

By Senator Silver

38-1114-01

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

8  
9           WHEREAS, it is the mission of Tee Off For Opportunity,  
10   a project of the Dade Amateur Golf Association, to provide  
11   access to the sport of golf to Florida youth regardless of  
12   gender, socioeconomic status, or race by providing grants to  
13   sustain and enhance existing amateur and junior golf  
14   associations across the state and to promote this state as a  
15   golf destination, and

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

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

26           WHEREAS, for youngsters whose families don't have the  
27   resources to provide them with private lessons or memberships  
28   in private clubs, these local programs are the only way to  
29   learn the game and enjoy a few hours on the golf course, and,  
30   due to a lack of funds, the exceptional people who donate

31

1 their time and money to these programs are currently able to  
2 accommodate only a limited number of youth, and

3 WHEREAS, funds from the sale of the Florida Golf  
4 specialty license plate will enable "Tee Off For Opportunity"  
5 to provide local amateur golf associations with funding,  
6 programming guidelines, professional support, and oversight  
7 for their projects by making available grants that are based  
8 upon strict guidelines and that are renewable based upon data  
9 regarding outcomes reported by the grantees, and

10 WHEREAS, golf is a nonaggressive, noncontact sport that  
11 teaches kids self-discipline, initiative, honesty, and  
12 etiquette, that fosters physical fitness and character  
13 development, and that teaches kids how to surmount obstacles  
14 through sustained effort and self-discipline, NOW, THEREFORE,

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 Section 1. Paragraph (ff) is added to subsection (4)  
19 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read;

20 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

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

24 Section 2. Subsection (32) is added to section  
25 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

26 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

27 (32) FLORIDA GOLF LICENSE PLATES.--

28 (a) The department shall develop a Florida Golf  
29 license plate as provided in this section. The word "Florida"  
30 must appear at the bottom of the plate and the words "Golf  
31 Capital of the World" must appear at the top of the plate.

1           (b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the  
2 Tee Off For Opportunity Trust Fund of the Dade Amateur Golf  
3 Association. The Tee Off For Opportunity Trust Fund will use  
4 the fees to fund qualified amateur and junior golf programs  
5 currently operated by amateur golf associations at public golf  
6 courses in communities across the state. Requests for  
7 proposals will be disseminated statewide, and the proposals  
8 and programs will be evaluated on their ability to effectively  
9 provide sustained access to golf for large numbers of youth.

10           1. Ten percent of the use fees will be paid to the  
11 Dade Amateur Golf Association to administer the Tee Off For  
12 Opportunity project statewide, including the functions of  
13 administering the funds, issuing grants, evaluating programs,  
14 and providing financial audits. An additional 15 percent will  
15 be paid to the Dade Amateur Golf Association to market the  
16 promotion of the Florida Golf license plate.

17           2. Sixty percent of the use fees will be used by the  
18 Tee Off For Opportunity Trust Fund to fund amateur and junior  
19 golf programs, tournaments, and events statewide. Included in  
20 these program funds will be a separate fund to establish and  
21 operate a statewide junior golf skills contest. As the founder  
22 of the program the Dade Amateur Golf Association will receive  
23 15 percent of the use fees as part of the program funds to  
24 operate its own junior golf programs, clinics, summer camps,  
25 and tournaments.

26           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

27  
28           \*\*\*\*\*

29           SENATE SUMMARY

30           Directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
31           Vehicles to develop a Florida Golf license plate.  
          Provides for the distribution of annual use fees  
          collected from the sale of the license plates.