

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Rodriguez

596-02131-25

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s.  
3       316.2397, F.S.; reclassifying the offense of driving,  
4       moving, or causing to be moved a vehicle or equipment  
5       with certain lighting on a highway as a third degree  
6       felony; amending s. 320.061, F.S.; prohibiting a  
7       person from knowingly using 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      misdemeanor of the second degree; creating s. 320.262,  
14      F.S.; defining the term "license plate obscuring  
15      device"; prohibiting the purchase, possession,  
16      manufacture, sale, offering for sale, or distribution  
17      of a license plate obscuring device; providing  
18      criminal penalties; providing criminal penalties for  
19      using a license plate obscuring device, knowingly  
20      attaching to a motor vehicle a license plate that was  
21      not assigned or transferred to the motor vehicle,  
22      altering the original appearance of a license plate,  
23      or interfering with the legibility, angular  
24      visibility, or detectability of any feature or detail  
25      on a license plate during the commission of a crime;  
26      providing criminal penalty enhancements for a crime  
27      committed while using a license plate obscuring  
28      device, knowingly attaching to a motor vehicle a  
29      license plate that was not assigned or transferred to

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30 the motor vehicle, altering the original appearance of  
31 a license plate, or interfering with the legibility,  
32 angular visibility, or detectability of any feature or  
33 detail on a license plate; providing an effective  
34 date.

35  
36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

37  
38 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section  
39 316.2397, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (1) of  
40 that section is republished, to read:

41 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

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

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

51 Section 2. Section 320.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
52 read:

53 320.061 Unlawful to alter motor vehicle registration  
54 certificates, license plates, temporary license plates, mobile  
55 home stickers, or validation stickers or to obscure license  
56 plates; penalty.—A person may not alter the original appearance  
57 of a vehicle registration certificate, license plate, temporary  
58 license plate, mobile home sticker, or validation sticker issued

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59 for and assigned to a motor vehicle or mobile home, whether by  
60 mutilation, alteration, defacement, or change of color or in any  
61 other manner. A person who makes such alteration commits a  
62 noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation  
63 as provided in chapter 318. A person may not knowingly use a  
64 license plate obscuring device as defined in s. 320.262(1) or  
65 apply or attach a substance, reflective matter, illuminated  
66 device, spray, coating, covering, or other material onto or  
67 around any license plate which interferes with the legibility,  
68 angular visibility, or detectability of any feature or detail on  
69 the license plate or interferes with the ability to record any  
70 feature or detail on the license plate. A person who so  
71 interferes with a license plate commits a misdemeanor of the  
72 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
73 775.083 ~~violates this section commits a noncriminal traffic~~  
74 ~~infraction, punishable as a moving violation as provided in~~  
75 ~~chapter 318.~~

76 Section 3. Section 320.262, Florida Statutes, is created to  
77 read:

78 320.262 License plate obscuring device prohibited;  
79 penalties; enhanced penalties for license plate offenses.-

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

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

87 (b) Hides a license plate from view by flipping the license

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88 plate so that the license plate number is not visible;

89 (c) Covers, obscures, or otherwise interferes with the  
90 legibility, angular visibility, or detectability of any feature  
91 or detail on the license plate; or

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

94 (2) A person may not purchase or possess a license plate  
95 obscuring device. A person who violates this subsection commits  
96 a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
97 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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

102 (4) (a) A person who, during the commission of any other  
103 crime, knowingly violates s. 320.061 or s. 320.261 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 shall be punished as  
109 if it were a misdemeanor of the first degree.

110 2. A misdemeanor of the first degree shall be punished as  
111 if it were a felony of the third degree.

112 3. A felony of the third degree shall be punished as if it  
113 were a felony of the second degree.

114 4. A felony of the second degree shall be punished as if it  
115 were a felony of the first degree.

116 5. A felony of the first degree shall be punished as if it

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117 were a life felony.

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