

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

BILL: CS/CS/SB 620

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Transportation Committee; and Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates/Miami Dade College

DATE: March 19, 2025

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. | <u>Shutes</u> | <u>Vickers</u> | <u>TR</u> | <u>Fav/CS</u> |
| 2. | <u>Wells</u> | <u>Nortelus</u> | <u>ATD</u> | <u>Fav/CS</u> |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | <u>FP</u> | _____ |

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/CS/SB 620 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create two new specialty license plates: Miami Dade College and St. Petersburg College. The annual use fee for each plate is \$25.

Proceeds of the sale of the Miami Dade College specialty license plate will be distributed to the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc. to fund student scholarships. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate.

Proceeds of the sale of the St. Petersburg College specialty license plate will be distributed to the St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate, 40 percent must be dedicated to funding student scholarships, and 50 percent must be used to fund initiatives that embolden student success.

The DHSMV estimates programming and implementation of the plates will cost \$16,560. **See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect October 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc.

Miami Dade Colleges' vision is to be a recognized leader in student learning, achievement, and success while enriching their community.¹ The college has been in operation since 1960, and is named among the top institutions in 2025 U.S. News & World Report Rankings for public regional colleges, for veterans, social mobility, best value schools, and regional colleges of the south.²

Miami Dade College Foundation Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.³ The organization's website includes the following mission statement: "We raise essential private funds to enable Miami Dade College to change lives, families, communities, and the world through the opportunity of education."⁴

St. Petersburg College (SPC) is regionally accredited and nationally recognized. SPC was founded in 1927 as St. Petersburg Junior College, Florida's first two-year college. It offers more than 200 degree, certificate and transfer programs of study, as well as more than 100 high-demand, high-skill industry-recognized workforce certifications and short-term training opportunities.⁵

St. Petersburg College Foundation Inc., is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.⁶ The organization's website includes the following statement "The St. Petersburg College (SPC) Foundation supports the vision and mission of SPC. The Foundation promotes the practice of philanthropy through partnerships with the community and accepts and prudently manages all gifts including cash, securities, property, bequests and trusts."⁷

Specialty License Plates

As of February 2025, there are 133 specialty license plates authorized by the Legislature. Of these plates, 113 are available for immediate purchase and 20 are in the presale process.⁸ Specialty license plates are available to an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay an annual use fee, ranging from \$15 to \$25, paid in addition to required license taxes and service fees.⁹ The annual use fees are distributed to organizations in support of a particular cause or charity signified on the plate's design and designated in statute.¹⁰

¹ Miami Dade College, [About MDC | Miami Dade College](#), (last visited February 28, 2025)..

² *Id.*

³ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc.* Sunbiz.org, Document number 709786 (February 24, 2025).

⁴ Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc., [About - Miami Dade College Alumni Association](#), (last visited February 28, 2025).

⁵ St. Petersburg College, [About SPC || St. Petersburg College](#), (last visited March 18, 2025).

⁶ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc.* Sunbiz.org, Document number 749635 (March 18, 2025).

⁷ St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc., [About the Foundation || St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc.](#), (last visited March 18, 2025).

⁸ DHSMV, *2025 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 620* (February 26, 2025) at p. 2.

⁹ Section 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., provides that except if specifically provided in s. 320.08056(4), the annual use fee for a specialty license plate is \$25.

¹⁰ Section 320.08058, F.S.

In order to establish a specialty license plate (after the plate is approved by law) s. 320.08053, F.S., requires the following actions within certain timelines:

- Within 60 days, the organization must submit an art design for the plate, in a medium prescribed by the DHSMV;
- Within 120 days, the DHSMV must establish a method to issue pre-sale vouchers for the specialty license plate; and
- Within 24 months after the presale vouchers are established, the organization must obtain a minimum of 3,000 voucher sales before manufacturing of the plate may begin.¹¹

If the minimum sales requirement has not been met by the end of the 24-month presale period, then the DHSMV will discontinue the plate and issuance of presale vouchers.¹² Upon discontinuation, a purchaser of a presale voucher may use the annual use fee as a credit towards any other specialty license plate or apply for a refund with the DHSMV.¹³

New specialty license plates that have been approved by law but are awaiting issuance will be issued in the order they appear in s. 320.08058, F.S., provided that presale requirements have been met. If the next listed specialty license plate has not met the presale requirement, the DHSMV will proceed in the order provided in s. 320.08058, F.S., to identify the next qualified specialty license plate that has met the presale requirement.¹⁴

If the Legislature has approved 135 or more specialty license plates, the DHSMV may not make any new specialty license plates available for design or issuance until a sufficient number of plates are discontinued so that the number of plates being issued does not exceed 135.¹⁵

Use of Specialty License Plate Fees

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.¹⁶ Additionally, organizations must adhere to certain accountability requirements, including an annual audit or attestation document affirming that funds received have been spent in accordance with applicable statutes.¹⁷

The annual use fees collected by an organization and the interest earned from those fees may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, or general or administrative expenses, unless authorized by s. 320.08058, F.S.¹⁸ Additionally, the annual use fees and interest earned from

¹¹ Chapter 2022-189, Laws of Fla., extended the presale requirement by an additional 24 months for an approved specialty license plate organization that, as of June 15, 2022, is in the presale period but had not recorded at least 3,000 voucher sales.

