

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Floor: WD/2R 04/30/2009 05:02 PM

Senator Constantine moved the following:

Senate Amendment to Amendment (728458) (with title amendment)

Delete line 1311

and insert:

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Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 30.231, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 30.231 Sheriffs' fees for service of summons, subpoenas, and executions.-
- (2) For levying on property and for the seizure of persons, the sheriff shall be allowed anticipated expenses necessary for the execution of the process directing such levy or seizure and

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for the safekeeping of property and persons in the custody of the sheriff. A reasonable cost deposit to cover said fees and expenses in connection with the requested services shall be deposited in advance, by the party requesting the service, with the officer requested to perform the service. If the sheriff is required to expedite execution of a writ of replevin pursuant to s. 30.30, the sheriff may recover additional expenses, including payment of off-duty deputy sheriffs, to expedite execution of the writ of replevin.

Section 28. Subsection (1) of section 30.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 30.30 Writs, process; duties and liabilities in levying.-
- (1) Whenever any writ $_{T}$ issuing out of any court of this state is, shall be delivered to a sheriff, commanding the sheriff to levy upon property specifically described therein, it shall be his or her duty to levy upon such property. If a party to whom a writ of replevin has been issued requests expedited service of the writ because the writ is upon property that includes motor vehicles, the sheriff shall expedite service no later than 3 days after such request, subject to payment of the additional expenses allowed by s. 30.231(2). If no property is specifically described in the writ, the sheriff he or she shall levy upon:
- (a) Any property in the possession of the defendant which is described in instructions for levy; and
- (b) Upon any property assessed against the defendant on the current tax rolls of the county or registered in his or her name under any law of the United States or of the state, upon the request of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney listing

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such property in an instructions for levy. The instructions for levy shall state the balance due on such writ.

Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 78.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

78.065 Order to show cause; contents.

(1) The court without delay shall examine the complaint filed; and, if on the basis of the complaint and further showing of the plaintiff in support of it the court finds that the defendant has waived in accordance with s. 78.075 his or her right to be notified and heard, the court shall promptly issue an order authorizing the clerk of the court to issue a writ of replevin. The court shall advance the cause on the calendar.

Section 30. Subsection (1) of section 78.068, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

78.068 Prejudgment writ of replevin.-

(1) A prejudgment writ of replevin may be issued and the property seized delivered forthwith to the petitioners when the nature of the claim and the amount thereof, if any, and the grounds relied upon for the issuance of the writ clearly appear from specific facts shown by the verified petition or by separate affidavit of the petitioner. The court shall advance the cause on the calendar.

Section 31. Subsection (17) is added to section 320.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.02 Registration required; application for registration; forms.-

(17) If any applicant's name appears on a list of persons who may not be issued a license plate, revalidation sticker, or replacement license plate after a written notice to surrender a

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vehicle was submitted to the department by a lienor as provided in s. 320.1316, the department may withhold renewal of registration or replacement registration of any motor vehicle owned by the applicant at the time the notice was submitted by the lienor. The lienor must maintain proof that written notice to surrender the vehicle was sent to each registered owner pursuant to s. 320.1316(1). A revalidation sticker or replacement license plate may not be issued until that person's name no longer appears on the list or until the person presents documentation from the lienor that the vehicle has been surrendered to the lienor. The department shall not withhold an initial registration in connection with an applicant's purchase or lease of a motor vehicle solely because the applicant's name is on the list created by s. 320.1316.

Section 32. Subsection (10) is added to section 320.03, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.03 Registration; duties of tax collectors; International Registration Plan. -

(10) Jurisdiction over the outsourced electronic filing system for use by licensed motor vehicle dealers electronically to title and to register motor vehicles and to issue or to transfer registration license plates or decals is expressly preempted to the state. The department shall continue its current outsourcing of the existing electronic filing system, including its program standards. The electronic filing system is approved for use in all counties, shall apply uniformly to all tax collectors of the state, and no tax collector may add or detract from the program standards in his or her respective county. A motor vehicle dealer licensed under this chapter may

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charge a fee to the customer for use of the electronic filing system and such fee is not a component of the program standards. Final authority over disputes relating to program standards lies with the department. By January 1, 2010, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, with input from the department and from affected parties, including tax collectors, service providers, and motor vehicle dealers, shall report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status of the outsourced electronic filing system, including the program standards, and its compliance with this subsection. The report shall identify all public and private alternatives for continued operation of the electronic filing system and shall include any and all appropriate recommendations, including revisions to the program standards.

Section 33. Section 320.1316, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

320.1316 Failure to surrender vehicle or vessel.-

(1) Upon receipt from a lienor who claims a lien on a vehicle pursuant to s. 319.27 by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of written notice to surrender a vehicle or vessel that has been disposed of, concealed, removed, or destroyed by the lienee, the department shall place the name of the registered owner of that vehicle on the list of those persons who may not be issued a license plate, revalidation sticker, or replacement license plate for any motor vehicle under s. 320.03(8) owned by the lienee at the time the notice was given by the lienor. If the vehicle is owned jointly by more than one person, the name of each registered owner shall be



placed on the list.

