

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

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| <b>BILL #:</b> <a href="#">HB 1165</a>                     | <b>COMPANION BILL:</b> <a href="#">CS/SB 1502</a> (Collins) |
| <b>TITLE:</b> Mobile Cranes and Accessory Support Vehicles | <b>LINKED BILLS:</b> None                                   |
| <b>SPONSOR(S):</b> Owen                                    | <b>RELATED BILLS:</b> None                                  |

### Committee References

[Economic Infrastructure](#)

17 Y, 0 N



[Transportation & Economic  
Development Budget](#)

13 Y, 0 N



[Commerce](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to issue special blanket permits that allow:

- Mobile cranes and accessory support vehicles up to a specified size to travel on and off the Interstate Highway System at all hours, subject to local curfews.
- Mobile cranes operating on and off Interstate highways to tow certain motor vehicles, subject to a combined weight limit.
- Mobile cranes and accessory support vehicles which, due to their design for use, exceed established weight limits for travel on and off Interstate highways.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill authorizes FDOT to issue a [special blanket permit](#) to mobile cranes and accessory support vehicles to travel on and off the Interstate Highway System at all hours. To receive such a permit, mobile crane and accessory support vehicle dimensions must not exceed 12 feet wide, 14 feet 6 inches high, and 100 feet long. Any local travel-related curfews still apply. (Section [2](#)).

The bill also allows FDOT to issue a special blanket permit to mobile cranes operating on and off the Interstate Highway System to tow certain motor vehicles. (Section [2](#)).

The bill allows FDOT to issue a special blanket permit to mobile cranes and accessory support vehicles which exceed the weight limits established under s. 316.535 to travel on and off the Interstate Highway System. (Section [2](#)).

Additionally, the bill revises the definition of “[special mobile equipment](#)” to include mobile cranes, accessory support vehicles, and self-propelled earthmoving equipment. (Section [1](#)).

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2025. (Section [3](#)).

**STORAGE NAME:** h1165c.TED

**DATE:** 4/2/2025

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### [Special Mobile Equipment](#)

Florida law defines “special mobile equipment” as any vehicle not designated or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway. Special mobile equipment includes, but is not limited to, ditchdigging apparatus, well-boring apparatus, and road construction and maintenance machinery, such as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, tractors other than truck tractors, ditchers, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers, scarifiers, earthmoving carryalls and scrapers, power shovels and draglines, and self-propelled cranes and earthmoving equipment.

Special mobile equipment does not include house trailers, dump trucks, truck-mounted transit mixers, cranes or shovels, or other vehicles designed for the transportation of persons or property to which machinery has been attached.<sup>1</sup>

#### [Special Permits for Oversize or Overweight Vehicles](#)

FDOT has jurisdiction to control traffic over all state roads throughout Florida. FDOT has the authority to regulate, warn, or guide traffic as it deems necessary.<sup>2</sup> No vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding established gross weight provisions are permitted to travel on the public highways of the state unless specifically provided by law.<sup>3</sup> Local authorities do not have the power to alter this limitation unless the Legislature has expressly granted authority under ch. 316, F.S.<sup>4</sup>

To operate on public roads, oversized or overweight vehicles must obtain a special permit from the appropriate governing jurisdiction.<sup>5</sup> FDOT or the local authority may, at its discretion, issue or withhold a permit. If a permit is issued, FDOT or the local authority may limit or prescribe the conditions of operation of such vehicle or vehicles.<sup>6</sup> Under DOT guidelines, blanket permits are issued to cover multiple trips for a period not to exceed 12 months.<sup>7</sup>

#### [Current Law](#)

Special permits may authorize a self-propelled truck crane operating off the Interstate Highway System to tow certain vehicles.<sup>8</sup>

For nighttime movement, when FDOT’s criteria for issuing a permit are met, FDOT must issue a permit provided that:

- Nighttime travel is recommended by the appropriate FDOT District Traffic Engineering office or determined to be a permit requirement.
- Law enforcement escorts are used.
- Warning lights delineate the load’s shape and size.
- The sides and rear of trailers and loads are as prescribed in state law and federal regulations.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> S. 316.003(83), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> S. [316.006\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle of a vehicle cannot exceed 20,000 pounds. S. [316.535, F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> S. [316.500, F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> S. [316.550\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> S. [316.550\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>7</sup> Florida Department of Transportation, *WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT*, [https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/maintenance/str/owodp/when-do-you-need-a-permit.pdf?sfvrsn=45e8edf1\\_0](https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/maintenance/str/owodp/when-do-you-need-a-permit.pdf?sfvrsn=45e8edf1_0) (last visited March 17, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> The towed motor vehicle may not weigh more than 5,000 pounds if the combined weight of the crane and the vehicle does not exceed 95,000 pounds. S. [316.550\(3\), F.S.](#); Florida Department of Transportation, *Blanket Permit Movement Conditions*, [blanket-permit-movement-conditions-02-13-2020.pdf](#) (last visited March 17, 2025).

<sup>9</sup> Rule 14-26.012(5)(f), F.A.C.

## BILL HISTORY

| COMMITTEE REFERENCE   | ACTION    | DATE      | STAFF<br>DIRECTOR/<br>POLICY CHIEF | ANALYSIS<br>PREPARED BY |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Economic Infrastructure<br/>Subcommittee</a>                              | 17 Y, 0 N | 3/19/2025 | Keating                            | Garcia                  |
| <a href="#">Transportation &amp; Economic<br/>Development Budget<br/>Subcommittee</a> | 13 Y, 0 N | 4/2/2025  | Davis                              | McAuliffe               |
| <a href="#">Commerce Committee</a>  |           |           |                                    |                         |