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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.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
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.