

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Trumbull

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; amending s. 319.24, F.S.; authorizing tax collectors to deliver by mail or make available at the tax collector's office certificates of title; amending s. 319.29, F.S.; providing that certain applications may be fulfilled by the tax collector acting as an authorized agent of the department; amending s. 320.031, F.S.; authorizing the department and tax collectors, as agents of the department, to deliver certain documents, including duplicate registration certificates, in person or by mail; amending s. 320.0848, F.S.; requiring the department to renew certain disabled parking permits for a specified period without requiring certain documentation; amending s. 322.02, F.S.; revising the year by which the Legislature intends that the transition of certain services to certain tax collectors be completed; deleting a provision authorizing such transition of services to appointed charter county tax collectors on a limited basis; providing that the tax collector is, rather than may be, designated the exclusive agent of the department for a specified purpose; amending s. 322.12, F.S.; requiring certain driver license applicants to retake certain examinations; amending s. 322.135, F.S.; authorizing a tax collector to process certain transactions using the department's online license and registration portal; authorizing a tax collector to

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offer to a licensee or prospective licensee a certain donation option; amending s. 322.251, F.S.; authorizing the issuance of a Class E driver license to certain persons, if eligible; amending s. 322.271, F.S.; requiring the revocation of a restricted driving privilege for a specified period in certain circumstances; amending s. 322.66, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 319.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

319.24 Issuance in duplicate; delivery; liens and encumbrances.—

(2) A duly authorized person shall sign the original certificate of title and each corrected certificate and, if there are no liens or encumbrances on the motor vehicle or mobile home, as shown in the records of the department or as shown in the application, must ~~shall~~ deliver the certificate to the applicant or to another person as directed by the applicant or person, agent, or attorney submitting such application. Tax collectors, as authorized agents of the department, may deliver original certificates of title and corrected certificates by mail or make such certificates available to applicants at tax collectors' offices. The motor vehicle dealer license number must be submitted to the department when a dealer applies for or receives a duplicate title. The current odometer reading must be submitted on an application for a duplicate title. If there are

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one or more liens or encumbrances on the motor vehicle or mobile home, the certificate must ~~shall~~ be delivered by the department to the first lienholder as shown by department records or to the owner as indicated in the notice of lien filed by the first lienholder pursuant to s. 319.27. If the notice of lien filed by the first lienholder indicates that the certificate should be delivered to the first lienholder, the department must ~~shall~~ deliver to the first lienholder, along with the certificate, a form to be subsequently used by the lienholder as a satisfaction. If the notice of lien filed by the first lienholder directs the certificate of title to be delivered to the owner, then, upon delivery of the certificate of title by the department to the owner, the department must ~~shall~~ deliver to the first lienholder confirmation of the receipt of the notice of lien and the date the certificate of title was issued to the owner at the owner's address shown on the notice of lien and a form to be subsequently used by the lienholder as a satisfaction. If the application for certificate shows the name of a first lienholder different from the name of the first lienholder as shown by the records of the department or if the application does not show the name of a judgment lienholder as shown by the records of the department, the certificate may ~~shall~~ not be issued to any person until after all parties who appear to hold a lien and the applicant for the certificate have been notified of the conflict in writing by the department by certified mail. If the parties do not amicably resolve the conflict within 10 days from the date such notice was mailed, ~~then~~ the department must ~~shall~~ serve notice in writing by certified mail on all persons appearing to hold liens on that

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particular vehicle, including the applicant for the certificate, to show cause within 15 days from the date the notice is mailed why it should not issue and deliver the certificate to the person indicated in the notice of lien filed by the lienholder whose name appears in the application as the first lienholder without showing any lien or liens as outstanding other than those appearing in the application or those which may have been filed subsequent to the filing of the application for the certificate. If, within the 15-day period, any person other than the lienholder shown in the application or a party filing a subsequent lien, in answer to such notice to show cause, appears in person or by a representative, or responds in writing, and files a written statement under oath that his or her lien on that particular vehicle is still outstanding, the department may ~~shall~~ not issue the certificate to anyone until after such conflict has been settled by the lien claimants involved or by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the conflict is not settled amicably within 10 days of the final date for filing an answer to the notice to show cause, the complaining party must ~~shall~~ have 10 days to obtain a ruling, or a stay order, from a court of competent jurisdiction; if no ruling or stay order is issued and served on the department within the 10-day period, it must ~~shall~~ issue the certificate showing no liens except those shown in the application or thereafter filed to the original applicant if there are no liens shown in the application and none are thereafter filed, or to the person indicated in the notice of lien filed by the lienholder whose name appears in the application as the first lienholder if there are liens shown in the application or thereafter filed. A duplicate certificate or

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corrected certificate may ~~shall~~ only show such lien or liens as were shown in the application and subsequently filed liens that may be outstanding.

