

By Senator Carlton

23-400A-03

See HB 151

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to specialty license plates;
3 amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.;
4 creating the Protect Our Reefs license plate;
5 providing for the distribution of annual use
6 fees received from the sale of such plates;
7 providing for audit by the Auditor General;
8 providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (mm) is added to subsection (4)
13 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

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320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

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(mm) Protect Our Reefs license plate, \$25.

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Section 2. Subsection (39) is added to section
19 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

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320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

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(39) PROTECT OUR REEFS LICENSE PLATES.--

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(a) The department shall develop a Protect Our Reefs
23 license plate as provided in this section. Protect Our Reefs
24 license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the
25 department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the
26 plate, and the words "Protect Our Reefs" must appear at the
27 bottom of the plate.

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(b) The proceeds of the annual use fee shall be
29 distributed to Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., to fund Florida
30 reef research, conservation, and education programs. Up to 15
31 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.,

1 may be expended for annual administrative costs directly
2 associated with the administration of the Protect Our Reefs
3 program. Up to 10 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine
4 Laboratory, Inc., may be used by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.,
5 for the continuing promotion and marketing of the license
6 plate. After reimbursement for documented costs expended in
7 the establishment of the plate, Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.,
8 shall use and distribute the remaining funds to eligible
9 Florida-based scientific, conservation, and education
10 organizations for the collection, analysis, and distribution
11 of scientific, educational, and conservation information to
12 the research community; federal, state, and local government
13 agencies; educational institutions; and the public. Eligible
14 organizations shall be based in Florida and engaged in reef
15 research, conservation, or education.

16 (c) The state Auditor General may examine any records
17 of Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., and any other organization
18 that receives funds from the sale of the Protect Our Reefs
19 license plate, to determine compliance with law.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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