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- (2) The notice to surrender the vehicle shall be submitted on forms developed by the department, which must include:
 - (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the lienor.
- (b) The name of the registered owner of the vehicle and the address to which the lienor provided notice to surrender the vehicle to the registered owner.
- (c) A general description of the vehicle, including its color, make, model, body style, and year.
- (d) The vehicle identification number, registration license plate number, if known, or other identification number, as applicable.
- (3) The registered owner of the vehicle may dispute a notice to surrender the vehicle by notifying the department of the dispute in writing on forms provided by the department and presenting proof that the vehicle was sold to a motor vehicle dealer licensed under s. 320.27, a mobile home dealer licensed under s. 320.77, or a recreational vehicle dealer licensed under s. 320.771.

Section 34. Section 559.903, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

559.903 Definitions.—As used in this act:

- (1) "Customer" means the person who signs the written repair estimate or any other person whom the person who signs the written repair estimate designates on the written repair estimate as a person who may authorize repair work.
- (2) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
 - (3) "Employee" means an individual who is employed full

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time or part time by a motor vehicle repair shop and performs motor vehicle repair.

- (4) "Final estimate" means the last estimate approved by the customer either in writing or orally, as evidenced by the written repair estimate.
- (5) "Lienholder" means the person or entity that holds a $\underline{\text{lien or security interes}} t$ on the motor $\underline{\text{v}}$ ehicle and who perfected the lien or security interest on the motor vehicle pursuant to s. 319.27.
- (6) (5) "Motor vehicle" means any automobile, truck, bus, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, motor scooter, or other motor powered vehicle, but does not include trailers, mobile homes, travel trailers, trailer coaches without independent motive power, watercraft or aircraft, or special mobile equipment as defined in s. 316.003(48).
- (7) "Motor vehicle repair" means all maintenance of and modifications and repairs to motor vehicles, and diagnostic work incident thereto, including, but not limited to, the rebuilding or restoring of rebuilt vehicles, body work, painting, warranty work, and other work customarily undertaken by motor vehicle repair shops.
- (8) (6) "Motor vehicle repair shop" means any person who, for compensation, engages or attempts to engage in the repair of motor vehicles owned by other persons and includes, but is not limited to: mobile motor vehicle repair shops, motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers; garages; service stations; selfemployed individuals; truck stops; paint and body shops; brake, muffler, or transmission shops; and shops doing glass work. Any person who engages solely in the maintenance or repair of the

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coach portion of a recreational vehicle is not a motor vehicle repair shop.

- (7) "Place of business" means a physical place where the business of motor vehicle repair is conducted, including any vehicle constituting a mobile motor vehicle repair shop from which the business of motor vehicle repair is conducted.
- (8) "Motor vehicle repair" means all maintenance of and modifications and repairs to motor vehicles, and diagnostic work incident thereto, including, but not limited to, the rebuilding or restoring of rebuilt vehicles, body work, painting, warranty work, and other work customarily undertaken by motor vehicle repair shops.
- (9) "Owner" means the person or persons whose names appear on the title to the motor vehicle.
- (10) "Place of business" means a physical place where the business of motor vehicle repair is conducted, including any vehicle constituting a mobile motor vehicle repair shop from which the business of motor vehicle repair is conducted.

Section 35. Section 559.917, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 559.917 Bond to release possessory lien claimed by motor vehicle repair shop.-
- (1) (a) Any customer may obtain the release of her or his motor vehicle from any lien claimed under part II of chapter 713 by a motor vehicle repair shop for repair work performed under a written repair estimate by filing with the clerk of the court in the circuit in which the disputed transaction occurred a cash or surety bond, payable to the person claiming the lien and conditioned for the payment of any judgment which may be entered

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on the lien. The bond shall be in the amount stated on the invoice required by s. 559.911, plus accrued storage charges, if any, less any amount paid to the motor vehicle repair shop as indicated on the invoice, plus 15 percent. The customer shall not be required to institute judicial proceedings in order to post the bond in the registry of the court, nor shall the customer be required to use a particular form for posting the bond, unless the clerk shall provide such form to the customer for filing. Upon the posting of such bond, the clerk of the court shall automatically issue a certificate notifying the lienor of the posting of the bond and directing the lienor to release the customer's motor vehicle.

- (b) The lienor shall have 60 days to file suit to recover the bond. The prevailing party in that action may be entitled to damages plus court costs and reasonable attorney's fees. If the lienor fails to file suit within 60 days after the posting of such bond, the bond shall be discharged.
- (c) The owner or lienholder may obtain the release of a motor vehicle pursuant to s. 713.78.
- (2) The failure of a lienor to release or return to the customer, owner, or lienholder the motor vehicle upon which any lien is claimed, upon receiving a copy of a certificate giving notice of the posting of the bond and directing release of the motor vehicle, shall subject the lienor to judicial proceedings which may be brought by the customer, owner, or lienholder to compel compliance with the certificate. Whenever a customer, owner, or lienholder brings an action to compel compliance with the certificate, the customer, owner, or lienholder need only establish that:

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- (a) Bond in the amount of the invoice, plus accrued storage charges, if any, less any amount paid to the motor vehicle repair shop as indicated on the invoice, plus 15 percent, was posted;
 - (b) A certificate was issued pursuant to this section;
- (c) The motor vehicle repair shop, or any employee or agent thereof who is authorized to release the motor vehicle, received a copy of a certificate issued pursuant to this section; and
- (d) The motor vehicle repair shop or employee authorized to release the motor vehicle failed to release the motor vehicle.

