

By the Committee on Natural Resources; and Senators Sullivan, Smith, Jones and Latvala

312-1999-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Sea Turtle license plates;
3 amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; increasing the
4 annual use fee; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.;
5 providing for a portion of the annual use fees
6 to be distributed to the Caribbean Conservation
7 Corporation; providing guidelines for the
8 distribution of such funds by the corporation;
9 repealing s. 370.12(1)(h), F.S., which provides
10 for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
11 Commission to provide grants relating to marine
12 turtles; providing an effective date.

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

15
16 Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (4) of section
17 320.08056, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 1 of
18 chapter 2001-255, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

19 320.08056 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, as amended by section 2 of
23 chapter 2001-355, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

24 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--
25 (19) SEA TURTLE LICENSE PLATES.--

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

1 be distributed to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation to
2 fund sea turtle research and education programs. The Caribbean
3 Conservation Corporation shall annually distribute assigned
4 funds through a Sea Turtle Grants Program that supports sea
5 turtle research and education activities of Florida-based
6 nonprofit groups, educational institutions, and coastal
7 counties. The Caribbean Conservation Corporation shall write
8 and publish procedures for submitting grant applications and
9 criteria for allocating available funds, and shall appoint a
10 technical advisory committee, composed of at least five
11 members, including two representatives from the Fish and
12 Wildlife Conservation Commission, to select grant recipients
13 from proposals submitted by eligible entities. Any additional
14 annual revenue shall be distributed as follows: 70 percent
15 shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust
16 Fund and used by the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program
17 for sea turtle conservation activities; 30 percent shall be
18 assigned to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation for
19 distribution through the Sea Turtle Grants Program. Up to 15
20 percent of the funds distributed to the Caribbean Conservation
21 Corporation may be expended for administrative costs directly
22 associated with the grants program. Up to 10 percent of the
23 funds distributed to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation
24 may be used to promote and market the license plate.
25 ~~Additional license plate revenue, up to an amount not~~
26 ~~exceeding 30 percent of the total annual revenue, shall be~~
27 ~~dispersed annually through the marine turtle grants program as~~
28 ~~provided in s. 370.12(1)(h). The remaining annual use proceeds~~
29 ~~shall be used by the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program~~
30 ~~for sea turtle conservation activities.~~
31

1 Section 3. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section
2 370.12, Florida Statutes, is repealed effective June 30, 2003.

3 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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5 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
6 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
7 Senate Bill 2120

8 The committee substitute changes the amount that is to be
9 distributed to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation from
10 \$250,000 to \$215,000. The effective date of the repeal of the
11 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's authority to
12 operate a grant program is delayed until June 30, 2003.