

By Senator Haridopolos

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to license plates; amending ss.
320.08056, 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Discover
Florida's Oceans license plate; providing for
the distribution of annual use fees received
from the sale of such plates; providing an
effective date.

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

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

320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

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

(ss) Discover Florida's Oceans license plate, \$25.

Section 2. Subsection (45) is added to section
320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:

320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

(45) DISCOVER FLORIDA'S OCEANS LICENSE PLATES.--

(a) The department shall develop a Discover Florida's
Oceans license plate as provided in this section. The word
"Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the words
"Discover Florida's Oceans" must appear at the bottom of the
plate.

(b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the
Hubbs Florida Ocean Fund, Inc., which shall administer the
fees as follows:

1. Twenty percent of the funds shall be distributed to
the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., to be used for

1 ocean, estuarine, or coastal scientific research,
2 conservation, and education projects.

3 2. Up to 10 percent of the funds may be used for
4 administrative costs directly associated with research,
5 conservation, and education programs of the Hubbs-SeaWorld
6 Research Institute and with the license plate.

7 3. Up to 15 percent of the funds may be used for
8 continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate.

9 4. The remainder of the funds shall be used to
10 collect, analyze, archive, and publish scientific data
11 regarding the state's ocean, estuary, and coastal habitats and
12 the species that inhabit, use, or migrate in state waters or
13 along the state's coastal areas; to provide response, care,
14 assistance, and research as part of the Hubbs-SeaWorld
15 Research Institute's role in responding to and archiving data
16 on stranded marine species; to construct and maintain a marine
17 and coastal research center in association with the Archie
18 Carr National Wildlife Refuge on lands donated to the
19 Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute by the Richard King Mellon
20 Foundation; to train teachers and students to enhance
21 scientific literacy, research competency, and technology
22 development; to conduct ocean-space aquatic research and
23 scientific research focused on ocean observations from space;
24 to conduct research on economic benefits of the state's ocean,
25 estuary, and coastal resources and public use of those
26 resources; to create research and education programs that
27 contribute to the development of the state's knowledge and
28 diversify the economy; and to implement programs that seek
29 objective, common-sense, scientific solutions to the complex
30 marine and coastal ecological problems facing the state.

31 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates a Discover Florida's Oceans license plate and provides for the distribution of annual use fees to the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., and the Hubbs Florida Ocean Fund, Inc., to be used by the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute for research and conservation purposes.