HB 0609 2005

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to traffic safety; amending s. 316.2015, F.S.; removing an exception to prohibition of persons riding on the exterior of a passenger vehicle; revising exceptions to prohibition of persons riding on any vehicle on an area of the vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers; prohibiting operator from allowing certain minors to ride within the open body of a pickup truck or flatbed truck; providing exceptions; providing penalties; amending s. 316.008, F.S.; providing for counties and municipalities to allow, by ordinance, for persons to ride on the bed of a pickup truck or flatbed truck; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 316.2015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.2015 Unlawful for person to ride on exterior of vehicle.--

(1) It is unlawful for any operator of a passenger vehicle to permit any person to ride on the bumper, radiator, fender, hood, top, trunk, or running board of such vehicle when operated upon any street or highway which is maintained by the state, a county, or a municipality. However, the operator of any vehicle shall not be in violation of this section when such operator permits any person to occupy seats securely affixed to the exterior of such vehicle. Any person who violates the provisions

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of this subsection shall be cited for a moving violation, punishable as provided in chapter 318.

- (2)(a) No person shall ride on any vehicle upon any portion thereof not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This paragraph shall not apply to an employee of a fire department, an employee of a governmentally operated solid waste disposal department or a waste disposal service operating pursuant to a contract with a governmental entity, or to a volunteer firefighter when the employee or firefighter is engaged in the necessary discharge of a duty and shall not apply to a person who is being transported in response to an emergency by a public agency or pursuant to the direction or authority of a public agency This provision shall not apply to an employee engaged in the necessary discharge of a duty or to a person or persons riding within truck bodies in space intended for merchandise.
- (b) It is unlawful for any operator of a pickup truck or flatbed truck to permit a minor child who has not attained 18 years of age to ride upon the public roads of the state within the open body of the pickup truck or flatbed truck unless the minor is restrained within the open body in the back of a truck which has been modified to include secure seating and safety restraints which would prevent the minor from being thrown, falling, or jumping from the truck. This paragraph shall not apply in a medical emergency if the child is accompanied within the truck by an adult and shall not apply when the truck is being operated on a farm or off the public roads of the state.

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- (3) This section shall not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or person participating in an exhibition or parade, or any such person preparing to participate in such exhibitions or parades.
- Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 316.008, Florida Statutes, to read:
 - 316.008 Powers of local authorities. --

- (7) A county or municipality may adopt an ordinance that authorizes persons to ride on the bed of a pickup truck or flatbed truck, notwithstanding the prohibition contained in s. 316.2015.
- Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.