

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1954

An act relating to specialty license plates; creating s. 320.0891, F.S.; creating the U.S. Paratroopers license plate; restricting eligibility to purchase such plates; amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; creating the Protect Our Reefs license plate; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; requiring that the license plate use fee from the Florida Arts license plate be transferred directly to the county arts council; providing for the distribution of the annual use fee from the Protect Our Reef license plate received from the sale of such plates; providing for audit by the Auditor General; amending ss. 320.08056, 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Fish Florida license plate; providing for the distribution of annual use fees received from the sale of such plates; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 320.0891, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

320.0891 U.S. Paratroopers license plate.—

(1) The department shall develop a U.S. Paratroopers license plate as provided in this section. The U.S. Paratroopers license plate must bear the colors and design approved by the department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the words "U.S. Paratroopers" must appear at the bottom of the plate. The Airborne Wings and Glider Wings logo must appear in black on the left side of the plate, centered from top to bottom. The plate must have a white background with red and blue letters or numbers.

(2) U.S. Paratroopers license plates may only be purchased by current or former United States military personnel who, as part of their military duty, have been trained to jump from flying aircraft.

(3) Each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, truck weighing not more than 7,999 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 meets the qualifications contained in subsection (2) shall, upon application therefor to the department, with the payment of the taxes and fees described in subsection (5), be issued a U.S. Paratroopers license plate. Each application must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has been decorated as a parachutist or has completed the U.S. Army Jump School.

(4) The department is responsible for developing the license plate authorized in this section. The department shall begin production and distribution within one year.

(5) Each request must be made annually to the department, accompanied by the following tax and fees:

- (a) The license tax required for the vehicle as set forth in s. 320.08.
- (b) A processing fee of \$2.
- (c) A license plate fee as required under s. 320.06(1)(b).
- (d) A license plate annual use fee of \$20.

(6) The department shall retain all annual use fee revenues from the sale of the U.S. Paratroopers license plates until all startup costs for developing and issuing the plates are recovered, not to exceed \$60,000. Thereafter, the annual use fee revenues shall be distributed to the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2003, 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) Protect Our Reefs license plate, \$25.

Section 3. Effective July 1, 2003, paragraph (b) of subsection (12) of section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended and subsection (39) is added to that section, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(12) FLORIDA ARTS LICENSE PLATES.—

(b) The license plate annual use fees are to be annually distributed as follows:

1. All fees collected must be forwarded quarterly to the single arts council officially designated by the county in direct proportion to the amounts of fees collected in each county. If there is no county arts council, fees collected must be forwarded to such other agency in the county as the highest ranking county administrative official designates, to be applied by the arts council or agency to support arts organizations, arts programs, and arts activities within the county Division of Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, together with a report setting forth the amount of such fees collected in each county, and must be deposited into the Florida Fine Arts Trust Fund.

~~2.—The Division of Cultural Affairs shall distribute the fees forwarded to it by the department to the counties in the amounts set forth in the report required under subparagraph 1., in each case to the county arts council for such county or, if there is none, to such other agency in the county as the division designates, to be applied by the council or agency to support art organizations, programs, and activities within the county.~~

(39) PROTECT OUR REEFS LICENSE PLATES.—

(a) The department shall develop a Protect Our Reefs license plate as provided in this section. Protect Our Reefs license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the department. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate, and the words “Protect Our Reefs” must appear at the bottom of the plate.

(b) The proceeds of the annual use fee shall be distributed to Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., to fund Florida reef research, conservation, and education programs. Up to 15 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., may be expended for annual administrative costs directly associated with the administration of the Protect Our Reefs program. Up to 10 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., may be used by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., for the continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate. After reimbursement for documented costs expended in the establishment of the plate, Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., shall use and distribute the remaining funds to eligible Florida-based scientific, conservation, and education organizations for the collection, analysis, and distribution of scientific, educational, and conservation information to the research community; federal, state, and local government agencies; educational institutions; and the public. Eligible organizations shall be based in Florida and engaged in reef research, conservation, or education.

(c) The state Auditor General may examine any records of Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., and any other organization that receives funds from the sale of the Protect Our Reefs license plate, to determine compliance with law.

Section 4. 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) Fish Florida license plate, \$22.

Section 5. Subsection (39) is added to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

(39) “FISH FLORIDA” LICENSE PLATES.—

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

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the Florida Foundation for Responsible Angling, Inc., to fund aquatic education; marine resource stewardship, and ethical angling practices in this state. A maximum of 15 percent of the funds received by the foundation may be used for administrative costs directly associated with the foundation’s grant distribution program

and license plate funding. A maximum of 10 percent of the funds may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate. The foundation shall provide for a peer review grant solicitation and award process to distribute the remainder of the funds to benefit aquatic education, marine resource stewardship, and ethical angling practices in this state.

Section 6. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this act, this act shall take effect October 1, 2003.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2003.