

By Senator Smith

14-254-03

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

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

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

16 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

17 (19) SEA TURTLE LICENSE PLATES.--

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

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

1 annually distribute assigned funds through a Sea Turtle Grants
2 Program that supports sea turtle research and education
3 activities of Florida-based nonprofit groups, education and
4 research institutions, and coastal counties in this state. The
5 Caribbean Conservation Corporation shall write and publish
6 procedures for submitting grant applications and criteria for
7 allocating available funds, and shall appoint a technical
8 advisory committee, composed of at least five members,
9 including two representatives from the Fish and Wildlife
10 Conservation Commission, to establish funding priorities and
11 select grant recipients from proposals submitted by eligible
12 entities. Any additional annual revenue shall be distributed
13 as follows: 70 percent shall be deposited in the Marine
14 Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used by the Florida
15 Marine Turtle Protection Program for sea turtle conservation
16 activities and 30 percent shall be assigned to the Caribbean
17 Conservation Corporation for distribution through the Sea
18 Turtle Grants Program. A maximum of 15 percent of the funds
19 distributed to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation may be
20 expended for administrative costs directly associated with the
21 grants program, and a maximum of 10 percent may be used to
22 promote and market the Sea Turtle license plate. Funds
23 received by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation from the
24 Sea Turtle license plate or the Sea Turtle Grants Program and
25 funds received by any grant recipient of the Sea Turtle Grants
26 Program may not be used for litigation.~~Additional license~~
27 ~~plate revenue, up to an amount not exceeding 30 percent of the~~
28 ~~total annual revenue, shall be dispersed annually through the~~
29 ~~marine turtle grants program as provided in s. 370.12(1)(h).~~
30 ~~The remaining annual use proceeds shall be used by the Florida~~
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