The customer, owner, or lienholder, upon a judgment in her or his favor in an action brought under this subsection, may be entitled to damages plus court costs and reasonable attorney's fees sustained by her or him by reason of such wrongful detention or retention. Upon a judgment in favor of the motor vehicle repair shop, the shop may be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees.

- (3) Any motor vehicle repair shop which, or any employee or agent thereof who is authorized to release the motor vehicle who, upon receiving a copy of a certificate giving notice of the posting of the bond in the required amount and directing release of the motor vehicle, fails to release or return the property to the customer, owner, or lienholder pursuant to this section commits is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (4) Any customer, owner, or lienholder who stops payment on a credit card charge or a check drawn in favor of a motor vehicle repair shop on account of an invoice or who fails to

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post a cash or surety bond pursuant to this section shall be prohibited from any recourse under this section with respect to the motor vehicle repair shop.

Section 36. Section 713.585, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 713.585 Enforcement of lien by sale of motor vehicle.-A person claiming a lien under s. 713.58 for performing labor or services on a motor vehicle may enforce such lien by sale of the vehicle in accordance with the following procedures:
- (1) The lienor must give notice, by certified mail, return receipt requested, within 10 15 business days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, from the beginning date of the assessment of storage charges on the said motor vehicle, to the registered owner of the vehicle, to the customer as indicated on the order for repair, and to all other persons claiming an interest in or lien thereon, as disclosed by the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or of a corresponding agency of any other state in which the vehicle appears registered. Such notice must contain:
- (a) A description of the vehicle (year, make, vehicle identification number) and its location.
- (b) The name and address of the owner of the vehicle, the customer as indicated on the order for repair, and any person claiming an interest in or lien thereon.
 - (c) The name, address, and telephone number of the lienor.
- (d) Notice that the lienor claims a lien on the vehicle for labor and services performed and storage charges, if any, and the cash sum which, if paid to the lienor, would be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lien claimed by the lienor.

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- (e) Notice that the lien claimed by the lienor is subject to enforcement pursuant to this section and that the vehicle may be sold to satisfy the lien.
- (f) If known, the date, time, and location of any proposed or scheduled sale of the vehicle. No vehicle may be sold earlier than 50 60 days after completion of the repair work.
- (g) Notice that the owner of the vehicle or any person claiming an interest in or lien thereon has a right to a hearing at any time prior to the scheduled date of sale by filing a demand for hearing with the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the vehicle is held and mailing copies of the demand for hearing to all other owners and lienors as reflected on the notice.
- (h) Notice that the owner or lienholder of the vehicle has a right to recover possession of the vehicle without instituting judicial proceedings by posting bond in accordance with the provisions of s. 559.917.
- (i) Notice that any proceeds from the sale of the vehicle remaining after payment of the amount claimed to be due and owing to the lienor will be deposited with the clerk of the circuit court for disposition upon court order pursuant to subsection (8).
- (2) If attempts to locate the owner or lienholder are unsuccessful, the lienor must notify the local law enforcement agency in writing by certified mail or acknowledged hand delivery that the lienor has been unable to locate the owner or lienholder, that a physical search of the vehicle has disclosed no ownership information, and that a good faith effort has been made. A description of the motor vehicle which includes the

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year, make, and identification number must be given on the notice. This notification must take place within $10 \frac{15}{10}$ business days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, from the beginning date of the assessment of storage charges on the said motor vehicle. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "good faith effort" means that the following checks have been performed by the company to establish the prior state of registration and title:

- (a) A check of vehicle for any type of tag, tag record, temporary tag, or regular tag;
- (b) A check of vehicle for inspection sticker or other stickers and decals that could indicate the state of possible registration; and
- (c) A check of the interior of the vehicle for any papers that could be in the glove box, trunk, or other areas for the state of registration.
- (3) If the date of the sale was not included in the notice required in subsection (1), notice of the sale must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, not less than 15 days before the date of sale, to the customer as indicated on the order for repair, and to all other persons claiming an interest in or lien on the motor vehicle, as disclosed by the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or of a corresponding agency of any other state in which the vehicle appears to have been registered. After diligent search and inquiry, if the name and address of the registered owner or the owner of the recorded lien cannot be ascertained, the requirements for this notice may be disregarded.
- (4) The lienor, at least 15 days before the proposed or scheduled date of sale of the vehicle, shall publish the notice

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required by this section once in a newspaper circulated in the county where the vehicle is held. A certificate of compliance with the notification provisions of this section, verified by the lienor, together with a copy of the notice and return receipt for mailing of the notice required by this section, and proof of publication, must be duly and expeditiously filed with the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the vehicle is held. The lienor, at the time of filing the certificate of compliance, must pay to the clerk of that court a service charge of \$10 for indexing and recording the certificate.

