

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1013 Specialty License Plates/Safe & Free Florida

SPONSOR(S): Sullivan

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

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N, As CS	Whittaker	Smith
2) Appropriations Committee			
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create a new specialty license plate designated as the "Safe and Free Florida" license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25 to be distributed to the Department of Legal Affairs which:

- May use up to 15 percent of the proceeds to promote and market the license plate.
- Shall establish a program to award grants to nongovernmental organizations that shall use the awarded funds:
 - To provide for the material needs of the sexually abused, exploited, or trafficked victims, including, but not limited to, clothing, housing, medical care, food, utilities, and transportation.
 - For detoxification services.
 - For prenatal and postnatal care and to provide services for infants awaiting placement with adoptive parents.
 - To purchase or lease real estate to facilitate a safe house or a transitional care or recovery care center.
 - For counseling, training, awareness, and prevention programs for sexually abused, exploited, or trafficked victims.
 - To provide emergency legal advocacy to sexually abused or trafficked victims at a rate established by the Department of Legal Affairs.

The new plate will display the word "Florida" at the top of the plate and the words "End Human Trafficking" at the bottom of the plate.

The Department of Legal Affairs may not distribute funds to any nongovernmental organization that charges victims for services received through this funding. An organization that receives the funds may not use the funds for administrative or capital expenditures. Each organization that receives funds must submit an annual attestation to the Department of Legal Affairs no later than December 31. The Department of Legal Affairs shall adopt and enforce rules to implement the bill.

According to DHSMV, the bill will have a negative but insignificant fiscal impact to state expenditures.

An effective date of October 1, 2016, is provided in the bill.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Specialty License Plates in General

The first Florida specialty license plates were enacted in 1986 and included the creation of the Challenger plate and ten Florida collegiate plates. Today, there are over 120 specialty license plates available to any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay the additional use fee for the privilege, typically \$25 annually.¹ The collected fees are distributed by the DHSMV to statutorily designated organizations in support of a particular cause or charity. Vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan, a commercial truck required to display two license plates, or truck tractors are not eligible for specialty license plates.²

Only the Legislature may create new specialty license plates. If a specialty license plate is created by law, the following requirements must then be met:

- Within 60 days, the organization must submit an art design, in a medium prescribed by DHSMV.³
- Within 120 days, DHSMV must establish a method to issue a specialty license plate voucher to allow for the pre-sale of the specialty plate.⁴
- Within 24 months after the voucher is established, the organization must obtain a minimum of 1,000 voucher sales before manufacturing may begin. If this requirement is not met, the plate is deauthorized and DHSMV must discontinue development of the plate and issuance of the vouchers.⁵

DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid specialty plate registrations falls below 1,000 plates for at least 12 consecutive months. A warning letter is mailed to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty plate registrations falls below 1,000 plates (does not apply to collegiate license plates).⁶

Organizations in receipt of specialty license plate revenue must adhere to certain accountability requirements found in statute. These requirements include an annual attestation document affirming, under penalty of perjury, that funds received have been spent in accordance with applicable statutes.⁷

A moratorium on the issuance of specialty license plates was imposed by lawmakers in 2008, originally set to expire in 2011. The moratorium has subsequently been extended to July 1, 2016.⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

Safe and Free Florida License Plate

The bill directs the DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate designated as the “Safe and Free Florida” license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25 to be distributed to the Department of Legal Affairs which:

- May use up to 15 percent of the proceeds to promote and market the license plate.

¹ Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Specialty License Plates Index*, <http://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags/> (last visited January 15, 2016).

² s. 320.08056(2), F.S.

³ s. 320.08053(1), F.S.

⁴ s. 320.08053(2)(a), F.S.

⁵ s. 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

⁶ s. 320.08056 (8)(a), F.S.

⁷ s. 320.08062, F. S.

⁸ Ch. 2008-176, Laws of Fla., as amended by Ch. 2010-223 and Ch. 2014-216, Laws of Fla.

- Shall establish a program to award grants to nongovernmental organizations that shall use the awarded funds:
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 - For detoxification services.
 - For prenatal and postnatal care and to provide services for infants awaiting placement with adoptive parents.
 - To purchase or lease real estate to facilitate a safe house or a transitional care or recovery care center.
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B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 Amends s. 320.08056, F.S., establishing an annual use fee of \$25 for the Safe and Free Florida specialty license plate.

Section 2 Amends s. 320.08058, F.S., directing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to create a Safe and Free Florida specialty license plate and provides for the distribution of the annual use fees collected.

Section 3 Provides an effective date of October 1, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

There is a negative but indeterminate cost to DHSMV for the programming of new specialty license plates. These costs can be absorbed within existing resources.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Revenue generated from the sale of specialty license plates are distributed to various organizations as provided in statute.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a municipality or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill does not require a reduction of the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The Department of Legal Affairs is required to adopt and enforce rules to implement the distribution of funds.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On January 20, 2016, the Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee adopted one amendment to HB 1013 and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment:

- Removes the language that “the department shall retain all annual use fees from the sale of such plates until all startup costs for developing and issuing the plates have been recovered” because DHSMV is currently able through statute to retain the first proceeds derived from the annual use fees collected to defray costs.

This analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as reported by the Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee.