By Senator Braynon

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to uniform traffic control; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; defining the term "school bus traffic infraction detector"; amending s. 316.008, F.S.; authorizing school districts to deploy school bus traffic infraction detectors under certain circumstances; creating s. 316.0084, F.S.; providing for use of school bus traffic infraction detectors to enforce specified provisions requiring a person driving a vehicle to stop when approaching a school bus displaying a stop signal; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, a county, or a municipality to authorize a traffic infraction enforcement officer to issue and enforce a citation for a violation of such provisions; requiring notification to be sent to the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation; providing requirements for the notification; providing for collection of penalties; providing for distribution of penalties collected; providing procedures for issuance, disposition, and enforcement of citations; providing for exemptions; providing that certain evidence is admissible for enforcement; providing penalties for submission of a false affidavit; providing that the act does not preclude the issuance of citations by law enforcement officers; requiring reports from participating school districts to the department; requiring the department to make reports to the Governor and Legislature; creating s.

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316.07457, F.S.; requiring school bus traffic infraction detectors to meet specifications established by the department; creating s. 316.0777, F.S.; providing for the placement and installation of detectors on school buses when permitted by and under the specifications of the department; amending s. 316.640, F.S.; providing for authority of traffic enforcement officers appointed by the state or a police department or sheriff's department to enforce specified provisions; amending s. 316.650, F.S.; requiring a traffic enforcement officer to provide to the court a replica of the citation data by electronic transmission under certain conditions; amending s. 318.14, F.S.; providing an exception from provisions requiring a person cited for an infraction for failing to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal to sign and accept a citation indicating a promise to appear; amending s. 318.18, F.S.; increasing certain fines; providing for penalties for infractions enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer; providing for distribution of fines; allowing the clerk of court to dismiss certain cases upon receiving documentation that the uniform traffic citation was issued in error; creating s. 321.51, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to use school bus traffic infraction detectors under certain circumstances; amending s. 322.27, F.S.; providing that no points may be assessed against the driver's license for

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infractions enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer; providing that infractions enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer may not be used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates; providing for severability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (89) is added to section 316.003, Florida Statutes, to read:

316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where the context otherwise requires:

sensor installed to work in conjunction with a school bus and a camera or cameras synchronized to automatically record two or more sequenced photographic or electronic images or streaming video of a motor vehicle at the time the vehicle passes a school bus in violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b). Any notification under s. 316.0084(1)(b) or traffic citation issued by the use of a school bus traffic infraction detector must include a photograph, video feed, or other recorded image showing both the license tag of the offending vehicle and the school bus stop signal being violated.

Section 2. Subsection (9) is added to section 316.008, Florida Statutes, to read:

316.008 Powers of local authorities.-

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(9) A school district may deploy school bus traffic infraction detectors on its school buses for purposes of enforcing s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when a driver fails to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal. A school district deploying school bus traffic infraction detectors must coordinate the issuing of traffic citations with the Florida Highway Patrol, the local sheriff's office, the local police department, the local school board, if applicable, or other entity having the authority and jurisdiction to enforce the traffic laws of this state and within the particular school district as provided in ss. 316.006 and 316.640.

Section 3. Section 316.0084, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

316.0084 School Bus Safety Program; administration; report.—

(1) (a) For purposes of administering this section, the department, a county, or a municipality may authorize a traffic infraction enforcement officer under s. 316.640 to issue a traffic citation for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b). This paragraph does not prohibit a review of information from a traffic infraction detector by an authorized employee or agent of the department, a county, or a municipality before issuance of the traffic citation by the traffic infraction enforcement officer. This paragraph does not prohibit the department, a county, or a municipality from issuing notification as provided in paragraph (b) to the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b).

