

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: SB 246

INTRODUCER: Senators Gruters and Rodriguez

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

DATE: January 20, 2026 **REVISED:** _____

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

I. Summary:

SB 246 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create a new specialty license plate for the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). The annual use fee for the plate is \$25.

Proceeds of the sale of the UFC specialty license plate will be distributed to the UFC Foundation, Inc., to 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 organization may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and promotion of the plate.

The estimated fiscal impact associated with the implementation of the new specialty license plate is \$8,160.¹ See **Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement**.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

UFC Foundation

The UFC Foundation is a Nevada not-for-profit corporation registered with the Nevada Department of State.² 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,

¹ DHSMV, 2026 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 246 (October 21, 2025) at p. 6 (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation)

² Nevada Department of State: Division of Corporations, *UFC Foundation, Inc.* [SilverFlume Nevada's Business Portal to start/manage your business](https://silverflume.dos.nv.gov/business/starting-managing-business/entity-number/E11683632021-4), Entity Number E11683632021-4 (last visited January 15, 2026).

arts and education, public service, equality, sustainability, growing the sport of MMA, and those who fight to overcome critical and life-threatening illnesses".³ In 2023-24, 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.⁴

Specialty License Plates

According to the DHSMV, as of October 2025, there are 132 specialty license plates authorized by the Legislature. Of these plates, 118 are available for immediate purchase and 14 are in the presale process.⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷

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 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 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.⁸

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

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

³ UFC Foundation, [UFC Foundation | UFC](#), (last visited January 15, 2026).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ DHSMV, *supra* note 1, at 2.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Section 320.08058, F.S.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Section 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

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.¹¹

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 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.¹²

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 135.¹³

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.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.08058, F.S., to authorize the DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for the UFC. The annual use fee for the plate is \$25. 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.

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

¹¹ Section 320.08053(3)(a), F.S.

¹² 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.

¹³ Section 320.08053(3)(b), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

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 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.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the specialty license plate is produced, the UFC Foundation, Inc., will receive the annual use fees associated with sales of the plate.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The estimated fiscal impact associated with the bill is \$8,160.¹⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

¹⁸ DHSMV, *supra* note 1.

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.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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