- (5) At any time prior to the proposed or scheduled date of sale of a vehicle, the owner of the vehicle, or any person claiming an interest in the vehicle or a lien thereon, may file a demand for hearing with the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the vehicle is held to determine whether the vehicle has been wrongfully taken or withheld from her or him. Any person who files a demand for hearing shall mail copies of the demand to all other owners and lienors as reflected on the notice required in subsection (1). Upon the filing of a demand for hearing, a hearing shall be held prior to the proposed or scheduled date of sale of the vehicle.
- (6) In the event a lienor institutes a judicial proceeding to enforce a lien, no filing fee shall be required at the time of filing, but the court shall require the lienor to pay the filing fee unless the lienor shall prevail in the action.
- (7) At the hearing on the complaint, the court shall forthwith issue its order determining:
- (a) Whether the vehicle is subject to a valid lien by the lienor and the amount thereof;

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- (b) The priority of the lien of the lienor as against any existing security interest in the vehicle;
- (c) The distribution of any proceeds of the sale by the clerk of the circuit court:
- (d) The award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing party; and
 - (e) The reasonableness of storage charges.
- (8) A vehicle subject to lien enforcement pursuant to this section must be sold by the lienor at public sale. Immediately upon the sale of the vehicle and payment in cash of the purchase price, the lienor shall deposit with the clerk of the circuit court the proceeds of the sale less the amount claimed by the lienor for work done and storage, if any, and all reasonable costs and expenses incurred in conducting the sale, including any attorney's fees and costs ordered by the court. Simultaneously with depositing the proceeds of sale remaining after payment to the lienor, the lienor shall file with the clerk a verified report of the sale stating a description of the vehicle sold, including the vehicle identification number; the name and address of the purchaser; the date of the sale; and the selling price. The report shall also itemize the amount retained by the lienor pursuant to this section and shall indicate whether a hearing was demanded and held. All proceeds held by the court shall be held for the benefit of the owner of the vehicle or any lienholder whose lien is discharged by the sale and shall be disbursed only upon order of the court. Unless a proceeding is initiated to validate a claim to such proceeds within 1 year and a day from the date of the sale, the proceeds shall be deemed abandoned property and disposition thereof shall

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be governed by s. 705.103. The clerk shall receive 5 percent of the proceeds deposited with her or him, not to exceed \$25, for her or his services under this section.

- (9) A copy of the certificate of compliance and the report of sale, certified by the clerk of the court, shall constitute satisfactory proof for application to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for transfer of title, together with any other proof required by any rules and regulations of the department.
- (10) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as affecting an owner's right to redeem her or his vehicle from the lien at any time prior to sale by paying the amount claimed by the lienor for work done and assessed storage charges, plus any costs incurred by the repair shop for utilizing enforcement procedures under this section.
- (11) Nothing in this section shall operate in derogation of the rights and remedies established by s. 559.917.
- (12) When a vehicle is sold by a lienor in accordance with this law, a purchaser for value takes title to the vehicle free and clear of all claims, liens, and encumbrances whatsoever, unless otherwise provided by court order.
- (13) A failure to make good faith efforts as defined in subsection (2) precludes the imposition of any storage charges against the vehicle. If a lienor fails to provide notice to any person claiming a lien on a vehicle under subsection (1) within 10 15 business days, excluding Saturday or Sunday, after the assessment of storage charges have begun, then the lienor is precluded from charging for more than 15 days of storage, but failure to provide timely notice does not affect charges made

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for repairs, adjustments, or modifications to the vehicle or the priority of liens on the vehicle.

Section 37. Subsection (8) of section 322.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 322.34 Driving while license suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified.-
- (8)(a) Upon the arrest of a person for the offense of driving while the person's driver's license or driving privilege is suspended or revoked, the arresting officer shall determine:
- 1. Whether the person's driver's license is suspended or revoked.
- 2. Whether the person's driver's license has remained suspended or revoked since a conviction for the offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.
- 3. Whether the suspension or revocation was made under s. 316.646 or s. 627.733, relating to failure to maintain required security, or under s. 322.264, relating to habitual traffic offenders.
- 4. Whether the driver is the registered owner or coowner of the vehicle.
- (b) If the arresting officer finds in the affirmative as to all of the criteria in paragraph (a), the officer shall immediately impound or immobilize the vehicle.
- (c) Within 7 business days after the date the arresting agency impounds or immobilizes the vehicle, either the arresting agency or the towing service, whichever is in possession of the vehicle, shall send notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to any coregistered owners of the vehicle other than the person arrested and to each person of record claiming a lien

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against the vehicle. All costs and fees for the impoundment or immobilization, including the cost of notification, must be paid by the owner of the vehicle or, if the vehicle is leased, by the person leasing the vehicle.