Section 2. Present subsection (4) of section 319.29, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

319.29 Lost or destroyed certificates.—

(4) An application for a duplicate copy of a certificate of title may be fulfilled by the tax collector acting as an authorized agent of the department. Upon the applicant's request, the duplicate copy may be issued by the tax collector and provided to the applicant at the tax collector's office or mailed by the tax collector to the applicant's address.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 320.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.031 Mailing or delivery of registration certificates, license plates, and validation stickers.—

(1) The department and the tax collectors of the several counties of the state, as agents of the department, may at the request of the applicant deliver in person or use United States mail service to deliver registration certificates and renewals thereof, duplicate registration certificates, license plates, mobile home stickers, and validation stickers to applicants.

Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 320.0848, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.0848 Persons who have disabilities; issuance of disabled parking permits; temporary permits; permits for certain providers of transportation services to persons who have disabilities.—

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(1)

(d) The department shall renew the disabled parking permit of ~~a any~~ person certified as permanently disabled on the previous application for a subsequent 4-year period without requiring the person to provide another certificate of disability or United States Department of Veterans Affairs Form Letter 27-333, or its equivalent, as applicable. After such 4-year period, the department shall renew the disabled parking permit if the person provides a certificate of disability issued within the last 12 months pursuant to this subsection. A veteran who has been previously evaluated and certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected disability may provide a United States Department of Veterans Affairs Form Letter 27-333, or its equivalent, issued within the last 12 months in lieu of a certificate of disability.

Section 5. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 322.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

322.02 Legislative intent; administration.—

(1) The Legislature finds that over the past several years the department and individual county tax collectors have entered into contracts for the delivery of full and limited driver license services where such contractual relationships best served the public interest through state administration and enforcement and local government implementation. It is the intent of the Legislature that the complete transition of all driver license issuance services to tax collectors who are constitutional officers under s. 1(d), Art. VIII of the State

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175 Constitution be completed no later than June 30, 2027 ~~2015~~. The  
176 ~~transition of services to appointed charter county tax~~  
177 ~~collectors may occur on a limited basis as directed by the~~  
178 ~~department.~~

179 (5) The tax collector in and for his or her county is ~~may~~  
180 ~~be~~ designated the exclusive agent of the department to implement  
181 and administer ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter as provided by s.  
182 322.135.

183 Section 6. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 322.12,  
184 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

185 322.12 Examination of applicants.—

186 (3) (a) For an applicant for a Class E driver license, such  
187 examination must ~~shall~~ include all of the following:

188 1.(a) A test of the applicant's eyesight given by the  
189 driver license examiner designated by the department or by a  
190 licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist, or physician.

191 2.(b) A test of the applicant's hearing given by a driver  
192 license examiner or a licensed physician.

193 3.(c) A test of the applicant's ability to read and  
194 understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing  
195 traffic; his or her knowledge of the traffic laws of this state,  
196 including laws regulating driving under the influence of alcohol  
197 or controlled substances, driving with an unlawful blood-alcohol  
198 level, and driving while intoxicated; and his or her knowledge  
199 of the effects of alcohol and controlled substances upon persons  
200 and the dangers of driving a motor vehicle while under the  
201 influence of alcohol or controlled substances. At least 25  
202 questions within the bank of test questions must address bicycle  
203 and pedestrian safety.

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204       ~~4.(d)~~ An actual demonstration of ability to exercise  
205 ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor  
206 vehicle.

207       (b) An applicant who is found to have cheated during, or to  
208 have otherwise circumvented, any portion of the examination must  
209 retake the examination.

210       (4) (a) The examination for an applicant for a commercial  
211 driver license must ~~shall~~ include all of the following:

212       1. A test of the applicant's eyesight given by a driver  
213 license examiner designated by the department or by a licensed  
214 ophthalmologist, optometrist, or physician. ~~and~~

215       2. A test of the applicant's hearing given by a driver  
216 license examiner or a licensed physician.

