

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

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BILL: SB 488, Engrossed 1
INTRODUCER: Senator Massullo
SUBJECT: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
DATE: March 9, 2026

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment - 078509 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 078509 changes the title of the bill from an act relating to the “Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles” to an act relating to “Transportation.”

The amendment clarifies the existing prohibition on covering or obscuring a motor vehicle license plate and specifies that a license plate frame or decorative border around the license plate is not prohibited provided that such frame or border does not obscure the visibility of the license plate number and validation sticker.

The amendment provides that a disabled veteran may retain the unique alphanumeric designation assigned to the “DV” license plate upon reissuance, renewal, or transfer of the license plate. Tax collectors are authorized to issue disabled veteran license plates immediately on demand to qualified applicants. Eligible applicants may choose either a wheelchair symbol license plate or a “DV” designation license plate in lieu of a disabled parking permit.

The amendment prohibits a licensed motor vehicle manufacturer, distributor, importer or factory branch (licensee) that sells 1,000 or more vehicles of a particular line-make to motor vehicle dealers within the state during any 12-month period from selling more than 33.33 percent of such vehicles to any single dealer or group of dealers with common ownership or control. However, the amendment exempts any licensee that had a franchised dealer in the state as of January 1, 2026, or if they are not otherwise prohibited from owning or operating their own dealership.

The amendment addresses the use of right-of-way by communications service providers to place or relocate communications facilities, and it limits the power of local authorities to impose conditions on permits for such use of the right-of-way.

Finally, the amendment includes a number of additional cross-references related to department’s use of email to communicate with customers in lieu of the U.S. mail and changes made pursuant to the International Fuel Tax Agreement.