(d) Either the arresting agency or the towing service, whichever is in possession of the vehicle, shall determine whether any vehicle impounded or immobilized under this section has been leased or rented or if there are any persons of record with a lien upon the vehicle. Either the arresting agency or the towing service, whichever is in possession of the vehicle, shall notify by express courier service with receipt or certified mail, return receipt requested, within 7 business days after the date of the immobilization or impoundment of the vehicle, the registered owner and all persons having a recorded lien against the vehicle that the vehicle has been impounded or immobilized. A lessor, rental car company, or lienholder may then obtain the vehicle, upon payment of any lawful towing or storage charges. If the vehicle is a rental vehicle subject to a written contract, the charges may be separately charged to the renter, in addition to the rental rate, along with other separate fees, charges, and recoupments disclosed on the rental agreement. If the storage facility fails to provide timely notice to a lessor, rental car company, or lienholder as required by this paragraph, the storage facility shall be responsible for payment of any towing or storage charges necessary to release the vehicle to a lessor, rental car company, or lienholder that accrue after the notice period, which charges may then be assessed against the driver of the vehicle if the vehicle was lawfully impounded or immobilized.

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- (e) Except as provided in paragraph (d), the vehicle shall remain impounded or immobilized for any period imposed by the court until:
- 1. The owner presents proof of insurance to the arresting agency; or
- 2. The owner presents proof of sale of the vehicle to the arresting agency and the buyer presents proof of insurance to the arresting agency.

If proof is not presented within 35 days after the impoundment or immobilization, a lien shall be placed upon such vehicle pursuant to s. 713.78.

(f) The owner of a vehicle that is impounded or immobilized under this subsection may, within 10 days after the date the owner has knowledge of the location of the vehicle, file a complaint in the county in which the owner resides to determine whether the vehicle was wrongfully taken or withheld. Upon the filing of a complaint, the owner or lienholder may have the vehicle released by posting with the court a bond or other adequate security equal to the amount of the costs and fees for impoundment or immobilization, including towing or storage, to ensure the payment of such costs and fees if the owner or lienholder does not prevail. When the vehicle owner or lienholder does not prevail on a complaint that the vehicle was wrongfully taken or withheld, he or she must pay the accrued charges for the immobilization or impoundment, including any towing and storage charges assessed against the vehicle. When the bond is posted and the fee is paid as set forth in s. 28.24, the clerk of the court shall issue a certificate releasing the

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vehicle. At the time of release, after reasonable inspection, the owner must give a receipt to the towing or storage company indicating any loss or damage to the vehicle or to the contents of the vehicle.

Section 38. Subsections (4), (5), (6), and (10) of section 713.78, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

713.78 Liens for recovering, towing, or storing vehicles and vessels.-

- (4)(a) Any person regularly engaged in the business of recovering, towing, or storing vehicles or vessels who comes into possession of a vehicle or vessel pursuant to subsection (2), and who claims a lien for recovery, towing, or storage services, shall give notice to the registered owner, the insurance company insuring the vehicle notwithstanding the provisions of s. 627.736, and to all persons claiming a lien thereon, as disclosed by the records in the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or of a corresponding agency in any other state.
- (b) Whenever any law enforcement agency authorizes the removal of a vehicle or vessel or whenever any towing service, garage, repair shop, or automotive service, storage, or parking place notifies the law enforcement agency of possession of a vehicle or vessel pursuant to s. 715.07(2)(a)2., the applicable law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the vehicle or vessel is stored shall contact the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, or the appropriate agency of the state of registration, if known, within 24 hours through the medium of electronic communications, giving the full description of the vehicle or vessel. Upon receipt of the full description of the

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vehicle or vessel, the department shall search its files to determine the owner's name, the insurance company insuring the vehicle or vessel, and whether any person has filed a lien upon the vehicle or vessel as provided in s. 319.27(2) and (3) and notify the applicable law enforcement agency within 72 hours. The person in charge of the towing service, garage, repair shop, or automotive service, storage, or parking place shall obtain such information from the applicable law enforcement agency within 5 days after the date of storage and shall give notice pursuant to paragraph (a). The department may release the insurance company information to the requestor notwithstanding the provisions of s. 627.736.

- (c) Notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, shall be sent within 7 business days after the date of storage of the vehicle or vessel to the registered owner, the insurance company insuring the vehicle notwithstanding the provisions of s. 627.736, and all persons of record claiming a lien against the vehicle or vessel. It shall state the fact of possession of the vehicle or vessel, that a lien as provided in subsection (2) is claimed, that charges have accrued and the amount thereof, that the lien is subject to enforcement pursuant to law, and that the owner or lienholder, if any, has the right to a hearing as set forth in subsection (5), and that any vehicle or vessel which remains unclaimed, or for which the charges for recovery, towing, or storage services remain unpaid, may be sold free of all prior liens after 35 days if the vehicle or vessel is more than 3 years of age or after 50 days if the vehicle or vessel is 3 years of age or less.
 - (d) If attempts to locate the name and address of the owner

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or lienholder prove unsuccessful, the towing-storage operator shall, after 7 working days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, of the initial tow or storage, notify the public agency of jurisdiction where the vehicle or vessel is stored in writing by certified mail or acknowledged hand delivery that the towingstorage company has been unable to locate the name and address of the owner or lienholder and a physical search of the vehicle or vessel has disclosed no ownership information and a good faith effort has been made. For purposes of this paragraph and subsection (9), "good faith effort" means that the following checks have been performed by the company to establish prior state of registration and for title:

