

House Bill No. 509

An act relating to license plates; amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Choose Life license plate; providing for the distribution of annual use fees received from the sale of such plates; providing certain limitations on the use of such funds; providing effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (z) is added to subsection (4) of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

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

(z) Choose Life license plate, \$20.

Section 2. Subsection (26) is added to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(26) CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES.—

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

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed annually to each county in the ratio that the annual use fees collected by each county bears to the total fees collected for the plates within the state. Each county shall distribute the funds to nongovernmental, not-for-profit agencies within the county, which agencies’ services are limited to counseling and meeting the physical needs of pregnant women who are committed to placing their children for adoption. Funds may not be distributed to any agency that is involved or associated with abortion activities, including counseling for or referrals to abortion clinics, providing medical abortion-related procedures, or pro-abortion advertising, and funds may not be distributed to any agency that charges women for services received.

1. Agencies that receive the funds must use at least 70 percent of the funds to provide for the material needs of pregnant women who are committed to placing their children for adoption, including clothing, housing, medical care, food, utilities, and transportation. Such funds may also be expended on infants awaiting placement with adoptive parents.

2. The remaining funds may be used for adoption, counseling, training, or advertising, but may not be used for administrative expenses, legal expenses, or capital expenditures.

3. Each agency that receives such funds must submit an annual audit, prepared by a certified public accountant, to the county. The county may conduct a consolidated audit in lieu of the annual audit. Any unused funds that exceed 10 percent of the funds received by an agency during its fiscal year must be returned to the county, which shall distribute them to other qualified agencies.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

Approved by the Governor June 8, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 8, 1999.