(b) 1.a. Within 10 days after a violation, notification shall be sent to the registered owner of the motor vehicle

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involved in the violation specifying the remedies available
under s. 318.14 and that the violator must pay the penalty of
\$265 to the department, county, or municipality, or furnish an
affidavit in accordance with paragraph (d), within 30 days
following the date of the notification in order to avoid court
fees, costs, and the issuance of a traffic citation. The
notification shall be sent by first-class mail.

- b. The notification under this paragraph must inform the owner that he or she has the right to review the photographic or electronic images or the streaming video evidence that constitutes a rebuttable presumption against the owner of the vehicle. The notice must state the time and place or Internet location where the evidence may be examined and observed.
- 2. Penalty amounts collected by the department, a county, or a municipality under this section, less the amount retained by the department, county, or municipality pursuant to subparagraph 3., shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue each week by means of electronic funds transfer. In addition to the payment, summary detail of the penalty amounts remitted shall be reported to the Department of Revenue.
- 3. A penalty amount of \$265 shall be assessed for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when a driver has failed to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal. Of that amount, \$170 shall be remitted to the school district in which the violation occurred, \$65 shall be deposited into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund of the Department of Health to be used as provided in s. 395.4036, \$15 shall be remitted to the department, and \$15 shall be retained by the county or municipality issuing the notice or citation or

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retained by the department if the department issued the notice or citation.

- (c)1.a. If payment has not been received within 30 days after notification under subparagraph (b)1., a traffic citation shall be issued by mailing the traffic citation by certified mail to the address of the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation.
- <u>b. Delivery of the traffic citation constitutes</u> notification under this paragraph.
- c. In the case of joint ownership of a motor vehicle, the traffic citation shall be mailed to the first name appearing on the registration, unless the first name appearing on the registration is a business organization, in which case the second name appearing on the registration may be used.
- d. The traffic citation shall be mailed to the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation no later than 45 days after the date of the violation.
- 2. The citation under this paragraph must include a notice that the owner has the right to review, in person or remotely, the photographic or electronic images or the streaming video evidence that constitutes a rebuttable presumption against the owner of the vehicle. The notice must state the time and place or Internet location where the evidence may be examined and observed.
- (d)1. The owner of the motor vehicle involved in the violation is responsible and liable for paying the uniform traffic citation issued for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b), unless the owner can establish that:
 - a. The motor vehicle passed the bus at the direction of a

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175 law enforcement officer;

b. The motor vehicle was, at the time of the violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person; or

- c. A uniform traffic citation was issued by a law enforcement officer to the driver of the motor vehicle for the alleged violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b).
- 2. In order to establish such facts, the owner of the motor vehicle shall, within 30 days after the date of issuance of the traffic citation, furnish to the appropriate governmental entity an affidavit setting forth detailed information supporting an exemption as provided in this paragraph.
- a. An affidavit supporting an exemption under subsubparagraph 1.b. must include the name, address, date of birth, and, if known, the driver's license number of the person who leased, rented, or otherwise had care, custody, or control of the motor vehicle at the time of the alleged violation. If the vehicle was stolen at the time of the alleged offense, the affidavit must include the police report indicating that the vehicle was stolen.
- b. If a traffic citation for a violation of s.

 316.172(1)(a) or (b) was issued at the location of the violation
 by a law enforcement officer, the affidavit must include the
 serial number of the uniform traffic citation.
- 3. Upon receipt of an affidavit supporting an exemption under sub-subparagraph 1.b., the person designated as having care, custody, and control of the motor vehicle at the time of the violation may be issued a traffic citation for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when the driver failed to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal. The

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affidavit is admissible in a proceeding pursuant to this section for the purpose of providing proof that the person identified in the affidavit was in actual care, custody, or control of the motor vehicle. The owner of a leased vehicle for which a traffic citation is issued for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) is not responsible for paying the traffic citation and is not required to submit an affidavit as specified in this subsection if the motor vehicle involved in the violation is registered in the name of the lessee of such motor vehicle.

