

ROLES OF THE GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY (GR) AND STATE SAFETY OFFICE



Introduction

23 CFR 1300.4 provides roles and rules for the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety. That rule states:

§ 1300.4 State Highway Safety Agency - authority and functions.

- (a) ***In general.*** In order for a State to receive grant funds under this part, the Governor shall exercise responsibility for the highway safety program by appointing a Governor's Representative for Highway Safety who shall be responsible for a State Highway Safety Agency that has adequate powers and is suitably equipped and organized to carry out the State's highway safety program.

- (b) ***Authority.*** Each State Highway Safety Agency shall be authorized to -
 - (1) Develop and execute the Highway Safety Plan and highway safety program in the State
 - (2) Manage Federal grant funds effectively and efficiently and in accordance with all Federal and State requirements
 - (3) Obtain information about highway safety programs and projects administered by other State and local agencies
 - (4) Maintain or have access to information contained in State highway safety data systems, including crash, citation or adjudication, emergency medical services/injury surveillance, roadway and vehicle record keeping systems, and driver license data
 - (5) Periodically review and comment to the Governor on the effectiveness of programs to improve highway safety in the State from all funding sources that the State plans to use for such purposes
 - (6) Provide financial and technical assistance to other State agencies and political subdivisions to develop and carry out highway safety strategies and projects
 - (7) Establish and maintain adequate staffing to effectively plan, manage, and provide oversight of projects approved in the HSP and to properly administer the expenditure of Federal grant funds

Roles

GR - Assistant Secretary of Engineering and Operations

- Provides the leadership to carry out the state's highway safety program, as required by state and federal laws.
- Annually approves the Highway Safety Plan (HSP).
- Annually signs HSP Appendix A - Certification and assurances for highway safety grants.
- Annually signs HSP Appendix B - Application requirements for section 405 grants.
- Annually signs the Seat Belt Survey Results and Certification.

Chief Safety Officer

- Promotes highway safety in the state by developing constituencies for various highway safety issues and uses these constituencies to support legislation and programs.
- Drafts, reviews, and contributes to new and revised legislation involving traffic safety at federal and state levels.
- Represents the state in on-going relations with federal agencies, including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the National Transportation Safety Board as related to traffic safety matters.
- Maintains liaison with membership and staff of the Governors Highway Safety Association and provides information as requested to assist that organization with its broad programs involving Congressional Committees and safety grant legislation, hearings, reports, and periodic questionnaires on national or local issues.
- Maintains liaison with staff and membership of the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Sheriffs Association, and Florida Police Chiefs Association and provides information as requested to assist the organizations with its programs involving traffic safety.
- Develops responses to outside correspondence dealing with transportation safety activity issues and programs in the state.
- Develops, implements & evaluates a statewide strategic highway safety planning process that includes all elements of safety—education, enforcement, and engineering, and involves all highway safety partners.
- Provides a forum within the state for discussion of highway safety issues by all highway safety partners through the establishment of task forces, partnerships, coalitions, and public forums.

- Encourages the development of new behavioral programs that address the state's highway safety concerns by actively seeking out new community and business partners, and new ideas.
- Provides substantial coordination, collaboration, and negotiation with federal, state, local agencies and non-profit organizations in the "4E" disciplines of engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services, as well as others such as the health care community, the judiciary, and prosecuting attorneys.

Traffic Safety Administrator

- Directs the implementation of the State and Community Highway Traffic Safety Grant Program authorized by Section 402 of Title 23, U.S. Code to assure that the state qualifies for all available federal safety funds.
- Provides oversight of implementation of projects and programs, including the issuance and management of grants, monitoring fund balances, revision to the program, project close-outs at the end of the federal fiscal year, and preparation of the annual evaluation report and submission to NHTSA by the established deadline.
- Develops partnerships with various government and private agencies to assure that highway safety data is collected, analyzed, and made available for strategic planning, to partners and to the public.
- Coordinates with highway safety partners to encourage statewide participation on national highway safety initiatives such as Click It or Ticket, Child Passenger Safety, Drive Sober or Get Pulled, Work Zone Safety, etc.
- Serves and actively participates on many coalitions (traffic or injury related), such as the FDOT traffic safety coalitions, MADD, injury prevention, law enforcement liaisons, and others.
- Seeks assistance and guidelines from NHTSA and FHWA in the interpretation of federal funding regulations and grant eligibility restrictions.
- Participates in transportation safety conferences, meetings, and workshops to maintain current knowledge of safety program efforts in other states, cities, and counties. Also represents issues and programs underway in the state for other states.
- Annually certifies the Maintenance of Effort certification for the state
- Appoints the statewide Drug Recognition Expert/Drug Evaluation and Classification Coordinator for the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- Assists with the coordination of Florida's hosting of national safety conferences and meetings, such as Lifesavers, the annual meeting of the Governor's Highway Safety Association, the National Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Conferences, etc.

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