

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Fiscal Policy

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BILL: SB 1066

INTRODUCER: Senator Margolis

SUBJECT: Anatomical Gifts

DATE: February 9, 2016

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION                   |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Jones   | Eichin         | TR        | <b>Favorable</b>         |
| 2. | Gusky   | Miller         | ATD       | <b>Recommend: Fav/CS</b> |
| 3. | Jones   | Hrdlicka       | FP        | <b>Pre-meeting</b>       |

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

SB 1066 requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to maintain a link on its website referring customers who are renewing their driver licenses or conducting other business to the organ donation registry. The DHSMV must establish a procedure to electronically confirm that each person entering a department office or facility to transact driver license services has been informed that he or she may become an organ donor. The bill codifies into law a practice that has already been put into place by the DHSMV.

These new requirements become applicable when DHSMV's vehicle registration system modernization project is implemented.

To the extent that the bill codifies a current practice, the bill will not have a fiscal impact on the DHSMV.

The bill is effective July 1, 2016.

## II. Present Situation:

### Organ Donations in Florida

Over 3,500 people in Florida are registered and waiting for organ transplants, and thousands more wait for tissue donations.<sup>1</sup> The most common types of organ transplants include the kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, and pancreas, but many other organs and tissues can be transplanted or used for various other medical procedures.<sup>2</sup> Nationwide, nearly 6,000 people die each year waiting for an organ donation.<sup>3</sup>

Florida has four federally designated, non-profit organ procurement agencies exclusively responsible for facilitating the process of organ donation. Each agency serves a different region of the state. These agencies are certified by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and operate in Florida to increase the number of registered donors and coordinate the donation process when organs become available.<sup>4</sup>

### The Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Registry

In 2008, the Legislature found that a shortage of organ and tissue donors existed in Florida, and there was a need for a statewide donor registry with online registration and enhanced donor education. The donor registry is designated as the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Registry.<sup>5</sup>

The Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) and the DHSMV operate of Florida's donor registry that allow for online donor registration and the recording of organ and tissue donation records submitted through the driver license identification program or through other sources. The AHCA contracted with Donate Life Florida to run the donor registry and maintain donor records.<sup>6</sup>

Floridians who are age 18 or older can join the donor registry online, at the DHSMV, at their local driver license office, or by contacting Donate Life Florida and requesting a registry from. Children ages 13 to 17 may join the registry, but the final decision on any organ donation of a minor rests with the parent or guardian. The registry collects personal information from each donor including, but not limited to, his or her name, address, date and place of birth, race, and driver's license or identification card number.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Donate Life Florida, FAQs About Donation, *How many people need donated organs and tissue?* (2009), available at <https://www.donateliflorida.org/content/about/facts/faq/> (last visited Jan. 25, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at *What organs and tissues may be donated?*

<sup>3</sup> *Supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Government Information on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation, Organdonor.gov, Donate the Gift of Life, Organ Procurement Organizations, available at <http://organdonor.gov/materialsresources/materialsopolist.html> (last visited Jan. 26, 2016). LifeLink of Florida serves west Florida, LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services serves northern Florida, TransLife/Florida Hospital serves eastern Florida, and LifeAlliance Organ Recovery Agency serves southern Florida.

<sup>5</sup> Chapter 2008-223, L.O.F. The registry is currently referred to as the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

<sup>6</sup> Donate Life Florida, *About Donate Life Florida*, available at <https://www.donateliflorida.org/content/about/> (last visited Jan. 26, 2016). Section 765.5155, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Donate Life Florida, *Sign Me Up Today*, available at <https://www.donateliflorida.org/register/> (last visited Jan. 26, 2016).

As of February 2016 there are over 8.6 million people registered in the donor registry.<sup>8</sup> The large number of registered donors ranks the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry as the second largest donor registry in the United States in terms of enrollment.<sup>9</sup>

Information held in the donor registry which identifies a donor is confidential and exempt from the state's public records laws.<sup>10</sup> Donor information may be disclosed to:

- Procurement organizations certified by the AHCA; and
- Persons engaged in bona fide research if the person agrees to certain criteria.<sup>11</sup>

The funding for the donor registry and education program is provided from funds deposited into the Health Care Trust Fund.<sup>12</sup>

### **Organ Donor Registration at the DHSMV**

Section 765.521, F.S., which predates the establishment of the donor registry, requires that the AHCA and the DHSMV to implement a system to encourage potential donors to make anatomical gifts through the process of issuing and renewing driver licenses or identification cards. Approximately 95 percent of people who enroll in Florida's registry do so while obtaining or renewing a driver license.<sup>13</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill requires the DHSMV to maintain an integrated link on its website that refers customers who are renewing their driver licenses or conducting other business to the organ donation registry operated under s. 765.5155, F.S. The DHSMV must establish a procedure to electronically confirm that each person entering a department office or facility to transact driver license services has been informed that he or she may become an organ donor. The bill codifies into law a practice that has already been put into place by the DHSMV.<sup>14</sup>

These new requirements become applicable when DHSMV's vehicle registration system modernization project is implemented.

The bill is effective July 1, 2016.

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<sup>8</sup> Donate Life Florida, Total Registrants as of February 2016, available at <https://www.donateliflorida.org/> (last visited Feb. 3, 2016).

<sup>9</sup> Donate Life Florida, *2014 Annual Report*, p. 7, available at [https://www.donateliflorida.org/files/52\\_file.pdf](https://www.donateliflorida.org/files/52_file.pdf) (last visited Jan 26, 2016).

<sup>10</sup> Section 119.07(1), F.S., and FLA. CONST. art. I, s. 24(a).

<sup>11</sup> Section 765.51551, F.S. The person must submit a research plan to the AHCA detailing the exact nature of the information requested and intended use, maintain the confidentiality of the information, destroy any confidential records or information obtained after the research is concluded, and not directly or indirectly contact any donor or donee.

<sup>12</sup> Section 765.5155(4), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> *Supra* note 9 at p. 12.

<sup>14</sup> Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *SB 1066 Agency Bill Analysis* (January 14, 2016) (on file with the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development).

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill may increase the number of organ donors in this state.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

To the extent that the bill codifies a current practice, the bill will not have a fiscal impact on the DHSMV.<sup>15</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 765.521 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

## A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**See PCS 491260 by Fiscal Policy (Recommended by Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development) on January 21, 2016.**

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<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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