

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 273 Specialty License Plates
SPONSOR(S): Bell, Melony
TIED BILLS: HB 275 **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 484

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Johnson	Vickers
2) Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) State Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

There are over 120 specialty license plates available to any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay the additional annual use fee for such plate. The collected fees are distributed by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to statutorily designated organizations in support of a particular cause or charity.

The bill creates the Florida State Beekeepers Association specialty license plate and provides for its design and the use of the annual use fees associated with this license plate.

House Bill 275 (2019), which this bill is linked to, provides an annual use fee of \$25 for the Florida State Beekeepers Association specialty license plate.

According to DHSMV, the bill will have a negative, but insignificant fiscal impact associated with programming costs. These costs can be absorbed within existing resources.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Specialty License Plates

The first Florida specialty license plates were enacted in 1986 and included the creation of the Challenger plate and 10 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 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (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.
- Within 120 days, DHSMV must establish a method to issue a specialty license plate voucher to allow for the pre-sale of the specialty license plate.
- 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.

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).³

Organizations receiving 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.⁴

The annual use fees collected by an organization and any interest earned from the fees may be expended only for use in this state unless the annual use fee is derived from the sale of specified United States Armed Forces and veterans-related specialty plates.⁵

Florida State Beekeepers Association

The Florida State Beekeepers Association is dedicated to keeping Florida apiculture strong and healthy and is the major voice for the state's beekeeping industry. Its mission is to:

- Provide resources for the improvement of beekeeping by using proven techniques and procedures in the management of honey bees and share this knowledge with everyone interested in the art of beekeeping.
- Promote the development of practical beekeeping methods in the state of Florida.
- Act in the interest of Florida beekeepers in advocating for and carrying on statewide beekeeping affairs.

¹ Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Specialty License Plates*, <http://www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/slp.html> (Last visited January 24, 2019).

² S. 320.08056(2), F.S.

³ S. 320.08056 (8)(a), F.S.

⁴ S. 320.08062, F. S.

⁵ S. 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

- Act as a medium for and to aid in cooperative and mutual beekeeping methods.
- Act as the representative of the Florida beekeepers in state and national beekeeping affairs.⁶

House Bill 275 (2019), which this bill is linked to, provides an annual use fee of \$25 for the Florida State Beekeepers Association specialty license plate.

Effect of the Bill

The bill amends s. 320.08058, F.S., creating the Florida State Beekeepers Association specialty license plate. The plate must bear DHSMV approved colors and design with “Florida” at the top of the plate and “Save the Bees” at the bottom of the plate.

The annual use fees are distributed to the Florida State Beekeepers Association, who may use up to 18 percent of the annual use fees for:

- Direct reimbursement for administrative costs, startup costs, and costs incurred in the development and approval process of the license plate. All vendors associated with administrative costs must be selected by competitive bid.
- Promoting and marketing costs of the license plate.

The remaining funds must be distributed to the Florida Beekeepers Association to be used to raise awareness of the importance of beekeeping to Florida agriculture by funding honeybee research, education, outreach, and husbandry. The Florida State Beekeepers Association board of managers must approve and is accountable for all such expenditures.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends s. 320.08058, F.S., relating to specialty license plates.

Section 2 provides an effective date of October 1, 2019, but only if HB 275 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

According to DHSMV, Specialty license plates require system programming to implement. Depending on the number of distributions tied to the plate, the amount of programming may vary as will the resources needed to complete the changes. The average specialty/special license plate requires approximately 200-250 hours of programming, at a rate of \$35 to \$40 per hour.⁷ This results in programming costs of between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

⁶ <http://www.floridabeekeepers.org/> (Last visited January 12, 2018).

⁷ Email from Kevin Jacobs, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, RE: HBs 273/275 and 122/201, (January 24, 2019).

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Florida State Beekeepers Association may see additional revenues associated with the sale of the specialty license plate.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to impact county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES