

By Representative Wishner

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to specialty license plates;
3 amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.;
4 providing for a Florida Golf license plate;
5 providing for a use fee; directing the
6 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
7 to develop a Florida Golf license plate;
8 providing for the distribution of fees;
9 providing an effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, it is the mission of Tee Off For Opportunity,
12 a project of the Dade Amateur Golf Association, to provide
13 access to the sport of golf to Florida youth regardless of
14 gender, socioeconomic status, or race by providing grants to
15 sustain and enhance existing amateur and junior golf
16 associations across the state, and to promote the State of
17 Florida as a golf destination, and

18 WHEREAS, the majority of the parents and guardians of
19 middle and lower income youth in Florida lack the opportunity
20 and financial resources to provide access to equipment, golf
21 courses, and training; therefore, the majority of the state's
22 children are denied the opportunity to learn and to play the
23 game, and

24 WHEREAS, amateur golf associations are currently
25 operating at public golf courses in communities across the
26 state, and it is through involvement in these programs that
27 most young people become introduced to golf, and

28 WHEREAS, for youngsters whose families don't have the
29 resources to provide private lessons or memberships in private
30 clubs, these local programs afford the only opportunity for
31 such young people to learn the game and enjoy a few hours on

1 the golf course, and, due to a lack of funds, the exceptional
2 people who donate their time and money to the programs are
3 currently able to accommodate only a limited number of youth,
4 and

5 WHEREAS, a 1997 visitor profile report by Visit Florida
6 found the state attracted 1,482,041 visitors for the sole
7 purpose of playing golf, with tourists and residents alike
8 enjoying 1,153 different golf courses year round, resulting in
9 Florida's having proclaimed itself "The Number One Golf
10 Vacation Destination," and

11 WHEREAS, both amateur and professional golfers are
12 highly visible in the state, annually playing more than 55
13 million rounds of golf and generating billions of public and
14 private dollars, to make golf a \$6 billion-a-year industry in
15 the state, and

16 WHEREAS, decisionmaking in professional golf is made in
17 Florida, as the PGA is headquartered in West Palm Beach, the
18 LPGA is headquartered in Daytona Beach, and the PGA Tour is
19 headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, and

20 WHEREAS, the following participants in DAGA's junior
21 golf programs and tournaments have graduated from the listed
22 universities and colleges and have played on the listed tours:
23 Terry Williams Munz, the first recipient of an athletic
24 scholarship for women at the University of Miami; Pam Elders,
25 member of the LPGA, University of Miami; Sherrie Keblish,
26 University of Miami, Florida PGA Junior Champion; Julie,
27 Sheri, and Whit Waldo, University of Florida; Tom Gibson, PGA,
28 golf course owner; Bruce Fitzpatrick, golf coach; Bob Kravitz,
29 University of Florida; Bill May, University of Houston, PGA;
30 Donna Cusano, University of Miami, LPGA; Jim Brothers, PGA;
31 Brian Rothaus, Florida State High School Champion; Warren

1 Jurkowitz, Mini Tour; Tim Balmer, Mini Tour and Bermuda Open
2 Winner; Jay Cooper, Mini Tour and Jamaican Open Winner; Art
3 Grenfeder, Vice President of Merrill Lynch; Gene Gizzarelli,
4 University of Miami; Danny Mays, PGA, golf course operator,
5 resort manager, C.E.O. of golf course operating company; Jason
6 Malcy-Franklin, Marshall, University of Miami, psychologist;
7 Patti Rizzo, University of Miami, LPGA, Japan LPGA; Dudley
8 Hart, University of Florida, PGA Tour; Robert Floyd,
9 University of Florida, PGA Tour; Raymond Floyd, Jr., Wake
10 Forest University; Briny Baird, PGA; Hiroshi Matsuo, Mini
11 Tour; Tricia Hew, University of Florida, F.I.U.; Mehling
12 Gilbert, University of Miami; Jacques Gilbert, F.I.U.; Tracy
13 Kerdyk, ranked first as junior/PGA, Junior Champion, USGA
14 Women's Public Links Champion, University of Miami varsity
15 golf, won 11 tournaments and set NCAA record, spent 10 years
16 on LPGA Tour, Futures Tour Coordinator and liaison to LPGA
17 Tour; Kathy Hart, University of Florida, LPGA; Cristie Kerr,
18 nationally ranked as a junior, currently on LPGA Tour, 2nd in
19 2,000 USGA Women's Open; Travis Stewart, L.S.U.; Carlos
20 Rodiles, F.I.U., University of Florida; Tim Briand, University
21 of North Carolina, F.I.U.; Gwen Gravina, University of North
22 Carolina; Cody Courbier, Georgetown University; Steve Scott,
23 University of Florida, runner-up to Tiger Woods in USGA
24 Amateur Championship; Scott Schultz, University of Florida;
25 Denny Tymosko, F.S.U., PGA; Caroline Culler, University of
26 Miami, won 3 tournaments in freshman year; Eric Compton, a
27 12-year-old heart transplant recipient, nationally ranked as a
28 junior, University of Georgia; Greg Maya, Johnson & Wales
29 University; David Billskoog, Barry University, and
30 WHEREAS, the following golfers played in the Doral
31 Publix Junior Classic and are currently playing on the

1 following professional golf tours: Senior PGA Tour - Bruce
2 Fleisher; PGA Tour - Chris Couch, Tom Tolles, Michael
3 Bradley, and Sergio Garcia; European Tour - Peter Hedblom and
4 Peter Cherry; Buy.com Tour and Mini-Tours - Michael Sposa,
5 Gilbert Morales, Michael Malizia, Borja LaRoche, Carlos
6 Benedetti, Lewis Chitengwa, Ryuji Imada, Hank Kuene, Edward
7 Loar, Nick Cassini; LPGA Tour - Tracy Kerdyk, Michelle McGann,
8 Leigh Ann Mills, Cristie Kerr, Erika Hayashida, Kelly Booth,
9 Grace Park, Kelly Kuene, Kathy Hart; Amateur and Current NCAA
10 - Beth Bluer, Duke University, Lisa Nedoba, University of
11 Florida, Marisa Baena, Maria Garcia Estrada, Candie Kung, and
12 Mary Dunne, University of Miami, Virada Nirapathpongporn, Tai
13 Perry, Celeste Troche, Ryan Hybl, Nicholas Loar, Kevin
14 Mihailof, Robert Hooper, Sean O'Hair, and Jim Kiely, PGA
15 Member and PGA Tour Player, and

16 WHEREAS, funds from the sale of this plate will enable
17 Tee Off For Opportunity to provide local amateur golf
18 associations with funding, programming guidelines,
19 professional support, and oversight for their projects, and
20 the organization will make grants based upon strict
21 guidelines, with renewal of these grants based upon data
22 regarding outcomes reported by the grantees, and

23 WHEREAS, golf is a nonaggressive, noncontact sport that
24 teaches young people self-discipline, initiative, honesty, and
25 etiquette, fosters physical fitness and character development,
26 and develops the ability to surmount obstacles through
27 sustained effort and self-discipline, NOW, THEREFORE,

28
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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31

1 Section 1. Paragraph (ff) is added to subsection (4)
2 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

3 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

6 (ff) Florida Golf license plate, \$25.

7 Section 2. Subsection (32) is added to section
8 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

9 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

10 (32) FLORIDA GOLF LICENSE PLATES.--

11 (a) The department shall develop a Florida Golf
12 license plate as provided in this section. The black
13 silhouette of golfer James Donald Kiely, former PGA member and
14 PGA Tour player and product of the Dade Amateur Golf
15 Association (DAGA) Junior Golf Program, must appear in the
16 center of the plate against a yellow (pms 810 yellow) sunset
17 surrounded by native Florida palms and grass in shades of
18 green (pms 349 green). The word "Florida" must appear at the
19 bottom of the plate and the words "Golf Capital of the World"
20 must appear at the top of the plate.

21 (b) The department shall distribute the Florida Golf
22 license plate annual use fee to the Tee Off For Opportunity
23 Trust Fund of the Dade Amateur Golf Association. The Tee Off
24 For Opportunity Trust Fund shall utilize the fees to fund
25 qualified amateur and junior golf programs at public and/or
26 private golf courses and other qualified municipal, county,
27 civic, or school programs in communities across the state.
28 Requests for proposals shall be disseminated statewide, and
29 the proposals and programs shall be evaluated on their ability
30 to effectively provide sustained access to golf for larger
31 numbers of youth, with equitable access for the disabled.

