

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; revising
7 the date after which a newly created collegiate
8 license plate is subject to the requirements of
9 s. 320.08053, F.S.; providing an effective
10 date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (hh) is added to subsection (4)
15 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter
16 2001-355, Laws of Florida, to read:

17 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

20 (hh) Protect Florida Whales license plate, \$25.

21 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 320.08058,
22 Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2001-355,
23 Laws of Florida, is amended, and subsection (34) is added to
24 that section, to read:

25 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

26 (3) COLLEGIATE LICENSE PLATES.--

27 (a) The department shall develop a collegiate license
28 plate as provided in this section for state and independent
29 universities and historically black colleges domiciled in this
30 state. However, any collegiate license plate created or
31 established after October 1, 2002 ~~January 1, 1997~~, must comply

1 with the requirements of s. 320.08053 and be specifically
2 authorized by an act of the Legislature. Collegiate license
3 plates must bear the colors and design approved by the
4 department as appropriate for each state and independent
5 university. The word "Florida" must be stamped across the
6 bottom of the plate in small letters.

7 (b) A collegiate plate annual use fee is to be
8 distributed to the state or independent university foundation
9 designated by the purchaser for deposit in an unrestricted
10 account. The Board of Regents shall require each state
11 university to submit a plan for approval of the expenditure of
12 all funds so designated. These funds may be used only for
13 academic enhancement, including scholarships and private
14 fundraising activities.

15 (34) PROTECT FLORIDA WHALES LICENSE PLATES.--

16 (a) The department shall develop a Protect Florida
17 Whales license plate as provided in this section. The word
18 "Florida" shall appear at the top of the plate, and the words
19 "Protect Florida Whales" shall appear at the bottom of the
20 plate.

21 (b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the
22 Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc., to fund whale
23 research, rehabilitation, and education programs. Up to 15
24 percent of the funds received by the institution may be used
25 for administrative costs directly associated with the Harbor
26 Branch Oceanographic Institution's Marine Mammal Research and
27 Conservation program and this specialty license plate funding.
28 Up to 10 percent of the funds may be used for continuing
29 promotion and marketing of the license plate. Ten percent of
30 the funds shall be distributed to the Wyland Foundation, Inc.,
31 and used specifically to conduct educational programs in this

1 state which promote conservation of Florida marine mammals.
2 The remainder of the funds shall be used to collect, analyze,
3 and archive scientific data regarding whale populations that
4 inhabit, utilize, or migrate in state waters; provide care and
5 assistance to stranded whales; construct and maintain a
6 Harbor-Branch-based teaching marine mammal hospital; train
7 veterinary students in the rescue, medical and rehabilitation
8 treatment, and release and postrelease monitoring of stranded
9 whales; distribute information for the purpose of protecting
10 and preserving whales; identify whale populations; conduct
11 scientific research through genetic, telemetry, bioacoustical,
12 and photographic identification research programs; advance the
13 research technology associated with tracking, monitoring, and
14 categorizing whales; develop methods of monitoring whale
15 movements; and provide for methods of early-warning detection
16 systems and advance notification that will help prevent
17 accidental boat strikes in state waters.

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