

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 568

An act relating to motor vehicle license plates; amending s. 320.089, F.S.; increasing the amount of revenue deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund from the sale of license plates stamped with the words “National Guard,” “Pearl Harbor Survivor,” “Combat-wounded veteran,” or “U.S. Reserve”; providing for the issuance, without payment of the license tax, of Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates or Purple Heart license plates to certain disabled veterans; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; revising the date after which a newly created collegiate license plate is subject to the requirements of s. 320.08053, F.S.; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 320.089, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.089 Members of National Guard and active United States Armed Forces reservists; former prisoners of war; survivors of Pearl Harbor; Purple Heart medal recipients; special license plates; fee.—

(1)(a) Each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), which is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of the state and an active or retired member of the Florida National Guard, a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, or an active member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces Reserve shall, upon application to the department, accompanied by proof of active membership or retired status in the Florida National Guard, proof of membership in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association or proof of active military duty in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, proof of being a Purple Heart medal recipient, or proof of active membership in any branch of the Armed Forces Reserve, and upon payment of the license tax for the vehicle as provided in s. 320.08, be issued a license plate as provided by s. 320.06, upon which, in lieu of the serial numbers prescribed by s. 320.06, shall be stamped the words “National Guard,” “Pearl Harbor Survivor,” “Combat-wounded veteran,” or “U.S. Reserve,” as appropriate, followed by the serial number of the license plate. Additionally, the Purple Heart plate may have the words “Purple Heart” stamped on the plate and the likeness of the Purple Heart medal appearing on the plate.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, beginning with fiscal year ~~2002-2003~~ 2000-2001 and annually thereafter, the first ~~\$100,000~~ \$50,000 in general revenue generated from the sale of license plates issued under this section which are stamped with the words “National Guard,” “Pearl Harbor Survivor,” “Combat-wounded veteran,” or “U.S. Reserve” shall be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, as described in s. 296.38(2), to be used for the purposes established by law for that trust fund.

(c) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, an applicant for a Pearl Harbor Survivor license plate or a Purple Heart license plate who also qualifies for a disabled veteran's license plate under s. 320.084 shall be issued the appropriate special license plate without payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08.

(2) Each owner or lessee of an automobile for private use, truck weighing not more than 5,000 pounds, or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), which is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of the state and who is a former prisoner of war, or their unremarried surviving spouse, shall, upon application therefor to the department, be issued a license plate as provided in s. 320.06, on which license plate are stamped the words "Ex-POW" followed by the serial number. Each application shall be accompanied by proof that the applicant meets the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

(a) A citizen of the United States who served as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the armed forces of a nation allied with the United States who was held as a prisoner of war at such time as the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in combat, or their unremarried surviving spouse, may be issued the special license plate provided for in this subsection without payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08.

(b) A person who was serving as a civilian with the consent of the United States Government, or a person who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who was not a United States citizen and was held as a prisoner of war when the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in combat, or their unremarried surviving spouse, may be issued the special license plate provided for in this subsection upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08.

(3) Each owner or lessee of an automobile for private use, truck weighing not more than 5,000 pounds, or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), which is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of this state and who is the unremarried surviving spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal shall, upon application therefor to the department, with the payment of the required fees, be issued a license plate as provided in s. 320.06, on which license plate are stamped the words "Purple Heart" and the likeness of the Purple Heart medal followed by the serial number. Each application shall be accompanied by proof that the applicant is the unremarried surviving spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2001-355, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(3) COLLEGIATE LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) The department shall develop a collegiate license plate as provided in this section for state and independent universities domiciled in this state.

However, any collegiate license plate created or established after October 1, 2002, ~~January 1, 1997~~, must comply with the requirements of s. 320.08053 and be specifically authorized by an act of the Legislature. Collegiate license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the department as appropriate for each state and independent university. The word "Florida" must be stamped across the bottom of the plate in small letters.

(b) A collegiate plate annual use fee is to be distributed to the state or independent university foundation designated by the purchaser for deposit in an unrestricted account. The Board of Regents shall require each state university to submit a plan for approval of the expenditure of all funds so designated. These funds may be used only for academic enhancement, including scholarships and private fundraising activities.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor April 25, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 25, 2002.