
 743 be indicated on the order of suspension, revocation, or
 744 disqualification, and the department shall require the licensee
 745 whose driving privilege is suspended, revoked, or disqualified
 746 to surrender all licenses then held by him or her to the
 747 department. However, ~~if should~~ the person ~~fails fail~~ to
 748 surrender such licenses, the suspension, revocation, or
 749 disqualification period ~~does shall~~ not expire until a period
 750 identical to the period for which the driving privilege was
 751 suspended, revoked, or disqualified has expired after the date
 752 of surrender of the licenses, or the date an affidavit swearing
 753 such licenses are lost has been filed with the department. In
 754 any instance where notice of the suspension, revocation, or

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disqualification order is given ~~mailed~~ as provided herein, and the license is not surrendered to the department, and such license thereafter expires, the department ~~may shall~~ not renew that license until a period of time identical to the period of such suspension, revocation, or disqualification imposed has expired.

(6) Whenever a cancellation, suspension, revocation, or disqualification occurs, the department shall enter the cancellation, suspension, revocation, or disqualification order on the licensee's driver file 20 days after e-mail notification or, if mailed, 20 days after the notice was actually placed in the mail. Any inquiry into the file after the 20-day period must ~~shall~~ reveal whether ~~that~~ the license is canceled, suspended, revoked, or disqualified and whether the license has been received by the department.

Section 24. Subsection (4) of section 322.2616, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.2616 Suspension of license; persons under 21 years of age; right to review.—

(4) If the department finds that the license of the person should be suspended under this section and if the notice of suspension has not already been served upon the person by a law enforcement officer or correctional officer as provided in subsection (2), the department must ~~shall~~ issue a notice of suspension and, unless the notice is provided ~~mailed~~ under s. 322.251, a temporary driving permit that expires 10 days after the date of issuance if the driver is otherwise eligible.

Section 25. Subsection (3) of section 322.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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322.64 Holder of commercial driver license; persons operating a commercial motor vehicle; driving with unlawful blood-alcohol level; refusal to submit to breath, urine, or blood test.—

(3) If the department determines that the person arrested should be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to this section and if the notice of disqualification has not already been served upon the person by a law enforcement officer or correctional officer as provided in subsection (1), the department must ~~shall~~ issue a notice of disqualification and, unless the notice is provided ~~mailed~~ pursuant to s. 322.251, a temporary permit which expires 10 days after the date of issuance if the driver is otherwise eligible.

Section 26. Subsection (1) of section 324.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

324.091 Notice to department; notice to insurer.—

(1) Each owner and operator involved in a crash or conviction case within the purview of this chapter shall furnish evidence of automobile liability insurance or motor vehicle liability insurance within 14 days after the date of providing ~~the mailing of~~ notice of crash by the department in the form and manner as it may designate. Upon receipt of evidence that an automobile liability policy or motor vehicle liability policy was in effect at the time of the crash or conviction case, the department shall forward to the insurer such information for verification in a method as determined by the department. The insurer shall respond to the department within 20 days after the notice whether or not such information is valid. If the department determines that an automobile liability policy or

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motor vehicle liability policy was not in effect and did not provide coverage for both the owner and the operator, it must ~~shall~~ take action as it is authorized to do under this chapter.

Section 27. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 324.171, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

324.171 Self-insurer.—

(1) Any person may qualify as a self-insurer by obtaining a certificate of self-insurance from the department which may, in its discretion and upon application of such a person, issue said certificate of self-insurance when such person has satisfied the requirements of this section to qualify as a self-insurer under this section:

(c) The owner of a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in ~~s. 207.002 or~~ s. 320.01, or a qualified motor vehicle, as defined in s. 207.002, may qualify as a self-insurer subject to the standards provided for in subparagraph (b)2.

Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 328.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

328.30 Transactions by electronic or telephonic means.—

(3) The department may collect e-mail ~~electronic mail~~ addresses and use e-mail ~~electronic mail~~ in lieu of the United States Postal Service as a method of notification for the purpose of providing renewal notices.

