

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 1352

INTRODUCER: Senator Trumbull

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicles

DATE: February 2, 2026

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Shutes	Vickers	TR	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.		ATD	
3.		FP	

## **I. Summary:**

SB 1352 amends various provisions relating to motor vehicles and related licensing transactions. Specifically, the bill includes the following provisions:

- Requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to establish and maintain a secure online portal for verifying, recording, and processing the seizure or confiscation of license plates.
- Provides that a disabled veteran may retain the unique alpha-numeric designation assigned to the “DV” license plate upon reissuance, renewal, or transfer of the license plate.
- Authorizes tax collectors to issue disabled veteran license plates immediately on demand to qualified applicants.
- Allows eligible applicants to choose either a wheelchair symbol license plate or a “DV” designation license plate in lieu of a disabled parking permit.
- Prohibits the manufacture, sale, or use of license plate covers, films, or overlays that obscure or alter the license plate in a specified manner.
- Provides that driver license and identification card renewals and replacements ordered through DHSMV’s online license and registration portal must be routed to the customer’s residence county for fulfillment by the appropriate tax collector.
- Requires DHSMV to remit payment to the tax collector for online transactions related to driver license and identification card renewals and replacements.

The bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on private and governmental sectors. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement for details.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

## II. Present Situation:

### License Plate Issuance and Seizure

Current law provides that upon the receipt of an initial application for registration and payment of the appropriate license tax and other fees required by law, DHSMV assigns a motor vehicle the registration license number consisting of letters and numerals or numerals and issues to the owner or lessee, a certificate of registration and one registration license plate, unless two plates are required for display, for each vehicle registered.<sup>1</sup>

Registration license plates bearing a graphic symbol and the alphanumeric system of identification is issued for a 10-year period. At the end of the 10-year period, upon renewal, the plate is replaced. The fee for such replacement is \$28, \$2.80 of which shall be paid each year before the plate is replaced, to be credited toward the next \$28 replacement fee. The fees are deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.<sup>2</sup>

With each license plate issued, a validation sticker is also issued showing the owner's birth month, license plate number, and the year of expiration or the appropriate renewal period if the owner is not a natural person. The validation sticker is placed on the upper right corner of the license plate. The standard registration period is 12 months, the extended registration period is 24 months, and all expirations occur based on the applicant's appropriate registration period. Certain rental vehicles and taxed rental trucks may elect a permanent registration period, provided payment of the appropriate license taxes and fees occur annually.<sup>3</sup>

Law enforcement agencies may seize license plates for failure to return or surrender a license plate or registration while the driver license or registration is suspended for support delinquency. In addition, if a law enforcement officer determines that a person operating a motor vehicle is also the owner or registrant, or the co-owner or co-registrant, of the motor vehicle and is operating the motor vehicle with a driver license or vehicle registration that has been under suspension pursuant to a violation of ch. 322, F.S., for a period of at least 30 days, the law enforcement officer shall immediately seize the license plate of the motor vehicle.<sup>4,5</sup>

### License Plates Issued to Certain Disabled Veterans

Currently, DHSMV issues one free motor vehicle license number plate to certain disabled veterans. Qualifying veterans must have a 100% service-connected disability, receive disability retirement pay, and have maintained Florida residency for a period of five years after receiving an honorable discharge.<sup>6</sup> Upon receipt of the application and proof of the applicant's continued eligibility, DHSMV must issue a new permanent disabled veteran motor vehicle license plate which are the colors red, white, and blue, similar to the colors of the United States flag. The

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<sup>1</sup> Section 320.06(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Section 324.201(4), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> DHSMV, 2026 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 1352 (January 29, 2026) at p. 2 (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation).

<sup>6</sup> Section 320.084(1), F.S.

permanent license plate must be removed upon sale of the vehicle but may be transferred to another vehicle owned by such veteran in the manner prescribed by law. Upon request of any such veteran, DHSMV is authorized to issue a designation plate containing only the letters "DV," to be displayed on the front of the vehicle.<sup>7</sup>

Currently, a disabled veteran who has been issued a permanent DV license plate cannot retain the unique alpha-numeric designation assigned to the license plate upon reissuance, renewal, or transfer of the license plate to another vehicle.

