

321.344A Reported violations for failure to stop at a railroad crossing — citations.

1. The employee of a railroad who observes a violation of section 321.341, 321.342, 321.343, or 321.344 may prepare a written report on a form provided by the department of public safety indicating that a violation has occurred. The railroad employee may deliver the report not more than seventy-two hours after the violation occurred to a peace officer of the state or a peace officer of the county or municipality in which the violation occurred. The report shall state the time and the location at which the violation occurred and shall include the registration plate number and a description of the vehicle involved in the violation.

2. A peace officer may initiate an investigation not more than seven calendar days after receiving a report of a violation pursuant to this section. The peace officer may request that the owner of the vehicle supply information identifying the driver of the vehicle in accordance with section 321.484, or in the case of a commercial motor vehicle, the peace officer may request that the employer of the driver provide information identifying the driver of the vehicle.

a. If from the investigation, the peace officer is able to identify the driver of the vehicle and has reasonable cause to believe a violation has occurred, the peace officer shall prepare a uniform traffic citation for the violation and shall serve it personally or by certified mail on the driver of the vehicle.

b. If, from the investigation, the peace officer has reasonable cause to believe that a violation occurred but is unable to identify the driver, the peace officer shall serve a uniform traffic citation for the violation on the owner of the motor vehicle or, in the case of a commercial motor vehicle, on the employer of the driver. Notwithstanding section 321.484, in a proceeding where the peace officer who conducted the investigation was not able to identify the driver of the motor vehicle, proof that the motor vehicle described in the uniform traffic citation was used to commit the violation of section 321.341, 321.342, 321.343, or 321.344, together with proof that the defendant named in the citation was the owner of the motor vehicle or, in the case of a commercial motor vehicle, the employer of the driver, at the time the violation occurred, constitutes a permissible inference that the owner or employer was the person who committed the violation.

c. For purposes of this subsection, “owner” means a person who holds the legal title to a motor vehicle; however, if the motor vehicle is the subject of a security agreement with a right of possession in the debtor, the debtor shall be deemed the owner for purposes of this subsection, or if the motor vehicle is leased as defined in section 321.493, the lessee shall be deemed the owner for purposes of this subsection.

92 Acts, ch 1152, §1; 2005 Acts, ch 92, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1021, §12