**HB 669** 2013

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An act relating to photographic enforcement on school buses; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; defining the term "school bus safety camera" for purposes of the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law; amending s. 316.008, F.S.; authorizing a school board to authorize use of school bus safety cameras to enforce specified provisions requiring a motor vehicle to stop behind a school bus stop signal; creating s. 316.0084, F.S.; creating the School Bus Safety Camera Program; providing for use of cameras installed on a school bus to provide evidence of a violation when a driver fails to stop behind the bus while the bus stop signal is displayed; providing for the school board to enter into an agreement with a vendor for the installation, operation, notice processing, and administration and maintenance of the school bus safety camera program and with the county sheriff for operation and enforcement of the program; providing for a fine and the distribution of fines collected; providing procedures for enforcement; providing penalties for submission of a false affidavit establishing an exemption; providing for responsibility to pay the fine and specified fees; providing that the images or video identified in the traffic citation raises a rebuttable presumption of a violation; requiring such cameras to meet specifications adopted by rule of the Department of Education; requiring the department to

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adopt such rules by a certain date; providing for applicability; amending s. 316.650, F.S.; providing procedures for transmission of citation data to the court; amending s. 316.655, F.S.; providing an exception to certain penalties; amending ss. 318.14 and 318.19, F.S.; providing exceptions to certain traffic infraction disposition procedures; amending s. 318.15, F.S.; providing procedures that apply upon failure to comply with civil penalty for failing to stop behind a school bus displaying a stop signal or by passing a school bus before the stop signal has been withdrawn when such violations are enforced under specified provisions; amending s. 320.03, F.S.; restricting issuance of a license plate or validation sticker until outstanding fines and fees are paid; providing an effective date.

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WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the great harm that can occur when motor vehicles do not stop when a school bus displays its stop signal and further recognizes that large numbers of school buses traverse Florida communities daily, often during hours when there are limited law enforcement personnel on the roads, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that there is a state interest in providing an additional deterrent to this dangerous practice and, to that end, an additional enforcement mechanism for violations of s. 316.172, Florida Statutes, through the use of school bus safety cameras is necessary, and

WHEREAS, the local school board is charged with safely transporting students to and from schools and is the appropriate entity to determine enactment of a School Bus Safety Camera Program within its jurisdiction with assistance and enforcement by the local sheriff's office, NOW THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Subsection (91) 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:

installed on a school bus and synchronized to record images or video of a motor vehicle when the motor vehicle fails to stop behind the school bus stop signal or passes the bus before the signal has been withdrawn.

Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (8) of section 316.008, Florida Statutes, to read:

316.008 Powers of local authorities.-

(8)

(d) The district school board may authorize use of school bus safety cameras to assist in enforcement of s. 316.172 when a motor vehicle fails to stop behind the school bus stop signal or passes the school bus before the stop signal has been withdrawn. Such cameras may be used within the school district, including

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on any road under the jurisdiction of a municipality, the county, or the Department of Transportation.

- Section 3. Section 316.0084, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
  - 316.0084 School Bus Safety Camera Program.-
- (1) This section may be cited as the "School Bus Safety Camera Program."
- (2) After consultation with the county sheriff's office, a district school board may authorize the use of school bus safety cameras to enforce s. 316.172 as provided in this section.
- (3) Authorization by a school board shall be by adoption of a resolution applying within county boundaries and authorizing enforcement under this section. The resolution and implementation of the program are not subject to the requirements of chapter 120. Upon adoption of the resolution, the school board may contract with a vendor of automated devices for the installation, operation, notice processing, and administration and maintenance of the school bus safety camera program, or, if the school board enters into an interlocal agreement with the sheriff's office pursuant to subsection (4), the sheriff's office may enter into such a contract with a vendor.
- (4) The school board may contract for the operation and enforcement of the program through an interlocal agreement with the county sheriff's office, which shall perform as the law enforcement agency under this section.
- (5) When the operator of a motor vehicle violates s.