- 4. The submission of a false affidavit is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (e) The photographic or electronic images or streaming video attached to or referenced in the traffic citation is evidence that a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) has occurred and is admissible in any proceeding to enforce this section and raises a rebuttable presumption that the motor vehicle named in the report or shown in the photographic or electronic images or streaming video evidence was used in violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b).
- (2) This section supplements the enforcement of s.

 316.172(1)(a) and (b) and does not prohibit a law enforcement officer from issuing a traffic citation for a violation of s.

 316.172(1)(a) or (b).
- (3) (a) Each school district that deploys a school bus traffic infraction detector shall submit a report by October 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, to the department which details the results of using the school bus traffic infraction detector and the procedures for enforcement for the preceding state

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fiscal year. The information submitted by counties and
municipalities must include statistical data and information
required by the department to complete the report required under
paragraph (b).

(b) On or before December 31, 2014, and annually thereafter, the department shall provide a summary report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding the use and operation of traffic infraction detectors under this section, along with the department's recommendations and recommendations for any necessary legislation. The summary report must include a review of the information submitted to the department by counties and municipalities and must describe the enhancement of the traffic safety and enforcement programs.

Section 4. Section 316.07457, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

316.07457 Implementation.—Any school bus traffic infraction detector deployed by a school district on one or more of the buses in its fleet must meet specifications established by the department and must be tested at regular intervals according to specifications prescribed by the department. The department shall establish such specifications by December 31, 2012.

Section 5. Section 316.0777, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

and installation.—School bus traffic infraction detectors; placement and installation.—School bus traffic infraction detectors are allowed on the school buses of school districts when permitted by the department and under placement and installation specifications developed by the department.

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Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 316.640, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
316.640 Enforcement.—The enforcement of the traffic laws of this state is vested as follows:

(1) STATE.-

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- (b)1. The Department of Transportation has authority to enforce on all the streets and highways of this state all laws applicable within its authority.
- 2.a. The Department of Transportation shall develop training and qualifications standards for toll enforcement officers whose sole authority is to enforce the payment of tolls pursuant to s. 316.1001. Nothing in This subparagraph does not authorize a toll enforcement officer to carry a firearm shall be construed to permit the carrying of firearms or other weapons and does not authorize, nor shall a toll enforcement officer to make arrests have arrest authority.
- b. For the purpose of enforcing s. 316.1001, governmental entities, as defined in s. 334.03, which own or operate a toll facility may employ independent contractors or designate employees as toll enforcement officers; however, any such toll enforcement officer must successfully meet the training and qualifications standards for toll enforcement officers established by the Department of Transportation.
- 3. For the purpose of enforcing s. 316.0083 or s. 316.0084, the department may designate employees as traffic infraction enforcement officers. A traffic infraction enforcement officer must successfully complete instruction in traffic enforcement procedures and court presentation through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program as approved by the Division of Criminal

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Justice Standards and Training of the Department of Law Enforcement, or through a similar program, but may not necessarily otherwise meet the uniform minimum standards established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission for law enforcement officers or auxiliary law enforcement officers under s. 943.13. This subparagraph does not authorize the carrying of firearms or other weapons by a traffic infraction enforcement officer and does not authorize a traffic infraction enforcement officer to make arrests. The department's traffic infraction enforcement officers must be physically located in the state.

(5) (a) Any sheriff's department or police department of a municipality may employ, as a traffic infraction enforcement officer, any individual who successfully completes instruction in traffic enforcement procedures and court presentation through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program as approved by the Division of Criminal Justice Standards and Training of the Department of Law Enforcement, or through a similar program, but who does not necessarily otherwise meet the uniform minimum standards established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission for law enforcement officers or auxiliary law enforcement officers under s. 943.13. Any such traffic infraction enforcement officer who observes the commission of a traffic infraction or, in the case of a parking infraction, who observes an illegally parked vehicle may issue a traffic citation for the infraction when, based upon personal investigation, he or she has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that an offense has been committed which constitutes a noncriminal traffic infraction as defined in s. 318.14. In

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addition, any such traffic infraction enforcement officer may issue a traffic citation under s. 316.0083 or s. 316.0084. For purposes of enforcing s. 316.0083 or s. 316.0084, any sheriff's department or police department of a municipality may designate employees as traffic infraction enforcement officers. The traffic infraction enforcement officers must be physically located in the county of the respective sheriff's or police department.

