

By Representative McGriff

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to Sea Turtle specialty license  
 3           plates; amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; revising  
 4           use fee for Sea Turtle license plate; amending  
 5           s. 320.08058, F.S.; revising distribution and  
 6           use of revenue from the tag; repealing s.  
 7           370.12(1)(h), F.S., relating to grants provided  
 8           by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 9           Commission for marine turtle research,  
 10          conservation, and education activities;  
 11          providing an effective date.

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

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 15           Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (4) of section  
 16 320.08056, Florida Statutes, is amended 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           (s) Sea Turtle license plate, \$22.50~~\$17.50~~.

21           Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (19) of section  
 22 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23           320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

24           (19) SEA TURTLE LICENSE PLATES.--

25           (b) The first \$500,000 in annual use fees shall be  
 26 deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund in  
 27 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and. ~~The first~~  
 28 ~~\$500,000 in annual revenue~~ shall be used by the Florida Marine  
 29 Turtle Protection Program to conduct sea turtle protection,  
 30 research, and recovery programs. The next \$215,000 in annual  
 31 use fees shall be distributed to Caribbean Conservation

1 Corporation, located in Gainesville, to fund sea turtle  
2 research and education programs that benefit Florida sea  
3 turtles. Caribbean Conservation Corporation shall annually  
4 distribute assigned funds through the Sea Turtle Grants  
5 Program that supports sea turtle research and education  
6 activities of Florida-based nonprofit groups, educational  
7 institutions, and Florida coastal counties. Caribbean  
8 Conservation Corporation shall write and publish procedures  
9 for submitting grant applications and criteria for allocating  
10 available funds. Caribbean Conservation Corporation shall  
11 appoint a technical advisory committee of at least five  
12 members, including two representatives from the Fish and  
13 Wildlife Conservation Commission, to consider and choose grant  
14 recipients from proposals submitted by eligible entities. Any  
15 additional annual revenue shall be distributed as follows:  
16       1. Seventy percent shall be deposited in the Marine  
17 Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used by the Florida  
18 Marine Turtle Protection Program for sea turtle conservation  
19 activities.  
20       2. Thirty percent shall be assigned to Caribbean  
21 Conservation Corporation for distribution through the Sea  
22 Turtle Grants Program.  
23       3. Up to 15 percent of the funds distributed to  
24 Caribbean Conservation Corporation may be expended for  
25 administrative costs directly associated with the grants  
26 program.  
27       4. Up to 10 percent of the funds distributed to  
28 Caribbean Conservation Corporation may be used for the  
29 promotion and marketing of the Sea Turtle license plate.  
30 ~~Additional license plate revenue, up to an amount not~~  
31 ~~exceeding 30 percent of the total annual revenue, shall be~~

