

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	CS/CS/HB 329	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	
SPONSOR(S):	Economic Affairs Committee; Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee; Ingram and others	116 Y's	0 N's
COMPANION BILLS:	CS/CS/SB 112	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/CS/HB 329 passed the House on April 9, 2015. The bill was amended by the Senate on April 23, 2015, and subsequently passed the House on April 24, 2015.

The bill authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue new special use license plates for Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, World War II Veteran, Woman Veteran, and Navy Submariner.

Revenue generated from the sale of Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, World War II Veteran, and Navy Submariner special use plates will be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans Affairs to support the Veterans' Homes Program.

Any revenue generated from the sale of the Woman Veteran License plate will be deposited into the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund administered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs to be used solely for the purpose of creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans.

The bill has an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund within the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles associated with creating the plate and computer programming costs.

The bill could have a positive, indeterminate fiscal impact on the Grants and Donations Trust fund, the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund, and the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund with the sale of the new special use license plates.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 2, 2015, Ch. 2015-91, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2015.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

Military Special Use License Plates

There are currently 15 special use license plates authorized in s. 320.089, F.S., available to military service members or veterans for the following types of service:

- Veteran of the United States Armed Forces;
- Active or retired member of the Florida National Guard;
- Survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor;
- Recipient of the Purple Heart Medal;
- Active or retired member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces Reserve;
- Recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge;
- Recipient of the Combat Medical Badge;
- Recipient of the Combat Action Badge;
- Former Prisoner of War;
- Veteran of the Korean War;
- Veteran of the Vietnam War;
- Service member or veteran of Operation Desert Shield;
- Service member or veteran of Operation Desert Storm;
- Service member or veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom;
- Service member or veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Special use license plates authorized under s. 320.089 (1)(a), F.S., are each stamped with words consistent with the type of special use plate issued. A likeness of the related campaign medal or badge appears on the plate followed by the serial number.

Applicants for special use license plates in s. 320.089, F.S., are required to pay the annual license tax in s. 320.08, F.S., with the exception of certain disabled veterans who qualify for the Pearl Harbor, Purple Heart, or Prisoner of War plate, to whom such plates are issued at no cost.¹ The first \$100,000 of general revenue generated annually from the issuance of the 15 aforementioned special use plates is deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund under the Veterans' Nursing Homes of Florida Act, as described in s. 296.38(2), F.S.² Any additional general revenue is deposited into the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund and used to construct, operate, and maintain domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans.³ For Fiscal Year 2013-2014 the total revenue from these plates was \$2,087,743.⁴

Proposed Change

¹ S. 320.089(2)(a), F.S.

² S. 320.089(1)(b), F.S.

³ Id.

⁴ Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2015 Agency Bill Analysis: SB 112

The bill amends s. 320.089, F.S., authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue new special use license plates for Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, World War II Veteran, Woman Veteran, and Navy Submariner.

The plate will be stamped as appropriate with the words “Combat Action Ribbon,” “Air Force Combat Action Medal,” “Distinguished Flying Cross” “World War II,” “Woman Veteran,” or “Navy Submariner,” with an image of the medal, ribbon, or badge, followed by the serial number. Revenue generated from the sale of the Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross, World War II Veteran, and Navy Submariner special use license plates will be administered in the same manner as the existing special use license plates in s. 320.089, F.S., and deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans Affairs to support the State Veterans Homes Program.

Any revenue generated from the sale of the Woman Veteran License plate will be deposited into the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund administered by the Department of Veteran’s Affairs to be used solely for the purpose of creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill could have a positive, indeterminate fiscal impact on both the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund with the sale of the new special use license plates.

2. Expenditures:

The DHSMV would incur an initial startup cost (\$6,204) for the creation and manufacture of each new special use license plate. An initial order of 2,200 license plates would be made (2,200 x \$2.82 = \$6,204) for each newly created plate, and distributed to Tax Collector Offices statewide to meet public demand.⁵ The total estimated cost to produce and distribute the six new special use license plates is approximately \$37,224.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

⁵ Email correspondence from DHSMV on file with the Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee

The Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, World War II Veteran, Woman Veteran, and Navy Submariners special use license plates would be available to a new group of registrants.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.