

By Senator Trumbull

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to services provided by the Department  
3           of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or its agents;  
4           amending s. 319.28, F.S.; providing that a certain  
5           affidavit constitutes proof of ownership and right of  
6           possession to a motor vehicle or mobile home the  
7           previous owner of which died testate; amending s.  
8           319.29, F.S.; prohibiting the department or a tax  
9           collector from charging a fee for reissuance of  
10          certain certificates of title; amending s. 320.06,  
11          F.S.; authorizing the department to deem a license  
12          plate with reduced dimensions to be necessary to  
13          accommodate trailers; amending s. 320.084, F.S.;  
14          authorizing certain disabled veterans to be issued a  
15          military license plate or specialty license plate in  
16          lieu of a "DV" license plate; specifying applicable  
17          fees; specifying nonapplicability of certain  
18          provisions; amending s. 320.131, F.S.; removing  
19          provisions requiring a written, notarized request for  
20          the purchase of a temporary tag; authorizing the  
21          department or its agents to renew an initial temporary  
22          tag, subject to certain provisions; providing an  
23          effective date.

24  
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26  
27          Section 1. Present paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1)  
28          of section 319.28, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
29          paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is

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30 added to that subsection, to read:

31 319.28 Transfer of ownership by operation of law.—

32 (1)

33 (c) If the previous owner died testate and the application  
34 for a certificate of title is made by, and accompanied by an  
35 affidavit attested by, a Florida-licensed attorney in good  
36 standing with The Florida Bar who is representing the previous  
37 owner's estate, such affidavit shall, for purposes of paragraph  
38 (a), constitute satisfactory proof of ownership and right of  
39 possession to the motor vehicle or mobile home, so long as the  
40 affidavit sets forth the rightful heir or heirs and the attorney  
41 attests in the affidavit that such heir or heirs are lawfully  
42 entitled to the rights of ownership and possession of the motor  
43 vehicle or mobile home. It shall not be necessary for the  
44 application for certificate of title filed under this paragraph  
45 to be accompanied by a copy of the will or other testamentary  
46 instrument.

47 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 319.29, Florida  
48 Statutes, is amended to read:

49 319.29 Lost or destroyed certificates.—

50 (3) If, following the issuance of an original, duplicate,  
51 or corrected certificate of title by the department, the  
52 certificate is lost in transit and is not delivered to the  
53 addressee, the owner of the motor vehicle or mobile home, or the  
54 holder of a lien thereon, may, within 180 days after ~~of~~ the date  
55 of issuance of the title, apply to the department for reissuance  
56 of the certificate of title. An ~~No~~ additional fee shall not be  
57 charged by the department or a tax collector, as agent for the  
58 department, for reissuance under this subsection.

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59 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
60 320.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

61 320.06 Registration certificates, license plates, and  
62 validation stickers generally.—

63 (3) (a) Registration license plates must be made of metal  
64 specially treated with a retroreflection material, as specified  
65 by the department. The registration license plate is designed to  
66 increase nighttime visibility and legibility and must be at  
67 least 6 inches wide and not less than 12 inches in length,  
68 unless a plate with reduced dimensions is deemed necessary by  
69 the department to accommodate motorcycles, mopeds, ~~or~~ similar  
70 smaller vehicles, or trailers. Validation stickers must also be  
71 treated with a retroreflection material, must be of such size as  
72 specified by the department, and must adhere to the license  
73 plate. The registration license plate must be imprinted with a  
74 combination of bold letters and numerals or numerals, not to  
75 exceed seven digits, to identify the registration license plate  
76 number. The license plate must be imprinted with the word  
77 "Florida" at the top and the name of the county in which it is  
78 sold, the state motto, or the words "Sunshine State" at the  
79 bottom. Apportioned license plates must have the word  
80 "Apportioned" at the bottom, and license plates issued for  
81 vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(3)(d), (4)(m) or (n), (5)(b) or  
82 (c), or (14) must have the word "Restricted" at the bottom.  
83 License plates issued for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(12)  
84 must be imprinted with the word "Florida" at the top and the  
85 word "Dealer" at the bottom unless the license plate is a  
86 specialty license plate as authorized in s. 320.08056.  
87 Manufacturer license plates issued for vehicles taxed under s.

