122164

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	•	House
Comm: RCS		
03/23/2011		
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The Committee on Transportation (Latvala) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

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Delete lines 17 - 21
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and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 20.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.23 Department of Transportation.-There is created a
Department of Transportation which shall be a decentralized
agency.

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(b) The secretary may appoint positions at the level of deputy assistant secretary or director which the secretary deems

(4)



13	necessary to accomplish the mission and goals of the department,			
14	including, but not limited to, the areas of program			
15	responsibility provided in this paragraph, each of whom shall be			
16				
17	secretary may combine, separate, or delete offices as needed in			
18	consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor. The			
19	department's areas of program responsibility include, but are			
20	not limited to:			
21	1. Administration;			
22	2. Planning;			
23	3. Public transportation;			
24	4. Design;			
25	5. Highway operations;			
26	6. Right-of-way;			
27	7. Toll operations;			
28	8. Information systems;			
29	9. Motor carrier weight inspection compliance;			
30	10. Management and budget;			
31	11. Comptroller;			
32	12. Construction;			
33	13. Maintenance; and			
34	14. Materials.			
35	Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section			
36	20.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:			
37	20.24 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles			
38	There is created a Department of Highway Safety and Motor			
39	Vehicles.			
40	(2) The following divisions, and bureaus within the			
41	divisions, of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor			



42	Vehicles are established:			
43	(a) Division of the Florida Highway Patrol.			
44	1. Office of Motor Carrier Compliance.			
45	Between lines 68 and 69			
46	insert:			
47	Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsections			
48	(5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 316.302, Florida Statutes, are			
49	amended to read:			
50	316.302 Commercial motor vehicles; safety regulations;			
51	transporters and shippers of hazardous materials; enforcement			
52	(4)(b) In addition to the penalties provided in s.			
53	316.3025(3)(b), (c), (d), and (e), any motor carrier or any of			
54	its officers, drivers, agents, representatives, employees, or			
55	shippers of hazardous materials that do not comply with this			
56	subsection or any rule adopted by a state agency that is			
57	consistent with the federal rules and regulations regarding			
58	hazardous materials commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,			
59	punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. To ensure			
60	compliance with this subsection , enforcement officers of the			
61	Motor Carrier Compliance Office within the Department of			
62	Transportation and state highway patrol officers may inspect			
63	shipping documents and cargo of any vehicle known or suspected			
64	to be a transporter of hazardous materials.			
65	(5) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles			
66	Transportation may adopt and revise rules to assure the safe			
67	operation of commercial motor vehicles. The Department of			
68	Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation may enter into			

69 cooperative agreements as provided in 49 C.F.R. part 388.

70 Department of Transportation personnel may conduct motor carrier

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and shipper compliance reviews for the purpose of determining compliance with this section and s. 627.7415.

(6) The state Department of <u>Highway Safety and Motor</u>
<u>Vehicles</u> Transportation shall perform the duties that are
assigned to the Field Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration under the federal rules, and an agent of
that department, as described in s. 316.545(9), may enforce
those rules.

(7) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle solely in intrastate commerce shall direct to the state Department of <u>Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles</u> Transportation any communication that the federal rules require persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Transportation to direct to that department.

(8) For the purpose of enforcing this section, any law 85 enforcement officer of the Department of Highway Safety and 86 87 Motor Vehicles Transportation or duly appointed agent who holds a current safety inspector certification from the Commercial 88 89 Vehicle Safety Alliance may require the driver of any commercial vehicle operated on the highways of this state to stop and 90 submit to an inspection of the vehicle or the driver's records. 91 92 If the vehicle or driver is found to be operating in an unsafe 93 condition, or if any required part or equipment is not present 94 or is not in proper repair or adjustment, and the continued 95 operation would present an unduly hazardous operating condition, 96 the officer may require the vehicle or the driver to be removed 97 from service pursuant to the North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria, until corrected. However, if continuous 98 99 operation would not present an unduly hazardous operating

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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100 condition, the officer may give written notice requiring 101 correction of the condition within 14 days.

(a) Any member of the Florida Highway Patrol or any law 102 103 enforcement officer employed by a sheriff's office or municipal police department authorized to enforce the traffic laws of this 104 105 state pursuant to s. 316.640 who has reason to believe that a 106 vehicle or driver is operating in an unsafe condition may, as 107 provided in subsection (10), enforce the provisions of this 108 section.