217       3. ~~The examination shall also include~~ A test of the  
218 applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs  
219 regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his or her knowledge  
220 of the traffic laws of this state pertaining to the class of  
221 motor vehicle which he or she is applying to be licensed to  
222 operate, including laws regulating driving under the influence  
223 of alcohol or controlled substances, driving with an unlawful  
224 blood-alcohol level, and driving while intoxicated; his or her  
225 knowledge of the effects of alcohol and controlled substances  
226 and the dangers of driving a motor vehicle after having consumed  
227 alcohol or controlled substances; and his or her knowledge of  
228 any special skills, requirements, or precautions necessary for  
229 the safe operation of the class of vehicle which he or she is  
230 applying to be licensed to operate.

231       ~~4. In addition, the examination shall include~~ An actual  
232 demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary



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and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles of the type covered by the license classification which the applicant is seeking, including an examination of the applicant's ability to perform an inspection of his or her vehicle.

(b)~~(a)~~ The portion of the examination required under subparagraph (a)4. ~~which tests an applicant's safe driving ability~~ shall be administered by the department or by an entity authorized by the department to administer such examination, pursuant to s. 322.56. Such examination shall be administered at a location approved by the department.

(c)~~(b)~~ A person who seeks to retain a hazardous-materials endorsement must, upon renewal, pass the test for such endorsement as specified in s. 322.57(1)(e), if the person has not taken and passed the hazardous-materials test within 2 years preceding his or her application for a commercial driver license in this state.

(d) An applicant who is found to have cheated during, or to have otherwise circumvented, any portion of the examination must retake the examination.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 322.135, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

322.135 Driver license agents.—

(1) The department shall, upon application, authorize by interagency agreement any or all of the tax collectors who are constitutional officers under s. 1(d), Art. VIII of the State Constitution in the several counties of the state, subject to the requirements of law, in accordance with rules of the

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department, to serve as its agent for the provision of specified driver license services.

(a) These services shall be limited to the issuance of driver licenses and identification cards as authorized by this chapter, transactions for which may be processed by the tax collector using the department's online license and registration portal.

(d) A tax collector may offer a licensee or prospective licensee the option to increase the amount of his or her transaction to the next whole dollar amount in order to donate the amount of the increase to a charity registered with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 322.251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.251 Notice of cancellation, suspension, revocation, or disqualification of license.—

(4) A person whose privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle is temporarily disqualified may, upon surrendering his or her commercial driver license, be issued a Class E driver license, valid for the length of his or her unexpired commercial driver license, if eligible, at no cost. Such person may, upon the completion of his or her disqualification, be issued a commercial driver license, of the type disqualified, for the remainder of his or her unexpired license period. Any such person must ~~shall~~ pay the reinstatement fee provided in s. 322.21 before being issued a commercial driver license.

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 322.271, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.271 Authority to modify revocation, cancellation, or

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291 suspension order.—

292 (1)

293 (b) A person whose driving privilege has been revoked under  
294 s. 322.27(5) may, upon expiration of 12 months from the date of  
295 such revocation, petition the department for reinstatement of  
296 his or her driving privilege. Upon such petition and after  
297 investigation of the person's qualification, fitness, and need  
298 to drive, the department shall hold a hearing pursuant to  
299 chapter 120 to determine whether the driving privilege shall be  
300 reinstated on a restricted basis solely for business or  
301 employment purposes. If such person is granted a limited driving  
302 privilege and subsequently violates the conditions of the  
303 restricted driving privilege, the restricted driving privilege  
304 must be revoked and the person is not eligible for any driving  
305 privilege for the remaining duration of the 5-year period after  
306 his or her initial license revocation.

307 Section 10. Section 322.66, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
308 read:

309 322.66 Vehicles permitted to be driven during driving  
310 skills tests.—A person who does not possess a valid driver  
311 license may drive a noncommercial or commercial motor vehicle  
312 during a driving skills test conducted in accordance with s.  
313 322.12(3) and (4)(b) ~~s. 322.12(3) and (4)(a)~~, if the person has  
314 passed the vision, hearing, road rules, and road signs tests  
315 ordinarily administered to applicants for a Class E license,  
316 and, if required, has passed the commercial driver license  
317 knowledge and appropriate endorsement tests.

318 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.