

Modernizing Florida Motor Carrier Licensing, Fuel Tax Administration, and Crash Reporting Requirements

SB 488 – Sen. Ralph Massullo Jr. (HB 937 – Rep. Taylor Yarkosky)

General Bill Summary

Senate Bill 488 updates several provisions related to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), motor carrier regulation, and transportation administration.

The bill revises the regulation of motor carriers operating qualified commercial motor vehicles in Florida by requiring licensure under the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) rather than simple registration with DHSMV for certain interstate motor carriers. It also updates provisions governing fuel tax decals, tax reporting requirements, and administrative oversight of motor carriers and fuel distributors.

The legislation modifies motor fuel use tax administration, including updated due dates and verification authority for tax returns submitted by motor carriers, motor fuel retail dealers, and wholesale distributors. The Department is authorized to inspect records necessary to verify tax reporting compliance.

SB 488 also updates various driver licensing and vehicle administration provisions, including allowing DHSMV to provide certain notices and orders electronically by email. The bill further revises the property damage threshold that requires drivers to report a crash to law enforcement, adjusts vehicle registration requirements such as proof of a Florida address, and updates several definitions and cross-references within transportation statutes.

Overall, the bill primarily modernizes administrative processes within DHSMV and updates statutory language governing commercial motor carriers, vehicle registration, and transportation enforcement.

Potential County Impact

The bill's impacts on county governments are expected to be limited and primarily operational, but several provisions may affect county functions related to transportation and law enforcement.

County sheriff's offices and local law enforcement agencies may experience changes related to the revised crash reporting threshold. If the property damage amount that triggers mandatory law enforcement notification changes, counties could see either a modest reduction or increase in crash responses depending on the threshold level set in statute.

County tax collectors, who act as agents of DHSMV for vehicle registration and licensing services, may need to implement updated procedures related to vehicle registration requirements, including verification of Florida addresses and acceptable documentation.

Additionally, the bill's modernization of electronic communications and administrative processes at DHSMV may indirectly affect county operations through updated notification procedures, electronic documentation, or coordination with the state regarding licensing or enforcement matters.

Because most provisions apply to state-level administration of motor carrier licensing and fuel tax compliance, the fiscal impact to counties is expected to be minimal. However, counties involved in transportation enforcement or tax collector services may need to update procedures or training to align with the statutory changes.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 207.001, F.S.
- s. 207.002, F.S.
- s. 207.003, F.S.
- s. 207.004, F.S.
- s. 207.013, F.S.
- s. 207.019, F.S.
- s. 316.065, F.S.
- s. 318.15, F.S.
- s. 320.02, F.S.
- s. 320.95, F.S.
- s. 322.01, F.S.
- s. 322.08, F.S.
- s. 322.18, F.S.