

By Senator Pruitt

27-534-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to license plates; amending ss.
3 320.08056, 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Protect
4 Florida Whales and Oceans license plate;
5 providing for the distribution of annual use
6 fees received from the sale of such plates;
7 providing a contingent 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 (hh) is added to subsection (4)
12 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, as amended by section
13 1 of chapter 2001-355, Laws of Florida, 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 (hh) Protect Florida Whales and Oceans license plate,
18 \$25.

19 Section 2. Subsection (33) is added to section
20 320.08058, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of
21 chapter 2001-355, Laws of Florida, to read:

22 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--
23 (33) PROTECT FLORIDA WHALES AND OCEANS LICENSE
24 PLATES.--
25 (a) The department shall develop a Protect Florida
26 Whales and Oceans license plate as provided in this section.
27 The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and
28 the words "Protect Florida Whales and Oceans" must appear at
29 the bottom of the plate.

30 (b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the
31 Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., to fund whale

1 research, rehabilitation, and education programs. Up to 15
2 percent of the funds received by the institution may be used
3 for administrative costs directly associated with the
4 institution's Marine Mammal Research and Conservation program
5 and this specialty plate funding. Up to 10 percent of the
6 funds may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of
7 the license plate. Ten percent of the funds must be
8 distributed to the Wyland Foundation, Inc. and used
9 specifically to conduct educational programs in this state
10 which promote conservation of Florida marine mammals through a
11 combination of science and art. The remainder of the funds
12 must be used to collect, analyze, and archive scientific data
13 regarding wild whale populations that inhabit, utilize, or
14 migrate in state waters; provide care and assistance to
15 stranded wild whales; construct and maintain a
16 Harbor-Branch-based teaching marine mammal hospital; train
17 veterinary students in the rescue, medical and rehabilitation
18 treatment, and release and post-release monitoring of stranded
19 whales; distribute information for the purpose of protecting
20 and preserving wild whales; identify wild whale populations;
21 conduct scientific research through genetic, telemetry,
22 bioacoustical, and photographic identification research
23 programs; advance the research technology associated with
24 tracking, monitoring, and categorizing whales; and conduct
25 scientific research to collect, analyze, and monitor water
26 samples from and monitor environmental conditions in waters
27 that cetaceans use.

28 (d) The marine-life artist Wyland shall design a new
29 "collectors edition" of the plate every 5 years, pending the
30 required approval of artwork by the department.

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