

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 699](#)

TITLE: Noncriminal Traffic Infractions Causing Vehicle Crashes

SPONSOR(S): Melo

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1210](#) (Martin)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

14 Y, 0 N



[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires a mandatory hearing and additional penalties for a person who commits certain traffic infractions relating to red lights; stop intersections; or pedestrian crossings and crashes into another vehicle.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on state revenues and an indeterminate fiscal impact on the private sector.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires a [mandatory hearing](#) for a person who commits one of the following traffic infractions that results in a crash with another vehicle:

- A driver running a red light or stop sign.
- A driver failing to stop for a pedestrian.
- A driver failing to yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that has entered the intersection from another highway or is approaching to closely on such highway as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time that the driver is moving across or within the intersection.
- A driver at a four-way stop intersection failing to yield the right-of-way to traffic already in the intersection; or if arriving at the same time failing to yield to the vehicle on the right. (Section [2](#))

The bill provides additional penalties for any person who is required to appear for such mandatory hearing and is found to have committed one or more of the violations:

- First offense: A fine of \$500.
- Second offense: A fine of \$1,000 and the suspension of his or her driver license for six months.
- Third and subsequent offense: A fine of \$1,000 and the suspension of his or her driver license for one year. (Section [1](#))

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

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill may have an indeterminate positive impact on state revenues by increasing the fines for a person who commits certain traffic infractions that result in a crash with another vehicle.

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DATE: 3/18/2025

PRIVATE SECTOR:

Indeterminate. The bill may increase costs to a person who commits certain traffic infractions that result in a crash with another vehicle.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Red Lights

Running a Red Light

Current law provides that a driver facing a steady red traffic control signal (red light) at an intersection must stop at the stop line; however, if the intersection does not have a stop line the driver must stop before entering the crosswalk and, further, if there is no crosswalk, the vehicle must stop at the point nearest to the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic.¹ A driver that is stopped at a red light in obedience to a steady red traffic control may make a:

- Right turn, if such driver yields the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic.²
- Left turn into a one-way street that has traffic moving to the left, if such driver yields the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic.³

Running a red light is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation.⁴ The statutory base fine is \$158,⁵ but with additional fees and surcharges, the total penalty may be up to \$256.⁶ A suspension of license is not required for such infraction.⁷

Stopping for Pedestrians

A driver facing a red light is required by law to stop before entering the crosswalk and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian, with a permitted signal, to cross a roadway when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk and is on the same half of the roadway as the driver or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.⁸

A violation of the above law relating to stopping for pedestrians is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation.⁹ The statutory base fine is \$60,¹⁰ but with additional fees and surcharges, the total penalty may be up to \$158.¹¹ A suspension of license is not required for such infraction.¹²

Stop Signs at Intersections

Current law provides that, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic control signal, every driver approaching an intersection with a stop sign must stop at the clearly marked stop line¹³ before entering the intersection.¹⁴ After having stopped, the driver must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that has entered the intersection from another highway or that is approaching so closely on such highway as to constitute an immediate

¹ S. [316.075\(1\)\(c\)1, F.S.](#)

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ S. [316.075\(4\), F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [318.18\(16\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁶ Florida Clerks & Comptrollers, [Distribution Schedule of Court-Related Filing Fees, Service Charges, Costs and Fines, Including a Fee Schedule for Recording \(Effective July 1, 2024\)](#), p. 50 (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

⁷ DHSMV, [Appendix C](#), p. 3 (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

⁸ S. [316.075\(1\)\(c\)2, F.S.](#)

⁹ S. [316.075\(4\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ S. [318.18\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹¹ Florida Clerks & Comptrollers, [Distribution Schedule of Court-Related Filing Fees, Service Charges, Costs and Fines, Including a Fee Schedule for Recording \(Effective July 1, 2024\)](#), p. 48 (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

¹² DHSMV, [Appendix C](#), p. 3 (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

¹³ Section [316.123\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#), provides that if there is no clearly marked stop sign, then a driver must stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway.

¹⁴ *Id.*

hazard during the time when the driver is moving across the intersection.¹⁵ At a four-way stop intersection, the driver of the first vehicle to arrive at the intersection is required to be the first to proceed. If two or more vehicles reach the four-way stop intersection at the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.¹⁶

A violation of the above laws relating to stopping and yielding at an intersection is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation.¹⁷ The statutory base fine is \$60,¹⁸ but with additional fees and surcharges, the total penalty may be up to \$158.¹⁹ A suspension of license is not required for such infraction.²⁰

Mandatory Hearing

A person must appear before a designated official for a mandatory hearing if he or she commits a traffic infraction resulting:

- In a crash that causes the death of another.
- In a crash that causes a serious bodily injury of another.²¹

At the mandatory hearing, if the designated official determines that the person committed an infraction that caused serious bodily injury to another person, the designated official must impose a civil penalty of \$500, in addition to any other penalties, and the person’s driver license must be suspended for three months. If a designated official determines that the person committed an infraction that caused the death of another person, the designated official must impose a civil penalty of \$1,000, in addition to any other penalties, and the person’s driver license must be suspended for six months.²²

BILL HISTORY				
COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Government Operations Subcommittee State Affairs Committee	14 Y, 0 N	3/18/2025	Toliver	Walker

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ S. [316.123\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

¹⁷ S. [316.123\(4\), F.S.](#)

¹⁸ S. [318.18\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹⁹ Florida Clerks & Comptrollers, [Distribution Schedule of Court-Related Filing Fees, Service Charges, Costs and Fines, Including a Fee Schedule for Recording \(Effective July 1, 2024\)](#), p. 48 (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

²⁰ DHSMV, [Appendix C](#), p. 5 (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

²¹ S. [318.19, F.S.](#)

²² S. [318.14\(5\), F.S.](#)