

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 Appropriations

BILL: SB 2508

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee

SUBJECT: State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System

DATE: February 19, 2026

REVISED: _____

ANALYST

Davis

STAFF DIRECTOR

Sadberry

REFERENCE

ACTION

AP Submitted as Comm. Bill/FAV

I. Summary:

SB 2508 makes conforming changes related to the Senate's Proposed General Appropriations Act for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Specifically, the bill removes the scheduled expiration date of July 1, 2026, from the \$3 surcharge imposed on all noncriminal moving traffic violations and specified criminal offenses. The surcharge generates approximately \$4 million annually for the State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund to support the operation and maintenance of the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System.

The bill has a significant fiscal impact. See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 282, F.S., provides duties and responsibilities required of the Department of Management Services (DMS). Specifically, the DMS is authorized to acquire and administer a statewide radio communications system, which is known as the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS), to serve state law enforcement officers and other participating agencies throughout the state. The DMS bears the overall responsibility for the design, engineering, acquisition, and implementation of the system for ensuring the proper operation and maintenance of all common SLERS equipment.¹

Section 282.709(2), F.S., creates the Joint Task Force on State Agency Law Enforcement Communications (task force). The task force consists of the following members:

- A representative of the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation appointed by the secretary of the department.
- A representative of the Division of Florida Highway Patrol of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles appointed by the executive director of the department.

¹ Section 282.709(1)(b), F.S.

- A representative of the Department of Law Enforcement appointed by the executive director of the department.
- A representative of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission appointed by the executive director of the commission.
- A representative of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of Environmental Protection appointed by the secretary of the department.
- A representative of the Department of Corrections appointed by the secretary of the department.
- A representative of the Department of Financial Services appointed by the Chief Financial Officer.
- A representative of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.
- A representative of the Florida Sheriffs Association appointed by the president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.²

The DMS, in consultation with the task force and in conjunction with the Department of Law Enforcement and the Division of Emergency Management, is required to establish policies, procedures, and standards to incorporate into a comprehensive management plan for the use and operation of SLERS.³ Chapter 2021-37, Laws of Florida, required the DMS to execute a 15-year contract with the current system operator, which became effective July 1, 2021. The contract is required to include: the purchase of radios; the upgrade to the Project 25 communications standard; increased system capacity and enhanced coverage for system users; operations, maintenance, and support at a fixed annual rate; the conveyance of communications towers to the DMS; and the assignment of communications tower leases to the DMS.

Section 282.709(3)(b), F.S., creates the State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund (trust fund). Moneys deposited into the trust fund are used to fund the operations, maintenance and support costs of the SLERS system and may be used by the DMS for payment of recurring maintenance costs of SLERS. The current 15-year contract for the operation of the SLERS system is currently funded in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act at \$19 million. The funding to support the \$19 million appropriation is derived from two surcharges established in statute and deposited in the trust fund. The surcharges include:

- A \$1 surcharge collected from the general public on motor vehicle and vessel registrations as provided in ss. 320.0802 and 328.72(9), F.S., respectively; and
- A \$3 surcharge on specified criminal offenses and for all noncriminal moving traffic violations as established in s. 318.18(18), F.S., for the SLERS system and to provide for system enhancements of the SLERS network. However, the \$3 fee established in s. 318.18(18), F.S., is set to expire July 1, 2026.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends ss. 318.18 and 318.21, F.S., to remove the expiration date (July 1, 2026) of the \$3 surcharge assessed on all noncriminal moving traffic violations and specified criminal offenses to continue the support for the cost of the SLERS.

² Section 282.709(2)(a), F.S.

³ Section 282.709(4)(b), F.S.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

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:

Article VII, s. 19 of the Florida Constitution requires the imposition, authorization, or raising of a state tax or fee be contained in a separate bill that contains no other subject and be approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the Legislature. The bill applies to an existing surcharge, as such, Art. VII, s. 19 of the Florida Constitution does not apply. The bill does not raise a state tax or fee, as defined by the constitutional provision. Rather, the bill merely removes the current expiration date of the existing \$3 surcharge.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

The bill removes the expiration date of the \$3 surcharge imposed on all noncriminal moving traffic violations and specified criminal offenses to continue the support for the cost of the SLERS system. The fee generates approximately \$4 million annually for the trust fund to support the maintenance and administrative functions of the system.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Individuals committing a noncriminal moving traffic violation or a specified criminal offense will continue to be assessed a \$3 surcharge to support the SLERS.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The chart⁴ below, as provided by the DMS, shows the collections and miscellaneous revenues deposited into the State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund.

Revenues (actual and estimated):					
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (estimated)
\$1 Surcharge Collection (autos and vessels)	\$23,067,033	\$23,683,564	\$23,676,800	\$25,129,875	\$24,443,865
\$3 Surcharge Collection* (Expires July 1, 2026)	\$3,958,711	\$4,022,516	\$4,147,980	\$4,295,201	\$4,022,516
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$145,681	\$311,878	\$606,822	\$958,587	\$926,477
TOTAL	\$27,171,425	\$28,017,959	\$28,431,602	\$30,383,663	\$29,392,858

Total appropriations related to program costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 are \$29.5 million, which includes the cost of the current contract. Removing the expiration date of the \$3 surcharge authorizes the collection of an estimated \$4 million per year to fund the overall cost of the SLERS.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 318.18 and 318.21.

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.

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

⁴ Email from the DMS (dated January 23, 2026) (on file with the with the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government).