

CHAPTER 98-77

Senate Bill No. 1306

An act relating to license plates; amending ss. 320.08056, 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Protect Wild Dolphins 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) Protect Wild Dolphins license plate, \$20.

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

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(20) PROTECT WILD DOLPHINS LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) The department shall develop a Protect Wild Dolphins license plate as provided in this section. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate, and the words “Protect Wild Dolphins” may appear at the bottom of the plate.

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., to fund wild dolphins related research. The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. shall distribute available resources for research of the wild Florida Bottlenose Dolphin. Up to 15 percent of the funds received by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. may be expended for administrative costs directly associated with the operations of the institution. Up to 10 percent of the funds distributed may be used by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate. The remainder of the funds must be used to collect, analyze, and archive scientific data regarding the wild dolphin population in Florida waters; provide care and assistance to stranded wild dolphins; distribute information to the scientific community, federal, state, and local government agencies, educational institutions, and the public for the purpose of protecting and preserving wild dolphins; individually identify wild dolphins through a photographic identification program; and advance the research technology associated with tracking and categorizing wild dolphins.

(c) The Auditor General may examine any records of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., and any other organization that receives funds from the sale of this plate, to determine compliance with law.

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.