

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 Committee on Appropriations

BILL: CS/CS/SB 1458

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee (Recommended by Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development); Transportation Committee; and Senator Brandes

SUBJECT: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

DATE: April 22, 2013 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Everett	Eichin	TR	Fav/CS
2.	Carey	Martin	ATD	Fav/CS
3.	Carey	Hansen	AP	Fav/CS
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

I. Summary:

CS/CS/SB 1458 makes numerous changes to the way the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV, department) administers many of its programs and functions.

The Revenue Impact Conference has reviewed this bill and determined it has a negligible fiscal impact to the General Revenue Fund related to the expanded use of electronic titles. The bill will have a negative revenue impact to the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund related to a reduction of \$596,272 in the vessel registration fees retained by DHSMV; however, the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund revenues in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission will increase by this same amount. The DHSMV is able to absorb this revenue loss without impacting the budget because the administrative costs of the DHSMV are lower than the current revenues retained of \$1.4 million.

The major provisions of this bill include:

- Correcting inconsistencies and references to the International Registration Plan.
- Requiring drivers to yield the left lane to overtaking vehicles.

- Lowering the blood alcohol level threshold at which an ignition interlock device (IID) will prevent a vehicle from starting from 0.05 to 0.025 for persons convicted of DUI and required to install an IID.
- Requiring that holders of commercial learners permits adhere to the same noncriminal traffic infraction provisions as commercial driver licenseholders.
- Allowing the DHSMV to use a new form for buyers and sellers when transferring electronic titles as it relates to motor vehicle casual sales.
- Expanding vehicle and vessel registration identification requirements.
- Allowing the DHSMV to eliminate certificates of repossession as such documents are effectively obsolete.
- Clarifying the DHSMV's rulemaking authority to regulate driver improvement schools.
- Clarifying the DHSMV's criteria for approval of traffic law and substance abuse education courses (TLSAE), and the requirements of course providers.
- Revising the requirements of eligibility for serving on the Medical Advisory Board.
- Allowing county tax collectors to have re-examination authority for vehicle operators based on mental and physical abilities.
- Authorizing the department to implement a pilot program in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough Counties to evaluate private rebuilt motor vehicle inspection services.
- Allowing driver license applicants to use vision examination results of out-of-state vision doctors when renewing their driver license.
- Revising Commercial Driver's License and Commercial Learner's Permits to align with federal rules, and allowing penalties.
- Authorizing the DHSMV to prohibit future financial transactions when an insufficient check fee has not been satisfied with the agency.
- Authorizing driver license suspension for persons under 21 years of age when found driving with blood alcohol level of 0.02 or higher.
- Allowing law enforcement authorities to disqualify Commercial Driver License holders found driving with unlawful blood alcohol levels and refusing to submit to breath, urine or blood test, and issue a 10-day temporary permit while a determination is made.
- Allowing persons with an IID to be granted a medical waiver for employment purposes only (EPO) license.
- Providing that same day DUI convictions be treated as separate offenses.
- Clarifying the reinstatement process for habitual traffic offenders in license restoration.
- Requiring insurance companies to report new or cancelled policies within 10 days.
- Changing requirements for self-insuring motorists.
- Providing identification requirements for vessel registration applications.
- Allowing monies collected from vessel registration funds above administration costs to be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.
- Allowing persons with certain alcohol-related driving offenses, having no previous convictions, to be issued a business purposes only driver license without a hearing.
- Reclassifying Florida Highway Patrol captains positions to select exempt from career service.
- Authorizing the Florida Department of Transportation to immediately receive crash reports that are ordinarily confidential and exempt.
- Creating definitions, provisions, and remedies relating to the electronic collection of personal data from driver licenses or identification cards by private entities.

- Prohibiting children under the age of 6 years from riding in the back of pickup trucks or flatbed trucks with posted speed limits greater than fifty five miles per hour under certain circumstances and provides an opt out for counties if approved by the governing body of the county.
- Authorizes the attachment of a forklift to the rear of a straight truck for towing purposes provided the overall length does not exceed 50 feet.
- Authorizing local law enforcement to impound or store unauthorized wreckers used in violation of the provisions of local government wrecker operator system.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 110.205, 207.002, 316.003, 316.066, 316.083, 316.1923, 316.1937, 316.2015, 316.302, 316.3025, 316.515, 316.545, 316.646, 317.0016, 318.14, 318.1451, 319.141, 319.225, 319.23, 319.28, 319.323, 320.01, 320.02, 320.03, 320.071, 320.0715, 320.18, 320.27, 320.62, 320.77, 320.771, 320.8225, 322.095, 322.125, 322.135, 322.143, 322.18, 322.21, 322.212, 322.22, 322.245, 322.25, 322.2615, 322.2616, 322.64, 322.271, 322.2715, 322.28, 322.331, 322.61, 323.002, 324.0221, 324.031, 324.091, 324.161, 328.01, 328.48, 328.76, 713.585, and 713.78

The bill corrects cross-references in the following sections of Florida Statutes: 212.08, 261.03, 316.2122, 316.2124, 316.21265, 316.3026, 316.550, 317.0003, 320.08, 320.0847, 322.271, 322.282, 324.023, 324.171, 324.191, 627.733, and 627.7415

The bill repeals section 322.331, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Highway Patrol

Captain positions within the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) are currently classified as Career Service. FHP Captains carry managerial, policy and budgetary responsibility equivalent to State positions which are typically classified as Selected Exempt Service.¹

International Registration Plan; Definitions

The International Registration Plan (IRP) is a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) registration reciprocity agreement among the United States and provinces of Canada, providing for payment of license fees or license taxes on the basis of fleet miles operated in various jurisdictions. The IRP agreement uses the term “apportionable vehicle” to mean any vehicle, except a recreational vehicle, a vehicle displaying restricted plates, a municipal pickup and delivery vehicle, a bus used in transportation of chartered parties, and a government-owned vehicle, which is used or intended for use in two or more states of the United States or provinces of Canada that allocate or proportionally register vehicles and which is used for the transportation of persons for hire or is designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property and is:

- A power unit having a gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds;
- A power unit having three or more axles, regardless of weight; or

¹ Part II, Chapter 110, F.S.

- Used in combination, when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

Sections 207.002(1)(11)(12), 316.545, 320.01, 320.03, 320.071, and 320.0715, F.S., define “apportioned motor vehicle” as any motor vehicle which is required to be registered under the IRP. Throughout ch. 316, F.S., “apportionable” is referenced as “apportionally” incorrectly, and since these descriptions are not interchangeable making this correction will simply clarify the inconsistency.

The DHSMV has recommended correcting the definitional inconsistency within the International Registration Plan by deleting unnecessary references and changing “apportioned” to “apportionable” as it relates to motor vehicles.

Traffic Crash Reports

Crash reports that reveal personal information about the parties involved in the crash are confidential and exempt for 60 days after the report is filed. Although they are ordinarily confidential and exempt, the parties involved in the crash, their legal representatives and insurers, law enforcement agencies, and other similar types of agencies may immediately receive these reports.

Lane Usage and Passing

Current Florida law in relation to “driving on right side of roadway” requires vehicles moving at a lesser rate of speed to drive in the right hand lane as soon as it is reasonable to proceed into that lane. Exceptions and exemptions include: when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.² Violations of this law are noncriminal offenses. However, enforcement of these provisions has been minimal.

Current law provides that drivers overtaking other drivers on a two-lane road must use the proper signal, and those being overtaken must yield the right of way to the overtaking vehicle. In addition, vehicles being overtaken may not increase speed until the attempted pass is complete or it is reasonably safe to do so.³

Ignition Interlock Devices (IID)

A driver is considered under the influence of alcohol when a person’s blood alcohol content (BAC) is 0.08 or more grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood; or 0.08 or more grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath. The department requires placement of a department-approved IID for any person convicted of committing an offense of driving under the influence as specified in s. 322.2715(3), F.S.:

- First offense – under s. 316.193, F.S.,⁴ and having an unlawful blood-alcohol level or breath-alcohol level as specified in s. 316.193(4),⁵ or if a person is convicted of a violation of s.

² Section 316.081(1), (2), and (3), F.S.

³ Section 316.083, F.S.

⁴ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/316.193> Driving Under the Influence

316.193, F.S., and was at the time of the offense accompanied in the vehicle by a person younger than 18, the person shall have an IID installed for not less than 6 continuous months for the first offense and for not less than 2 continuous years for a second offense.

- Second offense – an IID shall be installed for a period of not less than 1 continuous year.
- Third offense – occurs within 10 years after a prior conviction for a violation of s. 316.193, F.S., an IID shall be installed for a period of not less than 2 continuous years.
- Fourth or subsequent offense – an IID shall be installed for a period of not less than 5 years.

Section 316.1937, F.S., provides the device be certified by the DHSMV and installed so that the vehicle will not start if the operator’s alcohol level is in excess of 0.05 percent BAC (equates to 3-4 12 oz. beers an hour for an average weight male) or what is specified by the court. Consideration may be given to persons having documented medical conditions that would prohibit the IID from functioning normally. The IID shall be placed on all vehicles that are individually or jointly leased or owned and routinely operated by the convicted person.

Enforcement of Federal Regulations

Texting and Hand-held Mobile Phones

Federal law recently imposed a prohibition against drivers of commercial motor vehicles engaging in texting while driving and provided that a motor carrier may not allow or require its drivers to engage in texting while driving.⁶ In addition, the federal law prohibits a driver of a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) from using a hand-held mobile telephone while driving and prohibits a motor carrier from allowing or requiring its drivers to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving a CMV.⁷ These provisions are contained in 49 C.F.R. § 383, which is not currently referenced in Florida law incorporating federal provisions applicable to CMVs engaged in interstate or intrastate commerce.

