

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 641 License Plates

SPONSOR(S): Chestnut

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 732

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on Infrastructure</u>	<u>8 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Suarez</u>	<u>Miller</u>
2) <u>Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council</u>	<u></u>	<u>Suarez</u>	<u>Tinker</u>
3) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
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SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Bethune-Cookman College license plate was created by an act of the Legislature and enacted into law on February 15, 1997. The name of Bethune-Cookman College was changed to Bethune-Cookman University to commemorate the school's accreditation as a Level III Master's Degree institution by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) on February 14, 2007. This bill amends Florida Statutes authorizing the Bethune-Cookman College specialty license plate to be reissued as the Bethune-Cookman University specialty license plate.

This act has no fiscal impact and takes effect July 1, 2008.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The bill does not appear to implicate any of the House principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Currently, specialty license plates are available to any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay an annual use fee for the privilege. The particular annual use fees ranging from \$15 to \$25, paid in addition to required license taxes and service fees, are distributed to an organization or organizations in support of a particular cause or charity signified in the plate's design and designated in statute. The Legislature may create a specialty license plate under its own initiative, or it can do so at the request of an organization.

The Bethune-Cookman College license plate was created by an act of the Legislature and enacted into law on February 15, 1997. Section 320.08056(4)(m) authorizes the Bethune-Cookman College specialty license plate. All proceeds collected from the \$25 annual use fee authorized by s.320.08056(4)(m), F.S., are distributed to Bethune-Cookman College and are used to fund academic scholarships. The Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) reports that sales of the specialty license plate have generated revenues of \$167,575 (FY06/07), \$166,750 (FY05/06) and \$160,550 (FY04/05).

Effect of Proposed Changes

Effective February 14, 2007, Bethune-Cookman College changed its name to Bethune-Cookman University. The Bethune-Cookman College Board of Directors authorized the name change to coincide with the school's accreditation as a Level-III Master's Degree institution by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges. The name of the school was legally changed upon filing an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation on file with the Florida Secretary of State on April 9, 2007.

This bill amends s.320.0805(4)(m), F.S., to provide for the "Bethune-Cookman College" specialty license plate to be issued as the "Bethune-Cookman University" specialty license plate. Additionally, the bill conforms s.320.08058(13), F.S., to instruct DHSMV to develop a "Bethune-Cookman University" specialty license plate and distribute annual use fees to Bethune-Cookman University.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 320.08056(4)(m), F.S., replacing “College” with “University” in statute providing for \$25 annual use fee for issuance of specialty license plate.

Section 2. Amends s. 320.08058(13), F.S., replacing “College” with “University” in statute authorizing issuance of specialty license plate, and replaces “College” with “University” in statute authorizing distribution of annual use fees.

Section 3. Provides and effective date of July 1, 2008.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

SEE FISCAL COMMENTS

2. Expenditures:

SEE FISCAL COMMENTS

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill appears to have no direct impact on the private sector. Persons who elect to purchase the specialty license plate will be required to pay an annual use fee of \$25 in addition to applicable taxes and administrative charges. DHSMV reports that sales of the specialty license plate have generated revenues of \$167,575 (FY06/07), \$166,750 (FY05/06) and \$160,550 (FY04/05).

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill appears to have no fiscal impact. DHSMV reports that inventory levels would be managed so as to create no fiscal impact in implementing the modifications to the specialty license plate.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because the bill does not appear to: require counties or cities to spend funds or take action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

No additional rule making authority is required to implement the full provisions of this bill.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Drafting Issues

DHSMV recommends that this act take effect October 1, 2008 instead of July 1, 2008 to allow time for implementation. The sponsor's staff has indicated that the sponsor is willing to offer an amendment to change the effective date.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

No statement submitted.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On February 21, 2008, one amendment was adopted by the Committee on Infrastructure changing the effective date from July 1, 2008, to October 1, 2008. The bill as amended was reported favorably.