

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to specialty license plates; amending
3 s. 320.08053, F.S.; prohibiting development of new
4 specialty license plates except under certain
5 circumstances; providing requirements for issuance of
6 such plates; amending s. 320.08056, F.S.; establishing
7 annual use fees for certain specialty license plates;
8 revising provisions for discontinuing issuance of a
9 specialty license plate; providing an exception to the
10 requirement that certain fees and interest be expended
11 only for use in this state; providing applicability;
12 amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; revising distribution of
13 the proceeds from the sale of the In God We Trust
14 license plate; directing the Department of Highway
15 Safety and Motor Vehicles to create certain specialty
16 license plates; providing for the distribution of use
17 fees received from the sale of such plates; requiring
18 the department to report certain specialty license
19 plate information to the Governor and Legislature;
20 requiring the department to transition to a revised
21 process for creating specialty license plates;
22 providing effective dates.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
25

26 Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 320.08053,
 27 Florida Statutes, to read:

28 320.08053 Establishment of Requirements for requests to
 29 establish specialty license plates.-

30 (3) (a) If the Legislature has approved 125 or more
 31 specialty license plates, the department may not make any new
 32 specialty license plates available for design, presale, or
 33 issuance until a sufficient number of plates are discontinued
 34 pursuant to s. 320.08056(8) such that the number of plates being
 35 issued is reduced to fewer than 125.

36 (b) New specialty license plates that have been approved
 37 by law but are awaiting issuance under paragraph (a) shall be
 38 issued in the order they appear in s. 320.08056(4). However, no
 39 more than five additional specialty license plates approved by
 40 law may be issued in a given calendar year. New specialty
 41 license plates issued must presell two times the break-even
 42 point before entering circulation. All other provisions of this
 43 section must also be met before a plate is issued.

44 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section
 45 320.08056, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraphs (ffff),
 46 (gggg), and (hhhh) are added to subsection (4), and paragraphs
 47 (c), (d), and (e) are added to subsection (8) of that section,
 48 to read:

49 320.08056 Specialty license plates.-

50 (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be

51 collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

52 (ffff) Auburn University license plate, \$25.

53 (gggg) Beat Childhood Cancer license plate, \$25.

54 (hhhh) Florida State Beekeepers Association license plate,
55 \$25.

56 (8)

57 (c) A person issued a specialty license plate that has
58 been discontinued by the department may keep the discontinued
59 specialty license plate for the remainder of the 10-year license
60 plate replacement period and must pay all other applicable
61 registration fees. However, such person is exempt from paying
62 the applicable specialty license plate fee under subsection (4)
63 for the remainder of the 10-year license plate replacement
64 period.

65 (d) If the department discontinues issuance of a specialty
66 license plate, all annual use fees currently held or collected
67 by the department shall be distributed within 180 days after the
68 date the specialty license plate is discontinued. Of those fees,
69 the department shall retain an amount sufficient to defray the
70 applicable administrative and inventory closeout costs
71 associated with discontinuance of the plate. The remaining funds
72 shall be distributed to the specified organization or
73 organizations as provided in s. 320.08058.

74 (e) If an organization that is the intended recipient of
75 the funds pursuant to s. 320.08058 no longer exists, the

76 | department shall deposit any undisbursed funds into the Highway
 77 | Safety Operating Trust Fund.

78 | (10) (a) A specialty license plate annual use fee collected
 79 | and distributed under this chapter, or any interest earned from
 80 | those fees, may not be used for commercial or for-profit
 81 | activities nor for general or administrative expenses, except as
 82 | authorized by s. 320.08058 or to pay the cost of the audit or
 83 | report required by s. 320.08062(1). The fees and any interest
 84 | earned from the fees may be expended only for use in this state
 85 | unless the annual use fee is derived from the sale of United
 86 | States Armed Forces and veterans-related specialty license
 87 | plates pursuant to paragraphs (4) (d), (bb), (ll), (kkk), and
 88 | (yyy) and s. 320.0891 or out-of-state institution license plates
 89 | pursuant to paragraph (4) (ffff).

90 | Section 3. Effective July 1, 2020, paragraph (a) of
 91 | subsection (8) of section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, is
 92 | amended to read:

93 | 320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

94 | (8) (a) The department must discontinue the issuance of an
 95 | approved specialty license plate if the number of valid
 96 | specialty plate registrations falls below 1,000 plates for at
 97 | least 12 consecutive months. A warning letter shall be mailed to
 98 | the sponsoring organization following the first month in which
 99 | the total number of valid specialty plate registrations is below
 100 | 1,000 plates. This paragraph does not apply to collegiate

101 license plates established under s. 320.08058(3) or specialty
102 license plates that have statutory eligibility limitations for
103 purchase.

