

CHAPTER 98-72

Senate Bill No. 790

An act relating to license plates; amending ss. 320.08056, 320.08058, F.S.; creating an Everglades River of Grass license plate; providing for the distribution of annual use fees received from the sale of such plates; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (t) is added to subsection (4) of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

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

(t) Everglades River of Grass license plate, \$20.

Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(20) EVERGLADES RIVER OF GRASS LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) The department shall develop an Everglades River of Grass license plate as provided in this section. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate, and the words “Everglades River of Grass” must appear at the bottom of the plate. A roseate spoonbill bird standing beside mangroves must appear on the plate.

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the Everglades Trust Fund established by Article X, Section 17 of the State Constitution and administered by the South Florida Water Management District and used for the conservation and protection of the natural resources and abatement of water pollution in the Everglades. The funds must be used for Everglades conservation and restoration projects in accordance with state contracting and purchasing procedures with the following restrictions:

1. Fifty percent of the fees must be used for Everglades research.
2. The fees may not be used for administrative salaries or other overhead within the district or for any general coordination fees or overhead expenses out of the district.
3. Revenues generated by these fees may not be used as replacement funds for Surface Water Improvement and Management Act funds or Everglades Forever Act Funds.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 1998.