1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to driver licenses; creating s. 3 318.122, F.S.; providing for collection of certain 4 fees or other charges related to disposition of 5 citations for traffic infractions; authorizing the 6 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to 7 dispose of such fees or charges; prohibiting 8 suspension of a driver license for failure to pay such 9 fees or charges; providing that payment of specified 10 service fees is not required for reinstatement of a 11 suspended or revoked driver license; providing a one-12 time waiver of such service fees for certain persons; 13 directing the clerk of the court to notify the 14 department of any person who has not paid fees or 15 other charges; providing that a registration license plate or revalidation sticker may not be issued until 16 such fees or charges are paid or certain conditions 17 are met; amending ss. 318.15, 320.03, 322.21, and 18 19 322.29 F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s. 20 322.055, F.S.; removing provisions for revocation or 21 withholding issuance of a driver license or driving 2.2 privilege upon conviction of possession or conspiracy 23 to possess a controlled substance; amending s. 24 493.6404, F.S.; requiring a person licensed to recover 25 motor vehicles to return to the debtor or surrender to 26 the clerk of the court registration license plates

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attached to a repossessed motor vehicle; requiring the
licensee to maintain a record of the return or
surrender; providing penalties; reenacting s.
493.6118(1)(x), F.S., relating to grounds for
disciplinary action against a recovery agency or
licensee; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 318.122, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

318.122 Collection of fees and other charges.—The department shall enforce, satisfy, compromise, settle, subordinate, release, or otherwise dispose of any fee, cost, charge, service fee, or surcharge imposed for disposition of a traffic citation.

- (1) A person's driver license or privilege to drive may not be suspended solely for nonpayment of fees or surcharges associated with disposition of a citation issued for a noncriminal traffic violation.
- (a) Upon payment of the fine amounts under s. 318.18, if any fee or other charge remains unpaid and the person is not in compliance with the terms of a payment plan or revised payment plan pursuant to ss. 28.246 and 318.14 for such amounts, the clerk or agent of the department shall notify the department and shall reference the person's driver license number or, in the

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case of a business entity, vehicle registration number. Upon receipt of such notification, the department or agent may not issue a registration license plate or revalidation sticker for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by that person pursuant to s. 320.03(8) until the fee has been fully paid or the person is making satisfactory payments under the terms a payment plan. The person shall be informed about the provisions of this paragraph when the fine amounts under s. 318.18 have been paid if there are outstanding fees or charges at that time.

- (b) 1. Payment of the fees under s. 322.21 or s. 322.29 for reinstatement of a suspended or revoked driver license is not required for reinstatement of the license. If any fee is not paid when the license is reinstated and the person is not in compliance with a payment plan pursuant to ss. 318.14 and 28.246, the clerk or agent of the department shall notify the department and shall reference the person's driver license number or, in the case of a business entity, vehicle registration number. The department or agent may not issue a license plate or revalidation sticker for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by that person pursuant to s. 320.03(8) until the fee has been fully paid or the person complies with the terms of a payment plan.
- 2. If a person whose family income is below 150 percent of the federal nonfarm poverty level elects a one-time waiver of the service fee under s. 322.21 or s. 322.29, the service fee is waived and subparagraph 1. does not apply. The department shall

79 note the waiver in the person's record.

- 3. Upon reinstatement of a suspended or revoked driver license, if the service fee under s. 322.21 or s. 322.29 is not paid and the person is not in compliance with a payment plan for the fee, the person shall be informed about the provisions of this paragraph.
- paid, the clerk of the court shall notify the department of any person who has not paid any fee, cost, charge, service fee, or surcharge imposed for disposition of a traffic citation and is not making payments under a payment plan pursuant to ss. 318.14 and 28.246 for such amount. The notification shall reference the person's driver license number or, in the case of a business entity, vehicle registration number. Upon receipt of such notification, the department, or an authorized agent thereof, may not issue a license plate or revalidation sticker for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by that person pursuant to s. 320.03(8) until the amounts assessed have been fully paid or the person is complying with such payment plan.
- Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 318.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 318.15 Failure to comply with civil penalty or to appear; penalty.—
- (2) (a) After the suspension of a person's driver license and privilege to drive under subsection (1), the license and privilege may not be reinstated until the person complies with

