

House Bill No. 1501

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

WHEREAS, Florida hospices have served this state for more than 20 years in helping to meet the medical, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of terminally ill adults and children and their families, and

WHEREAS, skilled hospice staff and volunteers provide special hands and hearts of caring, and

WHEREAS, the hospice concept of care exists by and through local communities, and

WHEREAS, this state benefits greatly from the increased care, outreach, and education provided by hospice caregivers and seeks to reward the contributions to the state made by current and future hospice patients, their loved ones, and their hospice caregivers, and

WHEREAS, Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc., was founded 20 years ago to establish and ensure a statewide mechanism for bringing together and disseminating hospice and related care information, research, education, outreach, referrals, and funding for the benefit of our citizens and communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Paragraph (mm) 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:

(mm) Hospice license plate, \$25.

Section 2. Subsection (39) is added to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(39) HOSPICE LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) The department shall develop a Hospice license plate as provided in this section. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the words "Hospice: Every Day Is A Gift" must appear at the bottom of the plate. A figure of a butterfly in the colors of orange, light purple, and black shall appear on the left side of the plate and the background of the plate shall be in shades of orange and white.

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc., to be used as follows:

1. To fund projects relating to hospice care for special groups, such as children, veterans, and ethnic, religious, gender, or minority groups, or to provide disease-specific research or outreach.

2. To fund education and outreach for hospice volunteers, patients, families, and health care professionals.

3. To fund informational and educational media programs regarding the availability of hospice services.

4. To fund the expansion or enhancement of the Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc., toll-free referral line operated to provide hospice information.

5. To fund the expansion or enhancement of the Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc., Internet website.

(c) The sum of \$90,000 in annual use fees shall be distributed to Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc., to be used to recover all startup costs for developing and issuing the plates. Thereafter, the proceeds shall be distributed to Florida Hospices and Palliative Care, Inc., which shall distribute the fees through a standing committee that reviews funding solicitations and awards.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2003.