Applicable Versions of Federal Law

Federal law requires each state to “review its laws and regulations to achieve compatibility with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSA).”⁸ Federal guidelines require a state to:

“...adopt and enforce in a consistent manner the requirements referenced in the above guidelines in order for the FMCSA to accept the State's determination that it has compatible safety requirements affecting interstate motor carrier operations. Generally, the States would have up to 3 years from the effective date of the new Federal requirement to adopt and enforce compatible requirements. . .”

⁵ Id., (See penalties)

⁶ 49 C.F.R. § 383.80 (2011)

⁷ 49 C.F.R. § 383.82 (2011)

⁸ 49 C.F.R. part 355, Appendix A, Guidelines for the Regulatory Review:
http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/49/355/appendix_A

Section 316.302, F.S., among other sections, applies specified federal regulations to all owners or drivers of CMVs engaged in intrastate commerce as such rules and regulations existed on October 1, 2011. The state will be out of compliance with federal law on October 1, 2014, unless the date is changed.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Motor Vehicles/Cargo Tanks

Current law provides that the rules and regulations applicable to the transporting of liquefied petroleum gas on the highways, roads, or streets of this state shall be only those adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under ch. 527. DHSMV commercial motor vehicle enforcement officers have no express authority to inspect a commercial motor vehicle transporting liquefied petroleum gas to ensure safety of the traveling public on the roadways.

Riders on Vehicle Exteriors

Section 316.2015, F.S., generally prohibits persons from riding on the outside of a vehicle. Exemptions are provided for firefighters, waste collection workers, and for persons riding within truck bodies in a space intended for merchandise. The section specifically prohibits persons under the age of 18 from riding in the open body of a pickup or flatbed truck when the vehicle is operated on a limited access facility.

Expedited service; applications; fees

Section 319.323, F.S., requires that the department provide, through its agents for use by the public, expedited service on title transfers, title issuances, duplicate titles, recordation of liens, and certificates of repossession. A fee of \$10 is charged for the service in addition to the fees in ss.319.32, F.S., and \$3.50 of this fee shall be retained by the processing agency. The department shall issue all titles applied for within 5 working days after receipt of application, except for a duplicate title application, per s. 319.23(4) in which case the title must be issued within 5 working days after compliance with the department's verification requirements.

Noncriminal traffic infractions; exception; procedures

Section 318.14, F.S., requires that any person holding a commercial driver license and cited while driving a noncommercial motor vehicle for an infraction under this section, other than a violation of s. 316.183(2), F.S., s. 316.187, F.S., or s. 316.189, F.S., when the driver exceeds the posted speed limit by 30 miles per hour or more, and certain other sections of statute, he or she can elect to attend a basic driver improvement course. For the driver that chooses this option, adjudication must be withheld and no points will be assessed to his or her driver license.

Driver Improvement Schools

Section 318.1451, F.S., requires the department to approve all courses of all driver improvement schools related to ss. 318.14(9), 322.0261, and 322.291, F.S. The chief judge of the applicable judicial circuit may establish requirements of location within the judicial circuit. Individuals are allowed to engage in the business of operating a driver improvement school offering department approved and regulated courses using technology as the delivery method for driver improvement schools.

The department considers course content promoting safety, crash avoidance techniques, and other criteria to improve driver performance. Initial approval of courses are based on the department's review of all course materials, course presentation to the department by the provider and the provider's plan for effective oversight by those who deliver the course to the State of Florida. New courses are provisionally approved and limited to the Judicial Circuit originally approved for pilot testing, until fully approved by the department, and delivered statewide. Also, in approving criteria and use of technology as a teaching form, the department considers only those courses submitted by a person, business, or entity previously approved for statewide delivery. Further, the department does not accept proof of attendance for persons attending those schools that do not teach approved courses. Those persons can then choose to take the course at another school.

A \$2.50 assessment fee is collected, along with the regular course fee by the school, from each person who elects to attend a course. The fee is remitted to the department and deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. The assessment fee is used to administer this program and fund the general operations of the department. Administrative duties are the responsibility of the providers. Providers must maintain all records related to the conduct of their approved courses for 5 years, and must allow the department to inspect course records as necessary. Course records may be maintained in an electronic format. Pursuant to s. 119.07(1), F.S., the department makes the records available to the public upon request.

The department or court may prepare a traffic school reference guide to list the benefits of attending a driver improvement school, which would contain names of fully approved course providers along with a telephone number.

Advanced Driver Improvement

A Florida hardship license can be obtained by enrolling in an Advanced Driver Improvement (ADI) course. When a motorist driver's license has been suspended or revoked for points or because of habitual traffic offenses (12 points on driving record in the past year) or by court order, that motorist may enroll in the ADI course to obtain a Florida hardship license.⁹

Basic Driver Improvement

The Basic Driver Improvement (BDI)¹⁰ course is for individuals wishing to retain their driver license when found at fault in an accident and:

- Someone was transported to the hospital as a result of their offense;
- They had two crashes in a two-year period which resulted in property damage greater than \$500; or they were ticketed for:
 - Passing a stopped school bus;
 - Highway racing;
 - Reckless driving; or

⁹ <http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/adiciphone.html>

¹⁰ Id.

- Running a red light.

Motorists may choose to attend the BDI course in lieu of driving record points.

Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education course

Persons having never held a regular driver license in any state, country, or jurisdiction must complete a Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education course (TLSAE)¹¹ before applying for a temporary driving permit (restricted driver license) in the state of Florida. The driver education courses offered by some county school boards may substitute for this requirement. Individuals under 21 years old who receive a notice of suspension for driving with a blood alcohol level of .02 to .05 must complete a TLSAE course in order to reinstate his or her driver license on a hardship basis.

In recent years, the agency has experienced repeated complaints related to driver improvement courses. These complaints prompted the Legislative Joint Administrative Procedures Committee¹² to suggest strengthening the agency's authority by clarifying the implementation of the driver improvement courses.

Transfer and reassignment forms; odometer disclosure statements

Under s. 319.225, F.S., every certificate of title must include this statement: "Federal and state law require the completion of the odometer statement. Failure to complete or providing false information may result in fines, imprisonment, or both." This statement must be on the reverse side of all certificates of title issued by the department. Also on the reserve side of the form for transfer of title by the titleholder of record, there must be an odometer disclosure statement, required by 49 C.F.R. s. 580.5. The law has not addressed electronic title transfers in casual or private sales.

The department requested a variance from The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) for acquiring and maintaining odometer reading records. The NHTSA has approved the department's request to use an alternate form to record odometer readings. The certificate of title form has been revised numerous times to accommodate space requirements, and most recently revised to eliminate a previously required duplicate copy already being entered into the Florida Real-Time Vehicle Information System (FRVIS).¹³

Application for, and issuance of, certificate of title

Under s. 319.23, F.S., a certificate of title must be made upon a form prescribed by the department and filed with the department along with the fee. However, if there has been a certificate of title previously issued for a motor vehicle or mobile home, that certificate of title must also accompany the form, duly assigned, or reassigned. Also, if either the motor vehicle or

¹¹ Id.

¹² JAPC conducts continuous oversight of executive branch actions implementing legislatively delegated powers, ensuring that each action has an adequate statutory basis, that all applicable procedures are followed, and that no illegal rules are imposed on the people of Florida.

¹³ On-line computer system providing access to the DHSMV's motor vehicle database.

the mobile home for which the application for a certificate of title is made is a new motor vehicle or new mobile home for which one or more manufacturers' statements of origin are required by the provisions of s. 319.21, F.S., the application for a certificate of the title must be accompanied by all such manufacturers' statements of origin.

The title certificate or application for title must contain the applicant's full name, date of birth, sex, personal or business identification, which may include a driver's license number, Florida identification card number, or federal employer identification number, and the license plate number or, an affidavit certifying that the motor vehicle to be titled will not be operated upon the public highways of this state.

Transfer of ownership by operation of law

In case of repossession of a motor vehicle or mobile home , s. 319.28, (2)(b), F.S., requires an affidavit by the party to whom possession has passed stating that the vehicle or mobile home was repossessed upon default. Such affidavit is considered satisfactory proof of ownership and right of possession. At least 5 days prior to selling the repossessed vehicle, any subsequent lienholder named in the last issued certificate of title must be sent notice of the repossession by certified mail, on a form prescribed by the department. If such notice is given and no written protest to the department is presented by a subsequent lienholder within 15 days from the date on which the notice was mailed, the certificate of title or the certificate of repossession is issued showing no liens. If the former owner or any subsequent lienholder files a written protest within the 15-day period, the department may not issue the certificate of title or certificate of repossession for 10 days. If no injunction has been served on the department commanding it not to deliver the certificate of title or certificate of repossession, the department delivers the certificate of title or repossession to the applicant. Any lienholder who has repossessed a vehicle in compliance with these provisions must apply to a tax collector's office in this state or to the department for a certificate of repossession or to the department for a certificate of title under s. 319.323, F.S. Proof of the required notice to subsequent lienholders must be submitted together with regular title fees. A lienholder to whom a certificate of repossession has been issued may assign the certificate of title to the subsequent owner. Any person found guilty of violating any requirements of this paragraph shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.

Certificates of Repossession

Section 319.323, F.S., The department offers separate title offices used by private citizens and licensed motor vehicle dealers to receive expedited service on title transfers, title issuances, duplicate titles, recordation of liens, and certificates of repossession. A fee of \$10 is charged for the expedited service in addition to the fees imposed by s. 319.32, F.S.

When a lienholder repossesses a motor vehicle, currently he or she has the option of requesting a certificate of title or a certificate of repossession for the vehicle. Since the title must be in the lienholder's possession to resell the vehicle it is no longer necessary to require a certificate of repossession, effectively making the certificate of repossession obsolete.

