

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to offenses involving motor vehicles;
3 amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; reclassifying the offense
4 of driving, moving, or causing to be moved a vehicle
5 or equipment with certain lighting on a highway as a
6 third degree felony; amending s. 320.061, F.S.;
7 prohibiting the use of a license plate obscuring
8 device; providing criminal penalties; reclassifying
9 the offense of interfering with the legibility,
10 angular visibility, or detectability of any feature or
11 detail on a license plate or interfering with the
12 ability to record any feature on a license plate as a
13 third degree felony; creating s. 320.262, F.S.;
14 defining the term "license plate obscuring device";
15 prohibiting a person from purchasing or possessing a
16 license plate obscuring device; prohibiting a person
17 from manufacturing, selling, offering to sell, or
18 distributing a license plate obscuring device;
19 providing criminal penalties; providing criminal
20 penalties for using a license plate obscuring device,
21 knowingly attaching to a motor vehicle a license plate
22 that was not assigned or transferred to the motor
23 vehicle, or removing, covering, or obscuring an
24 assigned license plate during the commission of a
25 crime; providing criminal penalty enhancements for a

26 crime committed while using a license plate obscuring
 27 device, knowingly attaching to a motor vehicle a
 28 license plate that was not assigned or transferred to
 29 the motor vehicle, or removing, covering, or obscuring
 30 an assigned license plate; providing an effective
 31 date.

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

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35 **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section**
 36 **316.2397, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (1) of**
 37 **that section is republished, to read:**

38 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

39 (1) A person may not drive or move or cause to be moved
 40 any vehicle or equipment upon any highway within this state with
 41 any lamp or device thereon showing or displaying a red, red and
 42 white, or blue light visible from directly in front thereof
 43 except for certain vehicles provided in this section.

44 (10) (a) A person who violates subsection (1) and in so
 45 doing effects or attempts to effect a stop of another vehicle
 46 commits a felony ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree,
 47 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

48 **Section 2. Section 320.061, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 49 **to read:**

50 320.061 Unlawful to alter motor vehicle registration

51 certificates, license plates, temporary license plates, mobile
52 home stickers, or validation stickers or to obscure license
53 plates; penalty.—A person may not alter the original appearance
54 of a vehicle registration certificate, license plate, temporary
55 license plate, mobile home sticker, or validation sticker issued
56 for and assigned to a motor vehicle or mobile home, whether by
57 mutilation, alteration, defacement, or change of color or in any
58 other manner. A person who makes such alteration commits a
59 noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation
60 as provided in chapter 318. A person may not use a license plate
61 obscuring device as defined in s. 320.262 or apply or attach a
62 substance, reflective matter, illuminated device, spray,
63 coating, covering, or other material onto or around any license
64 plate which interferes with the legibility, angular visibility,
65 or detectability of any feature or detail on the license plate
66 or interferes with the ability to record any feature or detail
67 on the license plate. A person who so interferes with a license
68 plate commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as
69 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 ~~violates this section~~
70 ~~commits a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving~~
71 ~~violation as provided in chapter 318.~~

72 **Section 3. Section 320.262, Florida Statutes, is created**
73 **to read:**

74 320.262 Purchase, possession, manufacture, sale, and
75 distribution of license plate obscuring device prohibited;

76 penalties; enhanced penalties.—

77 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "license plate
 78 obscuring device" means a manual, electronic, or mechanical
 79 device designed or adapted to be installed on a motor vehicle
 80 which:

81 (a) Switches between two or more license plates for the
 82 purpose of allowing a motor vehicle operator to change the
 83 license plate displayed on the motor vehicle;

84 (b) Hides a license plate from view by flipping the
 85 license plate so that the license plate number is not visible;

86 (c) Covers, obscures, or otherwise interferes with the
 87 legibility, angular visibility, or detectability of any feature
 88 or detail on the license plate; or

89 (d) Interferes with the ability to record any feature or
 90 detail on the license plate.

91 (2) A person may not purchase or possess a license plate
 92 obscuring device. A person who violates this subsection commits
 93 a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
 94 775.082 or s. 775.083.

95 (3) A person may not manufacture, sell, offer to sell, or
 96 otherwise distribute a license plate obscuring device. A person
 97 who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the first
 98 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

99 (4) (a) A person who during the commission of any other
 100 crime uses a license plate obscuring device; knowingly attaches

101 to a motor vehicle a license plate that was not issued and
102 assigned or lawfully transferred to the motor vehicle; or
103 removes, covers, or obscures an assigned license plate commits a
104 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082
105 or s. 775.083.

106 (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) is subject to
107 enhanced penalties for the other crime as follows:

108 1. A misdemeanor of the second degree is reclassified as a
109 misdemeanor of the first degree.

110 2. A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified as a
111 felony of the third degree.

112 3. A felony of the third degree is reclassified as a
113 felony of the second degree.

114 4. A felony of the second degree is reclassified as a
115 felony of the first degree.

116 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.