

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [HB 953](#)

**TITLE:** Commercial Driving Schools

**SPONSOR(S):** Blanco

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 584](#) (Avila)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

**FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:** 109 Y's 3 N's

**GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

### SUMMARY

#### **Effect of the Bill:**

The bill authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to enter into interagency agreements with tax collectors to allow tax collectors to enforce statutory provisions related to commercial driving schools.

#### **Fiscal or Economic Impact:**

The bill will likely have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local governments. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may experience reduced enforcement costs when authority is granted to county tax collectors through interagency agreements. County tax collectors that choose to enter such agreements may incur indeterminate, negative costs associated with enforcing commercial driving school regulations.

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### ANALYSIS

#### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

HB 953 passed as [SB 584](#).

The bill authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to enter into interagency agreements with [county tax collectors](#) to allow tax collectors to enforce statutory provisions related to [commercial driving schools](#). The interagency agreements may include, but are not limited to, grants of authority to the county tax collectors, or their agents, to do any of the following:

- Prohibit licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, from entering upon the tax collector's premises except under specified circumstances.
- Prohibit conduct by licensees operating commercial driving schools, and their agents, which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit.
- Prohibit any transaction, practice, or course of business related to a commercial driving school that undermines the driver license issuance process.
- Require persons licensed to operate commercial driving schools, and their agents, to present certain documents upon the demand of a law enforcement officer, a DHSMV employee, or an employee of the tax collector.
- Enter the premises of a commercial driving school to ensure compliance with laws regulating commercial driving schools. (Section 1)

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 22, 2026, [ch. 2026-94, L.O.F.](#), and will become effective on July 1, 2026. (Section 2)

#### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT:**

DHSMV may experience a reduction in costs associated with enforcing commercial driving school regulations. However, the extent of any savings may depend on the number of interagency agreements the department enters into and the number of commercial driving schools impacted by such agreements.

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- Committed any fraud or willful misrepresentation in applying for or obtaining a license.
- Solicited business on any premises, including parking areas, used by DHSMV or a tax collector for the purpose of licensing drivers.<sup>11</sup>

### **Commercial Driving School Fees and Distribution**

All fees DHSMV receives related to commercial driving schools are deposited in the General Revenue Fund.<sup>12</sup> The statutory fees are as follows:

- Commercial Driving School Fees:
  - License application fee: \$50.
  - Initial license fee: \$200.
  - Annual license renewal fee: \$100.
- Instructor or Agent Fees:
  - Instructor or agent application fee: \$25.
  - Annual instructor or agent renewal fee: \$10.
  - Duplicate instructor certificate fee: \$2.
- Vehicle-Related Fees:
  - Vehicle identification certificate application fee: \$15.
  - Annual vehicle renewal fee: \$10.<sup>13</sup>

### Penalties

A commercial driving school that violates the law concerning its operation or any of its implementing rules or regulations<sup>14</sup> is guilty of a first-degree misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year,<sup>15</sup> a fine of up to \$1,000,<sup>16</sup> or both.

### **Application for a Class E Driver License**

Current law requires DHSMV to examine every applicant for a driver license. For a Class E driver license (the standard type of license for all non-commercial drivers), the examination must include:

- A test of the applicant's eyesight.
- A test of the applicant's hearing.
- A test of the applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his or her knowledge of the traffic laws of this state; and his or her knowledge of the effects of alcohol and controlled substances upon persons and the dangers of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence.
- An actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle.<sup>17</sup>

### Duties of County Tax Collectors

Among other duties, county tax collectors serve as DHSMV's agents for purposes of motor vehicle and vessel registrations, title applications, and the issuance of driver licenses. County tax collectors are funded from fees or

<sup>11</sup> [S. 488.06, F.S.](#)

<sup>12</sup> [S. 488.08, F.S.](#)

<sup>13</sup> These fees are codified in various provision of ch. 488, F.S.

<sup>14</sup> [Ch. 15A-11, F.A.C.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [S. 775.082\(4\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [S. 775.083\(1\)\(d\), F.S.](#)

<sup>17</sup> [S. 322.12\(3\), F.S.](#) Beginning July 1, 2026, an applicant who is found to have cheated during, or to have otherwise circumvented, any portion of the examination must retake the examination. See [s. 7 of 2025-125, L.O.F.](#)

commissions<sup>18</sup> from services rendered.<sup>19</sup> For example, the county tax collector charges a \$6.25 service fee for providing driver license and identification card services.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> [S. 192.091\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>19</sup> Alachua County Tax Collector, [Tax Collector Duties and Responsibilities](#) (Last visited February 1, 2026). [S. 322.135, F.S.](#), provides that tax collectors are DHSMV's agents for the purpose of issuing driver license.

<sup>20</sup> [S. 322.135\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)