Section 29. Section 627.7415, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.7415 Commercial or qualified motor vehicles; additional liability insurance coverage.—Commercial motor vehicles, as defined in ~~s. 207.002 or~~ s. 320.01, and qualified motor vehicles, as defined in s. 207.002, operated upon the roads and

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highways of this state must ~~shall~~ be insured with the following minimum levels of combined bodily liability insurance and property damage liability insurance in addition to any other insurance requirements:

(1) Fifty thousand dollars per occurrence for a commercial motor vehicle or qualified motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or more, but less than 35,000 pounds.

(2) One hundred thousand dollars per occurrence for a commercial motor vehicle or qualified motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 35,000 pounds or more, but less than 44,000 pounds.

(3) Three hundred thousand dollars per occurrence for a commercial motor vehicle or qualified motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 44,000 pounds or more.

(4) All commercial motor vehicles and qualified motor vehicles subject to regulations of the United States Department of Transportation, 49 C.F.R. part 387, subparts A and B, and as may be hereinafter amended, must ~~shall~~ be insured in an amount equivalent to the minimum levels of financial responsibility as set forth in such regulations.

A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in chapter 318.

Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 316.545, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(4)

(b) In addition to the penalty provided for in paragraph

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871 (a), the vehicle may be detained until the owner or operator of
872 the vehicle furnishes evidence that the vehicle has been
873 properly registered pursuant to s. 207.004. Any officer of the
874 Florida Highway Patrol or agent of the Department of
875 Transportation may issue a temporary fuel-use ~~fuel-use~~ permit
876 and collect the appropriate fee as provided for in s. 207.004(5)
877 ~~s. 207.004(4)~~. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6),
878 all permit fees collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be
879 transferred to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
880 Vehicles to be allocated pursuant to s. 207.026.

881 Section 31. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
882 319.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

883 319.35 Unlawful acts in connection with motor vehicle
884 odometer readings; penalties.—

885 (1)

886 (b) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly provide
887 false information on the odometer readings required pursuant to
888 ss. 319.23(3) and 320.02(2)(d) ~~ss. 319.23(3) and 320.02(2)(b)~~.

889 Section 32. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 490

INTRODUCER: Senator Massullo

SUBJECT: Public Records/E-mail Addresses/DHSMV

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. Shutes | Vickers | TR | Pre-Meeting |
| 2. _____ | _____ | ATD | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | FP | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 490 expands the exemption from public records for email addresses collected by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to include email addresses to be used as a method of general notification to customers. The bill also creates a public record exemption for email addresses collected by the DHSMV and used for purposes of renewal notices for vessel titles and liens.

A public necessity statement is included in the bill as required by the Florida Constitution.

The bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and the new exemption will be repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

Because this bill creates a new public records exemption, a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in each chamber of the Legislature is required for passage.

The bill takes effect on the same date that SB 488 or similar legislation takes effect (July 1, 2026), if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state resources or expenditures. ***See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.***

II. Present Situation:

Access to Public Records - Generally

The Florida Constitution provides that the public has the right to inspect or copy records made or received in connection with official governmental business.¹ The right to inspect or copy applies to the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, including all three branches of state government, local governmental entities, and any person acting on behalf of the government.²

Additional requirements and exemptions related to public records are found in various statutes and rules, depending on the branch of government involved. For instance, s. 11.0431, F.S., provides public access requirements for legislative records. Relevant exemptions are codified in s. 11.0431(2)-(3), F.S., and the statutory provisions are adopted in the rules of each chamber of the legislature.³ Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420 governs public access to judicial branch records.⁴ Lastly, ch. 119, F.S., provides requirements for public records held by executive agencies.

Executive Agency Records – The Public Records Act

Chapter 119, F.S., known as the Public Records Act, provides that all state, county, and municipal records are open for personal inspection and copying by any person, and that providing access to public records is a duty of each agency.⁵

A public record includes virtually any document or recording, regardless of its physical form or how it may be transmitted.⁶ The Florida Supreme Court has interpreted the statutory definition of “public record” to include “material prepared in connection with official agency business which is intended to perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge of some type.”⁷

The Florida Statutes specify conditions under which public access to public records must be provided. The Public Records Act guarantees every person’s right to inspect and copy any public record at any reasonable time, under reasonable conditions, and under supervision by the

¹ FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(a).

