

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to specialty license plates; amending ss.  
 3           320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Protect Florida  
 4           Springs license plate; establishing an annual use fee for  
 5           the plate; providing for the distribution of use fees  
 6           received from the sale of such plates; providing an  
 7           effective date.

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 9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11           Section 1. Paragraph (iii) is added to subsection (4) of  
 12           section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

13           320.08056 Specialty license plates.--  
 14           (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be  
 15           collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:  
 16           (iii) Protect Florida Springs license plate, \$25.

17           Section 2. Subsection (61) is added to section 320.08058,  
 18           Florida Statutes, to read:

19           320.08058 Specialty license plates.--  
 20           (61) PROTECT FLORIDA SPRINGS LICENSE PLATES.--

21           (a) The department shall develop a Protect Florida Springs  
 22           license plate as provided in this section. Protect Florida  
 23           Springs license plates must bear the colors and design approved  
 24           by the department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of  
 25           the plate, and the words "Protect Florida Springs" must appear  
 26           at the bottom of the plate.

27           (b) The license plate annual use fees shall be distributed  
 28           to Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., a citizen support

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29 organization created pursuant to s. 372.0215, which shall  
30 administer the fees as follows:

31 1. Wildlife Trust of Florida, Inc., shall retain the first  
32 \$60,000 in proceeds from the annual use fees as direct  
33 reimbursement for administrative costs, startup costs, and costs  
34 incurred in the development and approval process. Thereafter, up  
35 to 15 percent of the funds may be used for continuing promotion  
36 and marketing of the license plate, and up to 10 percent of the  
37 funds may be used for administrative costs directly associated  
38 with education programs, conservation, springs research, and  
39 grant administration of Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.

40 2. At least 55 percent of the funds shall be available in  
41 the form of competitive grants, with highest priority given to  
42 community-based springs programs and projects specifically  
43 related to education, outreach, and springs protection. Springs  
44 research not eligible for funding elsewhere that addresses  
45 specific conservation and management needs may be considered.

46 3. Up to 20 percent of the funds shall be distributed to  
47 Wildlife Trust of Florida, Inc., for competitive grants and  
48 support for the Wildlife Trust's Florida springs conservation  
49 and research activities specifically to collect, analyze,  
50 archive, and publish scientific data regarding the state's  
51 springs, their associated habitats and recharge areas, and the  
52 diversity of species that use them; to train teachers and  
53 students about the importance of Florida's springs; to develop  
54 and support public educational opportunities and materials aimed  
55 at increasing the understanding of the economic and biological  
56 importance of protecting Florida's springs; to develop new

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57 technologies enabling a better understanding of spring ecology;  
58 to support spring enhancement and restoration; to conduct  
59 research on economic benefits of the state's springs; and to  
60 implement programs that seek objective, common-sense, scientific  
61 solutions to the complex issues associated with protecting and  
62 managing Florida springs.

63 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.