

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Go Green Florida; creating s. 377.811,
 3 F.S.; directing the Florida Energy and Climate Commission
 4 to develop a Go Green Florida grants and recognition
 5 awards program; providing program funding and
 6 requirements; establishing an advisory panel; providing
 7 for panel membership and duties; requiring the commission
 8 to adopt specified rules for the program; authorizing the
 9 commission to seek assistance from the Volunteer Florida
 10 Foundation; authorizing the commission to adopt rules;
 11 amending ss. 320.08056 and 320.08058, F.S.; creating a Go
 12 Green Florida specialty license plate; providing for the
 13 collection, distribution, and use of annual fees received
 14 from the sale of such plates; providing an effective date.

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

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 18 Section 1. Section 377.811, Florida Statutes, is created
 19 to read:

20 377.811 Go Green Florida grants and recognition awards
 21 program.--

22 (1) The Florida Energy and Climate Commission is directed
 23 to develop a Go Green Florida grants and recognition awards
 24 program to promote the development and implementation of
 25 innovative programs and projects that inform citizens how to
 26 achieve green standards and implement responsible energy-
 27 efficient practices and to recognize innovative efforts to

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28 reduce energy consumption and raise awareness of alternative
29 energy-efficient practices.

30 (2) The commission may use funds generated from the Go
31 Green Florida specialty license tag fee imposed under s.
32 320.08056(4)(qqq) or funds provided in any specific
33 appropriation in the General Appropriations Act to provide
34 grants and recognition awards to students, schools, citizens,
35 community organizations, nonprofit and for-profit organizations,
36 businesses, and local governments under this section.

37 (3)(a) By December 1, 2009, an advisory panel shall be
38 established to provide recommendations to the commission for the
39 development and implementation of the grants and awards program.
40 The panel shall consist of nine members, including one member of
41 the commission, two representatives of the Coalition for
42 Renewable Energy Resources, Inc., and six representatives of the
43 public who are involved in green practices and responsible
44 energy-efficient practices, two of whom are appointed by the
45 Governor, two of whom are appointed by the President of the
46 Senate, and two of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the
47 House of Representatives.

48 (b) The panel shall meet at the request of the commission
49 and perform duties as determined by the commission. Meetings of
50 the panel may be conducted via teleconference.

51 (c) Panel members shall serve without compensation but may
52 be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s.
53 112.061 while carrying out the official business of the panel.

54 (4) The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
55 120 to develop and administer the grants and recognition awards

56 program. The rules shall:

57 (a) Identify funding criteria, categories, limits,
58 amounts, and evaluation procedures for project grants and
59 recognition awards.

60 (b) Require that projects receiving funding or recognition
61 accomplish the goals of achieving green standards and
62 responsible energy-efficient practices as established by the
63 commission, including, but not limited to, reducing energy
64 consumption, raising awareness of alternative energy-efficient
65 practices, rewarding efforts that encourage alternative energy
66 use and reduce the state's carbon footprint and are capable of
67 being shared and replicated with other organizations and
68 communities throughout the state.

69 (c) Determine if grant recipients shall be required to
70 provide any level of matching funds with direct project cost
71 sharing or in-kind services.

72 (d) Provide for the creation of a Go Green Florida program
73 emblem, decal, or logo that the commission and the Governor may
74 use to recognize citizen and community efforts and achievements.

75 (e) Require grant applications and award recommendations
76 to be submitted on appropriate forms developed and adopted by
77 the commission with appropriate supporting documentation.

78 (f) Require records to be maintained.

79 (g) Establish a system to determine the relative priority
80 of grant applications. The system shall consider factors such as
81 greenhouse gas reductions, energy savings and efficiencies,
82 alternative energy usage, proven technologies, educational
83 impact, and ability to replicate the project.

84 (h) Provide for the termination of grants when program
 85 requirements are not met.

86 (i) Provide for the distribution of information to the
 87 public on successful innovative programs and projects throughout
 88 the state.

89 (5) The commission shall coordinate the Go Green Florida
 90 program with the other programs of the commission as necessary.

91 (6) The commission may request assistance coordinating the
 92 activities and implementation of this program with the Volunteer
 93 Florida Foundation.

94 Section 2. Paragraph (qqq) is added to subsection (4) of
 95 section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

96 320.08056 Specialty license plates.--

97 (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be
 98 collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

99 (qqq) Go Green Florida license plate: conventional gas and
 100 diesel fuel vehicles, \$25; alternative fuel and electric
 101 vehicles, \$20; fleet and government vehicles, \$10.

102 Section 3. Subsection (69) is added to section 320.08058,
 103 Florida Statutes, to read:

104 320.08058 Specialty license plates.--

105 (69) GO GREEN FLORIDA LICENSE PLATES.--

106 (a) The department shall develop a Go Green Florida
 107 license plate as provided in this section. However, the
 108 requirements of s. 320.08053 must be met prior to the issuance
 109 of the plate. Go Green Florida license plates must bear the
 110 colors and design approved by the department. The word "Florida"
 111 must appear at the top of the plate, the words "Go Green" must

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112 appear on the bottom of the plate, and the "Go Green Florida"
113 emblem or logo must appear on the plate.

114 (b) The annual use fees shall be distributed to the
115 Coalition for Renewable Energy Solutions, Inc. After
116 reimbursement for documented costs expended to establish the
117 plates, the proceeds of the annual use fees shall be used in the
118 following manner:

119 1. Five percent shall be used by the Coalition for
120 Renewable Energy Solutions, Inc., for administrative costs
121 directly associated with the management and distribution of the
122 proceeds.

123 2. Up to 25 percent shall be used by the Coalition for
124 Renewable Energy Solutions, Inc., for the continuing promotion
125 and marketing of the license plate.

126 3. Seventy percent shall be used to fund the grants and
127 awards program pursuant to s. 377.809, as directed by the
128 Florida Energy and Climate Commission.

129 (c) The Coalition for Renewable Energy Solutions, Inc.,
130 shall submit audited financial statements to the Office of
131 Auditor General for all expenditures related to the Go Green
132 Florida grants and awards program no later than 60 days after
133 the end of each fiscal year.

134 (d) The Go Green Florida emblem or logo may be authorized
135 for use by the department in recognition of energy-efficient
136 vehicle usage and practices. The display of the decal for
137 energy-efficient practices may not be considered a substitute
138 for a legal license tag.

139 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.