

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 Committee

BILL: SB 1502

SPONSOR: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Driver's License Voluntary Contribution

DATE: March 21, 2005

REVISED: _____

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

I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), to include a check off for a voluntary \$1 contribution to the Children's Hearing Help Fund on each driver's license application form. 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 check off, Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc., has completed the statutory requirements authorizing it to seek Legislative enactment of the voluntary contribution check off.

This bill substantially amends sections 322.08 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 322.081, F.S., provides the procedures which an organization must follow prior to seeking Legislative authorization to establish a voluntary check off on a driver's license application. Before the organization is eligible, it must submit the following requirements 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 check off, if authorized, and 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.

DHSMV must discontinue the check off 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 check offs¹:

- A voluntary contribution of \$5 per applicant, which contribution shall be transferred into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.
- A voluntary contribution of \$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.
- A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which contribution shall be distributed to the Florida Council of the Blind.
- A voluntary contribution of \$2 per applicant, which shall be distributed to the Hearing Research Institute, Incorporated, for the purpose of infant hearing screening in Florida.
- A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which shall be distributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International.
- A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which shall be distributed to Prevent Blindness Florida.

An organization requesting a driver's license check off must also provide a statement, which explains the purpose of the trust fund created through the check off. Some contributions received through driver's license check offs 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 development 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 the SSHF and the Children's Medical Service/ Early Intervention Program. 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 1000 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. 322.8, F.S., to require the DHSMV to include a check off 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 check off

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 Check off.

will go towards the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc. This section also exempts the funds from the general revenue service charge.

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

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

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:

The Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc. has paid an application fee of \$10,000 to defray DHSMV's costs for reviewing the application and developing the check off.

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.