109 (b) Any person who fails to comply with an officer's 110 request to submit to an inspection under this subsection commits 111 a violation of s. 843.02 if the person resists the officer without violence or a violation of s. 843.01 if the person 112 113 resists the officer with violence.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 114 316.3025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 115

316.3025 Penalties.-

(6) (a) Only an officer or agent of the Department of Highway 117 118 Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation is authorized to collect the penalty provided by this section. Such officer or 119 120 agent shall cooperate with the owner or driver of the motor 121 vehicle so as not to unduly delay the vehicle.

Delete lines 69 - 89

and insert: 123

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124 Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 125 316.3026, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 126

316.3026 Unlawful operation of motor carriers.-

127 (1) The Office of Motor Carrier Compliance of the 128 Department of Transportation may issue out-of-service orders to

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129 motor carriers, as defined in s. 320.01(33), who, have after proper notice, have failed to pay any penalty or fine assessed 130 by the department, or its agent, against any owner or motor 131 132 carrier for violations of state law, refused to submit to a compliance review and provide records pursuant to s. 316.302(5) 133 134 or s. 316.70, or violated safety regulations pursuant to s. 135 316.302 or insurance requirements found in s. 627.7415. Such 136 out-of-service orders shall have the effect of prohibiting the 137 operations of any motor vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise 138 operated by the motor carrier upon the roadways of this state, 139 until such time as the violations have been corrected or 140 penalties have been paid. Out-of-service orders issued under this section must be approved by the director of the Division of 141 142 the Florida Highway Patrol Secretary of Transportation or his or her designee. An administrative hearing pursuant to s. 120.569 143 144 shall be afforded to motor carriers subject to such orders.

145 (2) Any motor carrier enjoined or prohibited from operating by an out-of-service order by this state, any other state, or 146 147 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration may not operate 148 on the roadways of this state until the motor carrier has been 149 authorized to resume operations by the originating enforcement 150 jurisdiction. Commercial motor vehicles owned or operated by any 151 motor carrier prohibited from operation found on the roadways of 152 this state shall be placed out of service by law enforcement 153 officers of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles 154 Transportation, and the motor carrier assessed a \$10,000 civil 155 penalty pursuant to 49 C.F.R. s. 383.53, in addition to any 156 other penalties imposed on the driver or other responsible 157 person. Any person who knowingly drives, operates, or causes to



158 be operated any commercial motor vehicle in violation of an out-159 of-service order issued by the department in accordance with 160 this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as 161 provided in s. 775.082(3)(d). Any costs associated with the 162 impoundment or storage of such vehicles are the responsibility 163 of the motor carrier. Vehicle out-of-service orders may be 164 rescinded when the department receives proof of authorization 165 for the motor carrier to resume operation.

(3) In addition to the sanctions found in subsections (1)
and (2), the Department of <u>Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles</u>
Transportation may petition the circuit courts of this state to
enjoin any motor carrier from operating when it fails to comply
with out-of-service orders issued by a competent authority
within or outside this state.

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 316.516, FloridaStatutes, is amended to read:

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316.516 Width, height, and length; inspection; penalties.-

(1) Any law enforcement officer, as prescribed in s. 175 176 316.640, or any weight inspector and safety officer of the 177 Department of Transportation, as prescribed in s. 316.545(1), 178 who has reason to believe that the width, height, or length of a 179 vehicle or combination of vehicles and the load thereon is not 180 in conformance with s. 316.515 is authorized to require the 181 driver to stop and submit such vehicle and load to measurement 182 of its width, height, or length.

Section 9. Subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2), paragraph (b) of subsection (4), and subsections (5), (9), and (10) of section 316.545, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:



187 316.545 Weight and load unlawful; special fuel and motor 188 fuel tax enforcement; inspection; penalty; review.-

(1) Any officer of the Florida Highway Patrol weight and 189 190 safety officer of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor 191 Vehicles Transportation having reason to believe that the weight 192 of a vehicle and load is unlawful is authorized to require the driver to stop and submit to a weighing of the same by means of 193 194 either portable or fixed scales and may require that such 195 vehicle be driven to the nearest weigh station or public scales, provided such a facility is within 5 highway miles. Upon a 196 197 request by the vehicle driver, the officer shall weigh the 198 vehicle at fixed scales rather than by portable scales if such a facility is available within 5 highway miles. Anyone who refuses 199 200 to submit to such weighing obstructs an officer pursuant to s. 201 843.02 and is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, 202 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Anyone who knowingly and willfully resists, obstructs, or opposes a weight 203 204 and safety officer while refusing to submit to such weighing by 205 resisting the officer with violence to the officer's person 206 pursuant to s. 843.01 is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. 207

