

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 Committee on Fiscal Policy

BILL: CS/SB 246

INTRODUCER: Fiscal Policy Committee and Senators Gruters and Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates/Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)

DATE: February 12, 2026 REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Shutes	Vickers	TR	Favorable
2. Wells	Nortelus	ATD	Favorable
3. Shutes	Siples	FP	Fav/CS

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 246 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create the following new specialty license plates:

- Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC);
- Miami Northwestern Alumni Association;
- Outsider;
- St. Petersburg College; and
- First Responders Resiliency.

The bill also revises certain requirements relating to two existing specialty license plates, the Florida Wildflower and Fraternal Order of Police plates.

The bill will have a negative, but insignificant fiscal impact to DHSMV associated with programming and implementation costs.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Specialty License Plates

According to the DHSMV, as of October 2025, there were 132 specialty license plates authorized by the Legislature. Of these plates, 118 were available for immediate purchase and 14 were in the presale process.¹ 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.² 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.³

Authorization of Specialty License Plates

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 the specified 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 presale 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.⁴

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.⁵ 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.⁶

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.⁷

The Department must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid specialty license plate registrations falls below 3,000 (4,000 for out-of-state college or university specialty license plates), for at least 12 consecutive months and must mail a

¹ DHSMV, *2026 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 246* (October 21, 2025) at p. 2 (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation)

² Section 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., provides that except if specifically provided in s. 320.08056(4), F.S., the annual use fee for a specialty license plate is \$25.

³ Section 320.08058, F.S.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Section 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

⁷ Section 320.08053(3)(a), F.S.

warning letter to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty license plate registrations is below the minimum number of plates.⁸

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 135.⁹

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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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.¹² Additionally, the annual use fees and interest earned from 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.¹³

Florida Wildflower Specialty License Plate

Current law provides that the \$15 annual use fee from the sale of the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate shall be distributed to the Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The proceeds must be used to establish native Florida wildflower research programs, wildflower educational programs, and wildflower grant programs to municipal, county, and community-based groups in this state.¹⁴

According to DHSMV, as of December 2025, there were 37,885 total sales of the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate.¹⁵

⁸ Section 320.08056(8)(a), F.S. These requirements do not apply to certain categories of plates, including: a) in-state collegiate license plates established under s. 320.08058(3), F.S.; b) license plates of institutions in the State University System; c) specialty license plates that have statutory eligibility limitations for purchase; d) 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 e) Florida Professional Sports Team specialty license plates established under s. 320.08058(9), F.S.

⁹ Section 320.08053(3)(b), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹¹ 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.

¹² Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹³ Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 320.0858(27)(b), F.S.

¹⁵ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Specialty License Plates*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates/specialty-license-plates/> (last visited February 12, 2026).

Fraternal Order of Police Specialty License Plate

The Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate was established in 2009 and has a \$25 annual use fee. The DHSMV may issue the plate only to an applicant who submits a notarized letter from the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police stating that the applicant is a member of the lodge in good standing or a member of a lodge member's family, together with other fees and documents required for a specialty license plate.¹⁶

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate are distributed to the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of the Police. A maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate, to administer the license plate program, and to pay administrative costs directly associated with the state Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial. The remaining funds are to be used by the foundation to fund projects, programs, events related to the memorial or to fund improvements, maintenance, or other support of the memorial.¹⁷

According to the DHSMV, as of December 2025, there were 4,756 total sales of the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate.¹⁸

Organizations Sponsoring Proposed New Specialty License Plates

UFC Foundation

The UFC Foundation is a Nevada not-for-profit corporation registered with the Nevada Department of State.¹⁹ According to the Foundation's website: "Established in 2021, the UFC Foundation is dedicated to making a positive impact on the community by advocating for youth, arts and education, public service, equality, sustainability, growing the sport of MMA, and those who fight to overcome critical and life-threatening illnesses".²⁰

In 2023-2024, UFC and the UFC Foundation partnered with 148 non-profit organizations in eight countries around the world (U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United Kingdom). By producing a series of fundraising campaigns throughout the year, UFC charitable partners received gifts and direct donations to help further their respective missions and goals.²¹

Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc. and Miami Northwestern Senior High School

Miami Northwestern Senior High School is a four-year public high school with a student population of 1,425 students in grades 9–12 located in the Liberty City neighborhood of

¹⁶ Section 320.08058(67)(a), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 320.08058(67)(b), F.S.

