1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to motor vehicles; amending ss. 261.03 and 3 317.0003, F.S.; redefining the term "ROV" for purposes of 4 provisions relating to off-highway vehicles to include 5 vehicles of increased width and weight; amending s. 6 316.1951, F.S.; removing a requirement that the Department 7 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles adopt a uniform 8 written notice to be used to enforce provisions that 9 prohibit parking a motor vehicle on certain property for 10 the purpose of displaying the motor vehicle as being for 11 sale, hire, or rental; removing a requirement that each law enforcement agency provide its own notice for such 12 enforcement; authorizing a code enforcement officer from 13 14 any local government agency to enforce such provisions; 15 providing for immediate removal of a motor vehicle in 16 violation of specified provisions; providing for 17 assessment of a fine in addition to towing and storage fees; requiring a release form prescribed by the 18 19 department to be completed before release of the motor vehicle; amending s. 318.18, F.S.; specifying a fine for a 20 21 vehicle that is displayed for sale, hire, or rental in 22 violation of such provisions; providing for disposition of 23 fines collected; amending s. 319.225, F.S.; prohibiting 24 the department from requiring the signature of the transferor to be notarized on certain motor vehicle title 25 26 transfer forms relating to mileage of the vehicle; 27 requiring the forms to include an affidavit declaring 28 facts in the document to be true; amending s. 319.23,

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F.S.; providing that, under certain circumstances, a motor vehicle dealer is not required to apply for a certificate of title for a motor vehicle sold to a general purchaser who resides outside the state; amending s. 320.02, F.S.; directing the department to place the name of the owner of a motor vehicle on the list of persons who may not be issued a license plate or revalidation sticker if that person is on a list submitted to the department by a licensed dealer; amending s. 320.27, F.S.; clarifying an exemption from certain dealer prelicensing requirements; removing a requirement for evaluation of privatized applicant training methods; authorizing dealer records to be kept in either paper or electronic form; providing procedures for transfer of documents to electronic form; authorizing the department to deny, suspend, or revoke a dealer's license for certain actions relating to payments made to the department; authorizing a dealer training school to cancel the training certificate issued to a student for certain actions relating to payments made to the school; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 261.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

53 Statutes, is amended to read 54 261.03 Definitions.—As

261.03 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

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(9) "ROV" means any motorized recreational off-highway vehicle 64 60 inches or less in width, having a dry weight of

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2,000 1,500 pounds or less, designed to travel on four or more nonhighway tires, having nonstraddle seating and a steering wheel, and manufactured for recreational use by one or more persons. The term "ROV" does not include a golf cart as defined in ss. 320.01(22) and 316.003(68) or a low-speed vehicle as defined in s. 320.01(42).

Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 317.0003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

317.0003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (9) "ROV" means any motorized recreational off-highway vehicle 64 60 inches or less in width, having a dry weight of 2,000 1,500 pounds or less, designed to travel on four or more nonhighway tires, having nonstraddle seating and a steering wheel, and manufactured for recreational use by one or more persons. The term "ROV" does not include a golf cart as defined in ss. 320.01(22) and 316.003(68) or a low-speed vehicle as defined in s. 320.01(42).
- Section 3. Section 316.1951, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 316.1951 Parking for certain purposes prohibited; sale of motor vehicles; prohibited acts.—
- (1) It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle, as defined in s. 320.01, upon a public street or highway, upon a public parking lot, or other public property, or upon private property where the public has the right to travel by motor vehicle, for the principal purpose and intent of displaying the motor vehicle thereon for sale, hire, or rental unless the sale, hire, or rental of the motor vehicle is specifically authorized

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on such property by municipal or county regulation and the person is in compliance with all municipal or county licensing regulations.

- (2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not prohibit a person from parking his or her own motor vehicle or his or her other personal property on any private real property which the person owns or leases or on private real property which the person does not own or lease, but for which he or she obtains the permission of the owner, or on the public street immediately adjacent thereto, for the principal purpose and intent of sale, hire, or rental.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not prohibit a licensed motor vehicle dealer from displaying for sale or offering for sale motor vehicles at locations other than the dealer's licensed location if the dealer has been issued a supplemental license for off-premises sales, as provided in s. 320.27(5), and has complied with the requirements in subsection (1). A vehicle displayed for sale by a licensed dealer at any location other than the dealer's licensed location is subject to immediate removal without warning.
- (4) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall adopt by rule a uniform written notice to be used to enforce this section. Each law enforcement agency in this state shall provide, at each agency's expense, the notice forms necessary to enforce this section.
- (4) (5) A law enforcement officer, compliance officer, code enforcement officer from any local government agency, or supervisor of the department may cause to be <u>immediately</u> removed