Customers can renew online via the MyDMV portal, by mail, or in-person at a tax collector's office or license plate agency. License plates being renewed online or by mail are fulfilled from pre-stamped stock inventory maintained at DHSMV headquarters. If the renewal is in-office, the old license plate is surrendered, and a new license plate is issued over the counter with configurations that have been pre-stamped, unless the customer chooses to order a vanity plate with their own chosen configuration.<sup>8</sup>

License plates which require a specified configuration must be ordered from and manufactured by DHSMV's license plate manufacturer. Once the vanity plate is produced, it is mailed to the office that renewed the registration for customer pick-up, or to DHSMV headquarters for mailing to online and mail-in customers.<sup>9</sup>

### **License Plates for Persons with Disabilities**

Any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who resides in this state and qualifies for a disabled parking permit under s. 320.0848(2), F.S., upon application to the department and payment of the license tax for a motor vehicle registered under conditions, is issued a license plate, in lieu of the serial number, and is stamped with the international wheelchair user symbol after the serial number of the license plate. The license plate entitles the person to all privileges afforded by a parking permit. When more than one registrant is listed on the registration issued under this section, the eligible applicant is noted on the registration certificate.<sup>10</sup>

All applications for such license plates must be made directly to DHSMV.<sup>11</sup>

### **Permanently Disabled Parking Permits**

The department or its authorized agents must, upon application and receipt of the required fee, issue a disabled parking permit for a period of up to four years, which period ends on the applicant's birthday, to any person who has long-term mobility impairment. No person will be required to pay a fee for a parking permit for disabled persons more than once in a 12-month period from the date of the prior fee payment.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Section 320.084(3), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> DHSMV, *supra* note 5, at 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Section 320.0843, F.S.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Section 320.0848(1)(a), F.S.

In order for an applicant to be certified as having a long-term mobility impairment for a disabled parking permit, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Is certified legally blind.
- Has an inability to walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, or other assistive device, or without the assistance of another person. If the assistive device significantly restores the person's ability to walk to the extent that the person can walk without severe limitation, the person is not eligible for the exemption parking permit.
- The need to permanently use a wheelchair.
- Restriction by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the person's arterial oxygen is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest.
- Use of portable oxygen.
- Restriction by cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association.
- Severe limitation in the person's ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.<sup>13</sup>

Section 320.0848, F.S., provides a person who qualifies for a disabled parking permit may be issued an international wheelchair symbol user license plate pursuant to s. 320.0843, F.S., in lieu of the disabled parking permit; or, if the person qualifies for a disabled veteran license plate pursuant to s. 320.084, F.S., such license plate may be issued in lieu of the disabled parking permit.

### **Counterfeiting and Obscuring License Plates**

Section 320.26, F.S., provides that no person shall counterfeit registration license plates, validation stickers, or mobile home stickers, or have in his or her possession any such plates or stickers; nor shall any person manufacture, sell, or dispose of registration license plates, validation stickers, or mobile home stickers in the state without first having obtained the permission and authority of DHSMV in writing.

Section 320.061, F.S., provides a person may not alter the original appearance of a vehicle registration certificate, license plate, temporary license plate, mobile home sticker, or validation sticker issued for and assigned to a motor vehicle or mobile home, whether by mutilation, alteration, defacement, or change of color or in any other manner. A person may not apply or attach a substance, reflective matter, illuminated device, spray, coating, covering, or other material onto or around any license plate which interferes with the legibility, angular visibility, or detectability of any feature or detail on the license plate or interferes with the ability to record any feature or detail on the license plate.

### **Driver License and Identification Card Fees**

Currently, an original or renewal Class E driver license is \$48, except that a delinquent fee of \$15 is added for a renewal or extension made within 12 months after the license expiration date.

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<sup>13</sup> Section 320.0848(1)(b), F.S.

A replacement Class E driver license is \$25.<sup>14</sup> An original, renewal, or replacement identification card is \$25.<sup>15</sup> Various additional fees and charges may apply. For example, an additional \$6.25 fee applies to driver license and identification card transactions processed via a county tax collectors.<sup>16</sup>

DHSMV's self-service online portal, MyDMV portal, offers customers the ability to perform motor vehicle and driver license transactions.<sup>17</sup> Currently, motor vehicle registration transactions performed via the MyDMV portal are downloaded to the tax collector office in which the customer resides for processing. Processing of these transactions takes place in the tax collector's office and the transaction documents are mailed to the customer.<sup>18</sup>

Driver license transactions performed online via the MyDMV portal are currently fulfilled through DHSMV. Transaction-related documents are printed and mailed from DHSMV headquarters in Tallahassee and the customer does not incur any additional fees for processing.<sup>19</sup> According to DHSMV, in 2025 it processed 14,155,419 driver license and identification card orders through its Central Issuance Processing.<sup>20</sup>

Chapter No. 2025-125, L.O.F., amended s. 322.135, F.S., to provide that, effective July 1, 2026, tax collector services shall be limited to the issuance of driver licenses and identification cards as authorized by ch. 322, F.S., transactions for which may be processed by the tax collector using the department's online license and registration portal.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** amends s. 320.06, F.S., to provide that DHSMV must establish and maintain a secure online license and registration portal accessible to the department, tax collectors, and authorized law enforcement agencies for the purpose of verifying, recording, and processing the seizure or confiscation of license plates. The portal must provide immediate status updates when a plate has been seized, destroyed, or returned and must be checked before reissuance of a registration plate. DHSMV may adopt rules to implement this provision.

**Section 2** amends s. 320.084, F.S., to provide that a disabled veteran who has been issued a permanent disabled motor vehicle license plate may retain the unique alpha-numeric designation assigned to the plate upon reissuance, renewal, or transfer of the plate to another vehicle owned by the veteran.

**Section 3** amends s. 320.0843, F.S., to allow the letters "DV" indicating disabled veteran to be included after the serial number of the license plate for customers who qualify for a disabled parking permit. Additionally, the bill allows tax collectors, as authorized agents of DHSMV, to

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<sup>14</sup> Section 322.21(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 322.21(1)(f), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 322.135(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> DHSMV, *supra* note 5, at p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*, at p. 8.

process applications for “DV” license plates and authorizes on-demand and immediate issuance of such license plates per DHSMV rules.

**Section 4** amends s. 320.26, F.S., to provide a person may not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, or affix to any registration license plate any cover, film, or overlay, whether transparent, translucent, tinted, or opaque, which obscures or alters the legibility, color, or design of the registration license plate. A person who violates this provision commits a third degree felony.

**Section 5** amends s. 322.21, F.S., to require any renewal or replacement of a driver’s license or identification card ordered through the DHSMV’s online license and registration portal to be fulfilled by the tax collector of the county in which the applicant resides. DHSMV is to ensure that all online orders are transmitted to the appropriate tax collector for fulfillment.

The tax collector may mail the driver license or identification card to the applicant or, at the option of the applicant, may allow the applicant to pick up the driver license or identification card at the tax collector’s office. Fulfillment by the tax collector constitutes services provided by them, and DHSMV is required to remit the \$6.25 service fee to the appropriate tax collector for each transaction fulfilled.

**Section 6** amends s. 320.0848, F.S., to provide that applicants who qualify for the disabled parking permit may choose either a wheelchair symbol or a “DV” designation license plate in lieu of a disabled parking permit.

**Section 7** provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

Section 19, Art. VII of the State Constitution limits the authority of legislature to enact legislation that imposes or raises a state tax or fee by requiring such legislation to be approved by a 2/3 vote of each chamber of the legislature. Such state tax or fee imposed, authorized, or raised must be contained in a separate bill that contains no other subject.

This bill requires that driver license renewal or replacement transactions submitted via the DHSMV online license and registration portal must be transmitted to the appropriate

tax collector for processing and such processing constitutes services provided by the tax collector. DHSMV is directed to remit the \$6.25 service fee authorized pursuant to s. 322.135(1)(c), F.S., to the appropriate tax collector for each transaction processed. The \$6.25 service is not currently assessed for transactions processed through the DHSMV online license and registration portal.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

This bill requires that driver license renewal or replacement transactions submitted via the DHSMV online license and registration portal must be transmitted to the appropriate tax collector for processing and directs DHSMV to remit the existing \$6.25 tax collector service fee to the appropriate tax collector for each transaction processed. The \$6.25 service is not currently assessed for transactions processed through the DHSMV online license and registration portal.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Persons renewing or replacing a driver license or identification card via the MyDMV portal will incur a \$6.25 service charge for transactions fulfilled by tax collectors.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

According to DHSMV, local governments may incur indeterminate costs associated with printing and mailing expenses, and counties may need to employ additional staff to complete the printing and mailing of credentials.<sup>21</sup>

DHSMV will incur costs associated with modifying the DAVID system to allow law enforcement agencies to submit seized license plates information in real time.<sup>22</sup>

DHSMV will incur indeterminate costs associated with the order and delivery of disabled veteran plate stock to every tax collector location in the state for on-demand disabled veteran plate issuance.<sup>23</sup>

DHSMV estimates it will incur \$251,400 in information technology programming and implementation costs.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> DHSMV, *supra* note 5, at p. 8.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

DHSMV recommended that the effective date of the bill be extended to March 1, 2027, in order to provide additional time to implement the provisions of the bill.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 320.06, 320.084, 320.0843, 320.26, 322.21, and 320.0848.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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