- 1. Check of vehicle or vessel for any type of tag, tag record, temporary tag, or regular tag.
- 2. Check of law enforcement report for tag number or other information identifying the vehicle or vessel, if the vehicle or vessel was towed at the request of a law enforcement officer.
- 3. Check of trip sheet or tow ticket of tow truck operator to see if a tag was on vehicle or vessel at beginning of tow, if private tow.
- 4. If there is no address of the owner on the impound report, check of law enforcement report to see if an out-ofstate address is indicated from driver license information.
- 5. Check of vehicle or vessel for inspection sticker or other stickers and decals that may indicate a state of possible registration.
- 6. Check of the interior of the vehicle or vessel for any papers that may be in the glove box, trunk, or other areas for a state of registration.

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- 7. Check of vehicle for vehicle identification number.
- 8. Check of vessel for vessel registration number.
- 9. Check of vessel hull for a hull identification number which should be carved, burned, stamped, embossed, or otherwise permanently affixed to the outboard side of the transom or, if there is no transom, to the outmost seaboard side at the end of the hull that bears the rudder or other steering mechanism.
- (5) (a) The owner of a vehicle or vessel removed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (2), or any person claiming a lien, other than the towing-storage operator, within 10 days after the time she or he has knowledge of the location of the vehicle or vessel, may file a complaint in the county court of the county in which the vehicle or vessel is stored or in which the owner resides to determine if her or his property was wrongfully taken or withheld from her or him.
- (b) Upon filing of a complaint, an owner or lienholder may have her or his vehicle or vessel released upon posting with the court a cash or surety bond or other adequate security equal to the amount of the charges for towing or storage and lot rental amount to ensure the payment of such charges in the event she or he does not prevail. Upon the posting of the bond and the payment of the applicable fee set forth in s. 28.24, the clerk of the court shall issue a certificate notifying the lienor of the posting of the bond and directing the lienor to release the vehicle or vessel. At the time of such release, after reasonable inspection, she or he shall give a receipt to the towing-storage company reciting any claims she or he has for loss or damage to the vehicle or vessel or the contents thereof.
 - (c) Upon determining the respective rights of the parties,

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the court may award damages, attorney's fees, and costs in favor of the prevailing party. In any event, the final order shall provide for immediate payment in full of recovery, towing, and storage fees by the vehicle or vessel owner or lienholder; or the agency ordering the tow; or the owner, lessee, or agent thereof of the property from which the vehicle or vessel was removed.

(6) Any vehicle or vessel which is stored pursuant to subsection (2) and which remains unclaimed, or for which reasonable charges for recovery, towing, or storing remain unpaid, and any contents not released pursuant to subsection (10), may be sold by the owner or operator of the storage space for such towing or storage charge after 35 days from the time the vehicle or vessel is stored therein if the vehicle or vessel is more than 3 years of age or after 50 days following the time the vehicle or vessel is stored therein if the vehicle or vessel is 3 years of age or less. The sale shall be at public sale auction for cash. If the date of the sale was not included in the notice required in subsection (4), notice of the sale shall be given to the person in whose name the vehicle or vessel is registered and to all persons claiming a lien on the vehicle or vessel as shown on the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or of the corresponding agency in any other state. Notice shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner of the vehicle or vessel and the person having the recorded lien on the vehicle or vessel at the address shown on the records of the registering agency and shall be mailed not less than 15 days before the date of the sale. After diligent search and inquiry, if the name and address of

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the registered owner or the owner of the recorded lien cannot be ascertained, the requirements of notice by mail may be dispensed with. In addition to the notice by mail, public notice of the time and place of sale shall be made by publishing a notice thereof one time, at least 10 days prior to the date of the sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the sale is to be held. The proceeds of the sale, after payment of reasonable towing and storage charges, and costs of the sale, in that order of priority, shall be deposited with the clerk of the circuit court for the county if the owner or lienholder is absent, and the clerk shall hold such proceeds subject to the claim of the owner or lienholder person legally entitled thereto. The clerk shall be entitled to receive 5 percent of such proceeds for the care and disbursement thereof. The certificate of title issued under this law shall be discharged of all liens unless otherwise provided by court order. The owner or lienholder may file a complaint after the vehicle or vessel has been sold in the county court of the county in which it is stored. Upon determining the respective rights of the parties, the court may award damages, attorney's fees, and costs in favor of the prevailing party.

(10) Persons who provide services pursuant to this section shall permit vehicle or vessel owners, lienholders, or their agents, which agency is evidenced by an original writing acknowledged by the owner before a notary public or other person empowered by law to administer oaths, to inspect the towed vehicle or vessel and shall release to the owner, lienholder, or agent the vehicle, vessel, or all personal property not affixed to the vehicle or vessel which was in the vehicle or vessel at



the time the vehicle or vessel came into the custody of the person providing such services.