¹⁸ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Specialty License Plates*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/personalized-specialty-license-plates/specialty-license-plates/> (last visited February 12, 2026).

¹⁹ Nevada Department of State: Division of Corporations, *UFC Foundation, Inc.* [SilverFlume Nevada's Business Portal to start/manage your business](#), Entity Number E11683632021-4 (last visited February 12, 2026).

²⁰ UFC Foundation, [UFC Foundation | UFC](#), (last visited February 12, 2026).

²¹ *Id.*

Miami.²² The school's website provides that "Miami Northwestern Senior High is dedicated to assisting every student with authoring their page in the Bulls' rich legacy of pride, tradition, and excellence since 1955".²³

The mission of the Performing and Visual Arts Program at Miami Northwestern Senior High School is to "assure that all students have the opportunity to develop their artistic, creative, and physical abilities research-based instructional strategies, technology-infused instruction, career path exploration, community service opportunities, real-world learning, enhanced parental involvement, and programs which include partnerships, talents, skill and abilities in a challenging, safe, and nurturing environment".²⁴

Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc., is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.²⁵

Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc.

The Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc., is dedicated to enhancing public spaces throughout Florida and its initiatives focus on welcoming environments that foster community connections and showcase the natural beauty of the outdoors.²⁶ The foundations website provides that "By restoring and reimaging gathering areas, we aim to make Florida's outdoor spaces more accessible, vibrant, and interconnected. Through our efforts, we strengthen communities and encourage engagement with nature. Together we are making a lasting impact on our environment and the lives of all Floridians".²⁷

Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc., is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.²⁸

St. Petersburg College

St. Petersburg College Foundation Inc., is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.²⁹ The organizations 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

²² Miami Northwestern Senior High School., [Home - School Profile - Miami Northwestern Senior High School](#), (last visited February 12, 2026).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc.* Sunbiz.org, Document number N17000004247 (February 12, 2026).

²⁶ Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc., [About Us | Hoober Brothers Foundation](#), (last visited February 12, 2026).

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc.* Sunbiz.org, Document number N25000007736 (February 12, 2026).

²⁹ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc.* Sunbiz.org, Document number 749635 (February 12, 2026).

accepts and prudently manages all gifts including cash, securities, property, bequests and trusts.”³⁰

First Responders Resiliency

First Responders Resiliency Foundation is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.³¹ The foundation’s website includes the following: “The First Responders Resiliency Foundation cares for those who voluntarily sacrifice their physical and mental well-being for others. The Foundation’s aim is to be proactive in providing resources and education to improve the mind and body. We exist to make sure your call for help never goes unanswered”.³² The foundation was created in the aftermath of the Champlain Towers collapse in Surfside on June 24, 2021, by Metro-Dade Firefighters Local 1403 to address the urgent mental health needs of first responders.³³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates five new specialty license plates and revises certain requirements related to two existing specialty license plates.

Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)

The bill directs DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for the UFC. Proceeds of the sale of the UFC specialty license plate will be distributed to the UFC Foundation, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate. The remaining proceeds will support charities and nonprofits in the state of Florida that align with the foundation’s mission and goals, such as children’s hospitals, support for first responders and the military, and youth advocacy and mentorship, and to fund the development and operation of youth mentorship programs in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the DHSMV, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “UFC Lives Here” at the bottom of the plate.

Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc.

