



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 Stop Heart
4 Disease license plate; providing for distribution to the
5 Florida Heart Research Foundation, Inc., of annual use
6 fees received from the sale of such plates; providing an
7 effective date.

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease takes an astonishing toll
25 on the economy through health care costs, lost work days, and
26 lowered productivity, which costs are estimated to reach \$330
27 billion in 2002, and



28 WHEREAS, almost 20 percent of all Social Security
 29 disability payments are made to disabled Americans with heart
 30 disease, and

31 WHEREAS, men and women are at equal risk for cardiovascular
 32 disease and are also affected as husbands, wives, fathers,
 33 mothers, brothers, sisters, children, and friends of people
 34 suffering from cardiovascular disease, and

35 WHEREAS, in Florida, there will be over 65,000 deaths per
 36 year from cardiovascular disease, and hospitalization costs to
 37 care for Floridians with cardiovascular disease will top \$4.4
 38 billion per year, and

39 WHEREAS, the only hope of ending this disease is through
 40 research aimed at discovering its cause, its cure, and, most
 41 importantly, its prevention, and

42 WHEREAS, the Florida Heart Research Foundation, Inc., was
 43 developed for cardiovascular research, education, and prevention
 44 programs throughout the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

45

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

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

50 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

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

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



56 | 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

57 | (39) STOP HEART DISEASE LICENSE PLATES.--

58 | (a) The department shall develop a Stop Heart Disease
 59 | license plate as provided in this section. Stop Heart Disease
 60 | license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the
 61 | department. The plate shall be designed to include a red, white,
 62 | and blue background with a slanted heart shape in the middle of
 63 | the plate. The word "Florida" shall appear at the top of the
 64 | plate in yellow outlined in black, and the words "Stop Heart
 65 | Disease" shall appear at the bottom of the plate in yellow.

66 | (b) The department shall remit the proceeds of the annual
 67 | use fee to the Florida Heart Research Foundation, Inc. The first
 68 | \$80,000 of the use fee given to the Florida Heart Research
 69 | Foundation, Inc., shall be used to pay startup costs, including
 70 | costs incurred developing and issuing the plates. Thereafter,
 71 | the Florida Heart Research Foundation, Inc., shall provide for a
 72 | peer review grant solicitation and award process to distribute
 73 | fees for cardiovascular disease research, education, and
 74 | prevention within the state and shall make the funds available
 75 | for any one or more of the following:

76 | 1. Quality research to pursue top quality cardiovascular
 77 | research that will further understanding of heart disease and
 78 | its cause, treatment, cure, and prevention. Accepted projects
 79 | must conform to the highest standards of scientific research, be
 80 | efficiently organized, and report updates continually to ensure
 81 | research credibility and excellence.

82 | 2. Heart disease prevention programs to provide
 83 | cardiovascular screenings to state residents.



84 3. Educational programs to offer educational programs,
85 literature, seminars, or speakers for both clinicians and lay
86 people so that the latest risk factors, technologies,
87 treatments, methodologies, protocols, and preventive measures
88 are well known and used in the state.

89 (c) In the first year in which the plate is issued, no
90 more than 25 percent of the fees collected may be used for
91 administrative costs directly associated with the operation of
92 the Florida Heart Research Foundation, Inc., and marketing and
93 promotion of the Stop Heart Disease license plate. In the second
94 and subsequent years in which the plate is sold, no more than 20
95 percent of the fees collected may be used for administrative
96 costs directly associated with the operation of the Florida
97 Heart Research Foundation, Inc., and marketing and promotion of
98 the Stop Heart Disease license plate.

99 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.