Section 39. Effective October 1, 2009, paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of section 320.0609, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.0609 Transfer and exchange of registration license plates; transfer fee.-

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(c) If a retail sale by a licensed independent motor vehicle dealer results in the transfer of a registration license plate, a temporary tag shall be issued and displayed during the time that the application for transfer of such registration license plate is being processed unless the department's records reflect that the transfer has occurred. However, this paragraph shall not apply to independent motor vehicle dealers that are owned by principals that also hold a franchise motor vehicle dealer license in this state. This paragraph is repealed June 30, 2010.

Section 40. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (8) is added to section 320.0609, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.0609 Transfer and exchange of registration license plates; transfer fee.-

(8) (a) When the owner of a vehicle transfers a registration license plate to a replacement or substitute vehicle acquired from a motor vehicle dealer licensed under this chapter, the dealer shall timely provide to the department, via an electronic system administered by the department for this purpose, information regarding the transfer which is required by the department. The dealer shall also give the owner written notice

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documenting the transfer if the dealer cannot timely provide the required transfer information to the department due to system or connectivity problems. The dealer shall maintain all records required by the department which must be open to inspection by the department or its agents during reasonable business hours. The dealer may charge the vehicle owner a fee to comply with this subsection. The department may charge a fee of \$2 to be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund for each transfer in addition to any other fee imposed by law.

- (b) A dealer is not required to comply with paragraph (a) if the department's records are otherwise modified on the date of transfer to reflect that the transfer has occurred.
- (c) The department has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this subsection.

Section 41. Effective October 1, 2009, paragraph (m) is added to subsection (1) of section 320.131, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.131 Temporary tags.

- (1) The department is authorized and empowered to design, issue, and regulate the use of temporary tags to be designated "temporary tags" for use in the following cases:
- (m) For a retail sale by a licensed independent motor vehicle dealer when an application for the transfer of a registration license plate is being processed. This paragraph is repealed June 30, 2010.

Further, the department is authorized to disallow the purchase of temporary tags by licensed dealers, common carriers, or financial institutions in those cases where abuse has occurred.



Section 42. Paragraphs (d) and (i) of subsection (6) of section 316.193, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (13) and (14) are added to that section, to read:

316.193 Driving under the influence; penalties.-

- (6) With respect to any person convicted of a violation of subsection (1), regardless of any penalty imposed pursuant to subsection (2), subsection (3), or subsection (4):
- (d) The court must at the time of sentencing the defendant issue an order for the impoundment or immobilization of a vehicle. The order of impoundment or immobilization must include the name and telephone numbers of all immobilization agencies meeting all of the conditions of subsection (13). Within 7 business days after the date that the court issues the order of impoundment or immobilization, the clerk of the court must send notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the registered owner of each vehicle, if the registered owner is a person other than the defendant, and to each person of record claiming a lien against the vehicle.
- (i) All costs and fees for the impoundment or immobilization, including the cost of notification, must be paid by the owner of the vehicle or, if the vehicle is leased or rented, by the person leasing or renting the vehicle, unless the impoundment or immobilization order is dismissed. All provisions of s. 713.78 shall apply. The costs and fees for the impoundment or immobilization must be paid directly to the person impounding or immobilizing the vehicle.

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For the purposes of this section, any conviction for a violation of s. 327.35; a previous conviction for the violation of former

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s. 316.1931, former s. 860.01, or former s. 316.028; or a previous conviction outside this state for driving under the influence, driving while intoxicated, driving with an unlawful blood-alcohol level, driving with an unlawful breath-alcohol level, or any other similar alcohol-related or drug-related traffic offense, is also considered a previous conviction for violation of this section. However, in satisfaction of the fine imposed pursuant to this section, the court may, upon a finding that the defendant is financially unable to pay either all or part of the fine, order that the defendant participate for a specified additional period of time in public service or a community work project in lieu of payment of that portion of the fine which the court determines the defendant is unable to pay. In determining such additional sentence, the court shall consider the amount of the unpaid portion of the fine and the reasonable value of the services to be ordered; however, the court may not compute the reasonable value of services at a rate less than the federal minimum wage at the time of sentencing.

- (13) If personnel of the circuit court or the sheriff do not immobilize vehicles, only immobilization agencies that meet the conditions of this subsection shall immobilize vehicles in that judicial circuit.
- (a) The immobilization agency responsible for immobilizing vehicles in that judicial circuit shall be subject to strict compliance with all of the following conditions and restrictions:
- 1. Any immobilization agency engaged in the business of immobilizing vehicles shall:
 - a. Have a class "R" license issued pursuant to part IV of



chapter 493;

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- b. Have at least 3 years of verifiable experience in immobilizing vehicles; and
- c. Maintain accurate and complete records of all payments for the immobilization, copies of all documents pertaining to the court's order of impoundment or immobilization, and any other documents relevant to each immobilization. Such records must be maintained by the immobilization agency for at least 3 years.
- 2. The person who immobilizes a vehicle must never have been convicted of any felony or of driving or boating under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance in the last 3 years.
- (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (c) Any immobilization agency who is aggrieved by a person's violation of paragraph (a) may bring a civil action against the person who violated paragraph (a) seeking injunctive relief, damages, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and any other remedy available at law or in equity as may be necessary to enforce this subsection. In any action to enforce this subsection, establishment of a violation of paragraph (a) shall conclusively establish a clear legal right to injunctive relief, that irreparable harm will be caused if an injunction does not issue, that no adequate remedy at law exists, and that public policy favors issuance of injunctive relief.
 - (14) As used in this chapter, the term:
 - (a) "Immobilization," "immobilizing," or "immobilize" means

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the act of installing a vehicle antitheft device on the steering wheel of a vehicle, the act of placing a tire lock or wheel clamp on a vehicle, or a governmental agency's act of taking physical possession of the license tag and vehicle registration rendering a vehicle legally inoperable to prevent any person from operating the vehicle pursuant to an order of impoundment or immobilization under subsection (6).

