

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Pruitt

306-1943-02

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 specialty license plate;  
5           providing an annual use fee; providing for the  
6           distribution of the use fees received;  
7           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 (hh) is added to subsection (4)  
12   of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter  
13   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 license plate, \$25.

18           Section 2. Subsection (34) is added to section  
19   320.08058, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2001-355,  
20   Laws of Florida, to read:

21           320.08058 Specialty license plates.--  
22           (34) PROTECT FLORIDA WHALES LICENSE PLATES.--  
23           (a) The department shall develop a Protect Florida  
24   Whales license plate as provided in this section. The word  
25   "Florida" shall appear at the top of the plate, and the words  
26   "Protect Florida Whales" shall appear at the bottom of the  
27   plate.

28           (b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the  
29   Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., to fund whale  
30   research, rehabilitation, and education programs. Up to 15  
31   percent of the funds received by the institution may be used

1 for administrative costs directly associated with the Harbor  
2 Branch Oceanographic Institution's Marine Mammal Research and  
3 Conservation program and this specialty license plate funding.  
4 Up to 10 percent of the funds may be used for continuing  
5 promotion and marketing of the license plate. Ten percent of  
6 the funds shall be distributed to the Wyland Foundation, Inc.,  
7 and used specifically to conduct educational programs in this  
8 state which promote conservation of Florida marine mammals.  
9 The remainder of the funds shall be used to collect, analyze,  
10 and archive scientific data regarding whale populations that  
11 inhabit, utilize, or migrate in state waters; provide care and  
12 assistance to stranded whales; construct and maintain a  
13 Harbor-Branch-based teaching marine mammal hospital; train  
14 veterinary students in the rescue, medical and rehabilitation  
15 treatment, and release and postrelease monitoring of stranded  
16 whales; distribute information for the purpose of protecting  
17 and preserving whales; identify whale populations; conduct  
18 scientific research through genetic, telemetry, bioacoustical,  
19 and photographic identification research programs; advance the  
20 research technology associated with tracking, monitoring, and  
21 categorizing whales; develop methods of monitoring whale  
22 movements; and provide for methods of early-warning detection  
23 systems and advance notification that will help prevent  
24 accidental boat strikes in state waters.

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 1136

Revises the name of the specialty plate from "Protect Florida Whales and Oceans" to "Protect Florida Whales"

Revises the authorized uses of specialty fee funds allocated to the Wyland Foundation.

Revises the list of scientific research activities for which specialty fee funds may be utilized.