  316.172 by failing to stop behind a school bus displaying a stop

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signal or by passing a school bus before the stop signal has
been withdrawn, the school bus safety camera shall record images
or video of the violation and record the vehicle's license
plate. The images or video recorded by a school bus safety
camera may not contain the face of the operator of or any
passenger in the motor vehicle.

- (6) A fine of \$250 shall be imposed for a violation of s. 316.172 when enforced under this section. No costs, fees, or other charges may be added to the fine if paid pursuant to the notice of violation provided under paragraph (7)(a). All fines collected, less costs to administer, operate, and maintain the program, shall be distributed as follows:
- (a) Twenty-five percent shall be remitted to the county in which the offense was committed.
- (b) Thirty-five percent shall be remitted to the school district in which the offense was committed.
- (c) Thirty percent shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.
- (d) Ten percent shall be remitted to the Department of Education for school bus safety initiatives.
- (7) Enforcement of s. 316.172 under this section shall be accomplished as follows:
- (a) A deputy sheriff, officer, or employee of the sheriff's office shall review the images or video recorded by a school bus safety camera. If he or she determines that such images or video depicts a violation of s. 316.172, the sheriff's office shall issue a notice of violation to the registered owner or lessee of the motor vehicle depicted in the images or video.

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If the motor vehicle has more than one registered owner or

lessee, the notice shall be issued to the first person listed on
the title or other evidence of ownership.

- (b)1. The notice of violation shall be sent to the registered owner or lessee by first-class mail within 30 days after identification of the owner or lessee. The notice of violation must include, at a minimum:
- a. The name and address of the person alleged to be liable as the registered owner or lessee of the motor vehicle involved in the violation.
  - b. The license plate number of the motor vehicle.
- c. The violation charged.

- d. The date, time, and location of the violation.
- e. A copy of the images of the motor vehicle and license plate that were recorded by the school bus safety camera and the Internet location of a website where the images or video may be viewed.
- f. The amount of the fine and the time, place, and manner of payment of the fine.
- g. The date by which payment of the fine must be made to the place specified under sub-subparagraph f. or by which an exemption affidavit under paragraph (d) must be provided to the sheriff's office. The date must be clearly and prominently depicted in the notice and shall be within 30 days after the notice of violation is mailed.
- h. The procedure under which the notice of violation may be contested, including establishing an exemption under paragraph (c) and requesting a court hearing under s. 318.14.

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i. A notice that, following issuance of a traffic citation under paragraph (g), failure to timely pay the fine, establish an exemption, or transfer liability to the individual identified as the operator of the motor vehicle constitutes an admission that the registered owner or lessee is responsible for the violation and that the owner's or lessee's failure to pay the fine shall result in the owner's or lessee's liability for the fine and the denial of a new or replacement license plate or revalidation sticker as part of motor vehicle registration until the owner or lessee presents a receipt from the applicable governmental entity or the clerk of court showing that the fine has been paid. This sub-subparagraph does not apply to the owner of a leased motor vehicle if the vehicle is registered in the name of the lessee of the vehicle.

- 2. In any hearing on a traffic citation issued pursuant to this section in which the timely or proper mailing of a notice of violation is challenged, the defendant bears the burden of proving that the notice of violation was not timely or properly mailed.
- 3. The owner of the rented or leased motor vehicle for which a notice of violation is issued for a violation of s.

  316.172 is not responsible for paying the traffic fine 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 and the lessee is responsible for paying the fine.