Withholding Registration

Sections 320.18, 320.27, 320.62, 320.77, 320.771, and 320.8225, F.S., allow the department to withhold the registration of any motor vehicle or mobile home when the owner has failed to register for any previous period for which it appears registration should have been made until the tax for such period or periods is paid. The department may cancel any vehicle or vessel registration, driver license, identification card, or fuel-use tax decal if the owner pays for any vehicle or vessel registration, driver license, identification card or fuel-use tax decal; pays any administrative, delinquency, or reinstatement fee; or pays any tax liability, penalty, or interest specified in ch. 207, F.S., by a dishonored check, or if the vehicle owner or motor carrier has failed to pay a penalty for a weight or safety violation issued by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) or the DHSMV. The FDOT and DHSMV may impound any commercial motor vehicle that has a canceled license plate or fuel-use tax decal until the tax liability, penalty, and interest specified in ch. 207, F.S., the license tax, or the fuel-use decal fee, and applicable administrative fees have been paid for by certified funds.

Motor Vehicle Dealers; application and fee

Any person who buys, sells, or deals in three or more motor vehicles in any 12-month period or who offers or displays for sale three or more motor vehicles in any 12-month period is presumed to be engaged in such business. No person may engage in business as a motor vehicle dealer in this state without first obtaining a license.¹⁴ With the exception of transactions with motor vehicle auctions, no person other than a licensed motor vehicle dealer may advertise for sale any motor vehicle belonging to another party unless as a direct result of a bona fide legal proceeding, court order, settlement of an estate, or by operation of law. Upon making initial application, the applicant shall pay to the department a fee of \$300 in addition to any other fees now required by law. Upon making a subsequent renewal application, the applicant shall pay to the department a fee of \$75 in addition to any other fees now required by law. Each license issued to a franchise motor vehicle dealer expires annually on December 31. Each license issued to an independent or wholesale dealer or auction expires annually on April 30. Not less than 60 days prior to the license expiration date, the department delivers to each licensee the necessary renewal forms.

Medical Advisory Board

Section 322.125, F.S., provides that the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) be composed of not fewer than 12 or more than 25 members, at least one of whom must be 60 years of age or older and all but one of whose medical and other specialties must relate to driving abilities, which number must include a doctor of medicine who is employed by the DHSMV in Tallahassee, who shall serve as administrative officer for the board. The executive director of the DHSMV must recommend persons to serve as board members. Every member but two must be a doctor of medicine licensed to practice medicine in this or any other state and must be a member in good standing of the Florida Medical Association or the Florida Osteopathic Association. One member must be an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this state and must be a member in good standing of the Florida Optometric Association. One member must be a chiropractic physician licensed to practice chiropractic medicine in this state. Members must be approved by the

¹⁴ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/320.27>

Cabinet and serve 4-year staggered terms. The board membership must, to the maximum extent possible, consist of equal representation of the disciplines of the medical community treating the mental or physical disabilities that could affect the safe operation of motor vehicles.

Driver license agents

Under s. 322.135, F.S., the department authorizes tax collectors who are constitutional officers under s. 1(d), Art. VIII of the State Constitution¹⁵ to serve as its agent for the provision of specified driver license services. A tax collector may refuse to issue or renew a driver license if he or she has reason to believe that the licensee or prospective licensee is physically or mentally unqualified to operate a motor vehicle. The tax collector may direct such licensee to the department for examination or reexamination under s. 322.221, F.S.¹⁶

Driver licenses and renewals

The department may issue an original driver's license only after the applicant successfully passes the required examinations and presents the application to the department. Also, the department may waive the driver license exam requirement if the applicant is otherwise qualified and surrenders a valid license issued by another state, a province of Canada, or the U.S. Armed Forces which is of an equal or lesser classification. A licensee who is otherwise eligible for renewal and who is at least 80 years of age: must submit to a vision test administered by a physician licensed under chs. 458 and 459, an optometrist licensed under ch. 463, or a licensed physician at a federally established veterans' hospital; must send results of the test to the department on a form obtained from the department and signed by the health care practitioner; and must meet vision standards that are equivalent to the standards for passing the departmental vision test. The physician or optometrist may submit the results of a vision test by a department-approved electronic means.

Use of Driver License Information

Florida driver licenses and identification cards hold digital data containing almost all of the personal information displayed on the license or ID card. Data contained digitally on the license or card includes the following information:

- Name,
- Address,
- Date of birth,
- Height,
- Weight,
- Gender,
- Eye color,
- Lens restrictions,
- Organ donor status, and
- License or ID card number

¹⁵ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Constitution#A8> , County Officers

¹⁶ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/322.221> (See reexamination law)

The digital data does not reflect other information such as driving habits, traffic citations, or next of kin.

An increasing number of businesses have acquired the technology to collect or confirm this data by “swiping” the license or ID card through a magnetic stripe or bar code reader. Typically, the swipe of the card is used for confirmation of age restriction compliance (*e.g.*, to prevent the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors), to confirm identification when paying by check, marketing purposes, or to track the sale of controlled substances. The only data contained on the magnetic stripe that is readable is that which is on the face of a driver license, or the name, address, date of birth, and driver license identification number. Florida law does not control how such data may be stored or used.

Unauthorized possession of a Commercial Driver License

Section 322.212, F.S., allows that in addition to any other penalties provided in s. 322.212, F.S., any person providing false information when applying for a commercial driver license will be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

Suspension of license upon notification of a court

Under chs. 316 and 320, F.S., the department is authorized to suspend the driver license of persons who have failed to:

- Comply with directives ordered by traffic court;
- Pay child support in non-IV-D cases (child support is maintained privately, rather than through the assistance of the Office of Child Support Enforcement) as provided in ch. 61; or
- Pay any financial obligation in any other criminal case.

If the person fails to comply with the directives of the court within the 30-day period, or, in non-IV-D cases, fails to comply within the period specified in that statute, the depository or the clerk of the court notifies the department of such failure within 10 days.

Currently, notification to the department is done electronically for these types of suspensions. However, not all clerks of court choose this form of contact.

Court reporting convictions; temporary reinstatement of driving privileges

Under s. 322.25(7), F.S., a driver convicted of DUI, whose license and driving privilege have been revoked, may be issued a court order for reinstatement of a driving privilege on a temporary basis; provided that, as a part of the penalty, upon conviction, the defendant is required to enroll in and complete a driver improvement course for the rehabilitation of drinking drivers and is otherwise eligible for reinstatement of the driving privilege. The period of time for which a temporary permit issued in accordance with this subsection is valid shall be deemed to be part of the period of revocation imposed by the court.

According to DHSMV, no court has ordered a temporary reinstatement under these provisions since 1982.

Suspension of Driver License; right to review

Under s. 322.2615, F.S., when the department determines that a person had a blood-alcohol level or breath-alcohol level of 0.08 or higher, the department must suspend the person's driver's license. Section 322.2615(1)(b), F.S., allows the driver to request a formal or informal review of the suspension by the department within 10 days after the date of issuance of the notice of suspension. If the person whose license was suspended requests a formal review, the department must schedule a hearing within 30 days after the request is received by the department and must notify the person of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The formal review hearing is held before a hearing officer employed by the department, and the hearing officer is authorized to administer oaths, examine witnesses and take testimony, receive relevant evidence, issue subpoenas for the officers and witnesses identified in documents, regulate the course and conduct of the hearing, question witnesses, and make a ruling on the suspension. The party requesting the presence of a witness is responsible for the payment to the witness and for notifying in writing the state attorney's office in the appropriate circuit of the issuance of the subpoena.

According to DHSMV, telephonic appearances thereby at such hearings are not addressed by statute and may become problematic in appellate litigation, increasing legal costs for the department and creating ongoing uncertainty for hearing officers and the courts. Invalidation for failure of a witness to appear is frequently litigated.

Driving Privileges; modification of revocation, cancellation, or suspension order

When a person's driver license is suspended, cancelled, or revoked, unless he or she is a habitual traffic offender under s. 322.27(5), F.S.,¹⁷ or a person ineligible to be granted driving privilege on a limited restricted basis, the department immediately notifies the licensee of the status of his or her driver license, and if he or she so chooses, can request a hearing pursuant ch. 120, F.S., within 30 days, in the county where he or she resides.

Any person whose license has been permanently revoked due to a conviction for DUI manslaughter in violation of s. 316.193, F.S.,¹⁸ and has no prior convictions for DUI-related offenses upon expiration of 5 years after the date of revocation or expiration of 5 years after termination of any term of incarceration under ss. 316.193 or former 316.1931, F.S., whichever date is later, may petition the department for reinstatement or his or her driving privilege.

Multiple offenses with one conviction

In a prosecution for a violation of DUI, (s. 316.193, F.S., or former s. 316.1931, F.S.), the following provisions apply:

¹⁷ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/322.27>

¹⁸ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/316.193>

- Upon conviction of the driver, the court, along with imposing sentence, shall revoke the driver's license or driving privilege of the person so convicted, effective on the date of conviction, and shall prescribe the period of such revocation in accordance with the following provisions:
 - First conviction for a violation, except a violation resulting in death, the driver's license or driving privilege shall be revoked for not less than 180 days or more than 1 year.
 - Second conviction for an offense that occurs within a period of 5 years after the date of a prior conviction for a violation of the provisions, the driver's license or driving privilege shall be revoked for not less than 5 years.
 - Third conviction for an offense that occurs within a period of 10 years after the date of a prior conviction for the violation of the provisions, the driver's license or driving privilege shall be revoked for not less than 10 years.