- (b) The traffic infraction enforcement officer shall be employed in relationship to a selective traffic enforcement program at a fixed location or as part of a crash investigation team at the scene of a vehicle crash or in other types of traffic infraction enforcement under the direction of a fully qualified law enforcement officer; however, it is not necessary that the traffic infraction enforcement officer's duties be performed under the immediate supervision of a fully qualified law enforcement officer.
- (c) This subsection does not permit the carrying of firearms or other weapons, nor do traffic infraction enforcement officers have arrest authority other than the authority to issue a traffic citation as provided in this subsection.

Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 316.650, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.650 Traffic citations.-

(3) (a) Except for a traffic citation issued pursuant to s. 316.1001, or s. 316.0083, or s. 316.0084, each traffic enforcement officer, upon issuing a traffic citation to an alleged violator of any provision of the motor vehicle laws of this state or of any traffic ordinance of any municipality or

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town, shall deposit the original traffic citation or, in the case of a traffic enforcement agency that has an automated citation issuance system, the chief administrative officer shall provide by an electronic transmission a replica of the citation data to a court having jurisdiction over the alleged offense or with its traffic violations bureau within 5 days after issuance to the violator.

- (b) If a traffic citation is issued pursuant to s. 316.1001, a traffic enforcement officer may deposit the original traffic citation or, in the case of a traffic enforcement agency that has an automated citation system, may provide by an electronic transmission a replica of the citation data to a court having jurisdiction over the alleged offense or with its traffic violations bureau within 45 days after the date of issuance of the citation to the violator. If the person cited for the violation of s. 316.1001 makes the election provided by s. 318.14(12) and pays the \$25 fine, or such other amount as imposed by the governmental entity owning the applicable toll facility, plus the amount of the unpaid toll that is shown on the traffic citation directly to the governmental entity that issued the citation, or on whose behalf the citation was issued, in accordance with s. 318.14(12), the traffic citation will not be submitted to the court, the disposition will be reported to the department by the governmental entity that issued the citation, or on whose behalf the citation was issued, and no points will be assessed against the person's driver's license.
- (c) If a traffic citation is issued under s. 316.0083 or s. 316.0084, the traffic infraction enforcement officer shall provide by electronic transmission a replica of the traffic

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citation data to the court having jurisdiction over the alleged offense or its traffic violations bureau within 5 days after the date of issuance of the traffic citation to the violator.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 318.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.14 Noncriminal traffic infractions; exception; procedures.—

(2) Except as provided in ss. 316.1001(2), and 316.0083, and 316.0084, any person cited for a violation requiring a mandatory hearing listed in s. 318.19 or any other criminal traffic violation listed in chapter 316 must sign and accept a citation indicating a promise to appear. The officer may indicate on the traffic citation the time and location of the scheduled hearing and must indicate the applicable civil penalty established in s. 318.18. For all other infractions under this section, except for infractions under s. 316.1001, the officer must certify by electronic, electronic facsimile, or written signature that the citation was delivered to the person cited. This certification is prima facie evidence that the person cited was served with the citation.

Section 9. Subsection (5) of section 318.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.18 Amount of penalties.—The penalties required for a noncriminal disposition pursuant to s. 318.14 or a criminal offense listed in s. 318.17 are as follows:

(5) (a) $\underline{\text{Two}}$ One hundred dollars for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a), failure to stop for a school bus. If, at a hearing, the alleged offender is found to have committed this offense, the court shall impose a minimum civil penalty of $\frac{$200}{}$

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\$100. In addition to this penalty, for a second or subsequent offense within a period of 5 years, the department shall suspend the driver's license of the person for not less than 90 days and not more than 6 months.

