

By Representative Crow

1                           A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to license plates; amending ss.  
3           320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.; creating a  
4           Florida Everglades River of Grass license  
5           plate; providing for the distribution of annual  
6           use fees received from the sale of such license  
7           plates; providing an effective date.

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

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11           Section 1. Paragraph (t) is added to subsection (4) of  
12   section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

13           320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

16           (t) Everglades River of Grass license plate, \$20.

17           Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section  
18   320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

19           320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

20           (20) EVERGLADES RIVER OF GRASS LICENSE PLATES.--

21           (a) Because the Everglades ecological system is of  
22   special interest and importance to this state, in that it  
23   contributes to the state's water supply, provides recreation,  
24   serves as habitat for diverse species of animal and plant  
25   life, and contributes to a robust regional economy in the form  
26   of tourism and both nature-related and resource-related jobs;  
27   because it is the policy of the state to conserve and protect  
28   its natural resources and scenic beauty; because the  
29   Legislature has recognized the Everglades as an area of  
30   special concern for restoration and preservation since the  
31   1994 Everglades Forever Act; because the Legislature, the

1 Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida  
2 Water Management District have developed plans for the  
3 improvement and restoration of the Everglades; because the  
4 state has designated the Everglades an Outstanding Florida  
5 Water; because the Everglades is an international treasure,  
6 celebrated as an International Biosphere Reserve and World  
7 Heritage site; and because the Everglades is unique to the  
8 State of Florida, in that there are no other everglades in the  
9 world, the Legislature hereby establishes a Florida Everglades  
10 River of Grass license plate for the purpose of providing a  
11 continuous funding source to support the worthwhile effort of  
12 Everglades restoration and to heighten public awareness of  
13 this economically significant resource. The department shall  
14 develop a Florida Everglades River of Grass license plate  
15 which shall bear the colors and design approved by the  
16 department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the  
17 plate, and the words "Everglades River of Grass" must appear  
18 at the bottom of the plate. The plate must contain an image of  
19 the bird "roseate spoonbill" standing beside mangroves.

20 (b) The use fees collected for the Florida Everglades  
21 River of Grass license plate shall be collected and annually  
22 transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund as established by s.  
23 17, Art. X of the State Constitution, which fund is  
24 administered by the South Florida Water Management District  
25 for the purpose of conservation and protection of natural  
26 resources and abatement of water pollution in the Everglades.  
27 The following restrictions shall apply to the use of the fees  
28 collected for the Florida Everglades River of Grass license  
29 plates:

30 1. All fees shall be used for Everglades conservation  
31 and restoration projects, with 50 percent of said fees

1 dedicated to Everglades research. Unencumbered funds from one  
2 year may be carried over to the following year.  
3 2. Fees may not be used for administrative salaries or  
4 overhead within the water management district, nor for any  
5 general coordination fees or overhead outside of the district.  
6 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that revenues  
7 generated by the Florida Everglades River of Grass license  
8 plates shall not be used as replacement funds for Surface  
9 Water Improvement and Management Act funds or Everglades  
10 Forever Act funds, but shall be used solely for the  
11 enhancement of the Everglades.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
13 law.

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15 HOUSE SUMMARY

16 Directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
17 Vehicles to develop a Florida Everglades River of Grass  
18 license plate. Provides an annual use fee of \$20. See  
19 bill for details.

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