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the terms of a periodic payment plan or a revised payment plan with the clerk of the court pursuant to ss. 318.14 and 28.246 or with all obligations and penalties imposed under s. 318.18 and presents to a driver license office a certificate of compliance issued by the court, together with a nonrefundable service charge of \$60 imposed under s. 322.29, or presents a certificate of compliance and pays the service charge to the clerk of the court or a driver licensing agent authorized under s. 322.135 clearing such suspension. Such person must also be in compliance with chapter 322 before reinstatement.

- The clerk of the court or driver license office shall (b) also collect the nonrefundable service charge of \$60 imposed under s. 322.29. Of the charge collected, \$22.50 shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue to be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. However, payment of the service fee is not required for reinstatement of the person's driver license. Upon reinstatement of a suspended or revoked driver license, if the service fee under s. 322.29 is not paid upon reinstatement of the driver license and the person is not in compliance with a payment plan for the fee, the department, or an authorized agent thereof, may not issue a license plate or revalidation sticker for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by that person as provided in s. 318.122. Such person must also be in compliance with requirements of chapter 322 before reinstatement.
 - (3) The clerk shall notify the department of persons who

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were mailed a notice of violation of s. 316.074(1) or s. 316.075(1)(c)1. pursuant to s. 316.0083 and who failed to enter into, or comply with the terms of, a penalty payment plan, or order with the clerk to the local hearing officer or failed to appear at a scheduled hearing within 10 days after such failure, and shall reference the person's driver license number, or in the case of a business entity, vehicle registration number. The clerk shall also notify the department of any person whose license was reinstated under subsection (2) who did not pay the service fee required under subsection (2) and who failed to enter into, or comply with the terms of, a payment plan.

- (a) Upon receipt of such notice, the department, or authorized agent thereof, may not issue a license plate or revalidation sticker for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by that person pursuant to s. 320.03(8) until the amounts assessed have been fully paid.
- (b) After the issuance of the person's license plate or revalidation sticker is withheld pursuant to paragraph (a), the person may challenge the withholding of the license plate or revalidation sticker only on the basis that the outstanding fines and civil penalties have been paid pursuant to s. 320.03(8).
- Section 3. Subsection (8) of section 320.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 155 320.03 Registration; duties of tax collectors; 156 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 the court that provided the data showing that the fees or 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 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

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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).

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Section 4. Section 322.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.055 Revocation or suspension of, or delay of eligibility for, driver license for persons 18 years of age or older convicted of certain drug offenses.—

Notwithstanding s. 322.28, upon the conviction of a person 18 years of age or older for possession or sale of, trafficking in, or conspiracy to possess, sell, or traffic in a controlled substance, the court shall direct the department to revoke the driver license or driving privilege of the person. The period of such revocation shall be 1 year or until the person is evaluated for and, if deemed necessary by the evaluating agency, completes a drug treatment and rehabilitation program approved or regulated by the Department of Children and Families. However, the court may, in its sound discretion, direct the department to issue a license for driving privilege restricted to business or employment purposes only, as defined by s. 322.271, if the person is otherwise qualified for such a license. A driver whose license or driving privilege has been suspended or revoked under this section or s. 322.056 may, upon the expiration of 6 months, petition the department for

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restoration of the driving privilege on a restricted or unrestricted basis depending on length of suspension or revocation. In no case shall a restricted license be available until 6 months of the suspension or revocation period has expired.

