

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Date: March 5, 1998 Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: License Plates/Protect Wild Dolphins

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Caridi	Johnson	TR	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	WM	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a Protect Wild Dolphins specialty license plate. Such plates would be available upon payment of appropriate license taxes, a \$2 processing fee and an annual use fee of \$20. The \$20 annual use fee shall be distributed to Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution Inc., for the support of wild Florida bottlenose dolphins related research.

This bill substantially amends sections 320.08056 and 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Protect Wild Dolphins specialty license plates are not authorized by current law.

The organization proposing this bill, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., has met all requirements established by the 1995 Florida Legislature under s. 320.08056, F.S.:

- ▶ Submitted request for a particular plate and a proposed general description
- ▶ Submitted petition with 10,000 signatures of Florida residents intending to purchase the plate.
- ▶ Paid \$30,000 as an application fee for administrative costs of application review and plate development.
- ▶ Submitted a long and short-term marketing strategy and a fiscal analysis of anticipated revenue and planned expenditures.

HBOI is a marine research institute located in Fort Pierce, Florida.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

Specialty license plates for the support of wild Florida bottlenose dolphins research would be made available upon payment of appropriate license taxes, a \$2 processing fee, and an annual use fee of \$20. The \$20 annual use fees would be distributed to Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution.

Up to 15% of the funds received by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution would be used for administrative costs associated with the operation of the institution. Up to 10 percent would be used for continuing promotion of the specialty plate. The remainder of the revenue from the annual use fee would be used to collect and analyze scientific data on dolphin population, provide care to stranded dolphins, distribute information on dolphin preservation and protection to local, state and federal agencies, the scientific community and the public, and advance technology used to identify and track individual dolphins.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

Article III, section 19(f)(1), of the Florida Constitution provides that no trust fund of the state or other public body may be created by law without three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

The department would receive the proceeds of the annual \$2 processing fee imposed on the issuance of the Protect Wild Dolphins specialty license plate. The amount of such proceeds cannot be determined because the number of specialty plates that will be purchased is unknown.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Persons who apply for the Protect Wild Dolphins license plate would have to pay the \$20 annual use fee.

The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. would receive the revenue from the \$20 annual use fee collected on each Protect Wild Dolphins license plate sold or renewed.

The Auditor General may examine any records of and any other organization that receives funds from the sale of this plate to determine compliance with law.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

**Year One**

The Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund would receive the \$30,000 application fee. The department would incur total costs of \$42,780 due to the following expenditures:

- ▶ Initial programming costs of \$20,280.
- ▶ Purchasing costs of \$22,500 for the required initial 10,000 plates at \$2.25 each.

**Years Two and Beyond**

The department would incur total costs of \$22,500 for the minimum 10,000 plate order. The department would receive the \$2 processing fee per plate sold.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.