

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Transportation Committee

BILL: SB 1268

INTRODUCER: Senator Lawson

SUBJECT: Free License Plates/Choctaw Indians

DATE: March 18, 2008

REVISED: _____

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

I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (department) to issue free motor vehicle license plates to members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe.

This bill substantially amends s. 320.0841, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Section 320.0841, F.S., requires the department to issue each year, free of charge to any state agency or individual, a sufficient number of motor vehicle license plates for use on vehicles owned and operated by members of the Seminole and Miccosukee Indian Tribes. The allocation for any year may be increased by an amount equal to up to 10 percent of the allocation for the previous year. Any request for such increase shall be accompanied by formal certification of the need therefore by the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal Councils. In addition, the department must provide an appropriate application form and procedures for request and issuance of the license plates.

According to the department, there are currently, 531 Miccosukee and 1,596 Seminole Tribal Indians with active motor vehicle registrations.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.0841, F.S., to allow members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe to receive free of charge motor vehicle license plates for use on vehicles such members own and operate. In addition, the annual allocation of motor vehicle license plates may be increased by an amount

equal to up to ten percent of the allocation for the previous year. A request for an increase must be accompanied by formal certification of the need by the Choctaw Tribal Council, as appropriate.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe will be provided motor vehicle license plates free of charge.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The department estimates 300 free motor vehicle license plates will be issued to the Choctaw Indian Tribe. The average registration fee is \$47. Based on this information, there would be a \$14,100 revenue reduction due to an estimated 300 members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe being exempt from paying the annual registration fee of approximately \$47.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The department recommends an October 1, 2008, effective date to allow adequate time for programming modifications.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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