

By Representative Sindler

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to specialty license plates;
3 amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; providing for a
4 Florida Companion Animal license plate;
5 providing for an annual use fee for such
6 plates; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; providing
7 for the distribution and uses of the annual use
8 fee; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (s) is added to subsection (4) of
13 section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:

14 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

17 (s) Florida Companion Animal license plate, \$18.

18 Section 2. Subsection (19) is added to section
19 320.08058, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:

20 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

21 (19) FLORIDA COMPANION ANIMAL LICENSE PLATES.--

22 (a) The department shall develop a Florida Companion
23 Animal license plate as provided in this section to
24 commemorate Florida's companion animals. The Florida Companion
25 Animal license plate shall depict the silhouettes of a person,
26 a dog, a cat, and a horse within a heart and shall be produced
27 in the colors and design approved by the department, provided
28 that the words "We Care for Animals" shall be centered at the
29 bottom of the plate, with two silhouettes on either side.

30 (b) The annual use fees shall be deposited in the
31 General Revenue Fund to the credit of the Department of

1 Agriculture and Consumer Services to be distributed by the
2 department as follows:
3 1. The first \$5 million collected annually shall be
4 transferred to the Florida Animal Health Foundation, Inc., a
5 Florida-registered 501(c)3 nonprofit public charitable
6 educational and service organization. The foundation shall
7 account for these funds separately from all other funds
8 received. Such funds shall be distributed by the foundation as
9 follows:
10 a. Based on Florida Companion Animal license plate
11 sales data from each county tax collector, the percentage
12 determined for each county shall be used by the foundation to
13 equitably distribute a portion of the funds to county animal
14 control agencies. An equal total portion shall be distributed
15 to registered and tax exempt nonprofit Florida animal welfare
16 organizations. Another portion of the funds shall be used to
17 pay for partial reimbursement of fees for the veterinary
18 medical and surgical care of companion animals belonging to
19 qualified needy applicants. A portion of the funds may be
20 awarded through the soliciting and selection of grant
21 applications from animal control agencies, animal welfare
22 organizations, and human-animal bond organizations. A portion
23 shall be used for administrative purposes. The Department of
24 Agriculture and Consumer Services shall approve all
25 expenditures of such funds.
26 b. With the approval of the Department of Agriculture
27 and Consumer Services:
28 (I) Each county animal control agency shall be
29 responsible for administering its share of the funds.
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1 (II) Each funded animal welfare organization shall be
2 responsible for administering projects in its respective
3 service area.

4 (III) The Florida Veterinary Medical Association shall
5 be responsible for administering the provision of veterinary
6 care for qualified applicants, funded with the license plate
7 revenues.

8 2. Any additional funds shall be deposited in the
9 General Revenue Fund to the credit of the Department of
10 Agriculture and Consumer Services to be used by the department
11 for distribution pursuant to this subsection.

12 (c) Funds used for projects by the Florida Animal
13 Health Foundation, Inc., may serve as matching funds for other
14 local, state, or federal funds or grants. Unencumbered funds
15 from 1 year may be carried over to the following year but must
16 be dedicated to a project within 2 years in the form of a
17 contract, an agreement, or a plan approved by the foundation.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
19 law.

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22 HOUSE SUMMARY

23 Provides for the creation of a Florida Companion Animal
24 license plate and provides for the use and distribution
25 of the proceeds from the annual use fees from the sale of
 such plates. See bill for details.

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