(2) (a) Whenever an officer of the Florida Highway Patrol or 208 209 a weight inspector of the Department of Transportation, upon 210 weighing a vehicle or combination of vehicles with load, 211 determines that the axle weight or gross weight is unlawful, the 212 officer or inspector may require the driver to stop the vehicle 213 in a suitable place and remain standing until a determination can be made as to the amount of weight thereon and, if 214 215 overloaded, the amount of penalty to be assessed as provided



herein. However, any gross weight over and beyond 6,000 pounds 216 217 beyond the maximum herein set shall be unloaded and all material 218 so unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator of the 219 vehicle at the risk of such owner or operator. Except as 220 otherwise provided in this chapter, to facilitate compliance 221 with and enforcement of the weight limits established in s. 222 316.535, weight tables published pursuant to s. 316.535(7) shall 223 include a 10-percent scale tolerance and shall thereby reflect 224 the maximum scaled weights allowed any vehicle or combination of 225 vehicles. As used in this section, scale tolerance means the 226 allowable deviation from legal weights established in s. 227 316.535. Notwithstanding any other provision of the weight law, 228 if a vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed the 229 gross, external bridge, or internal bridge weight limits imposed in s. 316.535 and the driver of such vehicle or combination of 230 231 vehicles can comply with the requirements of this chapter by 232 shifting or equalizing the load on all wheels or axles and does so when requested by the proper authority, the driver shall not 233 234 be held to be operating in violation of said weight limits.

235 (b) The officer or inspector shall inspect the license 236 plate or registration certificate of the commercial vehicle, as 237 defined in s. 316.003(66), to determine if its gross weight is 238 in compliance with the declared gross vehicle weight. If its 239 gross weight exceeds the declared weight, the penalty shall be 5 240 cents per pound on the difference between such weights. In those 241 cases when the commercial vehicle, as defined in s. 316.003(66), 242 is being operated over the highways of the state with an expired registration or with no registration from this or any other 243 244 jurisdiction or is not registered under the applicable



245 provisions of chapter 320, the penalty herein shall apply on the 246 basis of 5 cents per pound on that scaled weight which exceeds 247 35,000 pounds on laden truck tractor-semitrailer combinations or 248 tandem trailer truck combinations, 10,000 pounds on laden 249 straight trucks or straight truck-trailer combinations, or 250 10,000 pounds on any unladen commercial motor vehicle. If the 251 license plate or registration has not been expired for more than 252 90 days, the penalty imposed under this paragraph may not exceed 253 \$1,000. In the case of special mobile equipment as defined in s. 254 316.003(48), which qualifies for the license tax provided for in 255 s. 320.08(5)(b), being operated on the highways of the state 256 with an expired registration or otherwise not properly 257 registered under the applicable provisions of chapter 320, a 258 penalty of \$75 shall apply in addition to any other penalty 259 which may apply in accordance with this chapter. A vehicle found 260 in violation of this section may be detained until the owner or 261 operator produces evidence that the vehicle has been properly registered. Any costs incurred by the retention of the vehicle 262 263 shall be the sole responsibility of the owner. A person who has 264 been assessed a penalty pursuant to this paragraph for failure 265 to have a valid vehicle registration certificate pursuant to the 266 provisions of chapter 320 is not subject to the delinquent fee 267 authorized in s. 320.07 if such person obtains a valid 268 registration certificate within 10 working days after such 269 penalty was assessed.

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(4)

(b) In addition to the penalty provided for in paragraph
(a), the vehicle may be detained until the owner or operator of
the vehicle furnishes evidence that the vehicle has been



274 properly registered pursuant to s. 207.004. Any officer of the 275 Florida Highway Patrol or agent of the Department of 276 Transportation may issue a temporary fuel use permit and collect 277 the appropriate fee as provided for in s. 207.004(4). Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6), all permit 278 279 fees collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be transferred 280 to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to be 281 allocated pursuant to s. 207.026.

