

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [CS/HB 241](#)

TITLE: Operating Vehicles and Vessels

SPONSOR(S): Cross

COMPANION BILL: [CS/SB 350](#) (DiCeglie)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

16 Y, 1 N



[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

16 Y, 0 N, As CS



[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill prohibits operation of a motor vehicle, vessel, or any other conveyance at a speed that creates an excessive wake on a flooded or inundated street or highway.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill revises the definition of a vehicle in Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law to clarify that definition includes operation on a street. (Section [1](#))

The bill revises the prohibition on driving at [speeds](#) greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing roadway conditions to clarify that prohibition applies to both highways and streets. (Section [2](#))

The bill prohibits the operation of motor vehicles, vessels, or any other conveyances at a speed that creates an excessive [wake](#) on flooded or inundated streets or highways. (Section [3](#))

The bill provides an effective date of upon becoming law. (Section [4](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law Definitions

For the purposes of Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law,¹ a street or highway is defined as:

- The entire width between the boundary lines of any way or place open to the public for vehicular traffic;
- The entire width between the boundary lines of any privately-owned way or place used by the owner or those having permission from the owner;
- The entire width of any limited-access road owned by a special district, if the district has entered a written agreement with the county or municipality to exercise traffic control;
- Any area within the boundaries of an airport owned by the state or a local government that is used for vehicular traffic but not open to the general public; and
- Any way or place used for vehicular traffic on a controlled access basis within a mobile home park recreation district that allows its facilities to be used by the general public.²

¹ [Ch. 316, F.S.](#)

² [S. 316.003\(90\), F.S.](#)

STORAGE NAME: h0241b.IAS

DATE: 4/1/2025

These terms are generally used interchangeably through the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law.³

Unlawful Speed

Maximum Speed Limits

Florida law provides that on all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits for all vehicles must be:

- 30 miles per hour in business or residence districts; and
- 55 miles per hour at any time at all other locations.

However, with respect to a residence district, a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable.⁴

Minimum Speed Limits

The minimum speed limit on all highways that compose the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and have no fewer than four lanes is 40 miles per hour, except when the posted speed limit is 70 miles per hour, the minimum speed limit is 50 miles per hour.⁵

Slow Speed

Current law prohibits driving a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.⁶ The driver of every vehicle may drive at an appropriately reduced speed when, among other specified reasons, any special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.⁷

Wake Zones During Flooding

Current law allows local governments to take necessary steps to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of communities during local emergencies.⁸ During flood conditions, local governments may establish “no wake” zones on roads⁹ and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may establish “no wake” zones on rivers.¹⁰ Operating vehicles or vessels in flooded or inundated roads in a manner that creates wakes may push water into nearby homes and contribute to flooding damage.¹¹

³ See e.g. [s. 316.121, F.S.](#) (providing requirements for when a driver of a vehicle must yield the right-of-way to those entering from different highways).

⁴ S. [316.183\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ S. [316.183\(5\), F.S.](#)

⁷ S. [316.183\(4\)\(e\), F.S.](#)

⁸ S. [252.38\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁹ See, e.g., Seminole County, [Executive Order No. 2024-010](#) (last visited Mar. 27, 2025) and Jacob Langston, WKMG News, [Please Drive Slowly](#) (last visited Mar. 28, 2025)

¹⁰ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, [River Flooding Boating Restricted Zones Activations](#) (last visited Mar. 27, 2025).

¹¹ See, e.g. Jonathan Manning, KPLC News, [When Roads Flood](#) (last visited Mar. 27, 2025).

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Government Operations Subcommittee	16 Y, 1 N	3/6/2025	Toliver	Walker
Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N, As CS	4/1/2025	Darden	Jones
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds “street” to several sections of current law to clarify application.• Prohibits the operation of motor vehicles, vessels, or any other conveyances at a speed that creates an excessive wake on flooded or inundated streets or highways.			
State Affairs Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