- (b) Two hundred dollars for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(b), passing a school bus on the side that children enter and exit when the school bus displays a stop signal. If, at a hearing, the alleged offender is found to have committed this offense, the court shall impose a minimum civil penalty of \$200. In addition to this penalty, for a second or subsequent offense within a period of 5 years, the department shall suspend the driver's license of the person for not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.
- (c) In addition to the penalty under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), \$65 for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b). If the alleged offender is found to have committed the offense, the court shall impose the civil penalty under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) plus an additional \$65. As provided in s. 316.0084(1)(b)3., the additional \$65 collected under this paragraph shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund of the Department of Health to be used as provided in s. 395.4036.
- (d) The \$265 collected under paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) shall be distributed as provided in s. 316.0084(1)(b)3.
- (e) If a person who is cited for a violation of s.

 316.172(1)(a) or (b), as enforced by a traffic infraction
 enforcement officer under s. 316.0084, presents documentation
 from the appropriate governmental entity that the traffic
 citation was in error, the clerk of court may dismiss the case,

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and may not impose a charge for this service.

Section 10. Section 321.51, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

321.51 Authorization to use school bus traffic infraction detectors.—When permitted by the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may, under s. 316.0084, use images from school bus traffic infraction detectors to enforce s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when a driver fails to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal on state roads, as defined in chapter 316, which are under the original jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.

Section 11. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 322.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.27 Authority of department to suspend or revoke license.—

- (3) There is established a point system for evaluation of convictions of violations of motor vehicle laws or ordinances, and violations of applicable provisions of s. 403.413(6)(b) when such violations involve the use of motor vehicles, for the determination of the continuing qualification of any person to operate a motor vehicle. The department is authorized to suspend the license of any person upon showing of its records or other good and sufficient evidence that the licensee has been convicted of violation of motor vehicle laws or ordinances, or applicable provisions of s. 403.413(6)(b), amounting to 12 or more points as determined by the point system. The suspension shall be for a period of not more than 1 year.
 - (d) The point system shall have as its basic element a

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graduated scale of points assigning relative values to convictions of the following violations:

- 1. Reckless driving, willful and wanton-4 points.
- 2. Leaving the scene of a crash resulting in property damage of more than \$50-6\$ points.
 - 3. Unlawful speed resulting in a crash-6 points.
 - 4. Passing a stopped school bus-4 points.
 - 5. Unlawful speed:
- a. Not in excess of 15 miles per hour of lawful or posted speed-3 points.
- b. In excess of 15 miles per hour of lawful or posted speed-4 points.
- 6. A violation of a traffic control signal device as provided in s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1.-4 points. However, no points shall be imposed for a violation of s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1. when a driver has failed to stop at a traffic signal and when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer. In addition, a violation of s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1. when a driver has failed to stop at a traffic signal and when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer may not be used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates. Furthermore, no points shall be imposed for a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when a driver has failed to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal and when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer. In addition, a violation of s. 316.172(1)(a) or (b) when a driver has failed to stop upon approaching any school bus that displays a stop signal and when enforced by a traffic infraction enforcement officer may not be

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used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates.

- 7. All other moving violations (including parking on a highway outside the limits of a municipality)—3 points. However, no points shall be imposed for a violation of s. 316.0741 or s. 316.2065(12); and points shall be imposed for a violation of s. 316.1001 only when imposed by the court after a hearing pursuant to s. 318.14(5).
- 8. Any moving violation covered above, excluding unlawful speed, resulting in a crash-4 points.
 - 9. Any conviction under s. 403.413(6)(b)-3 points.
 - 10. Any conviction under s. 316.0775(2)-4 points.

Section 12. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.