² *Id.*

³ See Rule 1.48, *Rules and Manual of the Florida Senate* (2020-2022) and Rule 14.1, *Rules of the Florida House of Representatives* (2020-2022)

⁴ *State v. Wooten*, 260 So. 3d 1060 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018).

⁵ Section 119.01(1), F.S. Section 119.011(2), F.S., defines “agency” as “any state, county, district, authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law including, for the purposes of this chapter, the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency.”

⁶ Section 119.011(12), F.S., defines “public record” to mean “all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.”

⁷ *Shevin v. Byron, Harless, Schaffer, Reid, and Assoc., Inc.*, 379 So. 2d 633, 640 (Fla. 1980).

custodian of the public record.⁸ A violation of the Public Records Act may result in civil or criminal liability.⁹

The Legislature may exempt public records from public access requirements by passing a general law by a two-thirds vote of both the House and the Senate.¹⁰ The exemption must state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and must be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the exemption.¹¹

General exemptions from the public records requirements are contained in the Public Records Act.¹² Specific exemptions often are placed in the substantive statutes relating to a particular agency or program.¹³

When creating a public records exemption, the Legislature may provide that a record is “exempt” or “confidential and exempt.” Custodians of records designated as “exempt” are not prohibited from disclosing the record; rather, the exemption means that the custodian cannot be compelled to disclose the record.¹⁴ Custodians of records designated as “confidential and exempt” may not disclose the record except under circumstances specifically defined by the Legislature.¹⁵

Open Government Sunset Review Act

The Open Government Sunset Review Act¹⁶ (the Act) prescribes a legislative review process for newly created or substantially amended¹⁷ public records or open meetings exemptions, with specified exceptions.¹⁸ It requires the automatic repeal of such exemption on October 2nd of the fifth year after creation or substantial amendment, unless the Legislature reenacts the exemption.¹⁹

The Act provides that a public records or open meetings exemption may be created or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose and is no broader than is necessary.²⁰

⁸ Section 119.07(1)(a), F.S.

⁹ Section 119.10, F.S. Public records laws are found throughout the Florida Statutes, as are the penalties for violating those laws.

¹⁰ FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(c).

¹¹ *Id. See, e.g., Halifax Hosp. Medical Center v. News-Journal Corp.*, 724 So. 2d 567 (Fla. 1999) (holding that a public meetings exemption was unconstitutional because the statement of public necessity did not define important terms and did not justify the breadth of the exemption); *Baker County Press, Inc. v. Baker County Medical Services, Inc.*, 870 So. 2d 189 (Fla. 1st DCA 2004) (holding that a statutory provision written to bring another party within an existing public records exemption is unconstitutional without a public necessity statement).

¹² *See, e.g., s. 119.071(1)(a), F.S.* (exempting from public disclosure examination questions and answer sheets of examinations administered by a governmental agency for the purpose of licensure).

¹³ *See, e.g., s. 213.053(2)(a), F.S.* (exempting from public disclosure information contained in tax returns received by the Department of Revenue).

¹⁴ *See Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So. 2d 683, 687 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991).

¹⁵ *WFTV, Inc. v. The School Board of Seminole*, 874 So. 2d 48 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004).

¹⁶ Section 119.15, F.S.

¹⁷ An exemption is considered to be substantially amended if it is expanded to include more records or information or to include meetings as well as records. Section 119.15(4)(b), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 119.15(2)(a) and (b), F.S., provide that exemptions that are required by federal law or are applicable solely to the Legislature or the State Court System are not subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

¹⁹ Section 119.15(3), F.S.

²⁰ Section 119.15(6)(b), F.S.

