

**Date:** 10/01/2005 **Publication:** Miami Herald

---

## **NEW LEGISLATION**

### **Shoot-first law, stiffer fines kick in today**

[Beth Reinhard](#)

Miami Herald Miami

**BY BETH REINHARD** [breinhard@herald.com](mailto:breinhard@herald.com)

An ad campaign by gun-control advocates is warning Floridians about a new law that allows victims to shoot first in self-defense.

But that's not the only law to take effect today. An additional 33 rules and regulations will go into effect. Here's one to remember:

Fines for running red lights will increase to \$125 from \$60. The additional money will go to medical centers that treat trauma victims.

Other new laws that take effect today in Florida:

- Prohibit intentionally harming dogs or horses used by police, firefighters or search-and-rescue teams. Offenders must pay for medical treatment or a new animal if it can no longer perform its duties.
- Require that drunk drivers with suspended or revoked licenses renew their vehicle registrations every six months, rather than every year, once they can drive again.
- Allow prosecutors to charge an assailant with murdering an "unborn quick child" in some cases when a pregnant woman is killed. Previously, a person who kills a pregnant woman could be charged only with manslaughter for the death of her fetus.

The law doesn't define quick child, but courts have said it is when the mother can feel the fetus moving.

- Require cigarette importers and manufacturers to get a permit and pay an annual fee of \$100, in an effort to curtail unlawful trafficking of untaxed cigarettes. A recent report said illegal cigarettes were the top seized product in the United States.
- Increase the penalty for drag-racing from a second-degree to a first-degree misdemeanor. Offenders could spend up to one year in jail the first time they get caught and lose their cars the second time.

Most of the laws passed earlier this year took effect July 1.