Currently, s. 322.28(2)(a), F.S., does not address situations where a driver commits 2 DUI offenses on the same day or second and third convictions occurring outside of a 5 or 10 year period, after the date of the prior conviction. The department states that it has been made aware of situations in which a driver receives two DUI citations for separate events but is convicted of both offenses at one court proceeding. Also, statutory reference language in that same section for first time DUI convictions is no longer applicable.

Disqualifications operating commercial motor vehicle

Under s. 322.61, F.S., a holder of a commercial driver license (CDL) who is convicted of multiple, specified, serious traffic violations in a CMV in separate incidents within a 3-year period, may be disqualified from operating a CMV for periods ranging from 60 days to one year, depending on the number and type of violations.

Commercial *learner* permit holders have not been subject to the same penalties as commercial driver license holders even though both operate on the same roadways. The department has recommended aligning the penalties to fully conform to the required federal criteria for CMVs.

State Uniform Traffic Control

Section 316.515, F.S., specifies the maximum width, height and length limitations of motor vehicles determined by the DHSMV to be necessary for the safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles. Length limitations apply solely to semitrailers or trailers and not to truck tractors or to the overall length of a combination of vehicles.

Straight Truck

A straight truck is defined as any truck on which the cargo unit and the motive power unit are located on the same frame which forms a single rigid unit. A straight truck may not exceed 40 feet in length, excluding any approved safety or energy conservation device attached to the vehicle.

Wrecker Operators

Section 323.002, F.S., allows counties and municipalities to establish wrecker operator systems and provides several definitions relating to wrecker operators:

- Authorized wrecker operator means a wrecker operator who has been designated as part of the wrecker operator system established by the governmental unit having jurisdiction over the scene of a wrecked or disabled vehicle.
- Unauthorized wrecker operator means a wrecker operator who has not been designated as part of the wrecker operator system established by the governmental unit having jurisdiction over the scene of a wrecked or disabled vehicle.
- A wrecker operator system means a system used in the actual towing or removal of wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles. A wrecker operating system uses a method for apportioning towing assignments among its eligible wrecker operators through the creation of geographic zones and/or a rotation schedule. A similar wrecker operator system is employed by the Division of Florida Highway Patrol within DHSMV. The FHP wrecker rotation system uses qualified, reputable wrecker operators for removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles. In the FHP system, all reputable wrecker operators are eligible for use in the system as long as the equipment used and the drivers meet safety qualifications and mechanical standard rules

Counties may establish maximum rates which may be charged on the towing of vehicles or immobilization of vehicles on private property, removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles from an accident scene or for the removal and storage of vehicles, in the event the owner or operator is incapacitated, unavailable, leaves the procurement of wrecker service to the law enforcement officer at the scene, or otherwise does not consent to the removal of the vehicle. However, if a municipality chooses to enact an ordinance establishing the maximum fees for the towing or immobilization of vehicles, the county's ordinance may not apply to the municipality.¹⁹

Further, it is unlawful for unauthorized wrecker operators to monitor police radio communications between patrol field units and the dispatcher for information to determine the

¹⁹ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/125.0103>

location of wrecked or disabled vehicles or drive by an accident or disabled vehicle and initiate or offer of his or her services, unless the vehicle owner signals that operator to stop and provide towing services. The unauthorized operator then has to disclose to the vehicle owner that he or she is not an authorized designated wrecker operator and must provide in writing the towing and storage charges before the vehicle is “on hook.” Persons who violate this provision are guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in ss.775.082 or 775.083, F.S.²⁰

Insurers reports to DHSMV; suspension of driver license and vehicle registration;

Section 324.0221, requires each insurer that has issued a policy providing personal injury protection (PIP) coverage or property damage liability coverage shall report the renewal, cancellation, or nonrenewal to the department within 45 days after the effective date of each renewal, cancellation, or nonrenewal. Upon the issuance of a policy providing PIP coverage or property damage liability coverage to a named insured not previously insured by the insurer during that calendar year, the insurer must report the issuance of the new policy to the department within 30 days. The department may adopt rules regarding the form and documentation required. Failure by an insurer to file proper reports with the department constitutes a violation of the Florida Insurance Code.²¹ These records may be used by the department only for enforcement and regulatory purposes, including the generation by the department of data regarding compliance by owners of motor vehicles with the requirements for financial responsibility coverage.

According to the department, it is necessary to change the timeline for customers and insurers to report proof of insurance to reduce a window of time allowing for vehicles to be on the roadways uninsured.

Proving financial responsibility

Section 324.031, F.S., provides that an owner or operator of a taxicab, limousine, jitney, or any other for-hire passenger transportation vehicle may prove financial responsibility by providing satisfactory evidence of holding a motor vehicle liability policy as defined in ss. 324.021(8) or 324.151, F.S., when such policy is issued by an insurance carrier which is a member of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association. The operator or owner of any other vehicle may also prove his or her financial responsibility by:

- Furnishing satisfactory evidence of holding a motor vehicle liability policy as defined in ss. 324.021(8)²² and 324.151, F.S.;²³
- Posting with the department a satisfactory bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned for payment of the amount specified in s. 324.021(7), F.S.;
- Furnishing a certificate of the department showing a deposit of cash or securities in accordance with s. 324.161, F.S.;²⁴ or

²⁰ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/775.082> or <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/775.083> (see penalties)

²¹ <http://law.onecle.com/florida/insurance/chapter624.html> (See definitions and complete statute, including US Code.)

²² <http://flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/324.021>

²³ <http://flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/324.151>

²⁴ <http://flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/324.161>

- Furnishing a certificate of self-insurance issued by the department in accordance with s. 324.171, F.S.²⁵

Any person, including any firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other person, other than a natural person, electing to use the method of proof specified in subsection (2) or subsection (3) must post a bond or deposit equal to the number of vehicles owned times \$30,000, to a maximum of \$120,000; in addition, any such person, other than a natural person, must maintain insurance providing coverage in excess of limits of \$10,000/20,000/10,000 or \$30,000 combined single limits, and such excess insurance may provide minimum limits of \$125,000/250,000/50,000 or \$300,000 combined single limits. These increased limits may not affect the requirements for proving financial responsibility under s. 324.032(1), F.S.²⁶

Notice to department; notice to insurer

Section 324.091, F.S., requires each owner and operator involved in a crash or conviction case within the purview of this chapter shall furnish evidence of automobile liability insurance, motor vehicle liability insurance, or a surety bond within 14 days after the date of the mailing of notice of crash by the department in the form and manner as it may designate. Upon receipt of evidence that an automobile liability policy, motor vehicle liability policy, or surety bond was in effect at the time of the crash or conviction case, the department shall forward by United States mail, postage prepaid, to the insurer or surety insurer a copy of such information and shall assume that the policy or bond was in effect, unless the insurer or surety insurer notifies the department otherwise within 20 days after the mailing of the notice to the insurer or surety insurer. Proof of mailing to the insurer or surety insurer may be made by the department by naming the insurer or surety insurer to whom the mailing was made and by specifying the time, place, and manner of mailing. The department has recommended requiring verification of insurance proof electronically rather than via mail.

Proof of financial responsibility; surety bond or deposit

Section 324.161, F.S., authorizes that the certificate of the department of a deposit may be obtained by depositing with it \$30,000 cash or securities such as may be legally purchased by savings banks or for trust funds, of a market value of \$30,000 and which deposit shall be held by the department to satisfy any execution on a judgment issued against such person making the deposit for damages because of bodily injury to or death of any person or for damages because of injury to or destruction of property resulting from the use or operation of any motor vehicle occurring after such deposit was made. Money or securities so deposited shall not be subject to attachment or execution unless such attachment or execution shall arise out of a suit for damages.

Application for certificate of title

Section 328.01, F.S., requires that the owner of a vessel which is required to be titled apply to the county tax collector for a certificate of title. The application shall include the true name of the owner, the residence or business address of the owner, and the complete description of the vessel, including the hull identification number, except that an application for a certificate of title

²⁵ <http://flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/324.171>

²⁶ <http://flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/324.032>

for a homemade vessel shall state all the foregoing information except the hull identification number. The application shall be signed by the owner and shall be accompanied by personal or business identification, which may include, but need not be limited to, a driver's license number, Florida identification card number, or federal employer identification number, and the prescribed fee. The department has recommended such applications require the inclusion of an official identification credential.

Vessel registration, application, certificate, number, decal, duplicate certificate

Section 328.48, F.S., provides that the owner of each vessel required to pay a registration fee and secure an identification number must file an application with the county tax collector. The application must provide the owner's name and address, residency status, personal or business identification, which may include, but need not be limited to, a driver's license number, Florida identification card number, or federal employer identification number, and a complete description of the vessel, and must be accompanied by payment of the applicable fee required in s.328.72, F.S. Registration is not required for any vessel that is not used on the waters of this state. The department has recommended such applications require the inclusion of an official identification credential.

Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund

Section 328.76(1), F.S., directs a specified, \$1.4 million transfer of revenue received from vessel registration fees to the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund to cover the department's administrative expenses of vessel registration. The remainder is deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for: recreational channel marking; public launching facilities; law enforcement and quality control programs; aquatic weed control; manatee protection, recovery, rescue, rehabilitation, and release; and marine mammal protection and recovery.

According to the department, due to reorganization and efficiencies, the department's administrative costs for the Vessel Registration Program have been significantly reduced in recent years. The department recommends revisions effecting a transfer of funds equal to its administrative expenses.