2.82 (5) Whenever any person violates the provisions of this 283 chapter and becomes indebted to the state because of such 284 violation in the amounts aforesaid and refuses to pay said 285 penalty, in addition to the provisions of s. 316.3026, such 286 penalty shall become a lien upon the motor vehicle, and the same 287 may be foreclosed by the state in a court of equity. It shall be presumed that the owner of the motor vehicle is liable for the 288 289 sum. Any person, firm, or corporation claiming an interest in 290 the seized motor vehicle may, at any time after the lien of the 291 state attaches to the motor vehicle, obtain possession of the 292 seized vehicle by filing a good and sufficient forthcoming bond 293 with the officer having possession of the vehicle, payable to 294 the Governor of the state in twice the amount of the state's 295 lien, with a corporate surety duly authorized to transact 296 business in this state as surety, conditioned to have the motor 297 vehicle or combination of vehicles forthcoming to abide the 298 result of any suit for the foreclosure of such lien. It shall be 299 presumed that the owner of the motor vehicle is liable for the 300 penalty imposed under this section. Upon the posting of such bond with the officer making the seizure, the vehicle shall be 301 302 released and the bond shall be forwarded to the Department of



303 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Transportation for 304 safekeeping. The lien of the state against the motor vehicle 305 aforesaid shall be foreclosed in equity, and the ordinary rules 306 of court relative to proceedings in equity shall control. If it 307 appears that the seized vehicle has been released to the 308 defendant upon his or her forthcoming bond, the state shall take 309 judgment of foreclosure against the property itself, and 310 judgment against the defendant and the sureties on the bond for 311 the amount of the lien, including cost of proceedings. After the 312 rendition of the decree, the state may, at its option, proceed 313 to sue out execution against the defendant and his or her 314 sureties for the amount recovered as aforesaid or direct the 315 sale of the vehicle under foreclosure.

316 (9) Any agent of the Department of Transportation who is 317 employed for the purpose of being a weight and safety officer 318 and who meets the qualifications established by law for law 319 enforcement officers shall have the same arrest powers as are 320 granted any law enforcement officer for the purpose of enforcing 321 the provisions of weight, load, safety, commercial motor vehicle 322 registration, and fuel tax compliance laws.

323 (9) (10) The Department of Transportation may employ weight 324 inspectors to operate its fixed-scale facilities. Weight 325 inspectors on duty at a fixed-scale facility are authorized to 32.6 enforce the laws governing commercial motor vehicle weight, 327 registration, size, and load and to assess and collect civil 328 penalties for violations of said laws. A weight inspector may 329 detain a commercial motor vehicle that has an obvious safety 330 defect critical to the continued safe operation of the vehicle 331 or that is operating in violation of an out-of-service order as



332 reported on the federal Safety and Fitness Electronic Records 333 database. The weight inspector may immediately summon a law 334 enforcement officer of the Department of Highway Safety and 335 Motor Vehicles Transportation, or other law enforcement officer 336 authorized by s. 316.640 to enforce the traffic laws of this 337 state, to take appropriate enforcement action. The vehicle shall 338 be released if the defect is repaired prior to the arrival of a 339 law enforcement officer. Weight inspectors shall not be 340 classified as law enforcement officers subject to certification 341 requirements of chapter 943, and are not authorized to carry 342 weapons or make arrests. Any person who obstructs, opposes, or 343 resists a weight inspector in the performance of the duties herein prescribed shall be quilty of an offense as described in 344 345 subsection (1) for obstructing, opposing, or resisting a law enforcement officer. 346

347 Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section348 316.640, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

349 316.640 Enforcement.-The enforcement of the traffic laws of 350 this state is vested as follows:

(1) STATE.-

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352 (a)1.a. The Division of Florida Highway Patrol of the 353 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; the Division of 354 Law Enforcement of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation 355 Commission; the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of 356 Environmental Protection; law enforcement officers of the 357 Department of Transportation; and the agents, inspectors, and 358 officers of the Department of Law Enforcement each have 359 authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state on 360 all the streets and highways thereof and elsewhere throughout



361 the state wherever the public has a right to travel by motor 362 vehicle.

363 b. University police officers shall have authority to 364 enforce all of the traffic laws of this state when violations occur on or within 1,000 feet of any property or facilities that 365 366 are under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of a 367 state university, a direct-support organization of such state 368 university, or any other organization controlled by the state 369 university or a direct-support organization of the state 370 university, or when such violations occur within a specified 371 jurisdictional area as agreed upon in a mutual aid agreement 372 entered into with a law enforcement agency pursuant to s. 373 23.1225(1). Traffic laws may also be enforced off-campus when 374 hot pursuit originates on or within 1,000 feet of any such 375 property or facilities, or as agreed upon in accordance with the 376 mutual aid agreement.

