

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to noncriminal traffic infractions
3 resulting in vehicle crashes; amending s. 318.14,
4 F.S.; providing specified penalties for certain
5 infractions which resulted in a crash with another
6 vehicle; amending s. 318.19, F.S.; requiring a hearing
7 for certain infractions which resulted in a crash with
8 another vehicle; amending s. 324.023, F.S.; requiring
9 persons convicted of certain infractions which
10 resulted in a crash with another vehicle to carry
11 higher bodily injury or death coverage limits for a
12 specified time period; providing an exception;
13 providing an effective date.

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

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17 **Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 318.14, Florida**
18 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

19 318.14 Noncriminal traffic infractions; exception;
20 procedures.—

21 (5) (a) Any person electing to appear before the designated
22 official or who is required to appear shall be deemed to have
23 waived his or her right to the civil penalty provisions of s.
24 318.18. The official, after a hearing, shall make a
25 determination as to whether an infraction has been committed. If

26 | the commission of an infraction has been proven, the official
27 | may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$500, except that in
28 | cases involving unlawful speed in a school zone or involving
29 | unlawful speed in a construction zone, the civil penalty may not
30 | exceed \$1,000; or require attendance at a driver improvement
31 | school, or both.

32 | (b)1. If the person is required to appear before the
33 | designated official pursuant to s. 318.19(1) and is found to
34 | have committed the infraction, the designated official shall
35 | impose a civil penalty of \$1,000 in addition to any other
36 | penalties and the person's driver license shall be suspended for
37 | 6 months.

38 | 2. If the person is required to appear before the
39 | designated official pursuant to s. 318.19(1) and is found to
40 | have committed the infraction against a vulnerable road user as
41 | defined in s. 316.027(1), the designated official shall impose a
42 | civil penalty of not less than \$5,000 in addition to any other
43 | penalties, the person's driver license shall be suspended for 1
44 | year, and the person shall be required to attend a department-
45 | approved driver improvement course relating to the rights of
46 | vulnerable road users relative to vehicles on the roadway as
47 | provided in s. 322.0261(2).

48 | (c)1. If the person is required to appear before the
49 | designated official pursuant to s. 318.19(2) and is found to
50 | have committed the infraction, the designated official shall

51 impose a civil penalty of \$500 in addition to any other
52 penalties and the person's driver license shall be suspended for
53 3 months.

54 2. If the person is required to appear before the
55 designated official pursuant to s. 318.19(2) and is found to
56 have committed the infraction against a vulnerable road user as
57 defined in s. 316.027(1), the designated official shall impose a
58 civil penalty of not less than \$1,500 in addition to any other
59 penalties, the person's driver license shall be suspended for 3
60 months, and the person shall be required to attend a department-
61 approved driver improvement course relating to the rights of
62 vulnerable road users relative to vehicles on the roadway as
63 provided in s. 322.0261(2).

64 (d) If the person is required to appear before the
65 designated official pursuant to s. 318.19(7) and is found to
66 have committed an infraction of s. 316.075(1)(c) or s.
67 316.123(2):

68 1. Except as provided in subparagraphs 2. and 3., the
69 designated official shall impose a civil penalty of \$500 in
70 addition to any other penalties.

71 2. A second time, the designated official shall impose a
72 civil penalty of \$1,000 in addition to any other penalties and
73 the person's driver license shall be suspended for 6 months.

74 3. A third or subsequent time, the designated official
75 shall impose a civil penalty of \$1,000 in addition to any other

penalties and the person's driver license shall be suspended for
1 year.

(e) If the official determines that no infraction has been committed, no costs or penalties shall be imposed and any costs or penalties that have been paid shall be returned.

(f) Moneys received from the mandatory civil penalties imposed pursuant to this subsection upon persons required to appear before a designated official pursuant to s. 318.19(1), ~~or~~ (2), or (7) shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue and deposited into the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund to provide financial support to certified trauma centers to assure the availability and accessibility of trauma services throughout the state. Funds deposited into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund under this section shall be allocated as follows:

1.~~(a)~~ Fifty percent shall be allocated equally among all Level I, Level II, and pediatric trauma centers in recognition of readiness costs for maintaining trauma services.

2.~~(b)~~ Fifty percent shall be allocated among Level I, Level II, and pediatric trauma centers based on each center's relative volume of trauma cases as calculated using the hospital discharge data collected pursuant to s. 408.061.

Section 2. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 318.19, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

318.19 Infractions requiring a mandatory hearing.—Any person cited for the infractions listed in this section shall not have the provisions of s. 318.14(2), (4), and (9) available to him or her but must appear before the designated official at the time and location of the scheduled hearing:

(5) Any infraction of s. 316.183(2), s. 316.187, or s. 316.189 of exceeding the speed limit by 30 mph or more; ~~or~~

(6) Any infraction of s. 316.1926(2); or

(7) Any infraction of s. 316.075(1)(c) or s. 316.123(2) which resulted in a crash with another vehicle as defined in s. 316.003.

Section 3. Section 324.023, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

324.023 Financial responsibility for bodily injury or death.—

(1) In addition to any other financial responsibility required by law, every owner or operator of a motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this state, or that is located within this state, and who:—

(a) Regardless of adjudication of guilt, has been found guilty of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a charge of driving under the influence under s. 316.193 after October 1, 2007; or

(b) Is found to have committed an infraction of s. 316.075(1)(c) or s. 316.123(2) which resulted in a crash with

126 another vehicle as defined in s. 316.003,

127
128 shall, by one of the methods established in s. 324.031(1) or
129 (2), establish and maintain the ability to respond in damages
130 for liability on account of accidents arising out of the use of
131 a motor vehicle in the amount of \$100,000 because of bodily
132 injury to, or death of, one person in any one crash and, subject
133 to such limits for one person, in the amount of \$300,000 because
134 of bodily injury to, or death of, two or more persons in any one
135 crash and in the amount of \$50,000 because of property damage in
136 any one crash. If the owner or operator chooses to establish and
137 maintain such ability by furnishing a certificate of deposit
138 pursuant to s. 324.031(2), such certificate of deposit must be
139 at least \$350,000. An owner or operator convicted under
140 paragraph (a) must carry such higher limits ~~must be carried~~ for
141 at least a minimum period of 3 years. An owner or operator
142 convicted under paragraph (b) must carry such higher limits for
143 at least 1 year.

144 (2) If ~~an~~ the owner or operator convicted under paragraph
145 (1)(a) has not been convicted of driving under the influence or
146 a felony traffic offense for at least a period of 3 years after
147 ~~from~~ the date of reinstatement of driving privileges for a
148 violation of s. 316.193, the owner or operator is ~~shall be~~
149 exempt from this section.

150 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect October 1, 2026.