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88 320.08(12) must be imprinted with the word "Florida" at the top  
89 and the word "Manufacturer" at the bottom. License plates issued  
90 for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(5)(d) or (e) must be  
91 imprinted with the word "Wrecker" at the bottom. Any county may,  
92 upon majority vote of the county commission, elect to have the  
93 county name removed from the license plates sold in that county.  
94 The state motto or the words "Sunshine State" shall be printed  
95 in lieu thereof. A license plate issued for a vehicle taxed  
96 under s. 320.08(6) may not be assigned a registration license  
97 number, or be issued with any other distinctive character or  
98 designation, that distinguishes the motor vehicle as a for-hire  
99 motor vehicle.

100 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 320.084, Florida  
101 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) is added to that  
102 section, to read:

103 320.084 Free motor vehicle license plate to certain  
104 disabled veterans.—

105 (1) One free "DV" motor vehicle license number plate shall  
106 be issued by the department for use on any motor vehicle owned  
107 or leased by any disabled veteran who has been a resident of  
108 this state continuously for the preceding 5 years or has  
109 established a domicile in this state as provided by s.  
110 222.17(1), (2), or (3), and who has been honorably discharged  
111 from the United States Armed Forces, upon application,  
112 accompanied by proof that:

113 (a) A vehicle was initially acquired through financial  
114 assistance by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
115 or its predecessor specifically for the purchase of an  
116 automobile;

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117 (b) The applicant has been determined by the United States  
118 Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a  
119 service-connected 100-percent disability rating for  
120 compensation; or

121 (c) The applicant has been determined to have a service-  
122 connected disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of  
123 disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States  
124 Armed Services.

125 (6) (a) A disabled veteran who meets the requirements of  
126 subsection (1) may be issued, in lieu of the "DV" license plate,  
127 a military license plate for which he or she is eligible or a  
128 specialty license plate. A disabled veteran electing a military  
129 license plate or specialty license plate under this subsection  
130 must pay all applicable fees related to such license plate,  
131 except for motor vehicle license plates issued without cost  
132 under subsections (1) and (4).

133 (b) A military license plate or specialty license plate  
134 elected under this subsection:

135 1. Does not provide the protections or rights afforded by  
136 ss. 316.1955, 316.1964, 320.0848, 526.141, and 553.5041.

137 2. Is not eligible for the international symbol of  
138 accessibility as described in s. 320.0842.

139 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 320.131, Florida  
140 Statutes, is amended to read:

141 320.131 Temporary tags.—

142 (2) (a) The department may ~~is authorized to~~ sell temporary  
143 tags, in addition to those listed above, to its ~~their~~ agents and  
144 where need is demonstrated by a consumer complainant. The fee  
145 for a temporary tag issued under this section shall be \$2 each.

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146 One dollar from each tag sold shall be deposited into the Brain  
147 and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund, with the remaining  
148 proceeds being deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust  
149 Fund. Agents of the department shall sell temporary tags for \$2  
150 each and shall charge the service charge authorized by s. 320.04  
151 per transaction, regardless of the quantity sold. ~~Requests for~~  
152 ~~purchase of temporary tags to the department or its agents shall~~  
153 ~~be made, where applicable, on letterhead stationery and~~  
154 ~~notarized.~~ Except as specifically provided otherwise, a  
155 temporary tag issued under this section shall be valid for 30  
156 days, and no more than two shall be issued to the same person  
157 for the same vehicle.

158 (b) At the request of the applicant, the department or its  
159 agents may, in lieu of issuing a second temporary tag under  
160 paragraph (a), renew the initial temporary tag for the same  
161 period applicable to the initial issuance. Such renewal is  
162 subject to the fee, service charge, and deposit requirements  
163 provided in paragraph (a).

164 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.