

By Senator Stargel

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to specialty license plates; amending  
3       s. 320.08058, F.S.; directing the Department of  
4       Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a Florida  
5       Professional Sports Team license plate for Major  
6       League Soccer teams domiciled in this state; requiring  
7       any Florida Professional Sports Team license plate  
8       created or established after a certain date to comply  
9       with specified requirements and be specifically  
10      authorized by an act of the Legislature; providing  
11      that the term "major sports events" includes, but is  
12      not limited to, championship or all-star contests of  
13      Major League Soccer for certain funding purposes;  
14      providing that certain funds be used to distribute  
15      licensing and royalty fees to participating  
16      professional sports leagues; providing an effective  
17      date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21       Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 320.08058, Florida  
22       Statutes, is amended to read:

23       320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

24       (9) FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAM LICENSE PLATES.—

25       (a) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
26       shall develop a Florida Professional Sports Team license plate  
27       as provided in this section for Major League Baseball, National  
28       Basketball Association, National Football League, Arena Football  
29       Teams, ~~and~~ National Hockey League, and Major League Soccer teams

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30 domiciled in this state. However, any Florida Professional  
31 Sports Team license plate created or established after January  
32 1, 2017 ~~1997~~, must comply with the requirements of s. 320.08053  
33 and be specifically authorized by an act of the Legislature.  
34 Florida Professional Sports Team license plates must bear the  
35 colors and design approved by the department and must include  
36 the official league or team logo, or both, as appropriate for  
37 each team. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the  
38 plate.

39 (b) The license plate annual use fees are to be annually  
40 distributed as follows:

41 1. Fifty-five percent of the proceeds from the Florida  
42 Professional Sports Team plate must be deposited into the  
43 Professional Sports Development Trust Fund within the Department  
44 of Economic Opportunity. These funds must be used solely to  
45 attract and support major sports events in this state. As used  
46 in this subparagraph, the term "major sports events" means, but  
47 is not limited to, championship or all-star contests of Major  
48 League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the  
49 National Football League, the National Hockey League, Major  
50 League Soccer, the men's and women's National Collegiate  
51 Athletic Association Final Four basketball championship, or a  
52 horseracing or dogracing Breeders' Cup. All funds must be used  
53 to support and promote major sporting events, and the uses must  
54 be approved by the Department of Economic Opportunity.

55 2. The remaining proceeds of the Florida Professional  
56 Sports Team license plate must be allocated to Enterprise  
57 Florida, Inc. These funds must be deposited into the  
58 Professional Sports Development Trust Fund within the Department

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59 of Economic Opportunity. These funds must be used by Enterprise  
60 Florida, Inc., to promote the economic development of the sports  
61 industry; to distribute licensing and royalty fees to  
62 participating professional sports leagues ~~teams~~; to promote  
63 education programs in Florida schools that provide an awareness  
64 of the benefits of physical activity and nutrition standards; to  
65 partner with the Department of Education and the Department of  
66 Health to develop a program that recognizes schools whose  
67 students demonstrate excellent physical fitness or fitness  
68 improvement; to institute a grant program for communities  
69 bidding on minor sporting events that create an economic impact  
70 for the state; to distribute funds to Florida-based charities  
71 designated by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the participating  
72 professional sports teams; and to fulfill the sports promotion  
73 responsibilities of the Department of Economic Opportunity.

74 3. Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall provide an annual  
75 financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981 of its financial  
76 accounts and records by an independent certified public  
77 accountant pursuant to the contract established by the  
78 Department of Economic Opportunity. The auditor shall submit the  
79 audit report to the Department of Economic Opportunity for  
80 review and approval. If the audit report is approved, the  
81 Department of Economic Opportunity shall certify the audit  
82 report to the Auditor General for review.

83 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 1. and  
84 2., proceeds from the Professional Sports Development Trust Fund  
85 may also be used for operational expenses of Enterprise Florida,  
86 Inc., and financial support of the Sunshine State Games.

87 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.