HB 425 2011

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to driving without a valid license; creating s. 322.345, F.S.; providing for immobilization or impoundment of a motor vehicle driven or owned by a person charged with driving without a driver's license or while the person's driver's license or privilege to drive is canceled, suspended, or revoked; providing for release of the vehicle; limiting application; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 322.345, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

322.345 Driving without a valid license; impoundment of vehicle.—

(1) Upon the arrest of a person for driving without a driver's license under s. 322.03 or driving while the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled, suspended, or revoked under s. 322.34, the arresting officer shall immediately impound or immobilize the motor vehicle that was driven at the time of the offense.

(2) The motor vehicle owned by any person who is currently charged with driving without a driver's license under s. 322.03 or driving while the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled, suspended, or revoked under s. 322.34 shall be impounded or immobilized if the person has been previously charged within the last 5 years with driving without

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a driver's license under s. 322.03 or driving while the person's driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled, suspended, or revoked under s. 322.34.

- (3) A motor vehicle immobilized or impounded under this section shall be released:
- (a) To the registered owner, if the owner was not the person driving the vehicle at the time of arrest and immobilization or impoundment under subsection (1);
- (b) After any period imposed by the court and upon payment of reasonable charges for towing and storing the vehicle, if the owner presents to the law enforcement agency proof of a valid driver's license, ownership of the vehicle, and required insurance; or
- (c) Upon payment of reasonable charges for towing and storing the vehicle, if the owner presents to the law enforcement agency proof of sale of the vehicle and the buyer presents to the agency proof of a valid driver's license, ownership of the vehicle, and required insurance.
- (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that the outcome of any charged offense have no effect on immobilization or impoundment of the motor vehicle and release of the vehicle therefrom.
 - (5) This section does not apply to minors.

 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.