An exemption serves an identifiable purpose if it meets one of the following purposes *and* the Legislature finds that the purpose of the exemption outweighs open government policy and cannot be accomplished without the exemption:

- It allows the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, and administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption;²¹
- It protects sensitive, personal information, the release of which would be defamatory, cause unwarranted damage to the good name or reputation of the individual, or would jeopardize the individual's safety. If this public purpose is cited as the basis of an exemption, however, only personal identifying information is exempt;²² or
- It protects information of a confidential nature concerning entities, such as trade or business secrets.²³

The Act also requires specified questions to be considered during the review process.²⁴ In examining an exemption, the Act directs the Legislature to carefully question the purpose and necessity of the exemption.

If the exemption is continued and expanded, then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are required.²⁵ If the exemption is continued without substantive changes or if the exemption is continued and narrowed, then a public necessity statement and a two-thirds vote for passage are *not* required. If the Legislature allows an exemption to sunset, the previously exempt records will remain exempt unless provided for by law.²⁶

Existing Public Record Exemptions for DHSMV-Related Email Addresses

Section 119.0712(2)(c), F.S., provides that email addresses collected by DHSMV pursuant to specified provisions of law are exempt from public disclosure. Specifically, email addresses associated with the following types of transactions are exempt:

- Motor vehicle title notifications.²⁷
- Motor vehicle registration renewals.²⁸
- Driver license renewal notices.²⁹

²¹ Section 119.15(6)(b)1., F.S.

²² Section 119.15(6)(b)2., F.S.

²³ Section 119.15(6)(b)3., F.S.

²⁴ Section 119.15(6)(a), F.S. The specified questions are:

- What specific records or meetings are affected by the exemption?
- Whom does the exemption uniquely affect, as opposed to the general public?
- What is the identifiable public purpose or goal of the exemption?
- Can the information contained in the records or discussed in the meeting be readily obtained by alternative means? If so, how?
- Is the record or meeting protected by another exemption?
- Are there multiple exemptions for the same type of record or meeting that it would be appropriate to merge?

²⁵ See generally s. 119.15, F.S.

²⁶ Section 119.15(7), F.S.

²⁷ Section 319.40(3), F.S.

²⁸ Section 320.95(2), F.S.

²⁹ Section 322.08(10), F.S.

SB 488 – Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

SB 488 expands the circumstances in which email may be used in lieu of the United States Postal Service (currently limited to certain renewal notices) by authorizing email to be used as method of notification for various notices and orders issued by DHSMV, including but not limited to, notices and orders related to driver licenses, identification cards, motor vehicle registrations, motor vehicle insurance and vessel titles.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 119.0712, F.S., to expand the exemption from public records for email addresses collected by DHSMV to include email addresses to be used as a method of general notification, and not just renewal notices. The bill also creates a public records exemption for email addresses collected by DHSMV and used for the purpose of providing renewal notices for vessel titles.

The bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and the exemptions will be repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature. Because this bill creates a new public records exemption, a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in each chamber of the Legislature is required for passage.

The bill contains a public necessity statement as required by the Florida Constitution. It provides that the Legislature finds that:

- It is a public necessity that e-mail addresses collected by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for the use of e-mail in lieu of the United States Postal Service as a method of notification be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Sections 320.95(2) and 322.08(10), Florida Statutes, authorize the department to collect e-mail addresses and use e-mail in lieu of the United States Postal Service to provide renewal notices related to motor vehicle license plates, driver licenses, and identification cards. The department is also authorized to collect e-mail addresses and use e-mail to provide renewal notices related to vessel registrations pursuant to s. 328.30(3), Florida Statutes.
- SB 488 expands the circumstances in which e-mail may be used in lieu of the United States Postal Service by authorizing e-mail to be used as a method of general notification for various notices and orders issued by the department in addition to renewal notices, including, but not limited to, notices related to driver licenses, identification cards, motor vehicle registrations, vessel registrations, and orders to revoke, cancel, or suspend driver licenses.
- The department's use of e-mail as a method for corresponding with customers has steadily increased in recent decades. E-mail addresses are unique to each individual and, when combined with other personal identifying information, can be used for identity theft, consumer scams, unwanted solicitations, or other invasive contacts. The public availability of personal e-mail addresses puts the department's customers at increased risk of these problems. Such risks may be significantly limited by permitting the department to keep customer e-mail addresses exempt. The Legislature finds that these risks to consumers outweigh the state's public policy favoring open government.

