

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate House Comm: WD 4/22/2008

The Committee on Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations (Diaz de la Portilla) recommended the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

On line(s) 81,

insert:

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Section 1. Sections 1 through 8 of this act may be cited as the "Highway Safety Act."

Section 2. The Legislature finds that road rage and aggressive careless driving are a growing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The intent of the Legislature is to reduce road rage and aggressive careless driving, reduce the incidence of drivers' interfering with the movement of traffic, minimize crashes, and promote the orderly, free flow of traffic on the roads and highways of the state.

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Section 3. Subsection (86) 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:

(86) ROAD RAGE. -- The act of a driver or passenger to intentionally injure or kill another driver, passenger, or pedestrian, or to attempt or threaten to injure or kill another driver, passenger, or pedestrian.

Section 4. Present subsection (3) of section 316.083, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (4), and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:

316.083 Overtaking and passing a vehicle.--The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to those limitations, exceptions, and special rules hereinafter stated:

- (3) (a) On roads, streets, or highways having two or more lanes that allow movement in the same direction, a driver may not continue to operate a motor vehicle in the furthermost left-hand lane if the driver knows, or reasonably should know, that he or she is being overtaken in that lane from the rear by a motor vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed.
- (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a driver operating a motor vehicle in the furthermost left-hand lane if:
- 1. The driver is driving the legal speed limit and is not impeding the flow of traffic in the furthermost left-hand lane;
- 2. The driver is in the process of overtaking a slower motor vehicle in the adjacent right-hand lane for the purpose of

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passing the slower moving vehicle so that the driver may move to the adjacent right-hand lane;

- 3. Conditions make the flow of traffic substantially the same in all lanes or preclude the driver from moving to the adjacent right-hand lane;
- 4. The driver's movement to the adjacent right-hand lane could endanger the driver or other drivers;
- 5. The driver is directed by a law enforcement officer, road sign, or road crew to remain in the furthermost left-hand lane; or
- 6. The driver is preparing to make a left turn. Section 5. Section 316.1923, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 316.1923 Aggressive careless driving. --
- (1) "Aggressive careless driving" means committing three two or more of the following acts simultaneously or in succession:
- (a) (1) Exceeding the posted speed as defined in s. 322.27(3)(d)5.b.
- (b) $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ Unsafely or improperly changing lanes as defined in s. 316.085.
- (c) $\frac{(3)}{(3)}$ Following another vehicle too closely as defined in s. 316.0895(1).
- (d) (4) Failing to yield the right-of-way as defined in s. 316.079, s. 316.0815, or s. 316.123.
- (e) (5) Improperly passing or failing to yield to overtaking vehicles as defined in s. 316.083, s. 316.084, or s. 316.085.
- (f) (6) Violating traffic control and signal devices as defined in ss. 316.074 and 316.075.

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- (2) Any person convicted of aggressive careless driving shall be cited for a moving violation and punished as provided in chapter 318, and by the accumulation of points as provided in s. 322.27, for each act of aggressive careless driving.
- (3) In addition to any fine or points administered under subsection (2), a person convicted of aggressive careless driving shall also pay:
 - (a) Upon a first violation, a fine of \$100.
- (b) Upon a second or subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than \$250 but not more than \$500 and be subject to a mandatory hearing under s. 318.19.
- (4) Moneys received from the increased fine imposed by subsection (3) shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue and deposited into the Department of Health Administrative Trust Fund to provide financial support to verified trauma centers to ensure the availability and accessibility of trauma services throughout the state. Funds deposited into the Administrative Trust Fund under this section shall be allocated as follows:
- (a) Twenty-five percent shall be allocated equally among all Level I, Level II, and pediatric trauma centers in recognition of readiness costs for maintaining trauma services.
- (b) Twenty-five percent shall be allocated among Level I, Level II, and pediatric trauma centers based on each center's relative volume of trauma cases as reported in the Department of Health Trauma Registry.
- (c) Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund and used by the department for making matching grants to emergency medical services organizations as defined in s. 401.107(4).

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(d) Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to the Emergency Medical Services Trust fund and made available to rural emergency medical services as defined in s. 401.107(5), and shall be used solely to improve and expand prehospital emergency medical services in this state. Additionally, these moneys may be used for improvement, expansion, or continuation of services provided.

Section 6. 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:
- (1) Any infraction which results in a crash that causes the death of another;
- (2) Any infraction which results in a crash that causes "serious bodily injury" of another as defined in s. 316.1933(1);
 - (3) Any infraction of s. 316.172(1)(b);
 - (4) Any infraction of s. 316.520(1) or (2); or
- (5) Any infraction of s. 316.183(2), s. 316.187, or s. 316.189 of exceeding the speed limit by 30 m.p.h. or more; or-
 - (6) A second or subsequent infraction of s. 316.1923(1).
- Section 7. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall provide information about the Highway Safety Act in all newly printed driver's license educational materials after October 1, 2008.
- Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to section 316.1923, Florida Statutes, in a



reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 316.650, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

316.650 Traffic citations.--

(1) (a) The department shall prepare, and supply to every traffic enforcement agency in this state, an appropriate form traffic citation containing a notice to appear (which shall be issued in prenumbered books with citations in quintuplicate) and meeting the requirements of this chapter or any laws of this state regulating traffic, which form shall be consistent with the state traffic court rules and the procedures established by the department. The form shall include a box which is to be checked by the law enforcement officer when the officer believes that the traffic violation or crash was due to aggressive careless driving as defined in s. 316.1923. The form shall also include a box which is to be checked by the law enforcement officer when the officer writes a uniform traffic citation for a violation of s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1. as a result of the driver failing to stop at a traffic signal.

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======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========= And the title is amended as follows:

On line(s) 4, after the semicolon, insert:

> creating the "Highway Safety Act"; providing legislative intent relating to road rage and aggressive careless driving; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; defining the term "road rage"; amending s. 316.083, F.S.; requiring an operator of a motor vehicle to yield the left lane when being overtaken on a multilane highway; providing exceptions; amending s. 316.1923, F.S.; revising the



163 number of specified acts necessary to qualify as an 164 aggressive careless driver; providing specified 165 punishments for aggressive careless driving; specifying 166 the allocation of moneys received from the increased fine 167 imposed for aggressive careless driving; amending s. 168 318.19, F.S.; providing that a second or subsequent 169 infraction as an aggressive careless driver requires attendance at a mandatory hearing; providing for the 170 171 disposition of the increased penalties; requiring the 172 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to provide 173 information about the act after a certain date; reenacting 174 s. 316.650(1)(a), F.S., relating to traffic citations, to 175 incorporate the amendments made to s. 316.1923, F.S., in a 176 reference thereto;