

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

36-1278A-03

See HB

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to specialty license plates;
amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.;
creating the Stop Heart Disease license plate;
providing for distribution to the Florida Heart
Research Foundation of annual use fees received
from the sale of such plates; providing an
effective date.

WHEREAS, heart disease is the leading cause of death
and disability in this country and in the State of Florida,
claiming the lives of more than 2,600 Americans every day, an
average of one death every 33 seconds, and cardiovascular
disease accounts for over 40 percent of all deaths, claiming
more lives each year than the next seven leading causes of
death combined, and

WHEREAS, more than 61 million Americans suffer from
cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure,
coronary heart disease, stroke, congestive heart failure, and
other conditions, and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of males and 38 percent of females
who experience a heart attack die within 1 year, and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of men and 63 percent of women who
die of sudden cardiac death experience no previous symptoms of
coronary heart disease, and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease takes an astonishing
toll on the economy through health care costs, lost work days,
and lowered productivity, which costs are estimated to reach
\$330 billion in 2003, and

1 WHEREAS, almost 20 percent of all Social Security
2 disability payments are made to disabled Americans with heart
3 disease, and

4 WHEREAS, men and women are at equal risk for
5 cardiovascular disease and are also affected as husbands,
6 wives, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, and
7 friends of people suffering from cardiovascular disease, and

8 WHEREAS, in Florida, there will be over 65,000 deaths
9 per year from cardiovascular disease, and hospitalization
10 costs to care for Floridians with cardiovascular disease will
11 top \$4.4 billion per year, and

12 WHEREAS, the only hope of ending this disease is
13 through research aimed at discovering its cause, its cure,
14 and, most importantly, its prevention, and

15 WHEREAS, the Florida Heart Research Foundation was
16 developed for cardiovascular research, education, and
17 prevention programs throughout the State of Florida, NOW,
18 THEREFORE,

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

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

24 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

27 (mm) Stop Heart Disease license plate, \$25.

28 Section 2. Subsection (39) is added to section
29 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

30 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

31 (39) STOP HEART DISEASE LICENSE PLATES.--

1 (a) The department shall develop a Stop Heart Disease
2 license plate as provided in this section. Stop Heart Disease
3 license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the
4 department. The plate shall be designed to include a red,
5 white, and blue background with a slanted heart shape in the
6 middle of the plate. The word "Florida" shall appear at the
7 top of the plate in yellow outlined in black, and the words
8 "Stop Heart Disease" shall appear at the bottom of the plate
9 in yellow.

10 (b) The department shall remit the proceeds of the
11 annual use fee to the Florida Heart Research Foundation. The
12 first \$80,000 of the use fee given to the Florida Heart
13 Research Foundation shall be used to pay startup costs,
14 including costs incurred developing and issuing the plates.
15 Thereafter, the Florida Heart Research Foundation shall
16 provide for a peer review grant solicitation and award process
17 to distribute fees for cardiovascular disease research,
18 education, and prevention within the state and shall make the
19 funds available for any one or more of the following:

20 1. Quality research to pursue top quality
21 cardiovascular research that will further understanding of
22 heart disease and its cause, treatment, cure, and prevention.
23 Accepted projects must conform to the highest standards of
24 scientific research, be efficiently organized, and report
25 updates continually to ensure research credibility and
26 excellence.

27 2. Heart disease prevention programs to provide
28 cardiovascular screenings to state residents.

29 3. Educational programs to offer literature, seminars,
30 or speakers for both clinicians and lay people so that the
31 latest risk factors, technologies, treatments, methodologies,

1 protocols, and preventive measures are well known and used in
2 the state.
3 (c) In the first year in which the plate is issued, no
4 more than 25 percent of the fees collected may be used for
5 administrative costs directly associated with the operation of
6 the Florida Heart Research Foundation and marketing and
7 promotion of the Stop Heart Disease license plate. In the
8 second and subsequent years in which the plate is sold, no
9 more than 20 percent of the fees collected may be used for
10 administrative costs directly associated with the operation of
11 the Florida Heart Research Foundation and marketing and
12 promotion of the Stop Heart Disease license plate.
13 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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