

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 511 Special License Plates

SPONSOR(S): Boyd

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) Economic Affairs Committee	13 Y, 0 N	Whittaker	Pitts

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create a Bronze Star special use license plate for recipients of the Bronze Star medal who provide proof of their qualification. The license plate will be stamped with the term "Bronze Star" and a likeness of the related campaign medal. Revenue generated from the sale of the Bronze Star special use license plate will be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund to support the State Veterans Homes Program.

The bill requires the likeness of the Prisoner of War Medal to appear on the "Ex-POW" license plate.

The bill also redirects money received from the sale of the Woman Veteran license plates to be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund. All the money must be expended solely for the purpose of creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans.

The bill reorganizes and renumbers s. 320.089, F.S., relating to special license plates for military service members, veterans, and Pearl Harbor Survivors.

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

The bill could have a positive, indeterminate impact on the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund with the money received from the sale of the Woman Veteran license plate and the sale of the new Bronze Star special use license plate.

The bill provides an effective date of October 1, 2016.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Military Special License Plates

There are currently 21 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;
- Recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon;
- Recipient of the Air Force Combat Action Medal;
- Recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross;
- World War II Veteran;
- Woman Veteran;
- Navy Submariner.

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 plates 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 the general revenue generated annually from the issuance of 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

Woman Veteran License Plates

Currently, any revenue generated from the sale of the Woman Veteran license plates must be deposited into the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund administered by the Department of

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 on file with the Economic Affairs Committee

Veterans' Affairs and must be used solely for the purpose of creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans.⁵

Proposed Change

Woman Veteran License Plate

The bill amends s. 296.11, F.S., and s. 296.38, F.S., redirecting money received from the sale of the Woman Veteran license plates be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund. All the money must be expended solely for the purpose of creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans.

Bronze Star License Plate

The bill amends s. 320.089, F.S., authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create the Bronze Star special use license plate for recipients of the Bronze Star medal who provides proof of their qualification. The license plate will be stamped with the term "Bronze Star" and a likeness of the related campaign medal. Revenue generated from the sale of the Bronze Star special use license plate will be administered the same 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 to support the State Veterans Homes Program. The bill also requires money received from the sale of the Woman Veteran license plates be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund.

The Bronze Star medal was authorized by Executive Order on February 4, 1944, and is awarded to a person in any branch of the military service who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States on or after December 7, 1941, shall have distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.⁶

Ex-POW License Plate

The bill amends s. 320.089(2), F.S., requiring the likeness of the Prisoner of War Medal on the "Ex-POW license plate.

Reorganize and Renumber

The bill reorganizes and renumbers s. 320.089, F.S., relating to special license plates for military service members, veterans, and Pearl Harbor Survivors.

The bill provides an effective date of October 1, 2016.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

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| Section 1 | Amends s. 296.11, F.S., requiring moneys received from the sale of Woman Veteran license plates to be used for certain purposes. |
| Section 2 | Amends s. 296.38, F.S., requiring moneys received from the sale of Woman Veteran license plates to be used for certain purposes. |
| Section 3 | Amends s. 320.089, F.S., providing for a special license plate to be issued to a recipient of the Bronze Star; revising disposition of moneys received from the sale of Woman Veteran license plates; requiring the likeness of the Prisoner of War Medal to appear on the "Ex-POW" license plate. |
| Section 4 | Provides an effective date of October 1, 2016. |

⁵ s. 320.089(1)(c), F.S.

⁶ Department of the Air Force, *Fact Sheet*, http://www.afpc.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet_print.asp?fsID=7771&page=1 (last visited November 17, 2015)

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill could have a positive, indeterminate fiscal impact on the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund.

2. Expenditures:

DHSMV estimates an initial startup cost of \$2,882 for the creation and manufacture of the new Bronze Star license plate. DHSMV also estimates that 138 programming hours will be required for implementation at an estimated cost of \$5,520.⁷

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Bronze Star special use license plate would be available to a new group of registrants who are recipients of the Bronze Star medal and a likeness of the Prisoner of War Medal displayed on the "Ex-POW" license plate for those who qualify.

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:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

⁷ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Agency Analysis of 2016 Senate Bill 518, p.5 (Nov. 12, 2015) (On file with the Economic Affairs Committee).

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On January 20, 2016, The Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee adopted one amendment to HB 511 and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment:

- Renumbers the paragraphs due to a drafting error.
- Requires the likeness of the Prisoner of War Medal to appear on the “Ex-POW” license plate.
- Changes the effective date to October 1, 2016.

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