

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the payment of tolls; amending s.
 3 338.155, F.S.; exempting drivers of public school
 4 buses and district-owned vehicles on official district
 5 business from payment of tolls at tollgates, bridges,
 6 and ferries; providing an effective date.

7
 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9
 10 Section 1. Section 338.155, Florida Statutes, is amended
 11 to read:

12 338.155 Payment of toll on toll facilities required;
 13 exemptions.—

14 (1) A person may not use any toll facility without payment
 15 of tolls, except employees of the agency operating the toll
 16 project when using the toll facility on official state business,
 17 state military personnel while on official military business,
 18 handicapped persons as provided in this section, persons exempt
 19 from toll payment by the authorizing resolution for bonds issued
 20 to finance the facility, persons driving a public school bus or
 21 other school-district-owned vehicle on official district
 22 business as provided in this section, and persons exempt on a
 23 temporary basis where use of such toll facility is required as a
 24 detour route. A ~~Any~~ law enforcement officer operating a marked
 25 official vehicle is exempt from toll payment when on official
 26 law enforcement business. A ~~Any~~ person operating a fire vehicle

27 when on official business or a rescue vehicle when on official
28 business is exempt from toll payment. A ~~Any~~ person participating
29 in the funeral procession of a law enforcement officer or
30 firefighter killed in the line of duty is exempt from toll
31 payment. The Secretary of Transportation or the secretary's
32 designee may suspend the payment of tolls on a toll facility
33 when necessary to assist in emergency evacuation. ~~The~~ Failure to
34 pay a prescribed toll is ~~constitutes~~ a noncriminal traffic
35 infraction, punishable as a moving violation as provided in s.
36 318.18. The department may adopt rules relating to the payment,
37 collection, and enforcement of tolls, as authorized in this
38 chapter and chapters 316, 318, 320, and 322, including, but not
39 limited to, rules for the implementation of video or other image
40 billing and variable pricing. With respect to toll facilities
41 managed by the department, the revenues of which are not pledged
42 to repayment of bonds, the department may by rule allow the use
43 of such facilities by public transit vehicles or by vehicles
44 participating in a funeral procession for an active-duty
45 military service member without the payment of tolls.

46 (2) A ~~Any~~ person driving an automobile or other vehicle
47 belonging to the Department of Military Affairs used for
48 transporting military personnel, stores, and property, when
49 properly identified, shall, ~~together~~ with any such conveyance
50 and military personnel and property of the state in his or her
51 charge, be allowed to pass free through all tollgates and over
52 all toll bridges and ferries in this state.

53 (3) A ~~Any~~ handicapped person who has a valid driver
 54 ~~driver's~~ license, who operates a vehicle specially equipped for
 55 use by the handicapped, and who is certified by a physician
 56 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or by comparable
 57 licensing in another state or by the Adjudication Office of the
 58 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor
 59 as being severely physically disabled and having permanent upper
 60 limb mobility or dexterity impairments that ~~which~~ substantially
 61 impair the person's ability to deposit coins in toll baskets,
 62 shall be allowed to pass free through all tollgates and over all
 63 toll bridges and ferries in this state. A person who meets the
 64 requirements of this subsection shall, upon application, be
 65 issued a vehicle window sticker by the Department of
 66 Transportation.

67 (4) A person driving a public school bus as defined in s.
 68 1006.25 or driving a district-owned vehicle for another public
 69 purpose pursuant to s. 1006.261 shall be allowed to pass free
 70 through all tollgates and over all toll bridges and ferries in
 71 this state.

72 ~~(5)-(4)~~ A copy of this section shall be posted at each toll
 73 bridge and on each ferry.

74 ~~(6)-(5)~~ The department ~~of Transportation~~ shall provide
 75 envelopes for voluntary payments of tolls by those persons
 76 exempted from the payment of tolls pursuant to this section. The
 77 department shall accept any voluntary payments made by exempt
 78 persons.

HB 1331

2014

79 | (7)~~(6)~~ Personal identifying information provided to,
80 | acquired by, or in the possession of the Department of
81 | Transportation, a county, or an expressway authority for the
82 | purpose of using a credit card, charge card, or check for the
83 | prepayment of electronic toll facilities charges to the
84 | department, a county, or an expressway authority is exempt from
85 | s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

86 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.