

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senators Smith, Atwater, Lynn and Pruitt

309-2324-03

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; providing an appropriation;

6 repealing s. 370.12(1)(h), F.S., which provides

7 for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation

8 Commission to provide grants to conduct marine

9 turtle research, conservation, and education

10 activities; providing an 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. Two of the members shall be selected from the Fish
13 and Wildlife Conservation Commission; one member shall be
14 selected on a rotating biennial basis from a county bordering
15 on the Atlantic Coast with sea turtle nesting sites; one
16 member shall be selected on a rotating biennial basis from a
17 county bordering on the Gulf Coast with sea turtle nesting
18 sites; one member shall be the executive director of the
19 Caribbean Conservation Corporation; and two members shall be
20 selected at large. Any additional annual revenue shall be
21 distributed as follows: 70 percent shall be deposited in the
22 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and used by the
23 Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program for sea turtle
24 conservation activities and 30 percent shall be assigned to
25 the Caribbean Conservation Corporation for distribution
26 through the Sea Turtle Grants Program. A maximum of 15 percent
27 of the funds distributed to the Caribbean Conservation
28 Corporation may be expended for administrative costs directly
29 associated with the grants program, and a maximum of 10
30 percent may be used to promote and market the Sea Turtle
31 license plate. Funds received by the Caribbean Conservation

1 Corporation from the Sea Turtle license plate or the Sea
2 Turtle Grants Program and funds received by any grant
3 recipient of the Sea Turtle Grants Program may not be used for
4 litigation.~~Additional license plate revenue, up to an amount~~
5 ~~not exceeding 30 percent of the total annual revenue, shall be~~
6 ~~dispersed annually through the marine turtle grants program as~~
7 ~~provided in s. 370.12(1)(h). The remaining annual use proceeds~~
8 ~~shall be used by the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program~~
9 ~~for sea turtle conservation activities.~~

10 Section 2. For fiscal year 2003-2004 there is
11 appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
12 from the accumulated sea turtle grant moneys in the Marine
13 Resources Conservation Trust Fund the amount of \$350,000. That
14 amount shall be transferred to the Caribbean Conservation
15 Corporation to fund the sea turtle grant program subject to
16 the limitations and provisions of section 320.08058(19)(b),
17 Florida Statutes. For fiscal year 2003-2004, any remaining sea
18 turtle license plate funds in the Marine Resources
19 Conservation Trust Fund shall be used by the Fish and Wildlife
20 Conservation Commission for sea turtle research and management
21 activities.

22 Section 3. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section
23 370.12, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

24 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SB 308

1. Establishes a technical advisory committee composed of two members from the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, one member from a county bordering the Atlantic Coast with a sea turtle nesting site (rotated on a biennial basis), one member from a county bordering the Gulf Coast with a sea turtle nesting site (rotated on a biennial basis), the executive director of the Caribbean Conservation Commission, and two members selected at large.
2. Appropriates \$350,000 from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund from funds collected in FY 2002-03 for transfer to the Caribbean Conservation Corporation to fund sea turtle grants.