

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Smith

306-1878-03

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s. 316.251, F.S.; providing a definition; applying bumper height restrictions to vehicles weighing up to 10,000 pounds; amending s. 322.54, F.S.; providing an exception to driver's license requirements or operators of certain trucks and tractor trailers; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 316.251, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (2), (3), (4), respectively, a new subsection (1) is added to that section, and the redesignated subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

316.251 Maximum bumper heights.--

(1) For the purposes of this section, "bumper" means a device or attachment on a vehicle for absorbing shock and lessening or preventing damage in collision or impact with another object, such as a metal bar or bars attached to either end of the vehicle to prevent damage to the body.

(2)~~(1)~~ Every motor vehicle of net shipping weight of not more than 10,000 ~~5,000~~ pounds shall be equipped with a front and a rear bumper such that when measured from the ground to the bottom of the bumper the maximum height shall be as follows:

NET WEIGHT	FRONT	REAR
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Automobiles for private use:

1	Net weight of less than 2,500 pounds	22"	22"
2	Net weight of 2,500 pounds or more,		
3	but less than 3,500 pounds	24"	26"
4	Net weight of 3,500 pounds or more <u>but less than 5,000</u>		
5	<u>pounds</u>	27"	29"
6	<u>Net weight of 5,000 pounds or more but less than 10,000</u>		
7	<u>pounds</u>	28"	30"
8	Trucks:		
9	Net weight of less than 2,000 pounds	24"	26"
10	Net weight of 2,000 or more,		
11	but not more than 3,000 pounds	27"	29"
12	Net weight of 3,000 pounds,		
13	but not more than <u>10,000</u> <del>5,000</del> pounds	28"	30"
14	Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section		
15	322.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:		
16	322.54 Classification.--		
17	(2) The department shall issue, pursuant to the		
18	requirements of this chapter, drivers' licenses in accordance		
19	with the following classifications:		
20	(d) Any person, except a person who possesses a valid		
21	Class A, valid Class B, or valid Class C driver's license, who		
22	drives a truck or a truck tractor having a gross vehicle		
23	weight rating, a declared weight, or an actual weight,		
24	whichever is greatest, of 8,000 pounds or more but less than		
25	26,001 pounds, or which has a width of more than 80 inches		
26	must possess a valid Class D driver's license, <u>except that a</u>		
27	<u>person may operate a vehicle registered for private use under</u>		
28	<u>s. 320.08(2) with a valid Class E license.</u> Any person who		
29	possesses a valid Class D driver's license may, subject to the		
30	appropriate restrictions and endorsements, drive any type of		
31	motor vehicle, other than the type of motor vehicle for which		

1 a Class A, Class B, or Class C driver's license is required,  
2 within this state.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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5 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
7 Senate Bill 300

8 The CS amends s. 316.251, F.S., providing any passenger  
9 vehicle weighing between 5,000 and 10,000 pounds and any truck  
10 weighing between 3,000 and 10,000 pounds, must comply with  
11 maximum bumper height requirements of 28 inches in the front  
12 and 30 inches in the back. The CS further provides a  
13 definition for the word "bumper".  
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