Dismantling and Salvage of Vehicles or Mobile Homes

When a motor vehicle or mobile home is to be dismantled, destroyed, or altered so significantly as to no longer be the motor vehicle or mobile home described in the certificate of title, subsection (2) of s. 319.30, F.S., requires the owner(s) as listed on the title to surrender the title to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) for cancellation. Violation of the requirement constitutes a second-degree misdemeanor.²⁷

All vehicles being sold, transported, or delivered to a salvage motor vehicle dealer²⁸ must be accompanied by a:

²⁷ As punishable by s. 775.082, F.S., or s. 775.083, F.S., up to 60 days in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine.

²⁸ By reference, s. 319.30, F.S., defines a salvage motor vehicle dealer as "any person who engages in the business of acquiring salvaged or wrecked motor vehicles for the purpose of reselling them and their parts."

- Properly endorsed certificate of title,²⁹
- Valid salvage certificate of title issued by the DHSMV in the name of the seller or properly endorsed to the seller, or
- Valid certificate of destruction issued in the name of the seller or properly endorsed to the seller.

Certificate of Title

In Florida, most vehicles are required to be titled;³⁰ the exceptions are mopeds, motorized bicycles, and trailers weighing less than 2,000 pounds. A certificate of title is the record that is evidence of ownership of a motor vehicle issued by DHSMV.³¹

Salvage Certificate of Title and Certificate of Destruction

When an uninsured vehicle or mobile home is wrecked or damaged and the cost to repair it is 80 percent or more of its value it is considered a total loss. When an insurance company has paid to replace a wrecked or stolen vehicle or mobile home, it is declared a total loss. Whether insured or not, a vehicle or mobile home considered a total loss is declared “salvage.” Within 72 hours, the owner or insurance company must forward the certificate of title to DHSMV for processing, applying for either a Certificate of Title or Certificate of Destruction.³² The owner or insurance company may not dispose of a vehicle or mobile home declared a total loss before obtaining a salvage certificate of title or certificate of destruction.³³

When a towing company tows and stores a vehicle, the company may apply for a certificate of destruction under certain conditions.³⁴ Under s. 713.78(2), F.S., when a wrecker operator tows and stores a vehicle or vessel, the wrecker operator must send notice to the registered owner, the insurance company insuring the vehicle, and all lienholders, as disclosed by state agency records.³⁵ Vehicles or vessels remaining unclaimed may be sold by public auction by the wrecker operator for towing and storage charges.³⁶ If the vehicle to be sold is to be dismantled, destroyed, or altered significantly, a wrecker operator must apply to the county tax collector for a certificate of destruction.³⁷ The application for a certificate of destruction must include an affidavit from the applicant that it has complied with all applicable requirements of s. 713.78, F.S., and, if the vehicle or vessel is not registered in Florida, by a statement from a law enforcement officer that the vehicle or vessel is not reported stolen. The application must also be accompanied by any such documentation as may be required by DHSMV.

²⁹ A certificate of title is properly endorsed when the identified owner(s), i.e., the seller, has completed the form printed on the back of the certificate containing the name and address of the purchaser, odometer information, selling price, and the date sold in the “Transfer of Title by Seller” section. The seller must also sign and hand print their name.

³⁰ Section 320.02, F.S., generally.

³¹ Sections 319.001(1) and 319.30(1)(c), F.S.

³² An insurance company must forward the certificate of title within 72 hours from the time it obtains it from the owner.

³³ Section 319.30(3)(b), F.S.

³⁴ Section 713.78(11), F.S.

³⁵ Section 713.78(4)(a), F.S.

³⁶ Section 713.78(6), F.S.

³⁷ Section 713.78(11), F.S.

A certificate of destruction, which authorizes the dismantling or destruction of the vehicle or vessel described therein, may be reassigned no more than twice before dismantling or destruction of the vehicle shall be required. The certificate of destruction must accompany the vehicle or vessel for which it is issued, when such vehicle or vessel is sold for such purposes, in lieu of a certificate of title. Violation of these provisions, including providing a false or fictitious name, address, or statement on an application or affidavit, is a third degree felony punishable as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.

Derelict Motor Vehicle Certificates

Under s. 319.30, F.S., a derelict motor vehicle is any motor vehicle or mobile home, with or without all its parts, which is:

- Valued under \$1,000;
- At least 10 years old; and
- Is in such condition that its primary value is for dismantling for parts or conversion to scrap metal.

When a derelict motor vehicle is sold, transported, or delivered to a salvage motor vehicle dealer, the purchaser must record the date, and the name, address, and personal identification card number of the person selling the vehicle, accompanied by:³⁸

- The properly endorsed certificate of title;
- A valid salvage certificate of title issued by the DHSMV in the name of the seller or properly endorsed to the seller; or
- A valid certificate of destruction issued in the name of the seller or properly endorsed to the seller.

If none of these documents are available, a derelict motor vehicle certificate must be completed by the owner, the owner's authorized transporter, and the licensed salvage motor vehicle dealer, at the time of sale, transport, and delivery to the dealer or recycler. The dealer or recycler must notify DHSMV within 24 hours of receiving the derelict vehicle or mobile home and the derelict vehicle or mobile home must be secured for three business days (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to its destruction or dismantling. Under s. 319.30(2)(c), F.S., it is a third degree felony³⁹ for anyone to willfully and deliberately:

- Sell, transport, deliver, purchase, or receive a derelict motor vehicle without obtaining a:
 - Certificate of title;
 - Salvage certificate of title;
 - Certificate of destruction; or
 - Derelict motor vehicle certificate.
- Enter false or fictitious information on a derelict motor vehicle certificate;
- Not complete the derelict motor vehicle certificate or not notify DHSMV; or
- Destroy or dismantle a derelict motor vehicle without waiting the required three full days.

³⁸ Section 319.30(2)(c), F.S.

³⁹ As punishable by ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S., up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine.

When a derelict motor vehicle is sold, transported, or delivered to a secondary metals recycler,⁴⁰ the purchaser must record the date, and the name, address, and personal identification card number of the person selling the vehicle, accompanied by:⁴¹

- The properly endorsed certificate of title;
- A valid certificate of destruction issued in the name of the seller or properly endorsed to the seller; or
- A valid derelict motor vehicle certificate.

If none of these documents are available, a derelict motor vehicle certificate must be completed by the owner, the owner's authorized transporter, and the licensed salvage motor vehicle dealer, at the time of sale, transport, and delivery to the dealer or recycler. The dealer or recycler must notify DHSMV within 24 hours of receiving the derelict vehicle or mobile home and the derelict vehicle or mobile home must be secured for three business days (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to its destruction or dismantling. Under s. 319.30(7)(b), F.S., it is a third degree felony⁴² for anyone willfully and deliberately:

- Selling, transporting, delivering, purchasing, or receiving a derelict motor vehicle without obtaining:
 - A certificate of title;
 - A salvage certificate of title;
 - A certificate of destruction; or
 - A derelict motor vehicle certificate.
- Entering false or fictitious information on a derelict motor vehicle certificate;
- Not completing the derelict motor vehicle certificate or not notifying DHSMV; or
- Destroying a derelict motor vehicle without waiting the required three full days.

Subsection (6) of s. 319.30, F.S., also requires salvage motor vehicle dealers to record the name, address, and personal identification card number of any person delivering motor vehicles, derelicts and major parts. Violation of the subsection is a first-degree misdemeanor.⁴³

Both salvage motor vehicle dealers and secondary metals recyclers are required to return all certificates of title to DHSMV each month. All certificates of destruction, affidavits, and all other required information must be retained by the dealer or recycler for 3 years.

⁴⁰ By reference, s. 319.30, F.S., defines a secondary metals recycler as any person who:

“(a) Is engaged, from a fixed location or otherwise, in the business of gathering or obtaining ferrous or nonferrous metals that have served their original economic purpose or is in the business of performing the manufacturing process by which ferrous metals or nonferrous metals are converted into raw material products consisting of prepared grades and having an existing or potential economic value; or

(b) Has facilities for performing the manufacturing process by which ferrous metals or nonferrous metals are converted into raw material products consisting of prepared grades and having an existing or potential economic value, other than by the exclusive use of hand tools, by methods including, without limitation, processing, sorting, cutting, classifying, cleaning, baling, wrapping, shredding, shearing, or changing the physical form or chemical content thereof

⁴¹ Section 319.30(7)(a)4., F.S.

⁴² Supra note 13.

⁴³ As punishable by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, F.S., up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s.110.205, F.S., to reclassify captain positions within the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and place them in the Selected Exempt Service. According to DHSMV, the proposed change will ensure FHP Captains are measured by a standard of accountability which is equivalent to their level of responsibility.

Sections 2, 14, 24, 27, and 28 amend ss. 207.002(1), (11) and (12), 316.545, 320.01, 320.03, 320.071, and 320.0715, F.S., deleting the definitions of “apportioned motor vehicle” and “apportionable vehicle” in s. 207.002, F.S. The definitions are no longer applicable to the purpose of ch. 207, F.S., nor are they consistent with the definitions referenced in s. 320, F.S.

Sections 3 and 4 provide intent and amend s. 316.003, F.S., which defines terms used in the “Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law,” by defining the term “road rage” to mean:

The act of a driver or passenger to intentionally or unintentionally, due to a loss of emotional control, injure or kill another driver, passenger, or pedestrian, or to attempt or threaten to injure or kill another driver, passenger, or pedestrian.

Section 5 amends s. 316.066, F.S., to add FDOT to the list of entities that may immediately receive a crash report that is ordinarily confidential and exempt for 60 days after the date the report is filed.

Section 6 amends s. 316.083, F.S., provides that on roads, streets, or highways having two or more lanes that allow movement in the same direction, a driver may not continue to operate a motor vehicle in the furthestmost left-hand lane if the driver knows, or reasonably should know, that he or she is being overtaken in that lane from the rear by a motor vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed.