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If a person 18 years of age or older is convicted for the possession or sale of, trafficking in, or conspiracy to $possess_{7}$ sell₇ or traffic in a controlled substance and such person is eliqible by reason of age for a driver license or privilege, the court shall direct the department to withhold issuance of such person's driver license or driving privilege for a period of 1 year after the date the person was convicted or until the person is evaluated for and, if deemed necessary by the evaluating agency, completes a drug treatment and rehabilitation program approved or regulated by the Department of Children and Families. However, the court may, in its sound discretion, direct the department to issue a license for driving privilege restricted to business or employment purposes only, as defined by s. 322.271, if the person is otherwise qualified for such a license. A driver whose license or driving privilege has been suspended or revoked under this section or s. 322.056 may, upon the expiration of 6 months, petition the department for restoration of the driving privilege on a restricted or unrestricted basis depending on the length of suspension or revocation. In no case shall a restricted license be available until 6 months of the suspension or revocation period has

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- If a person 18 years of age or older is convicted for the possession or sale of, trafficking in, or conspiracy to $possess_{r}$ sell_r or traffic in a controlled substance and such person's driver license or driving privilege is already under suspension or revocation for any reason, the court shall direct the department to extend the period of such suspension or revocation by an additional period of 1 year or until the person is evaluated for and, if deemed necessary by the evaluating agency, completes a drug treatment and rehabilitation program approved or regulated by the Department of Children and Families. However, the court may, in its sound discretion, direct the department to issue a license for driving privilege restricted to business or employment purposes only, as defined by s. 322.271, if the person is otherwise qualified for such a license. A driver whose license or driving privilege has been suspended or revoked under this section or s. 322.056 may, upon the expiration of 6 months, petition the department for restoration of the driving privilege on a restricted or unrestricted basis depending on the length of suspension or revocation. In no case shall a restricted license be available until 6 months of the suspension or revocation period has expired.
- (4) If a person 18 years of age or older is convicted for the possession or sale of, trafficking in, or conspiracy to possess, sell, or traffic in a controlled substance and such

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person is ineligible by reason of age for a driver license or driving privilege, the court shall direct the department to withhold issuance of such person's driver license or driving privilege for a period of 1 year after the date that he or she would otherwise have become eligible or until he or she becomes eligible by reason of age for a driver license and is evaluated for and, if deemed necessary by the evaluating agency, completes a drug treatment and rehabilitation program approved or regulated by the Department of Children and Families. However, the court may, in its sound discretion, direct the department to issue a license for driving privilege restricted to business or employment purposes only, as defined by s. 322.271, if the person is otherwise qualified for such a license. A driver whose license or driving privilege has been suspended or revoked under this section or s. 322.056 may, upon the expiration of 6 months, petition the department for restoration of the driving privilege on a restricted or unrestricted basis depending on the length of suspension or revocation. In no case shall a restricted license be available until 6 months of the suspension or revocation period has expired.

(5) A court that orders the revocation or suspension of, or delay in eligibility for, a driver license pursuant to this section shall make a specific, articulated determination as to whether the issuance of a license for driving privilege restricted to business purposes only, as defined in s. 322.271, is appropriate in each case.

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(6) Each clerk of the court shall promptly report to the department each conviction for the possession or sale of, trafficking in, or conspiracy to possess, sell, or traffic in a controlled substance.

Section 5. Subsection (8) of section 322.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 322.21 License fees; procedure for handling and collecting fees.—
- (8) (a) Any person who applies for reinstatement following the suspension or revocation of the person's driver license must pay a service fee of \$45 following a suspension, and \$75 following a revocation, which is in addition to the fee for a license. Any person who applies for reinstatement of a commercial driver license following the disqualification of the person's privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle shall pay a service fee of \$75, which is in addition to the fee for a license. The department shall collect all of these fees at the time of reinstatement. The department shall issue proper receipts for such fees and shall promptly transmit all funds received by it as follows:
- $\frac{1.(a)}{(a)}$ Of the \$45 fee received from a licensee for reinstatement following a suspension, the department shall deposit \$15 in the General Revenue Fund and \$30 in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.
- $\underline{\text{2.(b)}}$ Of the \$75 fee received from a licensee for reinstatement following a revocation or disqualification, the

