

# 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 482

INTRODUCER: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Registration Forms

DATE: January 26, 2007

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Boyd</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	_____	_____	<u>HP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>FT</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>TA</u>	_____
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 motor vehicle registration and renewal 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, SSHF has completed the statutory requirements authorizing it to seek Legislative enactment of the voluntary contribution check off.

This bill substantially amends section 320.02 of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 320.02, F.S., currently authorizes check-offs for voluntary contributions appearing on the motor vehicle registration and renewal application forms for 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.

Voluntary contributions 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. See s. 320.023 (5), F.S. Any voluntary contributions authorized by law shall only be distributed under an appropriation by the Legislature. See s. 320.023 (5)(c), F.S.

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 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 eighteen 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 eighteen years of age. Hearing loss is the most common birth defect and nationally, three out of every 1000 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.

#### DHSMV's Check-off Requirements

Section 320.023, F.S., provides procedures organizations must follow prior to seeking legislative authorization to establish a voluntary check-off on a motor vehicle registration application. Before the organization is eligible, the organization must submit to DHSMV for review 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
- 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 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 renewal forms.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** amends s. 320.02, 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 motor vehicle registration or renewal; provides for use of the funds; and exempts such funds from the general revenue service charge.

**Section 2** provides an effective date of July 1, 2007.

**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:

Applicants for motor vehicle registrations and renewals wishing to contribute \$1.00 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.

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

---