The bill provides that this prohibition does not apply to a driver operating a motor vehicle in the furthestmost left-hand lane if:

- The driver is driving the legal speed limit and is not impeding the flow of traffic in the furthestmost left-hand lane;
- The driver is in the process of overtaking a slower motor vehicle in the adjacent right-hand lane for the purpose of passing the slower moving vehicle so that the driver may move to the adjacent right-hand lane;
- Conditions make the flow of traffic substantially the same in all lanes or preclude the driver from moving to the adjacent right-hand lane;
- The driver’s movement to the adjacent right-hand lane could endanger the driver or other drivers;
- The driver is directed by a law enforcement officer, road sign, or road crew to remain in the furthestmost left-hand lane;
- The driver is preparing to make a left turn; or
- The driver is traveling at a speed not less than 10 miles per hour under the posted speed limit.

A driver simultaneously violating these provisions and the provisions of s. 316.183, F.S. (relating to Unlawful Speed) shall receive a uniform noncriminal traffic citation for the unlawful speed violation.

Section 7 reenacts s. 316.1923, F.S.

Section 8 creates an unnumbered section of law. It requires the department to provide information on yielding the left lane in all of its driver license educational materials that are newly printed on or after October 1, 2013.

Section 9 amends s. 316.1937, F.S., to reduce the “fail point” of an IID, i.e., the threshold of the blood alcohol level at which the vehicle is prevented from starting. The bill lowers the BAC from 0.05 to 0.025.

Section 10 amends s. 316.2015, F.S., to prohibit persons under the age of 6 years from riding in the back of pickup trucks or on flatbed trucks except when the truck has been modified to include secure seating and safety restraints. Certain circumstances are excluded from this provision such as medical emergencies, when the child is accompanied by an adult, or when the vehicle is traveling on an unpaved road, or on a street or highway maintained by state, county, or municipality with a posted speed limit of less than 55 miles per hour. The governing body of a county may, by majority vote, exempt the county from this paragraph.

Sections 11 and 12 amend ss. 316.302 and 316.3025, F.S., revising provisions relating to commercial motor vehicles (CMV) to incorporate required federal law.

- The bill incorporates 49 C.F.R. § 383 into Florida law to incorporate provisions for violations of the texting and hand-held mobile telephone provisions of federal law, thereby avoiding a potential federal funds penalty for failure of the state to comply with federal law.
- The bill changes the date on which federal rules and regulations are incorporated from October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012.
- The bill incorporates subpart F of 49 C.F.R. part 107 to authorize the DHSMV enforcement officers to conduct inspections on cargo tanks and cargo tank motor vehicles.
- The bill revises CMV regulations to conform to both intra-state and inter-state physical qualifications for drivers.

Section 13 amends s. 316.515, F.S., to allow for the attachment of a forklift to the rear cargo bed of a straight truck providing the overall length does not exceed 50 feet.

Section 15 amends s. 316.646, F.S., to allow drivers to provide proof of required insurance by electronic means on an electronic device such as the display of a smartphone. The bill provides that the act of presenting an electronic device does not constitute consent of access to other information on the device and that the person presenting the device assumes all liability for any damage to the device. The department is granted rulemaking authority to administer the section.

Sections 16, 22, and 23 amend ss. 317.0016, 319.28 and 319.323, F.S., by removing obsolete provisions related to certificates of repossession. Because the title must be held by the lienholder when it disposes of a vehicle, there is no need for certificate of repossession.

Section 17 amends s. 318.14, F.S., to provide that the penalty for the commercial driver license holder also applies to the commercial learner's permit holder. This aligns law with the federal rule, 49 C.F.R. 384.226.

Section 18 amends s. 318.1451, F.S., clarifying the agency's rulemaking authority to administer traffic law and substance abuse courses.

Section 19 creates s. 319.141, F.S., allowing the department to create a pilot rebuilt motor vehicle inspection program. By October 31, 2013 the department shall implement a pilot program in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough counties to evaluate alternatives for rebuilt inspection services to be offered by the private sector, including the feasibility of using private facilities, the cost impact to consumers, and the potential savings to the department.

The bill requires the department to establish a memorandum of understanding that will allow private parties participating in the program to conduct rebuilt motor vehicles inspections and specifies requirements for oversight, bonding and insurance, procedures, and forms and requires the electronic transmission of documents.

The applicants shall meet basic criteria in order to be approved for the pilot program:

- Have and maintain a surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$50,000 executed by the applicant;
- Have and maintain garage liability and other insurance required the department;
- Have completed criminal background checks of owners, partners, and corporate officers and the inspectors employed by the facility;
- Meet any additional criteria the department determines necessary to conduct proper inspections; and
- A participant in the program shall access vehicle and title information and enter inspection results through an electronic filing system authorized by the department.

The department shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House providing the results of the pilot program by February 1, 2015.

Section 319.141, F.S., is repealed on July 1, 2015, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

Section 20 amends s. 319.225, F.S., to require that when a dealer sells a vehicle to an out of state resident or out of state dealer and the power of attorney form is applicable to the transaction, the dealer must photocopy the completed original and mail to the department within 5 business days after the certificate of title and dealer reassignment form are delivered by the dealer to its purchaser.

The bill also allows for proper maintenance of electronic titles. The change will allow a new form for the buyer and seller in transferring motor vehicle electronic titles and will allow for those titles to remain electronic. If the transferee agrees to maintain the title electronically, both the transferor and the transferee must complete a secure reassignment document which discloses

the odometer reading and which is signed by both at the tax collector office or license plate agency.

Sections 21, 25, 58, and 59 amend ss. 319.23, 320.02, 328.01, and 324.48, F.S., to require applicants for the titling and/or registration of vehicles and vessels to provide an officially recognized form of identification including a driver license or state ID card from another state, and a valid passport. The bill provides business applicants the ability to use a local government – issued business license in lieu of a federal employer identification number.

Section 29 amends s. 320.18, F.S., expanding the department’s authorization to withhold the registration of a motor vehicle or mobile home which was previously not legally registered, to also include any co-owner of the vehicle or mobile home. Currently, such authorization applies only to owners.

Sections 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 amend ss. 320.27, 320.62, 320.77, 320.771, and 320.8225 F.S., allowing applicants for licenses necessary for motor vehicle dealers and manufacturers, mobile home dealers and manufacturers, and recreational vehicle dealers to choose an extension of the licensure period for an additional year, for a total of 2 years. An initial applicant pays to the department \$300 for the first year, \$75 for the second year, in addition to any other fees required by law. An applicant for renewal pays to the department \$75 for a 1-year renewal or \$150 for a 2-year renewal, in addition to any other fees required by law.

The bill amends s. 320.27(4)(a), F.S., adjusting the license issuance expiration date for franchise motor vehicle dealers from annually to expiring on December 31 of the year of its expiration unless the license is revoked or suspended prior to that date. Additionally, licenses issued to an independent or wholesale dealer or auction will expire on April 30 of the year of its expiration unless revoked or suspended prior to that date. The department shall deliver or mail to each licensee the necessary renewal forms, at least 60 days before the license expires.

The bill also amends s. 320.27(5), F.S., allowing persons obtaining a supplemental license for permanent additional place or places of business, not contiguous to the premises for which the original license is issued, on a form to be furnished by the department, and upon payment of a fee of \$50 for each such additional location. Applicants are allowed to choose to extend the licensure period for an additional year for a total of 2 years. He or she will pay to the department a fee of \$50 for the first year and \$50 for the second year for each additional location. Thereafter, the applicant shall pay \$50 for a 1-year renewal or \$100 for a 2-year renewal for each such additional location.

The bill makes conforming changes to fee provisions to remain fee-neutral.

Section 35 amends s. 322.095, F.S., to require each driver license applicant to complete a traffic law and substance abuse education (TLSAE) course, unless he or she has been licensed in another jurisdiction or has satisfactorily completed a Department of Education driver education course offered pursuant to s. 1003.48, F.S.⁴⁴ The department approves traffic law and substance abuse education courses, including courses that use communications technology as a delivery

⁴⁴ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/1003.48> (Instruction in operation of motor vehicles)

method. Initial approval of traffic law and substance abuse education courses shall be based on the department's review of: all course materials, which must be designed to promote safety, education, and driver awareness; course presentation; and the provider's plan for effective oversight. Each course provider seeking approval of a traffic law and substance abuse education course must submit proof of ownership, copyright, or written permission from course owner to use the course in the state. Also, the curriculum must promote motorcyclist, bicyclist, and pedestrian safety and provide instruction on physiological and psychological consequences of the abuse of alcohol and other drugs; the societal and economic costs of alcohol and drug abuse; the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the driver of a motor vehicle; the laws relating to the operation of a motor vehicle; the risk factors involved in driver attitude and irresponsible driver behaviors, such as speeding, reckless driving, and running red lights and stop signs; and results of the use of electronic devices while driving.

Prior to offering the course, the provider must obtain certification from the department. If the course is offered in a classroom setting, the course provider and any schools authorized by the provider to teach the course must offer the approved course at locations that are free from distractions and reasonably accessible to most applicants. The provider also must issue a certificate to persons successfully completing the course.

In addition to regular course costs, an assessment fee of \$3 shall be collected by the school from each person. The course provider must remit the \$3 assessment to the department for deposit into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund in order to receive a unique course completion certificate number for the student.

The department may maintain information and records necessary to administer its duties and responsibilities for the program. Course providers are required to maintain all records pertinent to the conduct of approved courses for 5 years and allow the department to inspect such records as necessary (including electronic records). If such information is a public record, it shall be made available to the public upon request.

The department shall design, develop, implement, and conduct effectiveness studies on each delivery method of approved courses on a recurring 3-year basis. Courses will be reviewed assessing the effectiveness in reducing DUI and moving traffic citations, and collision recidivism. If a course fails the effectiveness study, the provider shall immediately cease offering the course.

