



## Sheriffs Support Turning Down Loud Car Stereos

Section 316.3045, F.S, prohibits a motor vehicle from producing sound that is plainly audible at a distance of 25 feet from the vehicle. HB 1019 and SB 634 propose to amend s. 316.3045, F.S., in response to the Florida Supreme Court's ruling in *State v. Catalano* that recently found the statute to be unconstitutional and invalid. The statute currently exempts political and commercial speech from being charged as a nonmoving violation. The Court found this to be a violation of the First Amendment as it restricts freedom of expression by penalizing one type of speech but not another.

Until that language is amended, the law will remain invalid and unenforceable. This law is very important to our residents. Sheriffs' Offices throughout Florida receive hundreds of complaints annually regarding loud music emitted from in-car stereo systems.

HB 1019 and SB 634 remove the language found to be unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court, which makes the law applicable to all types of speech and allows the law to be enforced by law enforcement. The bills also remove terms such as "louder than necessary" and "convenient hearing," which are vague terms and difficult to enforce. HB 1019 and SB 634 keep the current exemption for law enforcement and other emergency vehicles, and allow local governments to establish further restrictions if they see fit.

These high volume stereo systems impact communities located near beaches, parks, city centers and other public areas. Motorists who drive near vehicles utilizing stereo systems are affected by the noise and vibration created by this loud music. The noise can create a driving distraction and also make it difficult to hear emergency vehicle tones and sirens. The drivers of the vehicles utilizing these systems would have even greater difficulty in hearing the same emergency vehicle tones and sirens.

Florida Sheriffs believe that the noise created by these in-car stereo systems not only disrupts our communities and neighborhoods, but it creates potentially hazardous driving situations on our local and state roadways.

**Vote YES on HB 1019 by Representative Rader & SB 634 by Senator Simpson**

