

By the Council for Ready Infrastructure and Representative Harrell

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to license plates; amending s.  
3           320.08056, F.S.; providing an annual use fee;  
4           amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; revising the date  
5           after which a newly created collegiate license  
6           plate is subject to the requirements of s.  
7           320.08053, F.S.; creating a Protect Florida  
8           Whales specialty license plate; providing for  
9           the distribution of the use fees received;  
10          providing an effective 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 chapter 2001-355, Laws of  
23 Florida, is amended, and subsection (34) is added to said  
24 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 domiciled in this state. However, any collegiate  
30 license plate created or established after October 1, 2002  
31 ~~January 1, 1997~~, must comply with the requirements of s.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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