377 c. Community college police officers shall have the 378 authority to enforce all the traffic laws of this state only 379 when such violations occur on any property or facilities that 380 are under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of 381 the community college system.

382 d. Police officers employed by an airport authority shall 383 have the authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this 384 state only when such violations occur on any property or 385 facilities that are owned or operated by an airport authority.

(I) An airport authority may employ as a parking
enforcement specialist any individual who successfully completes
a training program established and approved by the Criminal
Justice Standards and Training Commission for parking



enforcement specialists but who does not otherwise meet the uniform minimum standards established by the commission for law enforcement officers or auxiliary or part-time officers under s. 943.12. Nothing in this sub-sub-subparagraph shall be construed to permit the carrying of firearms or other weapons, nor shall such parking enforcement specialist have arrest authority.

(II) A parking enforcement specialist employed by an airport authority is authorized to enforce all state, county, and municipal laws and ordinances governing parking only when such violations are on property or facilities owned or operated by the airport authority employing the specialist, by appropriate state, county, or municipal traffic citation.

402 e. The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement of the
403 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall have the
404 authority to enforce traffic laws of this state.

f. School safety officers shall have the authority to enforce all of the traffic laws of this state when such violations occur on or about any property or facilities which are under the guidance, supervision, regulation, or control of the district school board.

An agency of the state as described in subparagraph 1.
is prohibited from establishing a traffic citation quota. A
violation of this subparagraph is not subject to the penalties
provided in chapter 318.

Any disciplinary action taken or performance evaluation conducted by an agency of the state as described in subparagraph l. of a law enforcement officer's traffic enforcement activity must be in accordance with written work-performance standards. Such standards must be approved by the agency and any collective



419 bargaining unit representing such law enforcement officer. A 420 violation of this subparagraph is not subject to the penalties 421 provided in chapter 318.

422 4. The Division of the Florida Highway Patrol may employ as 423 a traffic accident investigation officer any individual who 424 successfully completes instruction in traffic accident 425 investigation and court presentation through the Selective 426 Traffic Enforcement Program as approved by the Criminal Justice 427 Standards and Training Commission and funded through the 428 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or a similar 429 program approved by the commission, but who does not necessarily 430 meet the uniform minimum standards established by the commission 431 for law enforcement officers or auxiliary law enforcement 432 officers under chapter 943. Any such traffic accident investigation officer who makes an investigation at the scene of 433 434 a traffic accident may issue traffic citations, based upon 435 personal investigation, when he or she has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person who was involved in 436 437 the accident committed an offense under this chapter, chapter 438 319, chapter 320, or chapter 322 in connection with the 439 accident. This subparagraph does not permit the officer to carry firearms or other weapons, and such an officer does not have 440 441 authority to make arrests.

442 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 320.18, Florida 443 Statutes, is amended to read:

320.18 Withholding registration.(1) The department may withhold the registration of any motor
vehicle or mobile home the owner of which has failed to register
it under the provisions of law for any previous period or



448 periods for which it appears registration should have been made in this state, until the tax for such period or periods is paid. 449 450 The department may cancel any vehicle or vessel registration, 451 driver's license, identification card, or fuel-use tax decal if 452 the owner pays for the vehicle or vessel registration, driver's 453 license, identification card, or fuel-use tax decal; pays any 454 administrative, delinquency, or reinstatement fee; or pays any 455 tax liability, penalty, or interest specified in chapter 207 by 456 a dishonored check, or if the vehicle owner or motor carrier has 457 failed to pay a penalty for a weight or safety violation issued 458 by the Department of Transportation or the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Motor Carrier Compliance Office. The 459 Department of Transportation and the Department of Highway 460 461 Safety and Motor Vehicles may impound any commercial motor 462 vehicle that has a canceled license plate or fuel-use tax decal 463 until the tax liability, penalty, and interest specified in chapter 207, the license tax, or the fuel-use decal fee, and 464 465 applicable administrative fees have been paid for by certified 466 funds. 467 468 469 And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 3 - 7

471 and insert:

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472	Compliance; amending s. 20.23, F.S.; creating a motor
473	carrier weight inspection area of program
474	responsibility within the Department of
475	Transportation, which replaces motor carrier
476	compliance; amending s. 20.24, F.S.; creating the

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477 Office of Motor Carrier Compliance within the Division 478 of the Florida Highway Patrol within the Department of 479 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; amending ss. 480 110.205, 311.115, 316.302, 316.3025, 316.3026, 316.516, 316.545, 316.640, 320.18, 321.05, and 324.044,