

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee

BILL: SB 1502

SPONSOR: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Children's Hearing Help Fund

DATE: April 20, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Evans	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.	Munroe	Wilson	HE	Favorable
3.	Noble	Martin	TA	Favorable
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to include a checkoff on each driver's license application form for a voluntary \$1 contribution to the Children's Hearing Help Fund. The Children's Hearing Help Fund is a special trust fund established by Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc. (SSHF). The organization requesting the checkoff, SSHF, has completed the statutory requirements authorizing it to seek legislative enactment of the voluntary contribution checkoff.

This bill substantially amends section 322.08 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 322.081, F.S., provides the procedures an organization must follow prior to seeking legislative authorization to establish a voluntary checkoff on a driver's license application. Before the organization is eligible, it must submit the following to DHSMV at least 90 days before the convening of the Regular Session of the Legislature:

- A request for the particular voluntary contribution being sought, describing it in general terms.
- An application fee of up to \$10,000 to defray DHSMV's costs for reviewing the application and developing the checkoff, if authorized. State funds may not be used to pay the application fee.
- A short and long-term marketing strategy and a financial analysis outlining the anticipated revenues and the planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the voluntary contributions.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must discontinue the checkoff if less than \$25,000 has been contributed by the end of the fifth year, or if less than \$25,000 is contributed during any subsequent 5-year period.

Currently, the driver's license application and renewal forms include the following six voluntary contribution checkoffs¹:

- \$5 per applicant, which contribution shall be transferred into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.
- \$1 per applicant, which contribution shall be deposited into the Florida Organ and Tissue Donor Education and Procurement Trust Fund for organ and tissue donor education and for maintaining the organ and tissue donor registry.
- \$1 per applicant, which contribution shall be distributed to the Florida Council of the Blind.
- \$2 per applicant, which shall be distributed to the Hearing Research Institute, Incorporated, for the purpose of infant hearing screening in Florida.
- \$1 per applicant, which shall be distributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International.
- \$1 per applicant, which shall be distributed to Prevent Blindness Florida.

An organization requesting a driver's license checkoff must also provide a statement which explains the purpose of the trust fund created through the checkoff. Some contributions received through driver's license checkoffs are exempted from the general revenue service charges as established in s. 215.20, F.S.²

According to SSHF, its mission is to provide quality developmental and rehabilitative services, products, and education (primarily to children) throughout Florida, in a caring and compassionate environment, never limited by ability to pay.

The Children's Hearing Help Fund will be one part of a cooperative program, currently being coordinated between SSHF and the Children's Medical Service/Early Intervention Program, Department of Health. The program will initially target newborn infants to three-year-old toddlers who have been identified with a hearing loss and whose families need financial assistance to provide further diagnostic testing and hearing devices. Nationally, three out of every 1,000 newborns have a hearing loss, and it is the most common birth defect. Florida has the fourth largest birthrate in the nation with approximately 200,000 births annually. Based on statistics and estimates, approximately 600 new children will be born hearing impaired annually.³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 322.08, F.S., to require DHSMV to include a checkoff for a voluntary \$1 contribution to the Children's Hearing Help Fund on each driver's license application form. The contributions donated to the Children's Hearing Help Fund through the driver's license checkoff will go to SSHF. This section also exempts the funds from the general revenue service charge.

¹ See ss. 322.08(6) and 322.18 (9)(a), F.S.

² See s. 322.08(6)(e), F.S.

³ Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc. Application for Checkoff.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Article I, Section 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Citizens wishing to contribute \$1 to the Children's Hearing Help Fund may do so by checking the organization on the driver's license application form.

C. Government Sector Impact:

SSHF has paid an application fee of \$10,000 to defray DHSMV's costs for reviewing the application and developing the checkoff.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