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at the owner's expense any motor vehicle found in violation of subsection (1), subsection (5), subsection (6), subsection (7), or subsection (8), and the owner shall be assessed a penalty as provided in s. 318.18(21) by the government agency or authority that orders immediate removal of the motor vehicle. A motor vehicle removed under this section shall not be released from an impound or towing and storage facility before a release form prescribed by the department has been completed verifying that the fine has been paid to the government agency or authority that ordered immediate removal of the motor vehicle. However, the owner may pay towing and storage charges to the towing and storage facility before payment of the fine or before the release form has been completed which has been parked in one location for more than 24 hours after a written notice has been issued. Every written notice issued pursuant to this section shall be affixed in a conspicuous place upon a vehicle by a law enforcement officer, compliance officer, or supervisor of the department. Any vehicle found in violation of subsection (1) within 30 days after a previous violation and written notice is subject to immediate removal without an additional waiting period.

(5)(6) It is unlawful to offer a vehicle for sale if the vehicle identification number has been destroyed, removed, covered, altered, or defaced, as described in s. 319.33(1)(d). A vehicle found in violation of this subsection is subject to immediate removal without warning.

 $\underline{(6)}$ (7) It is unlawful to knowingly attach to any motor vehicle a registration that was not assigned or lawfully

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transferred to the vehicle pursuant to s. 320.261. A vehicle found in violation of this subsection is subject to immediate removal without warning.

- (7)(8) It is unlawful to display or offer for sale a vehicle that does not have a valid registration as provided in s. 320.02. A vehicle found in violation of this subsection is subject to immediate removal without warning. This subsection does not apply to vehicles and recreational vehicles being offered for sale through motor vehicle auctions as defined in s. 320.27(1)(c)4.
- (8)(9) A vehicle is subject to immediate removal without warning if it bears a telephone number that has been displayed on three or more vehicles offered for sale within a 12-month period.
- (9) (10) Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, a violation of subsection (1), subsection (5), subsection (6), subsection (7), or subsection (8) shall subject the owner of such motor vehicle to towing fees reasonably necessitated by removal and storage of the motor vehicle and a fine as required by s. 318.18.
- (10) (11) This section does not prohibit the governing body of a municipality or county, with respect to streets, highways, or other property under its jurisdiction, from regulating the parking of motor vehicles for any purpose.
- (11) (12) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in chapter 318, unless otherwise mandated by general law.

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Section 4. Subsection (21) is added to section 318.18, Florida Statutes, 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:
- (21) One hundred dollars for a violation of s. 316.1951 for a vehicle that is unlawfully displayed for sale, hire, or rental. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fines collected under this subsection shall be retained by the governing authority that authorized towing of the vehicle. Fines collected by the department shall be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.
- Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 319.225, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 319.225 Transfer and reassignment forms; odometer disclosure statements.—
- (6) (a) If the certificate of title is physically held by a lienholder, the transferor may give a power of attorney to his or her transferee for the purpose of odometer disclosure. The power of attorney must be on a form issued or authorized by the department, which form must be in compliance with 49 C.F.R. ss. 580.4 and 580.13. The department shall not require the signature of the transferor to be notarized on the form; however, in lieu of notarization, the form shall include an affidavit with the following wording: UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE. The transferee shall sign the power of attorney form, print his or her name, and return a copy of the power of

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attorney form to the transferor. Upon receipt of a title certificate, the transferee shall complete the space for mileage disclosure on the title certificate exactly as the mileage was disclosed by the transferor on the power of attorney form. If the transferee is a licensed motor vehicle dealer who is transferring the vehicle to a retail purchaser, the dealer shall make application on behalf of the retail purchaser as provided in s. 319.23(6) and shall submit the original power of attorney form to the department with the application for title and the transferor's title certificate; otherwise, a dealer may reassign the title certificate by using the dealer reassignment form in the manner prescribed in subsection (3), and, at the time of physical transfer of the vehicle, the original power of attorney shall be delivered to the person designated as the transferee of the dealer on the dealer reassignment form. A copy of the executed power of attorney shall be submitted to the department with a copy of the executed dealer reassignment form within 5 business days after the certificate of title and dealer reassignment form are delivered by the dealer to its transferee.

