By the Committee on Law Enforcement & Public Safety and Representatives Arnall, Futch, Feeney, Fasano, Crist and Sembler

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to driver licenses; amending s. 322.18, F.S.; prohibiting the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles from renewing a driver's license if its records show that the driver is the subject of an outstanding warrant for worthless checks; directing the Department of Law Enforcement to provide the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with electronic access; providing circumstances for renewal of license; providing for confidentiality; providing for a fee; providing an effective date.

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16 17 WHEREAS, on an average day in the United States, approximately 30,000 checks with a total value between \$12 million and \$18 million are returned for insufficient funds, and

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WHEREAS, business owners spend millions of dollars trying to collect on worthless checks while trustworthy consumers absorb the costs of worthless checks that are passed on to them by the businesses that are suffering because of untrustworthy customers, and

WHEREAS, recent studies show that 5 percent of the

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people who issue worthless checks do so intentionally, and
 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to protect the public
from the negative effects of the passing of worthless bank
checks, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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Section 1. Subsection (10) is added to section 322.18, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:

322.18 Original applications, licenses, and renewals; expiration of licenses; delinquent licenses.--

- (10)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no person shall be issued a renewal of a driver's license if the department's records reveal that the person has an outstanding warrant for passing a worthless bank check in violation of s. 832.05.
- (b) The Department of Law Enforcement shall provide electronic access to the department for the purpose of identifying persons who are the subject of an outstanding warrant or capias for passing worthless bank checks.
- (c) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Law Enforcement shall develop and implement a plan to ensure the identification of persons who are the subject of an outstanding warrant or capias for passing worthless bank checks and identification of these persons' driver's license records. If the Department of Law Enforcement's records indicate that an applicant for a driver's license renewal is the subject of an outstanding warrant or capias for a worthless bank check, the department shall not renew the driver's license. The applicant is responsible for contacting the sheriff's office that entered the warrant to satisfy its conditions. Once the warrant is executed and the warrant entry is canceled from the Department of Law Enforcement's records by the entering agency, the applicant shall pay the department an additional \$10 fee prior to the department renewing the applicant's driver's license. Such fees shall be placed in the Highway Safety Operating

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   Trust Fund. The department shall inform an applicant who is
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    subject to this paragraph of the terms of this paragraph.
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          (d) Information provided under paragraph (a) shall not
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   be part of a person's driver history.
           Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1997.
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