The bill is effective on the same date that SB 488 or similar legislation takes effect (July 1, 2026), if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable. The bill does not require counties or municipalities to take action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

Vote Requirement

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting for final passage of a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records requirements. This bill expands the exemption from public records for email addresses collected by DHSMV for providing renewal notices to include email addresses to be used as a method of general notification. The bill also creates a public records exemption for email addresses collected by DHSMV and used for the purpose of providing renewal notices for vessel titles. Thus, the bill requires a two-thirds vote to be enacted.

Public Necessity Statement

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records requirements to state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption. Section 2 of the bill contains a statement of public necessity for the exemption.

Breadth of Exemption

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires an exemption to the public records requirements to be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law.

The purpose of the law is to protect email addresses held by the DHSMV for purposes of providing various general notifications, notices, orders and instructions to customers. This bill exempts only that specific information. The exemption does not appear to be broader than necessary to accomplish the purpose of the law.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

Not applicable.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 119.0712 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Massullo

39-00993-26

2026490

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; amending s.
 3 119.0712, F.S.; expanding an exemption from public
 4 records requirements for e-mail addresses collected by
 5 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 6 for providing renewal notices to include e-mail
 7 addresses collected for use as a method of
 8 notification generally and not only for the purpose of
 9 providing renewal notices; expanding the exemption to
 10 include e-mail addresses collected for use as a method
 11 of notification related to vessel registrations;
 12 providing retroactive applicability; providing for
 13 future legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
 14 providing a statement of public necessity; providing a
 15 contingent effective date.
 16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 18
 19 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
 20 119.0712, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 21 119.0712 Executive branch agency-specific exemptions from
 22 inspection or copying of public records.—
 23 (2) DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES.—
 24 (c) E-mail addresses collected by the Department of Highway
 25 Safety and Motor Vehicles pursuant to s. 319.40(3), s.
 26 320.95(2), ~~s. 322.08(10)~~, or s. 328.30 are exempt from s.
 27 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This
 28 exemption applies retroactively. This paragraph is subject to
 29 the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s.

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2026490

30 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless
 31 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
 32 Legislature.
 33 Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public
 34 necessity that e-mail addresses collected by the Department of
 35 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for the use of e-mail in lieu
 36 of the United States Postal Service as a method of notification
 37 be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s.
 38 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Sections 320.95(2)
 39 and 322.08(10), Florida Statutes, authorize the department to
 40 collect e-mail addresses and use e-mail in lieu of the United
 41 States Postal Service to provide renewal notices related to
 42 motor vehicle license plates, driver licenses, and
 43 identification cards. The department is also authorized to
 44 collect e-mail addresses and use e-mail to provide renewal
 45 notices related to vessel registrations pursuant to s.
 46 328.30(3), Florida Statutes. SB 488 expands the circumstances in
 47 which e-mail may be used in lieu of the United States Postal
 48 Service by authorizing e-mail to be used as a method of
 49 notification for various notices and orders issued by the
 50 department in addition to renewal notices, including, but not
 51 limited to, notices related to driver licenses, identification
 52 cards, motor vehicle registrations, vessel registrations, and
 53 orders to revoke, cancel, or suspend driver licenses. The
 54 department's use of e-mail as a method for corresponding with
 55 customers has steadily increased in recent decades. E-mail
 56 addresses are unique to each individual and, when combined with
 57 other personal identifying information, can be used for identity
 58 theft, consumer scams, unwanted solicitations, or other invasive

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2026490

59 contacts. The public availability of personal e-mail addresses
60 puts the department's customers at increased risk of these
61 problems. Such risks may be significantly limited by permitting
62 the department to keep customer e-mail addresses exempt. The
63 Legislature finds that these risks to consumers outweigh the
64 state's public policy favoring open government.