¹² Section 320.08058(3), F.S., provides that any collegiate plate established after October 1, 2002, must comply with the requirements of s. 320.08053, F.S., other than the presale voucher requirements in s. 320.08053(2)(b), F.S., and be specifically authorized by the Legislature.

¹³ Section 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 320.08053(3)(a), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 320.08053(3)(b), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 320.08062, F.S.; Such fees may be used to pay for the cost of this required audit or report. See s. 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

those fees may not be used for the purpose of marketing to, or lobbying, entertaining, or rewarding, any employee of a governmental agency that is responsible for the sale and distribution of specialty license plates, or any elected member or employee of the Legislature.¹⁹

Discontinuance of Specialty Plates

Prior to June 30, 2023, the DHSMV was required to discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid registrations falls below 1,000 plates for at least 12 consecutive months. A warning letter was mailed to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty license plate registrations fell below 1,000 plates. Collegiate plates for Florida universities were exempt from the minimum specialty license plate requirement.²⁰ In addition, the DHSMV was authorized to discontinue any specialty license plate if the organization ceased to exist, stopped providing services that are funded from the annual use fee proceeds, or pursuant to an organizational recipient's request.²¹

However, effective July 1, 2023, the requirement increased so that the DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid registrations falls below 3,000, or in the case of an out-of-state college or university license plate, 4,000, for at least 12 consecutive months. The DHSMV must mail a warning letter to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty plate registrations is below 3,000, or in the case of an out-of-state college or university license plate, 4,000. This does not apply to in-state collegiate license plates established under s. 320.08058(3), F.S., license plates of institutions in and entities of the State University System, specialty license plates that have statutory eligibility limitations for purchase, specialty license plates for which annual use fees are distributed by a foundation for student and teacher leadership programs and teacher recruitment and retention, or Florida professional sports team license plates established under s. 320.08058(9), F.S.²²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.08058, F.S., to authorize the DHSMV to create two new specialty license plates: Miami Dade College and St. Petersburg College. The annual use fee for each plate is \$25. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the department, with the word "Florida" at the top of the plate and the words "Miami Dade College" and "St. Petersburg College" at the bottom of the respective plates.

DHSMV is directed to retain annual use fees from the sale of each plate until all startup costs associated with the development and issuance of the plate have been recovered. Thereafter; annual use fees from the sale of the plate will be distributed as follows:

- *Miami Dade College* - Proceeds of the sale of the Miami Dade College specialty license plate will be distributed to the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate. Thereafter, the annual

¹⁹ Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

²⁰ Section 320.08056(8)(a), F.S.

²¹ Section 320.08056(8)(b), F.S.

²² Chapter 2020-181, s. 7, Laws of Fla.

use fees from the sale of the plate will be distributed to the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc. to fund student scholarships.

- *St. Petersburg College* - Proceeds of the sale of the St. Petersburg College specialty license plate will be distributed to the St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate, 40 percent must be dedicated to funding student scholarships, and 50 percent must be used to fund initiatives that embolden student success.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the specialty license plates are produced, the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc., and the St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc. will receive annual use fees associated with sales of the plates.

C. **Government Sector Impact:**

The DHSMV estimates programming and implementation associated with the plates will cost \$16,560.²³

VI. **Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

VII. **Related Issues:**

None.

VIII. **Statutes Affected:**

This bill amends section 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. **Additional Information:**

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development on March 18, 2025:

The committee substitute authorizes the DHSMV to develop a St. Petersburg College specialty license plate. The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to the St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc., and used as follows:

- 10 percent for administrative costs related to the promotion and marketing of the plate.
- 40 percent dedicated to funding student scholarships.
- 50 percent for investment in initiatives that embolden student success.

CS by Transportation on March 4, 2025:

The committee substitute authorizes the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc. to use up to 10 percent of the funds from the sale of the plate for administrative and marketing costs. The balance of the fees shall be used by the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc. to fund student scholarships.

B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

²³ DHSMV, *2025 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 620* (February 26, 2025) at p. 5.