Courses must be updated at the department's request. The provider has 90 days to update a course, if asked by department. Failure to do so will result in suspension.

Course providers are responsible for the driver improvement schools conducting courses fully to the required time limits and content requirements—using only department approved materials. It is the responsibility of the course provider to ensure that students complete courses. If incompleteness is found due to action, error, or omission on the part of the course provider or driver improvement school conducting the course there shall be accommodations made to permit that student's completion at no additional cost.

TLSAE courses are a minimum of 4 hours, devoted to course content minus a maximum of 30 minutes allotted for breaks.

Students are not allowed to purchase a course completion certificate. Course providers must clearly convey that the only valid course completion certificates are those that are entered into the department's Driver Improvement Certificate Issuance System. Paper certificates are not acceptable for any licensing purpose.

Course providers must clearly disclose all fees associated with the course during the registration period.

Within 5 days of course completion, the course provider must submit the names of persons having completed courses, at no cost to the student.

The department may deny, suspend, or revoke course approval upon proof that the course provider: (a) violated this section; (b) has been convicted of a crime involving any drug-related or DUI-related offense, a felony, fraud, or a crime directly related to the personal safety of a student; (c) failed to satisfy the effectiveness criteria as outlined in subsection (6); (d) obtained course approval by fraud or misrepresentation; (e) obtained or assisted a person in obtaining any driver license by fraud or misrepresentation; (f) conducted a traffic law and substance abuse education course in the state while approval of such course was under suspension or revocation; (g) failed to provide effective oversight of those who deliver the course in the state.

The department shall not accept certificates from students after a course has been suspended or revoked.

Persons convicted of drug-related or DUI-related crimes in the past 5 years, felony, fraud, or crimes directly related to personal safety of a student shall not be allowed to conduct traffic law and substance abuse education courses.

The department shall summarily suspend approval of any course without preliminary hearing for the purpose of protecting public safety and enforcing provisions of law governing traffic law and substance abuse education courses.

Before a course is denied, suspended, revoked, the course provider shall have the opportunity to request either a formal or informal administrative hearing to show cause as to why the action should not be taken.

The department may levy and collect a civil fine of at least \$1,000, but not more than \$5,000 for each violation of this section. Proceeds from collected fines shall be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund and used to cover the cost of administering or promoting highway safety initiatives.

Section 36 amends s. 322.125, F.S., relating to the composition of the Medical Advisory Board. The bill eliminates the requirements that a medical board member be a member of the Florida Medical Association, Florida Osteopathic Association or Florida Optometric Association.

Section 37 amends s. 322.135, F.S., providing that county tax collectors, if he or she has reason to believe that a licensee is physically or mentally unqualified to operate a motor vehicle, may choose not to issue or renew a driver license. The bill removes permissive language related to the tax collector's ability to refer such cases to DHSMV.

Section 38, creates s. 322.143, F.S., prohibiting private entities from swiping an individual's driver license or identification card, or from misusing, storing, sharing or selling personal information collected from a driver license or identification card, except for the following purposes:

- To verify the authenticity of a driver license or identification card or to verify the identity of the individual, if the individual pays for a good or service with a method other than cash, returns an item, or requests a refund;
- To verify the individual's age when providing an age-restricted good or service to a person about whom there is any reasonable doubt of the person's having reached 21 years of age;
- To prevent fraud or other criminal activity if an individual returns an item or requests a refund and the private entity uses a fraud prevention service company or system; and
- To transmit information to a check services company for the purpose of approving negotiable instruments, electronic funds transfers, or similar methods of payment.

The bill allows the private entity to manually collect the personal information needed from the individual if that person does not want the private entity to swipe his or her driver license or identification card. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, under this section individuals may bring an action to recover actual damages and to obtain equitable relief against any private entity.

Section 339 amends s. 322.18, F.S., allowing a licensee who is eligible to renew his or her driver license, and must submit to a vision test, to be examined and tested by a doctor of medicine or a doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice optometry in any state. The physician or optometrist must send results of that test to the department on a form obtained from the department and signed by such health care practitioner; and must meet vision standards that are equivalent to the standards for passing the departmental vision test. The physician or optometrist may submit the results of a vision test by the department-approved electronic means.

Section 40 amends s. 322.21, F.S. to modernize driver license language. This and subsequent sections change the word "driver's" to "driver" when referring to licenses.

Section 41 amends s. 322.212, F.S., to expand penalties for persons providing false information when applying for a commercial driver license to include those persons applying for commercial learner's permit as well as those convicted of fraud in connection with testing for a commercial driver license or commercial learner's permit, disqualifying him or her from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 1 year.

Section 42 amends s. 322.22, F.S., to give the department the ability to refuse issuance or renewal of a license.

Section 43 amends s. 322.245, F.S., allowing the clerk of court to electronically notify the department within 10 days of a person failing to comply, and having been charged, with a specified offense under chs. 316 and 320, F.S., with the court's directives ordered by traffic court for failure to pay child support.

Section 44 amends s. 322.25, F.S., repealing subsection (7) which allows for court-ordered temporary reinstatement of a DUI offender's driving privilege. The provision has not been used since 1982.

Sections 45 and 46 amend ss. 322.2615 and 322.2616, F.S., providing that license suspension hearings may be conducted using electronic communications technology. Also, the bill clarifies that the failure of a subpoenaed witness to appear at the formal review hearing is not grounds to invalidate the suspension. However, if the witness fails to appear, a party may seek enforcement of a subpoena by filing a petition for enforcement in the circuit court of the judicial circuit in which the person failing to comply resides or by filing a motion for enforcement in any criminal court case resulting from the driving or actual physical control of a motor vehicle that gave rise to the suspension. The bill further clarifies that a request for a formal review hearing or an informal review hearing shall not stay the suspension of the person's driver license. If the department fails to schedule the formal review hearing within 30 days after receipt of the request, the department shall invalidate the suspension. If a scheduled hearing is continued at the department's initiative, a temporary driving permit must be issued that is valid until the hearing is conducted if the person is otherwise eligible for driving privileges.

Section 47 amends s. 322.271(7), F.S., to provide procedures for certain first-time DUI violators to obtain a business purposes only (BPO) driver license without a hearing. Individuals who have never had a driver license suspended under s. 322.2615, F.S.,⁴⁵ have never been disqualified under s. 322.64, F.S., have never been convicted of a violation of s. 316.193, F.S., and have never applied for a BPO license, and whose driving privilege has been suspended may apply for a BPO license without a hearing as long as the person meets the requirements of this section and s. 322.291, F.S.⁴⁶ No matter the term used (*i.e.*, DUI, DWI, driving with an unlawful blood-alcohol level, etc.), outside of the state as provided in certain related sections of ch. 316, it is considered a conviction and will not allow for the BPO license. The reinstatement is for BPO driver license only for the remainder of the suspension imposed under s. 322.2615, F.S., and waives the formal or informal right of the applicant's review.

Section 48 amends s. 322.2715, F.S., to require that a convicted person seeking a restricted license, and who has been granted a medical waiver will not be entitled to a restricted license until the required IID installation period under s. 322.2715(3), F.S., expires. If a medical waiver has been approved for a convicted person seeking permanent reinstatement of the driver license, the convicted person must be restricted to an employment-purposes-only (EPO) license and be supervised by a licensed DUI program until the required IID install period expires.

Section 49 amends s. 322.28, F.S., to provide that *convictions* that occur on the same date resulting from separate *offense* dates, shall be treated as separate convictions and the offense

⁴⁵ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/322.2615>

⁴⁶ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/322.291>

which occurred earlier will be deemed a prior conviction for the purpose of s. 322.28, F.S. The bill also removes the maximum revocation period for first DUI convictions as the courts are ordering revocation periods that exceed the maximum period. Removing this will allow the department to better enforce court orders without a conflict in statute.

This section also removes language that is no longer applicable in reference to reexaminations required upon expiration of the revocation period to obtain a new driver license and authorizing the court to issue an order of reinstatement on a form furnished by the department for reinstatement by the department pursuant to s. 322.282, F.S.

This section removes the court's ability to reinstate a license when revoked for a DUI. This change would require all offenders to meet the departments' requirements for reinstatement of a DUI. It would close a loophole that allows a person whose license has been revoked/suspended for an alcohol related offense to obtain a court order for reinstatement of their driving privilege on a temporary basis.

Section 50 repeals s. 322.331, F.S., requiring that a habitual traffic offender (HTO) whose five-year revocation has expired, and has not had an HTO hearing, must request a hearing prior to driver license reinstatement. These hearings are cursory, with all such drivers granted the option to reinstate. The bill eliminates the requirement for a hearing. In no other circumstances do statutes require a hearing for reinstatement determination once a sanction has expired. This change would reduce the number of hearings held by the Bureau of Administrative Reviews by approximately 1,000 and free up resources for re-allocation.

Additionally, this section eliminates s. 322.331(2), F.S., because it references requirements that must have occurred prior to July 1, 2011. This subsection was authorized for a one-time amnesty program. This provision is no longer effective.

Section 51 amends s. 322.61, F.S., to remove the provisions of careless driving, fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer, or driving CMVs that are not properly insured. This section also removes a provision for individuals receiving a citation who provide proof to the clerk of court or designated official, by the date the individual must appear in court or pay any fine for violation, that he or she did hold valid commercial driver's license to be not guilty of the offense.

The section also revises outdated CMV language regarding possession of controlled substances, and driving a CMV when the licenseholder's driver license is suspended, revoked, or canceled or when the licenseholder is disqualified from driving a CMV.

The bill adds language concerning disqualification of CMV violations for purposes of commercial driver licenses.