- (b) "Immobilization agency" or "immobilization agencies" means any firm, company, agency, organization, partnership, corporation, association, trust, or other business entity of any kind whatsoever that meets all of the conditions of subsection (13).
- (c) "Impoundment," "impounding," or "impound" means the act of storing a vehicle at a storage facility pursuant to an order of impoundment or immobilization under subsection (6) where the person impounding the vehicle exercises control, supervision, and responsibility over the vehicle.
- (d) "Person" means any individual, firm, company, agency, organization, partnership, corporation, association, trust, or other business entity of any kind whatsoever.

Section 43. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========== And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 1428

880 and insert:

> Regional Transportation Authority; amending s. 30.231, F.S.; authorizing sheriffs expediting execution of a

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writ of replevin to recover certain additional expenses; amending s. 30.30, F.S.; requiring sheriffs to expedite certain writs of replevin within a specified amount of time; amending s. 78.065, F.S.; requiring courts to advance certain matters related to writs of replevin on the calendar; amending s. 78.068, F.S.; requiring courts to advance certain matters related to prejudgment writs of replevin on the calendar; amending s. 320.02, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to withhold renewal of registration or replacement registration of specified motor vehicles under certain circumstances; amending s. 320.03, F.S.; preemption jurisdiction over the outsourced electronic filing system to the state; requiring the department to continue its current outsourcing of the existing electronic filing system; approving the system for use in all counties; authorizing motor vehicle dealers to charge certain fees; requiring a report from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability by a specified date; creating s. 320.1316, F.S.; providing responsibilities of the department relating to the issuance of a license plate, revalidation sticker, or replacement license plate for certain vehicles; requiring the department to create a notice to surrender form; providing procedures for the dispute of a notice to surrender; amending s. 559.903, F.S.; defining the terms "lienholder" and "owner" for purposes of the Florida

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Motor Vehicle Repair Act; amending s. 559.917, F.S.; revising the amount of the bond required to release a possessory lien claimed by a motor vehicle repair shop; providing for a motor vehicle owner or lienholder to obtain the release of a motor vehicle from a motor vehicle repair shop; revising criteria required to establish an action to compel compliance; amending s. 713.585, F.S.; modifying procedures for enforcing liens for labor or services by sale of a motor vehicle; amending s. 322.34, F.S.; creating certain rights for lienholders; deleting a return receipt mailing requirement; amending s. 713.78, F.S.; clarifying provisions; deleting a return receipt mailing requirement; creating certain rights for lienholders; deleting a provision that allows a complaint to be filed in the county where the owner resides; creating a cause of action to determine the rights of the parties after a vehicle or vessel has been sold; providing for attorney's fees and costs; providing a right of inspection to lienholders; amending s. 320.0609, F.S., relating to the transfer and exchange of registration license plates and transfer fees; requiring that a temporary tag be issued and displayed during the time that an application for a transfer of a registration license plate is being processed; providing exceptions; amending s. 320.131, F.S.; authorizing the department to issue temporary tags for the time that an application for a transfer of a registration license

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plate is being processed; amending s. 320.0609, F.S., relating to the transfer and exchange of registration license plates and transfer fees; requiring a licensed motor vehicle dealer to provide certain required information via an electronic system to the department when the owner of a vehicle transfers a registration license plate to a replacement or substitute vehicle acquired from the dealer; providing that the electronic system shall be administered by the department; requiring the dealer to give the owner written notice documenting the transfer if the dealer cannot provide the required transfer information to the department under certain circumstances; requiring the dealer to maintain certain records; providing for the dealer and the department to charge a fee; providing for exceptions; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 316.193, F.S.; requiring the court to include in the order of impoundment or immobilization the names and telephone numbers of immobilization agencies that meet specified requirements; requiring the person whose vehicle is ordered to be impounded or immobilized to pay the impoundment or immobilization fees and costs directly to the person impounding or immobilizing the vehicle; establishing conditions and restrictions for immobilization agencies who are engaged in the business of immobilizing vehicles in judicial circuits where personnel of the court or sheriff do not immobilize vehicles; providing penalties for violating

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such conditions and restrictions; authorizing aggrieved immobilization agency to initiate a civil action against a person who commits such violation; providing for attorney's fees and costs; defining the terms "immobilization," "immobilize," "immobilizing," "immobilization agency," "immobilization agencies," "impound," "impounding," "impoundment," and "person"; providing effective dates.