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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to specialty license plates; amending s.
3 320.08058, F.S.; revising the use of annual use fees from
4 the sale of Sea Turtle license plates; repealing s.
5 370.12(1)(h), F.S., which provides for the Fish and
6 Wildlife Conservation Commission to provide grants to
7 conduct marine turtle research, conservation, and
8 education activities; providing an effective date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Subsection (19) of section 320.08058, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

15 (19) SEA TURTLE LICENSE PLATES.--

16 (a) The department shall develop a Sea Turtle license
17 plate as provided in this section. The word "Florida" must
18 appear at the top of the plate, the words "Helping Sea Turtles
19 Survive" must appear at the bottom of the plate, and the image
20 of a sea turtle must appear in the center of the plate.

21 (b) The first \$500,000 in annual use fees shall be
22 deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund in the
23 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and. ~~The first~~
24 ~~\$500,000 in annual revenue~~ shall be used by the Florida Marine
25 Turtle Protection Program to conduct sea turtle protection,
26 research, and recovery programs. The next \$215,000 in annual use
27 fees shall be distributed to the Caribbean Conservation
28 Corporation to fund sea turtle research and education programs.
29 The Caribbean Conservation Corporation shall annually distribute
30 assigned funds through a Sea Turtle Grants Program that supports



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31 sea turtle research and education activities of Florida-based
32 nonprofit groups, education and research institutions, and
33 coastal counties in this state. The Caribbean Conservation
34 Corporation shall write and publish procedures for submitting
35 grant applications and criteria for allocating available funds
36 and shall appoint a technical advisory committee, composed of
37 seven members, to establish funding priorities and select grant
38 recipients from proposals submitted by eligible entities. Two of
39 the members shall be selected from the Fish and Wildlife
40 Conservation Commission; one member shall be selected from a
41 county bordering on the Atlantic Coast with sea turtle nesting
42 sites; one member shall be selected from a county bordering on
43 the Gulf Coast with sea turtle nesting sites; one member shall
44 be the executive director of the Caribbean Conservation
45 Corporation; and two members shall be selected at large. Any
46 additional annual revenue from the annual use fees deposited in
47 the fund shall be distributed as follows: 70 percent shall be
48 deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and
49 used by the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program for sea
50 turtle conservation activities, and 30 percent shall be assigned
51 to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation to fund the Sea Turtle
52 Grants Program. A maximum of 15 percent of the funds distributed
53 to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation may be expended for
54 administrative costs directly associated with the grants
55 program, and a maximum of 10 percent may be used to promote and
56 market the Sea Turtle license plate. Funds received by the
57 Caribbean Conservation Corporation from the Sea Turtle license
58 plate or the Sea Turtle Grants Program and funds received by any
59 grant recipient of the Sea Turtle Grants Program may not be used
60 for litigation. Additional license plate revenue, up to an



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61 ~~amount not exceeding 30 percent of the total annual revenue,~~
62 ~~shall be dispersed annually through the marine turtle grants~~
63 ~~program as provided in s. 370.12(1)(h). The remaining annual use~~
64 ~~proceeds shall be used by the Florida Marine Turtle Protection~~
65 ~~Program for sea turtle conservation activities.~~

66 (c) For fiscal year 2003-2004, there is appropriated to
67 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission from the
68 accumulated sea turtle grant moneys in the Marine Resources
69 Conservation Trust Fund the amount of \$350,000. That amount
70 shall be transferred to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation
71 to fund the Sea Turtle Grants Program subject to the limitations
72 and provisions of paragraph (b). For fiscal year 2003-2004, any
73 remaining sea turtle license plate funds in the Marine Resources
74 Conservation Trust Fund shall be used by the Fish and Wildlife
75 Conservation Commission for sea turtle research and management
76 activities.

77 Section 2. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section
78 370.12, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

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