unavailable, the transferor may give a power of attorney to his or her transferee for the purpose of odometer disclosure. The power of attorney must be on a form issued or authorized by the department, which form must be in compliance with 49 C.F.R. ss. 580.4 and 580.13. The department shall not require the signature of the transferor to be notarized on the form; however, in lieu of notarization, the form shall include an affidavit with the following wording: UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I

225 HAVE READ THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT 226 ARE TRUE. The transferee shall sign the power of attorney form, 227 print his or her name, and return a copy of the power of 228 attorney form to the transferor. Upon receipt of the title 229 certificate or a duplicate title certificate, the transferee 230 shall complete the space for mileage disclosure on the title 231 certificate exactly as the mileage was disclosed by the 232 transferor on the power of attorney form. If the transferee is a 233 licensed motor vehicle dealer who is transferring the vehicle to 234 a retail purchaser, the dealer shall make application on behalf 235 of the retail purchaser as provided in s. 319.23(6) and shall 236 submit the original power of attorney form to the department 237 with the application for title and the transferor's title 238 certificate or duplicate title certificate; otherwise, a dealer 239 may reassign the title certificate by using the dealer 240 reassignment form in the manner prescribed in subsection (3), 241 and, at the time of physical transfer of the vehicle, the 242 original power of attorney shall be delivered to the person 243 designated as the transferee of the dealer on the dealer 244 reassignment form. A copy of the executed power of attorney 245 shall be submitted to the department with a copy of the executed 246 dealer reassignment form within 5 business days after the 247 duplicate certificate of title and dealer reassignment form are 248 delivered by the dealer to its transferee. Subsection (6) of section 319.23, Florida 249 Section 6. 250 Statutes, is amended to read: 251 319.23 Application for, and issuance of, certificate of 252 title.-

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In the case of the sale of a motor vehicle or mobile home by a licensed dealer to a general purchaser, the certificate of title must be obtained in the name of the purchaser by the dealer upon application signed by the purchaser, and in each other case such certificate must be obtained by the purchaser. In each case of transfer of a motor vehicle or mobile home, the application for a certificate of title, a or corrected certificate, or an assignment or reassignment, must be filed within 30 days after from the delivery of the motor vehicle or mobile home to the purchaser. An applicant must pay a fee of \$20, in addition to all other fees and penalties required by law, for failing to file such application within the specified time. In the case of the sale of a motor vehicle by a licensed motor vehicle dealer to a general purchaser who resides in another state or country, the dealer is not required to apply for a certificate of title for the motor vehicle; however, the dealer must transfer ownership and reassign the certificate of title or manufacturer's certificate of origin to the purchaser, and the purchaser must sign an affidavit, as approved by the department, that the purchaser will title and register the motor vehicle in another state or country.

(b) If a licensed dealer acquires a motor vehicle or mobile home as a trade-in, the dealer must file with the department, within 30 days, a notice of sale signed by the seller. The department shall update its database for that title record to indicate "sold." A licensed dealer need not apply for a certificate of title for any motor vehicle or mobile home in

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stock acquired for stock purposes except as provided in s. 319.225.

- Section 7. Subsection (16) of section 320.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 320.02 Registration required; application for registration; forms.—

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- (16)The department is authorized to withhold registration or re-registration of a motor vehicle if the name of the owner or of a coowner appears on a list submitted to the department by a licensed motor vehicle dealer for a previous registration of that vehicle. The department shall place the name of the registered owner of that vehicle on the list of those persons who may not be issued a license plate, revalidation sticker, or replacement plate for the vehicle purchased from the licensed motor vehicle dealer. The motor vehicle dealer must maintain signed evidence that the owner or coowner acknowledged the dealer's authority to submit the list to the department if he or she failed to pay and must note the amount for which the owner or coowner would be responsible for the vehicle registration. The dealer must maintain the necessary documentation required in this subsection or face penalties as provided in s. 320.27. This subsection does not affect the issuance of a title to a motor vehicle.
- (a) The motor vehicle owner or coowner may dispute the claim that money is owed to a dealer for registration fees by submitting a form to the department if the motor vehicle owner or coowner has documentary proof that the registration fees have been paid to the dealer for the disputed amount. Without clear

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evidence of the amounts owed for the vehicle registration and repayment, the department will assume initial payments are applied to government-assessed fees first.