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department shall deposit \$35 in the General Revenue Fund and \$40 in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

- (b) If the revocation or suspension of the driver license was for a violation of s. 316.193, or for refusal to submit to a lawful breath, blood, or urine test, an additional fee of \$130 must be charged. However, only one \$130 fee may be collected from one person convicted of violations arising out of the same incident. The department shall collect the \$130 fee and deposit the fee into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund at the time of reinstatement of the person's driver license, but the fee may not be collected if the suspension or revocation is overturned.
- (c) If the revocation or suspension of the driver license was for a conviction for a violation of s. 817.234(8) or (9) or s. 817.505, an additional fee of \$180 is imposed for each offense. The department shall collect and deposit the additional fee into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund at the time of reinstatement of the person's driver license.
- (d) Payment of the fees under this subsection is not required for reinstatement of the person's driver license. If any service fee is not paid upon reinstatement of the driver license, a registration license plate or revalidation sticker may not be issued for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by the person as provided in s. 318.122.
- Section 6. Section 322.29, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 322.29 Surrender and return of license.-

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(1) The department, upon suspending or revoking a license, shall require that such license be surrendered to the department. At the end of the period of suspension, such license so surrendered shall be returned, or a duplicate license issued, to the licensee after the applicant has successfully passed the vision, sign, and traffic law examinations. In addition, pursuant to s. 322.221, the department may require the licensee to successfully complete a driving examination. The department may not require is prohibited from requiring the surrender of a license except as authorized by this chapter.

- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), an examination is not required for the return of a license suspended under s. 318.15 or s. 322.245 unless an examination is otherwise required by this chapter.
- (3) A person applying for the return of a license suspended under s. 318.15 or s. 322.245 must present to the department certification from the court that he or she has complied with all obligations and penalties imposed pursuant to s. 318.15 or, in the case of a suspension pursuant to s. 322.245, that he or she has complied with all directives of the court and the requirements of s. 322.245 and shall pay to the department a nonrefundable service fee of \$60, of which \$37.50 shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and \$22.50 shall be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. If reinstated by the clerk of the court or tax collector, \$37.50 shall be retained and \$22.50 shall be remitted to the Department

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of Revenue for deposit into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. However, the service fee is not required if the person is required to pay a \$45 fee or \$75 fee under s. 322.21(8).

- (4) Payment of the fees under this section is not required for reinstatement of the person's driver license. If any service fee is not paid upon reinstatement of the driver license and the person is not in compliance with a payment plan for the fee, a registration license plate or revalidation sticker may not be issued for any motor vehicle owned or coowned by the person as provided in s. 318.122.
- Section 7. Except as provided in s. 322.2615, Florida

 Statutes, a law enforcement officer may not confiscate or

 withhold a valid driver license or state-issued identification
 card in the course of a routine traffic stop.
- Section 8. Section 493.6404, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 493.6404 Property inventory; vehicle license identification numbers.—
- (1) (a) If personal effects or other property not covered by a security agreement are contained in or on a recovered vehicle, mobile home, motorboat, aircraft, personal watercraft, all-terrain vehicle, farm equipment, or industrial equipment at the time it is recovered, a complete and accurate inventory shall be made of such personal effects or property. The date and time the inventory is made shall be indicated, and it shall be signed by the Class "E" or Class "EE" licensee who obtained the

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personal property. The inventory of the personal property and the records regarding any disposal of personal property or motor vehicle registration license plates shall be maintained for a period of 2 years in the permanent records of the licensed agency and shall be made available, upon demand, to an authorized representative of the department engaged in an official investigation.