(c) The motor vehicle owner or lessee who is issued a notice of violation is liable for the fine unless one of the following exemptions is established:

- 1. The motor vehicle passed beyond the school bus stop signal in order to yield the only right-of-way available to an emergency vehicle and did so prudently;
- 2. The motor vehicle passed beyond the school bus stop signal at the direction of a law enforcement officer;
- 3. The motor vehicle was, at the time of the violation, in the care, custody, or control of another person operating the vehicle;
- 4. A traffic citation was issued by a law enforcement officer to the operator of the motor vehicle for the alleged violation of s. 316.172;
- 5. The motor vehicle's owner or lessee was deceased on or before the date of the violation as established by an affidavit submitted by a representative of the motor vehicle owner's or lessee's estate or other designated person or family member; or
- $\underline{\text{6.}}$  The motor vehicle was stolen at the time of the violation.
- (d) To establish an exemption under paragraph (c), the owner or lessee shall, within 30 days after the date of issuance of the notice of violation, furnish the local sheriff's office with an affidavit setting forth detailed information supporting the exemption.
- 1. An affidavit supporting an exemption under subparagraph (c)3. must include the name, address, date of birth, and, if known, the driver license number of the operator who leased,

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rented, or otherwise had the care, custody, or control of the motor vehicle at the time of the alleged violation.

- 2. An affidavit supporting an exemption under subparagraph (c)4. must include a copy of the traffic citation issued for the alleged violation.
- 3. An affidavit supporting an exemption under subparagraph (c) 5. must include a certified copy of the owner's or lessee's death certificate showing that the date of death occurred on or before the issuance of the notice of violation, and:
- a. The bill of sale showing that the deceased owner's or lessee's motor vehicle was sold or transferred after his or her death but on or before the date of the alleged violation;
- b. Documented proof that the registered license plate belonging to the deceased owner's or lessee's motor vehicle was returned to the department or any branch office or authorized agent of the department on or before the date of the alleged violation; or
- c. A copy of the law enforcement report indicating that the deceased owner's or lessee's registered license plate or motor vehicle was stolen after the owner's or lessee's death but on or before the date of the alleged violation.
- 4. An affidavit supporting an exemption under subparagraph (c) 6., if the motor vehicle was stolen at the time of the alleged violation, must include a copy of the law enforcement report indicating that the motor vehicle was stolen.
- (e) If the motor vehicle owner or lessee or his or her representative timely submits an affidavit establishing an exemption from liability which is determined by a deputy

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sheriff, officer, or employee of the sheriff's office to be sufficient, neither the sheriff's office nor the court shall take any further action to enforce the violation against the owner or lessee unless, for the exemption under subparagraph (c)3., liability is not successfully transferred as provided in this section. If the registered owner or lessee fails to timely submit an affidavit establishing an exemption from liability, the owner or lessee may not rely on such exemption to avoid liability in a hearing on a traffic citation issued pursuant to this section. Submission of a false affidavit is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

- (c) 1., 2., 4., 5., or 6., the motor vehicle owner or lessee who has been issued a notice of violation is responsible for payment of the fine unless the owner or lessee successfully transfers liability to the person identified as the operator pursuant to subparagraph (c) 3., there is adjudication that no violation by the owner or lessee occurred, or there is an otherwise lawful determination that no civil penalty shall be imposed. A successful transfer of liability occurs when the person identified as the operator of the motor vehicle pursuant to subparagraph (c) 3. pays a fine pursuant to s. 318.14 or, if the traffic citation is contested, is found liable.
- (g) If the motor vehicle owner or lessee fails to respond to a notice of violation by paying the fine imposed under subsection (6) or submitting an affidavit that complies with paragraph (d) within 30 days after the date of issuance of the

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notice of violation, as reflected on the notice of violation, the sheriff's office shall issue a traffic citation for the violation of s. 316.172 to the registered owner or lessee by first-class mail within 45 days after the issuance of the notice of violation. The sheriff's office may conduct an additional review of the images or video of the violation before issuing the traffic citation. In any hearing on a traffic citation issued pursuant to this section in which the timely or proper mailing of the traffic citation is challenged, the defendant bears the burden of proving that the traffic citation was not timely or properly mailed.

