

By the Committee on Finance and Taxation; and Senator Carlton

314-2339-03

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to specialty license plates;

3 amending s.320.08056, F.S.; creating the

4 Protect Our Reefs license plate; amending s.

5 320.08058, F.S.; requiring that the license

6 plate use fee from the Florida Arts license

7 plate be transferred directly to the county

8 arts council; providing for the distribution of

9 the annual use fee from the Protect Our Reef

10 license plate received from the sale of such

11 plates; providing for audit by the Auditor

12 General; providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Paragraph (mm) is added to subsection (4)

17 of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

18 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

19 (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall

20 be collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

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

22 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (12) of section

23 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended and subsection (39) is

24 added to that section, to read:

25 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

26 (12) FLORIDA ARTS LICENSE PLATES.--

27 (b) The license plate annual use fees are to be

28 annually distributed as follows:

29 1. All fees collected must be forwarded quarterly to

30 the single arts council officially designated by the county in

31 direct proportion to the amounts of fees collected in each

1 county. If there is no county arts council, fees collected
2 must be forwarded to such other agency in the county as the
3 highest ranking county administrative official designates, to
4 be applied by the arts council or agency to support arts
5 organizations, arts programs, and arts activities within the
6 county ~~Division of Cultural Affairs of the Department of~~
7 ~~State, together with a report setting forth the amount of such~~
8 ~~fees collected in each county, and must be deposited into the~~
9 ~~Florida Fine Arts Trust Fund.~~

10 ~~2. The Division of Cultural Affairs shall distribute~~
11 ~~the fees forwarded to it by the department to the counties in~~
12 ~~the amounts set forth in the report required under~~
13 ~~subparagraph 1., in each case to the county arts council for~~
14 ~~such county or, if there is none, to such other agency in the~~
15 ~~county as the division designates, to be applied by the~~
16 ~~council or agency to support art organizations, programs, and~~
17 ~~activities within the county.~~

18 (39) PROTECT OUR REEFS LICENSE PLATES.--

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

25 (b) The proceeds of the annual use fee shall be
26 distributed to Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., to fund Florida
27 reef research, conservation, and education programs. Up to 15
28 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.,
29 may be expended for annual administrative costs directly
30 associated with the administration of the Protect Our Reefs
31 program. Up to 10 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine

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

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

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

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19 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
21 SB 1298

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23 The bill changes the distribution of the Florida Arts
24 Specialty license plate use fee revenues by removing the
25 Department of State from the revenue flow cycle. The revenues
26 will go directly to the single arts council designated by the
27 county, in the direct proportion to the amounts of fees
28 collected in each county.

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