

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1631

An act relating to Challenger license plates; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; revising language with respect to the distribution of the Challenger license plate funds; providing for the use of such funds; providing for the expiration of authority for issuance of such license plates; amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; authorizing a reduction in the annual use fee for bulk purchasers of such license plates; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(2) CHALLENGER LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) The department shall develop a Challenger license plate to commemorate the seven astronauts who died when the space shuttle Challenger exploded on liftoff in 1986. The word “Florida” shall appear at the top of the plate, and the word “Challenger” must appear at the bottom of the plate, both words in small letters.

~~(b)1.~~

~~a.~~ Fifty percent of the Challenger license plate annual use fee must be distributed to the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc., to support the operations of deposited into the Center for Space Education and the Education Technology Institute. Funds received by the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc., may be used for administrative costs directly associated with the operation of the center and the institute. Trust Fund within the Department of Education. These funds must be used solely for the design, construction, maintenance, and support of the operations of the Center for Space Education and the Education Technology Institute operated by the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc. These operations must include pre-service and inservice training in the use of technology for the state’s instructional personnel in a manner consistent with state training programs and approved by the Department of Education. Up to 20 percent of funds received by the Center for Space Education and the Education Technology Institute from the Center for Space Education Trust Fund may be expended for administrative costs directly associated with the operation of the center and the institute.

~~b.~~ Upon approval of the Department of Education, funds must be transferred from the Center for Space Education Trust Fund to the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc., solely to design, construct, maintain, and support the operations of the Center for Space Education and the Education

Technology Institute. A request for the transfer of funds must include information relating to specific plans for disbursing the funds. Before expending funds from their account, the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc., must request approval from the Department of Education, as if the funds were in the Department of Education's trust fund.

2.— Subparagraph 1. is repealed July 1, 1997. After the date of repeal, the funds distributed pursuant to subparagraph 1. shall be distributed to the Challenger Astronauts Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Trust Fund created in s. 240.408.

3.— Twenty-five percent of the Challenger license plate annual use fee must be distributed to the Challenger Astronauts Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Trust Fund, for use as provided by s. 240.408.

(c) Fifty 4.—The remaining 25 percent must be distributed to the Technological Research and Development Authority created by s. 2, chapter 87-455, Laws of Florida, for the purpose of funding space-related space research grants, the Teacher/Quest Scholarship Program under s. 240.4082 as approved by the Florida Department of Education, and space-related economic development programs. The Technological Research and Development Authority shall coordinate and distribute available resources among state universities and independent colleges and universities based on the research strengths of such institutions in space science technology, community colleges, public school districts, and not-for-profit educational organizations.

(d) Up to 10 percent of the funds distributed under paragraphs (b) and (c) may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate.

(e)5. The Auditor General has the authority to examine any and all records pertaining to the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, Inc., and the Technological Research and Development Authority to determine compliance with the law.

(f) This subsection expires July 1, 2001.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

(4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

(b) Challenger license plate, \$15, except that a person that purchases 1,000 or more Challenger license plates shall pay an annual use fee of \$10 per plate.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 30, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1997.