65 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that
66 SB 488 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation
67 is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension
68 thereof and becomes a law.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 584

INTRODUCER: Senator Avila

SUBJECT: Commercial Driving Schools

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. Johnson | Vickers | TR | Pre-meeting |
| 2. _____ | _____ | ATD | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | FP | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 584 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and county tax collectors to enter into interagency agreements authorizing county tax collectors to enforce statutory provisions related to commercial driving schools. The interagency agreement may include, but is not limited to, grants of authority to the county tax collector, or his or her agent, to do any of the following:

- Prohibit licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, from entering upon the tax collector's premises except under specified circumstances.
- Prohibit conduct by licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit.
- Prohibit any transaction, practice, or course of business related to a commercial driving school which undermines the driver license issuance process.
- Require persons licensed to operate commercial driving schools, and their agents, to present certain documents upon the demand of a law enforcement officer, a DHSMV employee, or an employee of the tax collector.
- Enter the premises of a commercial driving school to ensure compliance with laws regulating commercial driving schools.

DHSMV may experience a reduction in costs associated with entering into these interagency agreements. County tax collectors entering into such agreements may incur indeterminate costs associated with enforcing commercial driving school regulations. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement for details.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Commercial Driving Schools

Commercial driving schools provide education about driving skills, traffic laws, road safety, and substance abuse. Commercial driving schools also teach behind-the-wheel skills for driving non-commercial vehicles to prepare drivers to take the Class E skills test.^{1, 2}

Except for truck driving schools,³ the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) oversees and licenses all commercial driving schools. A person or other entity may not operate a commercial driving school without first obtaining a license from DHSMV.⁴

An application for a license to become a commercial driving school is submitted to DHSMV. If DHSMV approves the application, and the license fee is paid, DHSMV issues the appropriate license. A license for a commercial driving school is valid for one year from the date of issuance and is not transferable.⁵

Commercial Driving School Instructors and Agents

A person may not be compensated for giving instructions on operating motor vehicles or act as a driving school instructor without first obtaining an instructor's certificate from DHSMV.⁶ An instructor's certificate is only valid in connection with the driving school or schools listed on the certificate or in connection with a driver education course offered by a district school board.⁷

Agents of Commercial Driving Schools – Identification Cards

A person may not serve as of an agent for a commercial driving school without first obtaining an agent identification card from DHSMV. An agent identification card is only valid in connection with the commercial driving school or schools listed on the card.⁸

Certification of Motor Vehicles Used by Commercial Driving Schools

A motor vehicle owned or controlled by a commercial driving school may not be used to give driving instructions until the licensee has obtained a school vehicle identification certificate from DHSMV. Such vehicles must also meet DHSMV's safety requirements.⁹

¹ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), *Commercial Driving School Overview*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/education-courses/commercial-driving-schools/> (last visited January 5, 2026).

² A Class E driver license authorizes a person to drive non-commercial vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of less than 26,001 pounds. DHSMV, *Driver License & ID Cards, General Information*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/general-information/> (last visited January 5, 2026).

³ Truck driving schools are licensed by the Commission for Independent Education pursuant to ch. 1005, F.S.

⁴ Section 488.01, F.S. Section 488.02, F.S., provides DHSMV's rulemaking authority regarding commercial driving schools.

⁵ Section 488.03, F.S.

⁶ Section 488.04(1), F.S.

⁷ *Id.* An applicant for an instructor's certificate must take special eye tests, written tests, and road tests and provides DHSMV proof of his or her qualifications and ability as a driving instructor.

⁸ Section 488.045, F.S.

⁹ Section 488.05, F.S. Vehicle requirements for commercial driving schools are codified in Rule 15A-11.010(1), F.A.C.

