

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

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BILL: CS/SB 160
INTRODUCER: Appropriations and Senator Bean
SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates
DATE: March 8, 2018

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 278363 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 adds numerous provisions not in CS/SB 160, including authorizing additional specialty license plates (SLPs), repealing discontinued SLPs, amending the SLP program, and providing other changes involving license plates.

The amendment authorizes the future development of 12 additional SLPs (in addition to those passed in CS/SB 160; a full list of SLPs created is listed below), but prohibits the DHSMV from designing or issuing any new SLPs if there are 125 active SLPs. The amendment requires the DHSMV create new eligible SLPs in statutory order, and requires the DHSMV to provide a warning notification to organizations of the 10 percent of SLPs with the lowest number of valid registrations prior to discontinuing the plate with the fewest registrations every January 1.

The amendment authorizes proceeds received for out-of-state college or university plates be used out-of-state, but the recipient organization must have a Florida based endowment that provides scholarships to Florida residents. Additionally, the recipient organization for an out-of-state college or university SLP must provide documentation to the DHSMV that authorizes consent of an appropriate image on the license plate.

The amendment authorizes the DHSMV to consult with the University of Central Florida for the purpose of having “2017 Undefeated Champions” stamped on the university’s SLP.

The amendment increases the minimum presale requirement for SLPs, from 1,000 to 3,000 registrations (or 4,000 if the plate is for an out-of-state college or university). Beginning October 1, 2021, the minimum registration requirement for established SLPs is raised from 1,000 to 3,000 (or 4,000 if the plate is for an out-of-state college or university) for any 12-month period. In addition, effective October 1, 2021, it exempts the following SLPs from minimum registration requirements: SLPs for institutions and entities of the State University System; SLPs with statutory eligibility limitations for purchase; Florida Professional Sports Team SLPs; and SLPs that has proceeds distributed by a foundation for student and teach leadership programs and teacher recruitment and retention.

The amendment provides additional provisions for the disbursement of fees to organizations when a plate is discontinued, and authorizes the distribution of proceeds from the Live the Dream SLP that were withheld by the DHSMV.

The amendment also allows owners of fleet and dealer vehicles to purchase SLPs directly from the DHSMV upon approval of the sponsoring organization; requires the DHSMV to audit SLP organizations, that are not subject to annual audits, every 3 years to ensure compliance with the SLP statutes; changes “Prevent Blindness Florida” to “Preserve Vision Florida” for purposes of s. 320.08068, F.S., relating to motorcycle SLP annual use fees; repeals prestige license plates for current or former “Senate President” or “House speaker”; repeals prestige license plates for former Congress or state House or Senate members stamped with “Retired Congress,” “Retired Senate,” or “Retired House”; and requires the DHSMV to create a Purple Heart special motorcycle license plate and a Bronze star special military plate.

The amendment authorizes the future development of the following SLPs (in this order):

- Beat Childhood Cancer;
- Auburn University;
- Ducks Unlimited;
- Donate Life Florida;
- Florida State Beekeepers Association;
- Rotary;
- Florida Bay Forever;
- Bonefish and Tarpon Trust;
- Medical Professionals Who Care;
- University of Georgia;
- Highwaymen;
- Dan Marino Campus;
- University of Alabama;
- America the Beautiful;
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas Strong;
- Orlando City Soccer Club; and
- Coastal Conservation Association.