

By Representative Harrell

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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