

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to high occupancy vehicle  
3           lanes; amending s. 316.0741, F.S.; allowing  
4           certain energy-saving vehicles to travel in  
5           such lanes, regardless of occupancy; providing  
6           for a decal and registration certificate;  
7           providing for a fee; defining the term "hybrid  
8           vehicle"; providing rulemaking authority;  
9           providing an effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Subsections (4), and (5), and 6 are added  
14 to section 316.0741, Florida Statutes, to read:

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16           316.0741 High occupancy vehicle lanes.--

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18           (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
19 section, an inherently low-emission vehicle (ILEV) that is  
20 certified and labeled in accordance with federal regulations  
21 may be driven in an HOV lane at any time, regardless of its  
22 occupancy. In addition, upon the state's receipt of written  
23 notice from the proper federal regulatory agency authorizing  
24 such use, a vehicle defined as a hybrid vehicle under this  
25 section may be driven in an HOV lane at any time, regardless  
26 of its occupancy. The department shall issue a decal and  
27 registration certificate, to be renewed annually, reflecting  
28 the HOV lane designation on such vehicles authorizing such  
29 use. The department may charge a fee for a decal, not to  
30 exceed the costs of designing, producing, and distributing  
31 each decal, or \$5, whichever is less. The proceeds from sale  
of the decals shall be deposited in the Highway Safety  
Operating Trust Fund.

1           (5) As used in this section, the term "hybrid vehicle"  
2 means a motor vehicle:

3           (a) That draws propulsion energy from onboard sources  
4 of stored energy which are both:

5           1. An internal combustion or heat engine using  
6 combustible fuel; and

7           2. A rechargeable energy storage system; and

8           (b) That, in the case of a passenger automobile or  
9 light truck:

10           1. Has received a certificate of conformity under the  
11 Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.; and

12           2. Meets or exceeds the equivalent qualifying  
13 California standards for a low-emission vehicle.

14           (6) The department may adopt rules necessary to  
15 administer this section.

16           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.