

By Senator Stewart

13-00387-20

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to specialty license plates; amending
3 s. 320.08058, F.S.; directing the Department of
4 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a Gopher
5 Tortoise license plate; providing for distribution and
6 use of fees collected from the sale of the plate;
7 providing a contingent effective date.
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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 Section 1. Subsection (85) is added to section 320.08058,
12 Florida Statutes, to read:

13 320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

14 (85) GOPHER TORTOISE LICENSE PLATES.—

15 (a) The department shall develop a Gopher Tortoise license
16 plate as provided in this section and s. 320.08053. The plate
17 must bear the colors and design approved by the department. The
18 word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the
19 words "Protect the Gopher Tortoise" must appear at the bottom of
20 the plate.

21 (b) The annual use fees from the sale of the plate shall be
22 distributed to Wildlands Conservation, Inc., a nonprofit
23 corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to
24 fund gopher tortoise and commensal species research, education,
25 and conservation, as well as upland habitat protection,
26 restoration, and management in this state. Up to 15 percent of
27 the funds received by Wildlands Conservation, Inc., may be used
28 for marketing of the plate and costs directly associated with
29 the administration of the gopher tortoise protection program.

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30 Wildlands Conservation, Inc., shall use and distribute the funds
31 to eligible Florida-based scientific, conservation, and
32 educational organizations for gopher tortoise and upland habitat
33 research, conservation, and management.

34 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2020, but
35 only if SB ___ or similar legislation takes effect, if such
36 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
37 extension thereof and becomes a law.