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FINAL

**BOOST THE FINE
OUR POSITION: MOTORISTS WHO RUN RED LIGHTS DESERVE A MUCH TOUGHER PENALTY**

Increasing the fine for motorists who run red lights deserves the support of Florida lawmakers, who are preparing for next year's session.

Red-light running is a major public safety problem in Central Florida.

In late October, a red-light runner killed two girls who were crossing the street with their mother. Yet counties are required to charge a fine of only \$65 for that offense. That's appalling. Motorists who exceed the speed limit by 15 mph face a \$125 fine. Certainly red-light running is as dangerous as speeding.

Yet for two years, proposals to increase red-light-running fines up to \$125 haven't gotten through the Legislature. Approval can deter red-light runners. The increase would help financially struggling hospital trauma centers that treat car-crash victims.