- (b) If the registered owner's dispute complies with paragraph (a), the department shall immediately remove the motor vehicle owner or coowner's name from the list, thereby allowing the issuance of a license plate or revalidation sticker.
- Section 8. Subsections (4) and (6) and paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section 320.27, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 320.27 Motor vehicle dealers.-
 - (4) LICENSE CERTIFICATE.-

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A license certificate shall be issued by the (a) department in accordance with such application when the application is regular in form and in compliance with the provisions of this section. The license certificate may be in the form of a document or a computerized card as determined by the department. The actual cost of each original, additional, or replacement computerized card shall be borne by the licensee and is in addition to the fee for licensure. Such license, when so issued, entitles the licensee to carry on and conduct the business of a motor vehicle dealer. Each license issued to a franchise motor vehicle dealer expires annually on December 31 unless revoked or suspended prior to that date. Each license issued to an independent or wholesale dealer or auction expires annually on April 30 unless revoked or suspended prior to that date. Not less than 60 days prior to the license expiration date, the department shall deliver or mail to each licensee the

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necessary renewal forms. Each independent dealer shall certify that the dealer (owner, partner, officer, or director of the licensee, or a full-time employee of the licensee that holds a responsible management-level position) has completed 8 hours of continuing education prior to filing the renewal forms with the department. Such certification shall be filed once every 2 years commencing with the 2006 renewal period. The continuing education shall include at least 2 hours of legal or legislative issues, 1 hour of department issues, and 5 hours of relevant motor vehicle industry topics. Continuing education shall be provided by dealer schools licensed under paragraph (b) either in a classroom setting or by correspondence. Such schools shall provide certificates of completion to the department and the customer which shall be filed with the license renewal form, and such schools may charge a fee for providing continuing education. Any licensee who does not file his or her application and fees and any other requisite documents, as required by law, with the department at least 30 days prior to the license expiration date shall cease to engage in business as a motor vehicle dealer on the license expiration date. A renewal filed with the department within 45 days after the expiration date shall be accompanied by a delinquent fee of \$100. Thereafter, a new application is required, accompanied by the initial license fee. A license certificate duly issued by the department may be modified by endorsement to show a change in the name of the licensee, provided, as shown by affidavit of the licensee, the majority ownership interest of the licensee has not changed or the name of the person appearing as franchisee on the sales and

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service agreement has not changed. Modification of a license certificate to show any name change as herein provided shall not require initial licensure or reissuance of dealer tags; however, any dealer obtaining a name change shall transact all business in and be properly identified by that name. All documents relative to licensure shall reflect the new name. In the case of a franchise dealer, the name change shall be approved by the manufacturer, distributor, or importer. A licensee applying for a name change endorsement shall pay a fee of \$25 which fee shall apply to the change in the name of a main location and all additional locations licensed under the provisions of subsection (5). Each initial license application received by the department shall be accompanied by verification that, within the preceding 6 months, the applicant, or one or more of his or her designated employees, has attended a training and information seminar conducted by a licensed motor vehicle dealer training school. Any applicant for a new franchised motor vehicle dealer license who has held a valid franchised motor vehicle dealer license continuously for the past 2 years and who remains in good standing with the department is exempt from the prelicensing training requirement. Such seminar shall include, but is not limited to, statutory dealer requirements, which requirements include required bookkeeping and recordkeeping procedures, requirements for the collection of sales and use taxes, and such other information that in the opinion of the department will promote good business practices. No seminar may exceed 8 hours in length.

(b) Each initial license application received by the

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department for licensure under subparagraph (1)(c)2. shall must be accompanied by verification that, within the preceding 6 months, the applicant (owner, partner, officer, or director of the applicant, or a full-time employee of the applicant that holds a responsible management-level position) has successfully completed training conducted by a licensed motor vehicle dealer training school. Such training must include training in titling and registration of motor vehicles, laws relating to unfair and deceptive trade practices, laws relating to financing with regard to buy-here, pay-here operations, and such other information that in the opinion of the department will promote good business practices. Successful completion of this training shall be determined by examination administered at the end of the course and attendance of no less than 90 percent of the total hours required by such school. Any applicant who had held a valid motor vehicle dealer's license continuously within the past 2 years and who remains in good standing with the department is exempt from the prelicensing requirements of this section paragraph. The department shall have the authority to adopt any rule necessary for establishing the training curriculum; length of training, which shall not exceed 8 hours for required department topics and shall not exceed an additional 24 hours for topics related to other regulatory agencies' instructor qualifications; and any other requirements under this section. The curriculum for other subjects shall be approved by any and all other regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over specific subject matters; however, the overall administration of the licensing of these dealer schools and

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their instructors shall remain with the department. Such schools are authorized to charge a fee. This privatized method for training applicants for dealer licensing pursuant to subparagraph (1)(c)2. is a pilot program that shall be evaluated by the department after it has been in operation for a period of 2 years.

