

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 253, Engrossed 1

2025 Legislature

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2 An act relating to offenses involving motor vehicles;
3 amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; reclassifying the offense
4 of driving, moving, or causing to be moved a vehicle
5 or equipment with certain lighting on a highway as a
6 third degree felony in a specified circumstance;
7 amending s. 320.061, F.S.; increasing the penalty for
8 knowingly altering a motor vehicle registration
9 certificate, a license plate, a temporary license
10 plate, a mobile home sticker, or a validation sticker
11 or obscuring a license plate from a noncriminal
12 traffic infraction to a second degree misdemeanor;
13 creating s. 320.262, F.S.; defining the term "license
14 plate obscuring device"; providing criminal penalties
15 if a person purchases, possesses, manufactures, sells,
16 offers to sell, or otherwise distributes a license
17 plate obscuring device; providing an enhanced penalty
18 if a person uses a license plate obscuring device for
19 specified purposes; providing an effective date.

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

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23 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section
24 316.2397, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (1) of
25 that section is republished, to read:

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316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

(1) A person may not drive or move or cause to be moved any vehicle or equipment upon any highway within this state with any lamp or device thereon showing or displaying a red, red and white, or blue light visible from directly in front thereof except for certain vehicles provided in this section.

(10)(a) A person who violates subsection (1) and in so doing effects or attempts to effect a stop of another vehicle commits a felony ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. Section 320.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.061 Unlawful to alter motor vehicle registration certificates, license plates, temporary license plates, mobile home stickers, or validation stickers or to obscure license plates; penalty.—A person may not alter the original appearance of a vehicle registration certificate, license plate, temporary license plate, mobile home sticker, or validation sticker issued for and assigned to a motor vehicle or mobile home, whether by mutilation, alteration, defacement, or change of color or in any other manner. A person may not apply or attach a substance, reflective matter, illuminated device, spray, coating, covering, or other material onto or around any license plate which interferes with the legibility, angular visibility, or

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51 detectability of any feature or detail on the license plate or
52 interferes with the ability to record any feature or detail on
53 the license plate. A person who knowingly violates this section
54 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree ~~noncriminal traffic~~
55 ~~infraction~~, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 ~~a~~
56 ~~moving violation as provided in chapter 318~~.

57 Section 3. Section 320.262, Florida Statutes, is created
58 to read:

59 320.262 License plate obscuring device prohibited;
60 penalties.—

61 (1) As used in this section, the term "license plate
62 obscuring device" means a manual, electronic, or mechanical
63 device designed or adapted to be installed on a motor vehicle
64 for the purpose of:

65 (a) Switching between two or more license plates to permit
66 a motor vehicle operator to change the license plate displayed
67 on the motor vehicle;

68 (b) Hiding a license plate from view by flipping the
69 license plate so that the license plate number is not visible;

70 (c) Covering, obscuring, or otherwise interfering with the
71 legibility, angular visibility, or detectability of the primary
72 features or details, including the license plate number or
73 validation sticker, on the license plate; or

74 (d) Interfering with the ability to record the primary
75 features or details, including the license plate number or

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76 validation sticker, on the license plate.

77 (2) A person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,
78 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, if he or she
79 purchases or possesses a license plate obscuring device.

80 (3) A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
81 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, if he or she
82 manufactures, sells, offers to sell, or otherwise distributes a
83 license plate obscuring device.

84 (4) A person commits a felony of the third degree,
85 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084,
86 if he or she uses a license plate obscuring device to assist in
87 committing a crime or in escaping from or avoiding detection or
88 arrest in connection with committing such crime.

89 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.