104 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (66) of section
105 320.08058, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (84),
106 (85), and (86) are added to that section, to read:

107 320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

108 (66) IN GOD WE TRUST LICENSE PLATES.—

109 (b) The license plate annual use fees shall be distributed
110 to the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., which may expend a
111 maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds to offset administrative
112 costs, promotion, and marketing of the license plate directly
113 associated with the operations of the foundation. The remaining
114 proceeds may be used to address the needs of the military
115 community and the public safety community; provide educational
116 grants and scholarships to foster self-reliance and stability in
117 Florida's youth; and provide education in ~~to fund educational~~
118 ~~scholarships for the children of Florida residents who are~~
119 ~~members of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard,~~
120 ~~and the United States Armed Forces Reserve and for the children~~
121 ~~of public safety employees who have died in the line of duty who~~
122 ~~are not covered by existing state law. Funds shall also be~~
123 ~~distributed to other s. 501(c)(3) organizations that may apply~~
124 ~~for grants and scholarships and to provide educational grants to~~
125 public and private schools regarding ~~to promote~~ the historical

126 ~~and religious~~ significance of religion in American and Florida
127 history. The In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., shall create an
128 advisory council comprised of persons with knowledge in these
129 program areas to make funding recommendations ~~distribute the~~
130 ~~license plate annual use fees in the following manner:~~

131 ~~1. The In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., shall retain all~~
132 ~~revenues from the sale of such plates until all startup costs~~
133 ~~for developing and establishing the plate have been recovered.~~

134 ~~2. Ten percent of the funds received by the In God We~~
135 ~~Trust Foundation, Inc., shall be expended for administrative~~
136 ~~costs, promotion, and marketing of the license plate directly~~
137 ~~associated with the operations of the In God We Trust~~
138 ~~Foundation, Inc.~~

139 ~~3. All remaining funds shall be expended by the In God We~~
140 ~~Trust Foundation, Inc., for programs.~~

141 (84) AUBURN UNIVERSITY LICENSE PLATES.—

142 (a) The department shall develop an Auburn University
143 license plate as provided in this section and s. 320.08053. The
144 plate must bear the colors and design approved by the
145 department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the
146 plate, and the words "War Eagle" must appear at the bottom of
147 the plate.

148 (b) The Tampa Bay Auburn Club is the lead club on behalf
149 of the Auburn clubs in this state. The annual use fees from the
150 sale of the plate shall be distributed to the Tampa Bay Auburn

151 Club, together with statistics on sales of the license plates
152 tabulated by county. The Tampa Bay Auburn Club must distribute
153 to each of the state Auburn clubs on a pro-rata basis the moneys
154 received from sales in the regions within the respective club's
155 area for the purpose of awarding scholarships to Florida
156 residents attending Auburn University. Students receiving these
157 scholarships must be eligible for the Florida Bright Futures
158 Scholarship Program pursuant to s. 1009.531 and shall use the
159 scholarship funds for tuition and other expenses related to
160 attending Auburn University.

161 (85) BEAT CHILDHOOD CANCER LICENSE PLATES.—

162 (a) The department shall develop a Beat Childhood Cancer
163 license plate as provided in this section and s. 320.08053. The
164 plate must bear the colors and design approved by the
165 department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the
166 plate, and the words "Beat Childhood Cancer" must appear at the
167 bottom of the plate.

168 (b) The annual use fees from the sale of the plate shall
169 be distributed to Beat Nb, Inc., which may use a maximum of 10
170 percent of the proceeds for administrative costs directly
171 associated with the operation of the corporation and for
172 marketing and promoting the Beat Childhood Cancer license plate.
173 The remaining proceeds shall be used by the corporation to fund
174 pediatric cancer treatment and research.

175 (86) FLORIDA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION LICENSE PLATES.—

176 (a) The department shall develop a Florida State
177 Beekeepers Association license plate as provided in this section
178 and s. 320.08053. The plate must bear the colors and design
179 approved by the department. The word "Florida" must appear at
180 the top of the plate, and the words "Save the Bees" must appear
181 at the bottom of the plate.

182 (b) The annual use fees from the sale of the plate shall
183 be distributed to the Florida State Beekeepers Association, a
184 nonprofit corporation, and shall be used to fund outreach and
185 education to raise awareness of the importance of beekeeping to
186 Florida agriculture and to fund honeybee research and husbandry.

187 Section 5. By January 1, 2018, the Department of Highway
188 Safety and Motor Vehicles shall report to the Governor, the
189 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
190 Representatives the total cost per unit of producing each
191 specialty license plate listed in s. 320.08056(4), Florida
192 Statutes. The cost per unit shall include the cost per license
193 plate, including the cost of the physical license plate,
194 stamping costs, and the cost associated with inventorying the
195 license plate. The report shall also provide a calculation of
196 the break-even point in number of plates for each specialty
197 license plate.

198 Section 6. (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
199 Vehicles shall review and make preparations for the transition
200 from the existing process of creating specialty license plates

201 to using a new template design that is readily recognizable by
202 applying to a standard license plate an appropriate logo or
203 graphic that identifies the specialty license plate. New
204 specialty license plates must be of the same size and design as
205 a standard license plate issued by the department, with a
206 designated area for including a unique design and identifying
207 number.

208 (2) Upon completion of the review, the department may
209 begin the process of transitioning by attrition to the new
210 specialty license plate template design.

211 Section 7. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
212 act, this act shall take effect October 1, 2017.