20-515A-07

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to specialty license plates; amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; establishing annual use fees for the Support Our Troops license plate; authorizing placement of a sponsoring organization's Internet domain name on specialty license plates; requiring the specialty license plate application form to provide the applicant the option to instruct the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to provide certain information to the sponsoring organization; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; creating the Support Our Troops license plate; requiring the use of certain images and marks of Support Our Troops, Inc.; providing that the right to use a certain mark is reserved to that corporation; authorizing that corporation to change the design of the Support Our Troops license plate under certain circumstances; providing that issuance of the Support Our Troops license plate shall not be discontinued if the number of registrations falls below a certain number; providing for the distribution of use fees received from the sale of such plates to Support Our Troops, Inc.; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, to create a concrete statement of thanks to our troops for their service, civilians stepped forward and founded Support Our Troops, Inc., a national nonprofit

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organization based in Florida and dedicated to permanently
assisting active duty troops and their families, and
    WHEREAS, through a comprehensive program that enables
individuals to offer support through multiple charitable
methodologies, Support Our Troops, Inc., provides the means
through which individuals may take direct personal financial
responsibility for their troops and engage in direct financial
assistance for the troops and their families, and
    WHEREAS, Support Our Troops, Inc., also provides the
means through which people may publicly display support for
their troops, and
    WHEREAS, the Support Our Troops license plate will
serve these very important functions and will, by example,
encourage others to do the same, NOW, THEREFORE,
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
    Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 320.08056,
Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (iii) is added to
subsection (4), and subsection (11) is added to that section,
to read:
    320.08056 Specialty license plates.--
            (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall
be collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:
    (iii) Support Our Troops license plate, $25.
    (6) Specialty license plates must bear the design
required by law for the appropriate specialty license plate,
and the designs and colors must conform to the department's
design specifications. In addition to a design, the specialty
license plates may bear the imprint of numerals from 1 to 999,
inclusive, capital letters "A" through "Z," or a combination
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thereof. The department shall determine the maximum number of characters, including both numerals and letters. All specialty license plates must be otherwise of the same material and size as standard license plates issued for any registration period. A specialty license plate may bear an appropriate slogan, emblem, or logo in a size and placement that conforms to the department's design specifications. The sponsoring organization's Internet domain name may appear on the plate. (11) The application form for a specialty license plate shall provide the applicant the option to instruct the department to provide his or her name, address, and renewal date to the sponsoring organization.

Section 2. Subsection (61) is added to section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, to read:
320.08058 Specialty license plates.--
(61) SUPPORT OUR TROOPS LICENSE PLATES.--
(a) The department shall develop a Support Our Troops license plate as provided in this section. Support Our Troops license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the department and must contain the "Support Our Troops" mark of Support Our Troops, Inc. The right to use the mark of an eagle head upon a United States flaq field as an emblem on a specialty license plate is reserved to Support Our Troops, Inc., and this emblem may be used alternatively. The word "Florida" must appear on the plate and may be in approximately 85-point Mistral font, and the words "Support Our Troops" must appear on the plate and may be in approximately 60-point Vandijk font. Upon compliance with s. 320.08056 (9), Support Our Troops, Inc., may alternate the phrase at the bottom of the plate to "Support Our Heroes" or "Salute Our Heroes." The field of the plate may be colored.

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    (b) The license plate annual use fees shall be
distributed to Support Our Troops, Inc., to be used for the
benefit of Florida troops and their families in accordance
with its articles of incorporation. Support Our Troops, Inc.,
may retain all revenue from the annual use fees until all
startup costs for developing and establishing the plate have
been recovered. Thereafter, up to 25 percent of the annual use
fee revenue may be used for administrative costs and promotion
and marketing of the specialty license plate.
    (c) Notwithstanding s. 320.08056, due to the special
nature of this plate, the department shall begin production
and distribution of the Support Our Troops specialty license
plate within 90 days after its approval by the Legislature.
Section 320.08056(8)(a) does not apply to the Support Our
Troops license plate. The Support Our Troops license plate
shall also be issued in similar design in a size appropriate
for motorcycles.
            Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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                    SENATE SUMMARY
    Creates a Support Our Troops license plate. Provides for
    the distribution and use of annual use fees from the sale
    of such plates.
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