The bill directs DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for the Miami Northwestern Alumni Association. Proceeds of the sale of the Miami Northwestern Alumni Association specialty license plate will be distributed to the Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate. Thereafter, the annual use fees from the sale of the plate will be used to fund need-based scholarships, academic programs, and athletic programs for the benefit of Miami Northwestern Senior High School students and the Miami Northwestern Senior High School Performing and Visual Arts Center. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the DHSMV, with the

³⁰ St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc., [About the Foundation || St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc.](#), (last visited February 12, 2026).

³¹ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *First Responders Resiliency Foundation Corp.* Sunbiz.org, Document number N21000012477 (February 12, 2026).

³² First Responders Resiliency Foundation Corp., [About us | FRFF](#), (last visited February 12, 2026).

³³ *Id.*

word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “Miami Northwestern Alumni Association” at the bottom of the plate.

Outsider Specialty License Plate

The bill directs DHSMV to create a new Outsider specialty license plate. Proceeds from the sale of the Outsider specialty license plate will be distributed to the Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate. Thereafter, the annual use fees from the sale of the plate will be distributed to the Hoober Brothers Foundation, Inc., to create and restore iconic public destinations across this state. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the DHSMV, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “Outsider” at the bottom of the plate.

St. Petersburg College

The bill directs DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for 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 plate must bear the colors and design approved by the DHSMV, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “St. Petersburg College” at the bottom of the plate.

First Responders Resiliency Specialty License Plates

The bill directs DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for First Responders Resiliency. Proceeds from the sale of the First Responders Resiliency specialty license plate will be distributed to the First Responders Resiliency Foundation Corp. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate. Thereafter, the annual use fees from the sale of the plate will be distributed to the First Responders Resiliency Foundation Corp. to fund mental health services to first responders who do not qualify for certain benefits, and to ensure the such first responders have access to certified mental health counselors when in crisis. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the DHSMV, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “First Responders Resiliency” at the bottom of the plate.

Florida Wildflower Specialty License Plate

The bill amends s. 320.08056, F.S., to increase the annual use fee of the Florida Wildflower specialty license plate from \$15 to \$25, except for an owner purchasing the specialty license plate for more than 10 vehicles registered to that owner, the annual use fee remains at \$15 per plate.

The \$25 annual use fee is consistent with the amount established in s. 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., which is applicable to all new specialty license plates.

Fraternal Order of Police Specialty License Plate

The bill amends s. 320.08058(67), F.S., to delete the requirement that applicants provide a notarized membership verification letter from the Fraternal Order of Police in order to purchase the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate. The elimination of the membership verification will significantly expand the eligibility for the purchase of the specialty plate.

The bill redistributes the funds from the sale of the specialty license plate to the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc., and specifies that those funds must be used in accordance with the foundation's articles of incorporation. The bill also eliminates the stipulation that a maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate, to administer the license plate program, and to pay administrative costs directly associated with the Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2026.

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 identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the specialty license plates are produced, the organizations authorized to receive the distributions will receive the annual use fees associated with sales of the plates.

C. Government Sector Impact:

If the annual use fee increases from \$15 to \$25, the Florida Wildflowers Foundation, Inc., will experience an indeterminate positive fiscal impact associated with increased revenues available to the foundation.

The bill will significantly expand the number of persons eligible to purchase the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate, which will have an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on the recipient organization.

The estimated fiscal impact associated with creating each new specialty license plate is \$8,160.³⁴

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 Fiscal Policy on February 12, 2026:

The committee substitute creates the following new specialty license plates:

- Miami Northwestern Alumni Association;
- Outsider;
- St. Petersburg College; and
- First Responders Resiliency.

The committee substitute revises certain requirements related to the following existing specialty license plates:

- Florida Wildflower; and
- Fraternal Order of Police.

³⁴ DHSMV, *supra* note 1.

B. Amendments:

None.

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