

SB 1328 – Fines and Fees (Similar HB 903)

This bill amends s. 318.15, F.S., removing language which states that a person who fails to comply with civil penalties provided within a specified time period, fails to enter into or comply with the terms of a penalty payment plan, fails to attend driver improvement school, or fails to appear at a scheduled hearing will have his or her license suspended. S. 322.245, F.S. is also amended, removing language which provides for the suspension of one's license after failure to pay any financial obligation in any criminal case other than those specified in chapters 316, 320, or 322. Under both s. 318.15, F.S. and s. 322.245, F.S., new language requires that a person whose driver license was suspended only for nonpayment prior to July 1, 2020 can get the license reinstated upon payment of the reinstatement fee.

Per DOC, in FY 18-19, there were 340 new commitments to prison for driving with a suspended license. Given the specificity of when the Level 1, 3rd degree felony applies under s. 322.34, F.S., and that one must have been charged with it three or more times, as well as not knowing how many people impacted by this bill would eventually be charged with this felony, the prison bed impact cannot be quantified.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Negative Indeterminate

Requested by: Senate