

STORAGE NAME: h1909.tr

DATE: March 22, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 1909

RELATING TO: Florida Wildflower License Plate

SPONSOR(S): Representative Kosmas

COMPANION BILL(S): SB 2018 (i)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) TRANSPORTATION
 - (2) FINANCE & TAXATION
 - (3) TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

The bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHS&MV) to issue a "Florida Wildflower" license plate. In addition to the usual specialty license plate fees, a \$15 annual use fee will be charged for this new specialty license plate.

Annual use fee proceeds would be distributed to Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc. The proceeds must be used to establish native Florida wildflower research programs, wildflower educational programs, and wildflower grant programs to municipal, county, and community-based groups. A maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds from the sale of such plates may be used for administrative costs.

The bill also creates within Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc., a Wildflower Advisory Council, consisting of a maximum of nine representative members from specified entities. The council will direct and oversee the expenditure of the Wildflower Account by developing procedures of operation, research contracts, educational programs, and wildflower planting grants for plants, grasses, and wildflowers native to Florida. The council will also make the final determination of what constitutes acceptable species of plantings.

Current law provides for a requesting organization to meet specified application requirements prior to legislative authorization of a speciality license plate. The applicant for the Florida Wildflower license plate has complied with the application requirements.

Pursuant to s. 320.08053, F.S., the cost to review and develop specialty license plates has been established by the Department at approximately \$29,500. A \$30,000 application fee has been collected by DHS&MV to help defray administrative and license plate design costs.

The bill has an indeterminate recurring revenue and expenditure impact to the state. These impacts are offset by DHS&MV charging an application fee and annually retaining the first proceeds to recover its costs.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Specialty license plates must be specifically authorized by the Legislature. The State of Florida has a total of 45 types of specialty license plates. For calendar year 1998, specialty license plate revenues were approximately \$17.5 million. Proceeds from specialty license plate annual use fees have been used to fund an astronaut memorial, space technology research, scholarships, and university academic enhancements.

A Florida Wildflower license plate has not been authorized by the Legislature. On December 17, 1998, DHS&MV indicated the applicant for the Tampa Bay Estuary license plate has complied with the statutorily prescribed application requirements.

Section 320.08053, F.S., establishes requirements that organizations or agencies must meet in order to create a new specialty license plate. Current law requires that specified information and an application fee be submitted to DHS&MV prior to requesting legislative approval for a specialty plate. Information required to be submitted includes:

- 1) The results of a scientific sample survey indicating that at least 15,000 motor vehicle owners intend to purchase the proposed specialty license plate at the increased cost.
- 2) A marketing plan and financial analysis of anticipated revenues and expenditures.

This section also contains a grandfather provision to allow organizations that were in the process of preparing an application prior to new requirements becoming effective on July 1, 1998, to meet the requirements that were in effect prior to the change. Applicants meeting the grandfather requirements must submit the following to DHS&MV:

- 1) 10,000 signatures from prospective buyers.
- 2) A marketing plan and financial analysis of anticipated revenues and expenditures.
- 3) An application fee not to exceed \$30,000 to defray DHS&MV's costs for reviewing the application and developing the specialty license plate.

Once a specialty license plate has been approved by the Legislature, s. 320.08056, F.S., establishes uniform requirements for all specialty license plates, including taxes, fees, and design characteristics.

Section 320.08058, F.S., specifies the individual requirements and distribution of annual use fees for approved specialty plates.

Section 320.08062, F.S., provides accountability requirements regarding specialty license plate proceeds, including audits of expenditures and a compliance review by DHS&MV.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill requires DHS&MV to issue a "Florida Wildflower" license plate. In addition to the usual specialty license plate fees, a \$15 annual use fee will be charged for this new specialty license plate.

Annual use fee proceeds would be distributed to Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc., created by s. 403.4131. The proceeds must be used to establish native Florida wildflower research programs, wildflower educational programs, and wildflower grant programs to municipal, county, and community-based groups in this state. A maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds from the sale of such plates may be used for administrative costs.

The bill also creates within Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc., a Wildflower Advisory Council, consisting of a maximum of nine representative members from specified entities. The council will direct and oversee the expenditure of the Wildflower Account by developing procedures of operation, research contracts, educational programs, and wildflower planting grants for plants, grasses and wildflowers native to Florida. The council will also make the final determination of what constitutes acceptable species of plantings.

The Wildflower Advisory Council will consist of a maximum of 9 members from the following entities:

- ▶ One representative from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.
- ▶ One representative from the Florida Department of Transportation.
- ▶ One representative from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- ▶ One representative from the Florida League of Cities.
- ▶ One representative from the Florida Association of Counties.
- ▶ Other members may include representatives from The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., Think Beauty Foundation, the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Inc., and the Master Gardener's Program.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

N/A

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

N/A

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

N/A

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

N/A

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

N/A

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

N/A

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

N/A

- b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

N/A

- c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

N/A

- d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

N/A

- e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

N/A

3. Personal Responsibility:

- a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

N/A

- b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

A \$30,000 application fee has already been paid by the requesting organization to cover start-up costs and current state law requires DHS&MV to deduct the license plate's pro-rata share of recurring costs for the specialty license plate program.

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

N/A

5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

- (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

- (2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

- (3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

N/A

c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

N/A

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

Revenues:

Current law provides that an application fee, not to exceed \$30,000 for those organizations who were in the process of preparing an application prior to July 1, 1998, be paid to DHS&MV to defray the Department's administrative costs of reviewing and developing the new specialty license plate. DHS&MV has collected \$30,000 from the applicant to defray these costs.

Expenditures:

DHS&MV estimates its administrative and design costs to be approximately \$29,500 per specialty license plate authorized. Any additional cost of issuing the license plate will be retained from the first proceeds derived from the annual use fees.

2. Recurring Effects:

Revenues:

Indeterminate. The number of plates that will be sold cannot be determined.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

Indeterminate.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

N/A

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

N/A

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

N/A

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

N/A

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C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

N/A

V. COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

Section 4 of the bill may be in conflict with the State Constitution. Section 4 requires a three-fifths vote of each house of the Legislature for the bill to become effective. However, Article III, section 7, of the Constitution of the State of Florida, only requires a majority vote in each house for a bill to pass.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

Thomas E. Duncan

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