



Bill Summary: Road Rage Amendments (H.B. 30 – 2nd Substitute)

Prepared For: Rep. Cutler | Policy Analyst: Rachel Brooks | January 31, 2024

OLRGC is a nonpartisan staff office of the Legislature, and the contents of this document should not be considered support for or opposition to the legislation. This document is a high-level summary and may not include an exhaustive list of all proposed changes contained in the legislation.

Summary

The goal of this legislation is to deter road rage behaviors by increasing the penalty for such behaviors. This bill defines road rage and creates a criminal enhancement for road rage offenses. This legislation creates the Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account and appropriates \$50,000 ongoing beginning in Fiscal Year 2025. The account is subject to legislative review in three years.

Background

The Transportation Interim Committee spent considerable time studying road rage and aggressive driving during the 2023 Interim.

At the [June 14, 2023 meeting](#), the Transportation Interim Committee heard statistics from the Department of Public Safety and comments from stakeholders, including law enforcement and prosecutors, on the issue. The committee also voted to open a committee bill file to study the issue further.

At the [October 11, 2023 meeting](#), Rep. Cutler and Utah Highway Patrol presented to the Transportation Interim Committee potential options for legislation, including creating a new road rage crime or pursuing an enhancement for existing crimes that met the threshold of road rage.

At the [November 15, 2023 meeting](#), the Transportation Interim Committee reviewed the draft legislation, heard from additional stakeholders, and voted to approve [2024FL664 "Road Rage Amendments"](#) as a committee bill.

Proposed Changes in this Bill

- Line 379: Define road rage to allow for better tracking by law enforcement
 - "Road rage event" means the commission of a criminal offense:
 - (i) by an operator or passenger of a vehicle;
 - (ii) in response to an incident that occurs or escalates upon a roadway; and
 - (iii) with the intent to endanger or intimidate an individual in another vehicle.
- Line 403: Allows for law enforcement officer discretionary tow of a motor vehicle engaged in a road rage event, or mandatory tow if a firearm was used
- Line 712: Creates the Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, which sunsets July 1, 2028
- Line 767: Allows the Driver License Division to revoke a driver license for an individual convicted of two or more road rage offenses in one year
- Line 1027: Creates a criminal enhancement for road rage offenses (does not criminalize any new behaviors)
- Line 1043: Creates mandatory minimum fines for road rage events
- Line 1096: Includes motor vehicle in the aggravated assault statute
- Line 1154: Requires the courts to report to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee annually
- Line 1170: Appropriates \$50,000 ongoing from the General Fund to the Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account beginning in Fiscal Year 2025