

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 487 Specialty License Plates/Freemasonry

SPONSOR(S): Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee; Stone and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 274

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee	14 Y, 0 N, As CS	Kiner	Miller
2) Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N, As CS	Rayman	Davis
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 487 creates a Freemasonry specialty license plate, establishes the annual use fee for the plate, and provides for the distribution of the annual use fees received from the sale of the license plate. The bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create the license plate notwithstanding the statutory moratorium on the creation of new specialty license plates.

The annual use fee for the plate is \$25, and the annual use fees collected will be distributed to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. Under the bill, a maximum of ten percent of the distributed annual use fees may be used to promote and market the plate. The Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc., must invest the remainder for the operation of the Masonic Home of Florida for the care of Masons and their families.

The bill authorizes DHSMV to retain the annual use fees from the sale of the Freemasonry specialty license plate until all startup costs for developing and issuing the plates have been recovered. This authorization is in lieu of requiring the applicant to submit a \$60,000 application fee to be used by DHSMV to cover startup costs.

The bill has an insignificant fiscal impact which DHSMV can absorb within existing resources.

The bill is effective July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Currently, Florida offers over 100 specialty license plates available for purchase. The purpose of a specialty license plate is to raise funds for a particular cause. Each of the specialty license plates requires an annual use fee that is distributed to one or several organizations that support the mission of the plate. Various sections of Florida law govern the creation of new specialty license plates and set parameters on the establishment of annual use fees, as well as their distribution. There is currently a statutory moratorium on the creation of new specialty license plates in place until July 1, 2014.

The Masonic Home of Florida is dedicated to the care of Masons and their families. According to the Masonic Home of Florida's website, "residents at The Masonic Home represent a cross section of the general population . . . and many have served their country with distinction during the War years".

Effect of Proposed Change

The bill amends ss. 320.08056, F.S., and 320.08058, F.S., to create a Freemasonry specialty license plate, establishes the annual use fee for the plate, and provides for the distribution of the annual use fees received from the sale of the specialty license plate. The bill requires DHSMV to create the license plate notwithstanding the statutory moratorium on the creation of new specialty license plates.

The annual use fee for the plate is \$25, and the fees collected will be distributed to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. Under the bill, a maximum of ten percent of the distributed fees may be used to promote and market the plate. The Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc., must invest the remainder for the operation of the Masonic Home of Florida for care of Masons and their families.

The bill requires that the word "Florida" appear at the top of the plate, and the words "In God We Trust" appear at the bottom.

The bill authorizes DHSMV to retain the annual use fees from the sale of the Freemasonry specialty license plate until all startup costs for developing and issuing the plate have been recovered. This authorization is in lieu of requiring the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc., to submit a \$60,000 application fee to be used by DHSMV to cover startup costs.

The bill is effective July 1, 2013.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 320.08056, F.S., by providing for a Freemasonry specialty license plate annual use fee of \$25;

Section 2: Amends s. 320.08058, F.S., by authorizing the Department to develop and issue a Freemasonry specialty license plate;

Section 3: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

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:

The annual use fee for the Freemasonry specialty license plate is \$25. It is unknown how many vehicle owners will voluntarily purchase the Freemasonry specialty license plate.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

DHSMV anticipates expending \$60,000 from the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund in order to create the specialty license plate and make it available for purchase by the public.

The bill authorizes DHSMV to retain the annual use fees from the sale of the Freemasonry specialty license plate until all startup costs have been recovered.

Information Systems will require approximately 88 programming hours in order to develop/design, manufacture, and distribute the specialty license plate to implement the provisions of this bill.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, the Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee adopted one amendment to HB 487. The amendment revised the bill in the following manner:

- required DHSMV to create the Freemasonry specialty license plate, notwithstanding the statutory moratorium on the creation of new specialty license plates; and
- authorized DHSMV to retain revenues from the sale of the Freemasonry specialty license plate until all startup costs for developing and issuing the plates have been recovered. This authorization is in lieu of requiring the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc., to submit a \$60,000 application fee to be used by DHSMV to cover startup costs.

This bill analysis is drafted to CS/HB 487.

On Thursday, April 4, 2013, the Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee adopted one amendment to CS/HB 487. The amendment replaced "all revenues" with "all annual use fees" to clarify what revenues can be retained by DHSMV.

This bill analysis is drafted to CS/CS/HB 487.