The bill applies the same provisions to the commercial learner's permit as it does to the commercial driver license, and now mirrors the federal rule, 49 CFR 383.51.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Id

Section 52 amends s. 322.64, F.S., to bring the department into compliance with federal law, 49 CFR 383.51.⁴⁸ The bill clarifies that the statute’s use of the term “disqualification” is considered a “conviction” for purposes of determining the length of a suspension period under the federal code. The bill also clarifies that, in hearings held pursuant to s. 322.64, F.S., a crash report shall be considered by the Hearing Officer, notwithstanding the exemption in s. 316.066, F.S. This mirrors an existing provision in s. 322.2615(2), F.S. Similarly, in s. 322.64(7)(a)1., F.S., relating to the scope of the hearing, the bill removes the word “arresting” from “arresting law enforcement officer.” This change mirrors current provisions of ss. 322.2615(7) (a)1. and 322.2616(8) (a)1., F.S.

Section 53, amends s. 323.002(2) and adds a new subsection (3), F.S., authorizing expansion of counties’ authority to establish “wrecker operator system” by establishing a requirement that its wrecker operators acquire and maintain liability insurance of at least \$300,000, and \$50,000 for on the hook cargo. This section provides that a person who illegally monitors police radio communications between patrol units and dispatchers and uses that information to show up “on the scene” at disabled cars or accidents, commits a noncriminal violation, punishable as provided by s. 775.082, F.S.⁴⁹

If an unauthorized wrecker operator, driving by a scene is signaled to stop, he or she must disclose in writing to the vehicle owner his or her full name, driver license number, informing that person that he or she is not an authorized wrecker operator. Once the vehicle owner is informed and then chooses to allow the tow to take place, the wrecker operator must divulge the maximum cost for towing and storage (in the presence of law enforcement, if on scene) before hook up. Also, it is unlawful for the wrecker operator to falsely identify himself or herself as being part of the wrecker operator system. If a person violates any part of this section, he or she commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in ss. 775.082 or 775.083, F.S.,⁵⁰ and the vehicle used to tow may be immediately removed and impounded.

A local law enforcement officer may authorize the removal and impoundment of a tow truck being used in violation of these provisions in this section. All costs will be at the expense of the wrecker operator. Such impounded tow vehicles may not be released from impound or storage until a release form is completed by the authority that initially ordered the removal or impound. Aside from any other provisions, upon retrieval of the tow vehicle and in addition to any other penalties imposed for noncriminal violations, the tow operator must pay a cost recovery fine of \$500 for a first violation and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation. The cost-recovery funds will be retained by the authority responsible for ordering the removal and impound.

Section 54 amends s. 324.0221, F.S., providing that insurers issuing policies providing personal injury protection coverage or property damage liability coverage shall report the cancellation or nonrenewal to the department within 10 days after the processing date of each renewal, cancellation or nonrenewal. Upon the issuance of a policy providing personal injury protection coverage or property damage liability coverage to a named insured not previously insured by the insurer during that calendar year, the insurer shall report the issuance of the new policy to the

⁴⁸ <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title49-vol5/pdf/CFR-2011-title49-vol5-sec383-51.pdf> (Subpart D – Driver Disqualifications and Penalties)

⁴⁹ Id.

⁵⁰ Id.

department within 10 days. The report shall be in the form and format and contain any information required by the department and must be provided in a format that is compatible with the data processing capabilities of the department. The department may adopt rules regarding the form and documentation required. Failure by an insurer to file proper reports with the department as required by this subsection or rules adopted with respect to the requirements constitutes a violation of the Florida Insurance Code. These records may be used by the department only for enforcement and regulatory purposes, including the generation by the department of data regarding compliance by owners of motor vehicles with the requirements for financial responsibility coverage.

Section 55 amends s. 324.031, F.S., removing the surety bond self-insurance option.

Section 56 amends s. 324.091, F.S. removing the requirement that insurers and the department exchange certain coverage information via US mail, postage prepaid. The bill removes the US mail requirement, as the department and insurers move toward further electronic notification and data exchange.

Section 57 amends s. 324.161, F.S., to provide that a person can present proof of a certificate of deposit (CD) to be held by the financial institute that issued it. The CD must be in the amount of \$30,000, and a power of attorney must be issued and held by the department.

Section 60 amends s. 328.76, F.S., to revise the requirement that the department retain \$1.4 million of the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund revenues from vessel registration fees for deposit into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund for administrative costs. The bill authorizes the department only to retain an amount equal to their administrative costs. All other funds collected from vessel registration fees, except for the portion for the counties, must be deposited in the Marine Resources Conversation Trust Fund.

Section 61 amends s. 713.585, F.S., to require that a person claiming a lien on a vehicle for towing, storage, or other services must notify all persons claiming an interest in the vehicle, as identified through a records check of the NMVTIS.

Section 62 amends s. 713.78, F.S., relating to persons who claim a wrecker operator's lien for recovery, towing, or storage of an abandoned vehicle or vessel upon instructions from property owner or law enforcement agency. The section is amended to also include a landlord or person authorized by a landlord, to cause the removal of vehicles or vessels that remain on the premises after a tenancy is terminated. Persons who claim a wrecker operator's lien for recovery, towing, or storage must check the records of NMVTIS to identify all interested parties when notifying the vehicle's owners.

Sections 63 through 78 either amend, revise, correct or repeal various sections of the bill to correct cross-references which will change as a result of the bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

Other Potential Implications:

Section 38 relating to the electronic collection of data contained on driver licenses and identification cards may impede the efforts of pharmacists tracking individuals purchasing over-the-counter medicines that may be converted to illegal substances (*e.g.*, pseudoephedrine) or controlled substances identified in ch. 893, F.S.

According to the DHSMV, significant programming is required to implement several provisions of the bill. Therefore, an effective date change of October 1, 2013, may be in order.

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:**

Section 40 of CS/CS/SB 1458 removes the requirement for habitual traffic offenders to attend a reinstatement hearing and will result in a \$12 savings to such individuals. All other fees in the bill remain fee-neutral.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill makes a number of changes extending penalties to holders of commercial learner permits.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The CS/CS adds Captains in the Florida Highway Patrol to the list of employees who may be classified as Select Exempt. There are 47 FHP Captains; The cost to reclassify these positions to Select Exempt Service is estimated to be \$88,000, and can be accommodated within existing budget authority provided from the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund

This bill will require programming, which the department indicates can be absorbed within existing resources. The Revenue Impact Conference has reviewed this bill for other fiscal impacts.

Section 19 of the bill provides for a title to be held electronically, if agreed to by the transferee, and both the buyer and seller complete a reassignment document at a tax collector or license plate agency. The e-titles to paper title ratio is approximately twenty-five percent and is applied against the casual sales transactions within a 45 day window in order to calculate the estimates below.

	Amount Year 1 <u>FY 2013-2014</u>	Amount Year 2 <u>FY 2014-2015</u>
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Paper Title Service Fee		
Highway Safety Operating TF	(<u>\$ 2,204</u>)	(<u>\$ 2,283</u>)
Fast Title Fees		
General Revenue Fund	(\$ 7,495)	(\$ 9,168)
Highway Safety Operating TF	<u>(\$ 24,984)</u>	<u>(\$ 30,561)</u>
Total Fast Title Impact – State Funds	<u>(\$ 34,683)</u>	<u>(\$ 42,013)</u>

The Revenue Impact Conference has reviewed this bill and determined it has a negligible fiscal impact to the General Revenue Fund related to the expanded use of electronic titles. Section 55 of the bill reduces the amount retained for administrative costs incurred by the department for processing and distributing vessel registration fees from \$1.4 million to an amount equal to the administrative costs of the department

	Amount Year 1 <u>FY 2013-2014</u>	Amount Year 2 <u>FY 2014-2015</u>
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund		
Vessel Administrative Fee	(\$ 596,272)	(\$ 596,272)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission		
Marine Resources Conservation TF		
Vessel Base Tax Revenues	<u>\$ 596,272</u>	<u>\$ 596,272</u>

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.)**CS/CS by Appropriations on April 18, 2013:**

The committee substitute removes a provision related to the manner in which motor vehicle, vessel, mobile home, driver license and crash report data is distributed to requestors to maintain current law; allows the attachment of a forklift to the rear cargo bed of a straight truck provided the overall length does not exceed 50 feet; and revises language prohibiting children under 6 years from riding in the back of pickup trucks on unpaved roads, streets or highways with a posted speed limit more than 55 miles per hour, and allows for counties to opt out if approved by the local governing board.

The committee substitute:

- Removes provisions which would have eliminated the 80% threshold used to determine whether a vehicle was rebuildable or must be scrapped;
- Allows persons with certain alcohol-related driving offenses, having no previous convictions, to be issued a business purposes only driver license without a hearing;
- Reclassifies FHP captains' positions to select exempt service from career service;
- Clarifies that FDOT is authorized to immediately receive crash reports that are ordinarily confidential and exempt;
- Creates definitions, provisions and remedies relating to the electronic collection of personal data on driver licenses or identification cards by private entities;
- Prohibits children under the age of 6 years from riding in the back of pickup trucks or flatbed trucks with posted speed limits greater than forty five miles per hour;
- Authorizes local law enforcement to impound wreckers violating the provisions of an authorized wrecker operating system;

CS by Transportation on March 14, 2013:

The CS:

- Added provisions authorizing DHSMV to implement a pilot program in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough Counties to evaluate private services for the inspection of rebuilt vehicles.
- Added provisions relating to road rage and the requirement for drivers to yield to overtaking vehicles, and limiting violations to drivers traveling no more than 10 mph under the speed limit.
- Added provisions revising the notification and the value threshold used in salvage vehicle transactions.

B. Amendments:

None.