A motor vehicle owner or lessee who has been issued a traffic citation is liable for the fine imposed pursuant to this section together with any surcharges, fees, or costs imposed pursuant to chapter 318. Within 30 days after the date of issuance of the traffic citation, as reflected on the traffic citation, the owner or lessee shall either pay the fine and surcharges, fees, and costs imposed pursuant to chapter 318 or contest the traffic citation at a hearing under chapter 318. Failure to pay the fine shall result in the owner's or lessee's liability for the fine and the denial of a new or replacement license plate or revalidation sticker as part of motor vehicle registration until the owner's or lessee's name no longer appears on a list of those who have outstanding fines pursuant to s. 318.15(3) or until the owner or lessee presents a receipt from the governmental entity or clerk of court that provided the data showing that the outstanding fines have been paid. This paragraph does not apply to the owner of a leased motor vehicle

if the vehicle is registered in the name of the lessee of the vehicle.

- (i) In any hearing on a traffic citation issued pursuant to this section, the images or video identified in the traffic citation are deemed authentic and admissible into evidence. The images or video identified in the traffic citation raises a rebuttable presumption that the motor vehicle identified in the traffic citation was operated in violation of s. 316.172 at the time and place identified in the traffic citation.
- (j)1. Upon receipt by the sheriff's office of an affidavit pursuant to subparagraph (d)1., the operator designated as having the care, custody, and control of the motor vehicle at the time of the violation may, by first-class mail, be issued a traffic citation for a violation of s. 316.172. The affidavit is admissible in any hearing pursuant to this section for purposes of providing proof that the motor vehicle was in the actual care, custody, or control of the person identified in the affidavit.
- 2. The motor vehicle operator receiving the traffic citation shall proceed pursuant to s. 318.14 and may pay the fine pursuant to s. 318.18 and any additional surcharges, fees, and costs or may choose to contest the traffic citation. If the operator is found not liable for the fine, the registered owner or lessee of the motor vehicle shall be liable for the fine. The sheriff's office shall send a new notice of violation by first-class mail to the registered owner or lessee stating that the operator was found not liable and giving the registered owner or lessee the option of paying the fine under this section or

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contesting the violation by a stated date that is at least 20 days after the mailing of the new notice. The owner or lessee may not attempt to transfer liability more than one time using the affidavit procedure. If timely payment is not made by the owner or lessee under this section, the sheriff's office shall issue a traffic citation for the violation of s. 316.172 to the registered owner or lessee by first-class mail within 30 days after the issuance of the new notice of violation. Failure to pay the fine shall result in the owner's or lessee's liability for the fine and the denial of a new or replacement license plate or revalidation sticker as part of motor vehicle registration until the owner's or lessee's name no longer appears on a list of those who have outstanding fines pursuant to s. 318.15(3) or until the owner or lessee presents a receipt from the governmental entity or clerk of court that provided the data showing that the outstanding fines have been paid.

- (8) Fines collected by the school board or the sheriff's office pursuant to the notice of violation provided under paragraph (7)(a) and distributed to the state pursuant to subsection (6) shall be paid to the Department of Revenue monthly by means of electronic funds transfers with a report of the summary detail of penalties remitted.
- (9) Except for the review by a deputy sheriff, officer, or employee of the sheriff's office pursuant to paragraph (7)(a), the sheriff's office may contract for employees, agents, or vendors to perform all administrative or ministerial requirements of enforcement of s. 316.172 pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, provision and

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installation of school bus safety cameras, processing and initial review of images or video before review by a deputy sheriff, officer, or employee of the sheriff's office, printing and mailing notices of violation, and electronic transmission of a replica of the traffic citation data to the appropriate court or traffic violations bureau.

- (10) School bus safety cameras must meet specifications of the Department of Education, which shall adopt rules prescribing such specifications by October 1, 2013.
- (11) This section supplements the enforcement of s.