(6) RECORDS TO BE KEPT BY LICENSEE.—Every licensee shall keep a book or record in either paper or electronic such form as shall be prescribed or approved by the department for a period of 5 years, in which the licensee shall keep a record of the purchase, sale, or exchange, or receipt for the purpose of sale, of any motor vehicle, the date upon which any temporary tag was issued, the date of title transfer, and a description of such motor vehicle together with the name and address of the seller, the purchaser, and the alleged owner or other person from whom such motor vehicle was purchased or received or to whom it was sold or delivered, as the case may be. Such description shall include the identification or engine number, maker's number, if any, chassis number, if any, and such other numbers or identification marks as may be thereon and shall also include a statement that a number has been obliterated, defaced, or changed, if such is the fact. When a licensee chooses to maintain electronic records, the original paper documents may be destroyed after the licensee successfully transfers title and registration to the purchaser as required by chapter 319 for any purchaser who titles and registers the motor vehicle in this state. In the case of a sale to a purchaser who will title and register the motor vehicle in another state or country, the

licensee may destroy the original paper documents after successfully delivering a lawfully reassigned title or manufacturer's certificate or statement of origin to the purchaser and after producing electronic images of all documents related to the sale.

(9) DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION. -

- (a) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke any license issued hereunder or under the provisions of s. 320.77 or s. 320.771, upon proof that an applicant or a licensee has committed any of the following activities:
- 1. <u>Committed</u> Commission of fraud or willful misrepresentation in application for or in obtaining a license.
 - 2. Been convicted Conviction of a felony.
- 3. Failed Failure to honor a bank draft or check given to a motor vehicle dealer for the purchase of a motor vehicle by another motor vehicle dealer within 10 days after notification that the bank draft or check has been dishonored. If the transaction is disputed, the maker of the bank draft or check shall post a bond in accordance with the provisions of s. 559.917, and no proceeding for revocation or suspension shall be commenced until the dispute is resolved.
- 4.a. Failed to provide payment within 10 business days to the department for a check payable to the department that was dishonored due to insufficient funds in the amount due plus any statutorily authorized fee for uttering a worthless check. The department shall notify an applicant or licensee when the applicant or licensee makes payment to the department by a check that is subsequently dishonored by the bank due to insufficient

funds. The applicant or licensee shall, within 10 business days after receiving the notice, provide payment to the department in the form of cash in the amount due plus any statutorily authorized fee. If the applicant or licensee fails to make such payment within 10 business days, the department may deny, suspend, or revoke the applicant's or licensee's motor vehicle dealer license.

- b. Stopped payment on a check payable to the department, issued a check payable to the department from an account that has been closed, or charged back a credit card transaction to the department. If an applicant or licensee commits any such act, the department may deny, suspend, or revoke the applicant's or licensee's motor vehicle dealer license.
- 5.a. Failed to provide payment in the amount of tuition due plus any statutorily authorized fee within 10 business days to a licensed motor vehicle dealer training school for a check payable to the school that was dishonored due to insufficient funds in the amount of tuition due plus any statutorily authorized fee for uttering a worthless check. A licensed motor vehicle dealer training school shall notify a student when the student makes payment to the school by a check that is subsequently dishonored by the bank due to insufficient funds. The student shall, within 10 business days after receiving the notice, provide payment to the school in a manner designated by the school in the amount of tuition due plus any statutorily authorized fee. If the student fails to make such payment within 10 business days, the motor vehicle dealer training school may cancel the training certificate issued to the student and notify

the department of the cancernation of the training certificate.
b. Stopped payment on a check payable to a licensed motor
vehicle dealer training school, issued a check payable to a
licensed motor vehicle dealer training school from an account
that has been closed, or charged back a credit card transaction
to a licensed motor vehicle dealer training school. If a student
commits any such act, the motor vehicle dealer training school
may cancel the training certificate issued to the student and
notify the department of the cancellation of the training
<pre>certificate.</pre>

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.