(b) $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ Within 5 working days after the date of a repossession, the Class "E" or Class "EE" licensee shall give written notification to the debtor of the whereabouts of personal effects or other property inventoried pursuant to this section. At least 45 days before prior to disposing of such personal effects or other property, the Class "E" or Class "EE" licensee shall, by United States Postal Service proof of mailing or certified mail, notify the debtor of the intent to dispose of the said property. Should the debtor, or her or his lawful designee, appear to retrieve the personal property, before prior to the date on which the Class "E" or Class "EE" licensee is allowed to dispose of the property, the licensee shall surrender the personal property to that individual upon payment of any reasonably incurred expenses for inventory and storage. If personal property is not claimed within 45 days after of the notice of intent to dispose, the licensee may dispose of the personal property at her or his discretion, except that illegal items or contraband shall be surrendered to a law enforcement agency, and the licensee shall retain a receipt or other proof

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of surrender as part of the inventory and disposal records she or he maintains.

- (2) Any registration license plate attached to a recovered motor vehicle must be returned to the debtor or surrendered to the clerk of the court within 5 days after the vehicle is recovered. The licensee shall retain a signed delivery receipt of the plate for a period of 2 years.
- (3) Vehicles used for the purpose of repossession by a Class "E" or Class "EE" licensee must be identified during repossession by the license number of the Class "R" agency only, local ordinances to the contrary notwithstanding. These vehicles are not "wreckers" as defined in s. 713.78. The license number must be displayed on both sides of the vehicle and must appear in lettering no less than 4 inches tall and in a color contrasting from that of the background.
- Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 493.6404, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (x) of subsection (1) of section 493.6118, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:
 - 493.6118 Grounds for disciplinary action.-
- (1) The following constitute grounds for which disciplinary action specified in subsection (2) may be taken by the department against any licensee, agency, or applicant regulated by this chapter, or any unlicensed person engaged in activities regulated under this chapter.
 - (x) In addition to the grounds for disciplinary action

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prescribed in paragraphs (a)-(t), Class "R" recovery agencies, Class "E" recovery agents, and Class "EE" recovery agent interns are prohibited from committing the following acts:

- 1. Recovering a motor vehicle, mobile home, motorboat, aircraft, personal watercraft, all-terrain vehicle, farm equipment, or industrial equipment that has been sold under a conditional sales agreement or under the terms of a chattel mortgage before authorization has been received from the legal owner or mortgagee.
- 2. Charging for expenses not actually incurred in connection with the recovery, transportation, storage, or disposal of repossessed property or personal property obtained in a repossession.
- 3. Using any repossessed property or personal property obtained in a repossession for the personal benefit of a licensee or an officer, director, partner, manager, or employee of a licensee.
- 4. Selling property recovered under the provisions of this chapter, except with written authorization from the legal owner or the mortgagee thereof.
- 5. Failing to notify the police or sheriff's department of the jurisdiction in which the repossessed property is recovered within 2 hours after recovery.
- 6. Failing to remit moneys collected in lieu of recovery of a motor vehicle, mobile home, motorboat, aircraft, personal watercraft, all-terrain vehicle, farm equipment, or industrial

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469 equipment to the client within 10 working days.

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- 7. Failing to deliver to the client a negotiable instrument that is payable to the client, within 10 working days after receipt of such instrument.
- 8. Falsifying, altering, or failing to maintain any required inventory or records regarding disposal of personal property contained in or on repossessed property pursuant to s. 493.6404(1).
- 9. Carrying any weapon or firearm when he or she is on private property and performing duties under his or her license whether or not he or she is licensed pursuant to s. 790.06.
- 10. Soliciting from the legal owner the recovery of property subject to repossession after such property has been seen or located on public or private property if the amount charged or requested for such recovery is more than the amount normally charged for such a recovery.
- 11. Wearing, presenting, or displaying a badge in the course of performing a repossession regulated by this chapter.

 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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