

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL 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: Finance and Tax Committee

BILL: CS/CS/SB 482

INTRODUCER: Finance and Tax Committee, Health Policy Committee and Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Registration

DATE: March 28, 2007

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Boyd	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.	Garner	Wilson	HP	Fav/CS
3.	Keating	Johansen	FT	Fav/CS
4.			TA	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill revises provisions relating to the voluntary \$1 check-off on motor vehicle registrations distributed to the Florida Heart Research Institute, to specify that the contribution is to stop heart disease. The bill also 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 motor vehicle registration and renewal form.

This bill amends s. 320.02, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ Check-off Requirements

Section 320.02, F.S., currently authorizes check-offs for voluntary contributions to specified organizations on motor vehicle registration and renewal application forms. Check-offs currently appearing on the forms include the following organizations in the following amounts:

- \$2 for the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund for the purpose of child safety seats;
- \$1 for the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund;
- \$5 for the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund;
- \$1 for the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund;
- \$1 for Prevent Blindness Florida;
- \$1 for the Florida Heart Research Institute;
- \$1 for Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.; and

- An unspecified amount for Florida Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Inc.

Section 320.023, F.S., provides procedures that organizations must follow prior to seeking legislative authorization to establish a check-off for a voluntary contribution on a motor vehicle registration application. Voluntary contributions collected through these check-offs may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, or for general or administrative expenses, except as authorized by law or to pay the cost of an audit or report required by law.¹ Any voluntary contributions authorized by law shall only be distributed under an appropriation by the Legislature.²

For an organization to be eligible for a check-off, at least 90 days before the convening of the regular session of the Legislature the organization must submit to the DHSMV for review the following:

- 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,
- 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.³

Hearing Loss

Hearing loss is the most common form of birth defect. Nationally, three out of every 1,000 newborns are born with some form of hearing loss. Florida has the fourth largest birthrate in the nation with births in excess of 200,000 annually. Based on statistics and estimates, more than 600 children will be born hearing-impaired annually in the state of Florida.

Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc.

The West Pasco Sertoma Club (WPSC) was chartered on June 6, 1970, in New Port Richey, Florida, and adopted the Sertoma International Organization national focus goals for addressing speech and hearing problems. The WPSC became significantly involved, providing funds for equipment, material, supplies and programs for the children and their families. In 1982, the WPSC made a decision to establish a foundation to build a speech and hearing clinic for children in Pasco County, Florida. The clinic was opened and dedicated on May 23, 1983, as a department of All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg. In November 1989, in an effort to broaden the geographic scope of services, the name of the foundation was changed to the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc.⁴

¹ See s. 320.023(5), F.S.

² See s. 320.023(5)(c), F.S.

³ See s. 320.023(1), F.S.

⁴ The foundation's website can be found at <http://www.sertomahearsay.com/> (last visited on March 2, 2007).

According to the foundation, 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 clinic provides comprehensive treatment for all types of hearing disorders utilizing masters and doctorate level audiologists. The Children's Hearing Help Fund will be one part of a cooperative program, currently being coordinated between the foundation and the Children's Medical Services/Early Intervention Program. The program has expanded its goals and services to include the provision of educational and financial assistance for low to moderate income families with minor children, from newborns to 18 years of age for hearing evaluations, loaner hearing devices, permanent hearing devices, and the ongoing maintenance and replacement of the devices, if necessary until the child reaches 18 years of age.

The Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc., has met the requirements specified in s. 320.023, F.S., for requesting the voluntary contribution language on motor vehicle registration and renewal forms.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Amends s. 320.02, F.S., to revise provisions relating to the voluntary \$1 check-off on motor vehicle registrations distributed to the Florida Heart Research Institute, to specify that the contribution is to stop heart disease. The bill also requires the DHSMV to include a check-off for a voluntary \$1 contribution to the Children's Hearing Help Fund on each motor vehicle registration or renewal form and provides for use of the funds; and exempts such funds from the general revenue service charge.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of October 1, 2007.

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 Art. VII, s. 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 Art. I, s. 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 Art. III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Applicants for motor vehicle registrations and renewals wishing to contribute \$1 to the Children's Hearing Help Fund would be able to select this organization from a voluntary check-off on the motor vehicle registration or renewal form.

The Children's Hearing Fund will receive, by way of an annual state appropriation, all proceeds from the motor vehicle registration voluntary \$1 contribution.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida, Inc., has paid all fees required by DHSMV for reviewing the application and developing the check-off.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
