

# 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.*

**BILL #:** [HB 241](#)

**TITLE:** Operating Motor Vehicles at Slow Speeds

**SPONSOR(S):** Cross

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 350](#) (DiCeglie)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

16 Y, 1 N



[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)



[State Affairs](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill allows a motor vehicle, boat, or other conveyance to operate on a flooded street at a speed slow enough it would otherwise be considered as unlawfully impeding the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, so long as a local ordinance permits such use.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill provides an additional exception to the law relating to unlawful speed that prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. Specifically, the bill allows a motor vehicle, boat, or other conveyance to operate at a speed that would normally be considered an impermissibly slow speed if the street is flooded or inundated and if there is a [local ordinance](#) permitting such use. (Section [1](#))

The bill will take effect upon becoming law. (Section [2](#))

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### Unlawful Speed

##### Maximum Speed Limits

Florida law provides that on all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits for all vehicles must be:

- 30 miles per hour in business or residence districts; and
- 55 miles per hour at any time at all other locations.

However, with respect to a residence district, a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable.<sup>1</sup>

##### Minimum Speed Limits

The minimum speed limit on all highways that compose the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and have no fewer than four lanes is 40 miles per hour, except when the posted speed limit is 70 miles per hour, the minimum speed limit is 50 miles per hour.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> S. [316.183\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

### Slow Speed

Current law prohibits driving a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.<sup>3</sup> The driver of every vehicle may drive at an appropriately reduced speed when, among other specified reasons, any special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.<sup>4</sup>

### Local Ordinance

The term “ordinance” mean an official legislative action of a governing body, which action is a regulation of a general and permanent nature and enforceable as a local law.<sup>5</sup> Current law provides local authorities with the power to alter or establish speed limits with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction.<sup>6</sup>

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## **BILL HISTORY**

<b>COMMITTEE REFERENCE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF</b>	<b>ANALYSIS PREPARED BY</b>
<a href="#">Government Operations Subcommittee</a>	16 Y, 1 N	3/6/2025	Toliver	Walker
<a href="#">Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee</a>				
<a href="#">State Affairs Committee</a>				

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<sup>3</sup> S. [316.183\(5\)](#), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> S. [316.183\(4\)\(e\)](#), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> S. [166.041\(1\)\(a\)](#), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> S. [316.008\(1\)\(j\)](#), F.S.