Revocation or Suspension of License or Certificate Related to Commercial Driving Schools

DHSMV may suspend or revoke any license or certificate related to commercial driving schools, if the holder of the license or certificate or an instructor, agent, or employee of the commercial driving school has:

- Violated statutory provisions relating to commercial driving schools;
- Been convicted of, pled no contest to, or had adjudication withheld for any felony offense or misdemeanor offense, as shown by a fingerprint-based criminal background check;¹⁰
- Committed any fraud or willful misrepresentation in applying for or obtaining a license; or
- Solicited business on any premises, including parking areas, used by DHSMV or a tax collector for the purpose of licensing drivers.¹¹

Commercial Driving School Fees and Distribution

All fees DHSMV receives related to commercial driving schools are deposited in the General Revenue Fund.¹² The statutory fees are as follows:

- Commercial Driving School Fees:
 - License application fee - \$50
 - Initial license fee - \$200
 - Annual license renewal fee - \$100
- Instructor or Agent Fees:
 - Instructor or agent application fee - \$25
 - Annual instructor or agent renewal fee - \$10
 - Duplicate instructor certificate fee - \$2
- Vehicle-Related Fees:
 - Vehicle identification certificate application fee - \$15
 - Annual vehicle renewal fee - \$10¹³

Penalties

A violation related to commercial driving or any of its implementing rules or regulations¹⁴ is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year¹⁵ or a fine of up to \$1,000.^{16, 17}

Application for a Class E Driver License

Florida law requires DHSMV to examine every applicant for a driver's license. For a Class E driver license, the examination must include:

- A test of the applicant's eyesight;
- A test of the applicant's hearing;

¹⁰ The cost of the criminal background check borne by the applicant, instructor, agent, or employee.

¹¹ Section 488.06, F.S.

¹² Section 488.08, F.S.

¹³ These fees are codified in various provision of ch. 488, F.S.

¹⁴ DHSMV's rules for driver training schools are codified in ch. 15A-11, F.A.C.

¹⁵ Section 775.082(4)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 775.083(1)(d), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 488.07, F.S.

- A test of the applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his or her knowledge of the traffic laws of this state; and
- An actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle.¹⁸

Duties of County Tax Collectors

Among their statutorily prescribed duties, county tax collectors serve as DHSMV's agents for purposes of motor vehicle and vessel registrations and title applications and for this issuance of driver licenses. County tax collectors are funded from fees or commissions from services rendered.¹⁹ For example, the county tax collector charges a \$6.25 service fee for providing driver license and identification card services.²⁰

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates s. 488.09, F.S., authorizing DHSMV to enter into interagency agreements with county tax collectors regarding the enforcement of statutory provisions related to commercial driving school. Such agreements will allow county tax collectors to enforce statutes related to commercial driving schools.

The interagency agreement may include, but is not limited to, grants of authority to the county tax collector, or his or her agent, to do any of the following:

- Prohibit licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, from entering upon the tax collector's premises, including its parking areas, unless such licensees and agents are seeking tax collector services in their personal capacities.
- Prohibit any course of conduct by licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person, DHSMV, or the tax collector.
- Prohibit any transaction, practice, or course of business related to a commercial driving school which undermines the integrity of the driver license issuance process.
- Require persons licensed to operate commercial driving schools, and their agents, to present their licenses, agent identification cards, and certificates upon the demand of a law enforcement officer, a DHSMV employee, or an employee of the tax collector.
- Enter the premises of a commercial driving school to ensure compliance with state and local laws regulating commercial driving schools.

Section 2 provides that this bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

¹⁸ Section 322.12(3), F.S. Beginning July 1, 2026, an applicant who is found to have cheated during, or to have otherwise circumvented, any portion of the examination must retake the examination. See s. 7 of 2025-125, Laws of Fla.

¹⁹ Alachua County Tax Collector, *Tax Collector Duties and Responsibilities*, <https://www.alachuacollector.com/tax-collector-duties-and-responsibilities/#:~:text=The%20Tax%20Collector%20is%20responsible.and%20tangible%20personal%20property%20taxes>. (Last visited January 5, 2026). Section 322.135, F.S., provides that tax collectors are DHSMV's agents for the purpose of issuing driver license.

²⁰ Section 322.135(1)(a), F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

DSHSMV may experience a reduction in costs associated with enforcing commercial driving school regulation; however, this reduction may be dependent upon how many interagency agreements it enters into, and the number of commercial driving schools impacted by such agreements.

