

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 Transportation Committee

BILL: SB 1030
 INTRODUCER: Senator Garcia
 SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Emergency Lights/Correctional Agency
 DATE: March 12, 2009 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Davis	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	CA	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Current law permits police and vehicles owned, operated, or leased by the Department of Corrections to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies. However, of Florida’s 67 counties, 9 counties operate their jail detention facilities in county departments rather than Sheriff’s Offices.

Senate Bill 1030 amends s. 316.2397, F.S., to allow vehicles owned, operated, or leased by any county correctional agency to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies.

This bill substantially amends s. 316.2397 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 316.2397, F.S., provides it is expressly prohibited for any vehicle or equipment, except police vehicles, to show or display blue lights. However, vehicles owned, operated, or leased by the Department of Corrections may show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies. A violation is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation.

Currently, of the 67 counties in Florida, 9¹ operate their county jail facilities in county departments rather than Sheriff’s Offices, and therefore, are not authorized to display blue lights under the current statute.

¹ County-operated detention facilities are located in Jackson County, Oskaloosa County, Miami-Dade County, Orange County, Osceola County, Volusia County, and Walton County. Privately operated detention facilities are located in Citrus County and Hernando County.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill amends s. 316.2397(2), F.S., revising provisions restricting the use of certain colored light lights. Specifically, the bill allows vehicles owned, operated, or leased by any county correctional agency to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies.

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

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

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

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There may be minimal replacement costs for vehicles owned, operated, or leased by any county correctional agency to install the blue colored lights, if they choose. The installation of blue lights on these vehicles is not mandatory.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial 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.