  316.172 by law enforcement officers and does not prohibit a law enforcement officer from issuing a uniform traffic citation when the operator fails to stop behind a school bus displaying a stop signal or passes a school bus before the stop signal has been withdrawn. When a law enforcement officer issues a uniform traffic citation, the procedures for disposition of the citation in chapter 318 apply.
- (12) This section does not limit the powers of district school boards as established by the State Constitution and recognized by s. 1001.32(2).

Section 4. 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.

- 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 driver's license.
  - (c) If a traffic citation is issued under s. 316.0083 or

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s. 316.0084, the traffic infraction enforcement officer shall provide by electronic transmission a replica of the traffic 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 5. Subsection (1) of section 316.655, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.655 Penalties.-

- (1) A violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, except those violations with a specific criminal charge, as enumerated in s. 318.17, are infractions, as defined in s. 318.13(3). Except for violations of s. 316.172 when no traffic citation is issued by a law enforcement officer and s. 316.302, infractions of this chapter are punishable as provided in chapter 318. Any person convicted of a violation of or otherwise found to be in violation of s. 316.063, s. 316.3025, s. 316.516, s. 316.545, or s. 316.550 shall be punished as specifically provided in that section.
- Section 6. 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

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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 7. Subsection (3) of section 318.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 318.19 Infractions requiring a mandatory hearing.—Any person cited for the infractions listed in this section shall not have the provisions of s. 318.14(2), (4), and (9) available to him or her but must appear before the designated official at the time and location of the scheduled hearing:
- (3) Any infraction of s. 316.172(1)(b), except when enforced under s. 316.0084 when the violation was recorded by a school bus safety camera;
- Section 8. Subsection (3) is added to section 318.15, Florida Statutes, to read:
- 318.15 Failure to comply with civil penalty or to appear; penalty.—
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any governmental entity, including a clerk of court, shall provide the department with data that is machine readable by the department's computer system listing persons who have one or more outstanding violations of s. 316.172 when enforced under s. 316.0084 for failing to stop behind a school bus displaying a stop signal or by passing a school bus before the stop signal has been

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withdrawn. The data provided to the department shall include the person's driver license number or, in the case of a business entity, the vehicle registration number. Pursuant to s.

320.03(8), such persons may not be issued a license plate or revalidation sticker for any motor vehicle until the amounts assessed have been fully paid.

Section 9. Subsection (8) of section 320.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.03 Registration; duties of tax collectors; International Registration Plan.—

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If the applicant's name appears on the list referred to in s. 316.1001(4), s. 316.1967(6), s. 318.15(3), or s. 713.78(13), a license plate or revalidation sticker may not be issued until that person's name no longer appears on the list or until the person presents a receipt from the governmental entity or the clerk of court that provided the data showing that the fines outstanding have been paid. This subsection does not apply to the owner of a leased vehicle if the vehicle is registered in the name of the lessee of the vehicle. The tax collector and the clerk of the court are each entitled to receive monthly, as costs for implementing and administering this subsection, 10 percent of the civil penalties and fines recovered from such persons. As used in this subsection, the term "civil penalties and fines" does not include a wrecker operator's lien as described in s. 713.78(13). If the tax collector has private tag agents, such tag agents are entitled to receive a pro rata share of the amount paid to the tax collector, based upon the percentage of license plates and revalidation stickers issued by

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the tag agent compared to the total issued within the county. The authority of any private agent to issue license plates shall be revoked, after notice and a hearing as provided in chapter 120, if he or she issues any license plate or revalidation sticker contrary to the provisions of this subsection. This section applies only to the annual renewal in the owner's birth month of a motor vehicle registration and does not apply to the transfer of a registration of a motor vehicle sold by a motor vehicle dealer licensed under this chapter, except for the transfer of registrations which includes the annual renewals. This section does not affect the issuance of the title to a motor vehicle, notwithstanding s. 319.23(8)(b).

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.