

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1136

An act relating to license plates; amending ss. 320.08056, 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Protect Florida Whales specialty license plate; providing an annual use fee; providing for the distribution of the use fees received; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (hh) is added to subsection (4) of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2001-355, Laws of Florida, to read:

320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

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

(hh) Protect Florida Whales license plate, \$25.

Section 2. Subsection (34) is added to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2001-355, Laws of Florida, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(34) PROTECT FLORIDA WHALES LICENSE PLATES.—

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

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., to fund whale research, rehabilitation, and education programs. Up to 15 percent of the funds received by the institution may be used for administrative costs directly associated with the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution’s Marine Mammal Research and Conservation program and this specialty license plate funding. Up to 10 percent of the funds may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate. Ten percent of the funds shall be distributed to the Wyland Foundation, Inc., and used specifically to conduct educational programs in this state which promote conservation of Florida marine mammals. The remainder of the funds shall be used to collect, analyze, and archive scientific data regarding whale populations that inhabit, utilize, or migrate in state waters; provide care and assistance to stranded whales; construct and maintain a Harbor-Branch-based teaching marine mammal hospital; train veterinary students in the rescue, medical and rehabilitation treatment, and release and postrelease monitoring of stranded whales; distribute information for the purpose of protecting and preserving whales; identify whale populations; conduct scientific research through genetic, telemetry, bioacoustical, and

photographic identification research programs; advance the research technology associated with tracking, monitoring, and categorizing whales; develop methods of monitoring whale movements; and provide for methods of early-warning detection systems and advance notification that will help prevent accidental boat strikes in state waters.

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

Approved by the Governor May 8, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 8, 2002.