County tax collectors that enter into interagency agreements with DHSMV may incur indeterminate cost associated with enforcing regulations related to commercial driving schools.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 488.09 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Avila

39-00544-26

2026584__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to commercial driving schools; creating s. 488.09, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to enter into interagency agreements with tax collectors for a specified purpose; specifying that such an interagency agreement is a delegation of authority of the department to the tax collector; providing that such an interagency agreement may include, but need not be limited to, certain grants of authority; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 488.09, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

488.09 Interagency agreements with tax collectors.—The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may enter into interagency agreements with tax collectors authorizing such tax collectors to enforce this chapter. An interagency agreement entered into under this section is a delegation of the authority of the department to the tax collector. Such an interagency agreement may include, but need not be limited to, grants of authority to the tax collector, or his or her agent, to do any of the following:

(1) Prohibit licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, from entering upon the tax collector's premises, including its parking areas, unless such licensees and agents are seeking tax collector services in their

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2026584__

personal capacities.

(2) Prohibit any course of conduct by licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon a person, the department, or the tax collector.

(3) Prohibit any transaction, practice, or course of business related to a commercial driving school which undermines the integrity of the driver license issuance process.

(4) Require persons licensed to operate commercial driving schools, and their agents, to present pertinent licenses, agent identification cards, and certificates issued under this chapter upon demand of a law enforcement officer, a department employee, or an employee of the tax collector.

(5) Enter the premises where a commercial driving school is located to ensure compliance with state and local laws regulating the business of commercial driving schools.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 628

INTRODUCER: Senator Gaetz

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations/Warrior Sacrifice Way

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Johnson | Vickers | TR | Pre-meeting |
| 2. | | | ATD | |
| 3. | | | FP | |

I. Summary:

SB 628 designates that portion of S.R. 295/Navy Boulevard between Duncan Road and S.R. 292/Gulf Beach Highway in Escambia County as “Warrior Sacrifice Way” and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

FDOT estimates its cost to install the designation markers is \$2,400. See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement below for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Section 334.071, F.S., provides that legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Such designations may not be construed as requiring any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes.¹

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility.²

FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated

¹ Section 334.071(1), F.S.

² Section 334.071(2), F.S.

road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, each affected local government must pass resolutions supporting the designations before the installation of the markers.³

Warrior Sacrifice Way

Warrior Sacrifice Way honors the victims of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola on December 6, 2019, where three men were killed and eight others were injured.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates an undesignated section of Florida law designating that portion of S.R. 295/Navy Boulevard between Duncan Road and S.R. 292/Gulf Beach Highway in Escambia County as “Warrior Sacrifice Way” and directs FDOT to erect suitable markers.

Section 2 provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

³ Section 334.071(3), F.S.

⁴ NBC News, *Suspected shooter at Naval Air Station Pensacola was Saudi Air Force member*, December 6, 2019, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/active-shooter-reported-naval-air-station-pensacola-n1096966> (last visited January 5, 2026).

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

FDOT estimates that its cost to erect the designation markers required by this bill to be \$2,400. This assumes that a minimum of two markers are required at FDOT's cost of no less than \$1,200 each.⁵ This estimate includes labor, materials, manufacturing, and installation. FDOT expects to absorb this cost within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁵ Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Transportation, RE. Transportation Facility Designation Costs, December 9, 2024. (On file with Senate Committee on Transportation). Confirmed by an email from Jack Rogers, RE SB 174 – Charlie Kirk Designation, October 22, 2025. (On file with Senate Committee on Transportation).

By Senator Gaetz

1-01092-26

2026628__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transportation facility designations; providing an honorary designation of a certain transportation facility in a specified county; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Warrior Sacrifice Way designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.-

(1) That portion of S.R. 295/Navy Boulevard between Duncan Road and S.R. 292/Gulf Beach Highway in Escambia County is designated as "Warrior Sacrifice Way."

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating Warrior Sacrifice Way as described in subsection (1).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.