



HB 0151

2003

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

8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

13 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

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

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

19 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

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

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

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



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31 may be expended for annual administrative costs directly
32 associated with the administration of the Protect Our Reefs
33 program. Up to 10 percent of the funds received by Mote Marine
34 Laboratory, Inc., may be used by Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.,
35 for the continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate.
36 After reimbursement for documented costs expended in the
37 establishment of the plate, Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc., shall
38 use and distribute the remaining funds to eligible Florida-based
39 scientific, conservation, and education organizations for the
40 collection, analysis, and distribution of scientific,
41 educational, and conservation information to the research
42 community; federal, state, and local government agencies;
43 educational institutions; and the public. Eligible organizations
44 shall be based in Florida and engaged in reef research,
45 conservation, or education.

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

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.