

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 639](#)

**TITLE:** Specialty License Plates

**SPONSOR(S):** Brannan

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 470](#) (Wright)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

18 Y, 0 N, As CS

[State Affairs](#)



## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill revises the issuance and fee distribution procedures for the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate. Additionally, the bill makes the following changes to the specialty license plate issuance process:

- Requires an organization with an approved specialty license plate to submit within a specified timeframe a five-year financial projection to DHSMV. DHSMV is then required to annually submit a summary of the financial projections that it receives from approved specialty license plate organizations to the Governor and the Legislature.
- Requires that the annual use fees or interest earned from a specialty license plate be distributed only to an entity that is a non-for-profit registered in Florida.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will have a negative, but insignificant, fiscal impact to state expenditures and an indeterminate economic impact on the private sector.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

#### Fraternal Order of Police License Plate

The bill revises issuance and fee distribution procedures for the [Fraternal Order of Police license plate](#) by:

- Removing 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.
- Redistributing the funds from the sale of the specialty license plate to the [Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc.](#)
- Specifying that the annual proceeds of the plate be used in accordance with the foundation's [articles of incorporation](#).
- Eliminating the stipulation that a maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds is authorized for administrative costs related to the plate and the Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial. (Section 3)

**STORAGE NAME:** h0639.GOS

**DATE:** 2/11/2026

## General Specialty License Plate Requirements

### Financial Projection

The bill requires that if a [specialty license plate](#) is requested by an organization and is approved by law, then the organization must submit to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), as soon as practicable, but no later than 60 days after the law's approval, a five-year financial projection that:

- Outlines anticipated revenues and planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the sale of the requested specialty license plate.
- Provides a list of administrative expenses that the approved specialty license plate organization anticipates, if such expenses are authorized by law.
- Provides a list of third parties to which the approved specialty license plate organization plans to transfer, convey, or otherwise distribute the specialty license plate annual use fees. (Section [1](#))

If the financial projection from an approved specialty license plate organization is not received by DHSMV within the 60 days then the specialty license plate is deauthorized. (Section [1](#))

DHSMV is required to submit, by December 31 of each year, a report to the Governor and the Legislature summarizing the financial projections submitted to DHSMV by the approved specialty license plate organizations. The report must also include the department's notification regarding the status of organizations whose revenues have been withheld. (Sections [1](#) and [4](#))

### Authorized Use of Annual Use Fees and Interest

The bill provides that a specialty license plate annual use fee collected and distributed, or any interest earned from those fees, may be distributed only to a not-for-profit entity established in Florida that has [filed its articles of incorporation with the Department of State](#). Additionally, a not-for-profit that is authorized by law to collect annual use fees from a specialty license plate may not transfer, convey, or otherwise distribute the annual use fees or any interest earned from those fees to any third party unless the third party is also a not-for-profit established in Florida that has filed its articles of incorporation with the Department of State. (Section [2](#))

The bill is effective on July 1, 2026. (Section [5](#))

### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

#### STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill will have a negative, but insignificant, fiscal impact to DHSMV relating programming costs related to revising the issuance and fee distribution procedures for the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate,<sup>1</sup> as well as the collection and submission of the financial projections to the Legislature. The costs, however, may be absorbed within existing resources.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill will expand the number of persons eligible to purchase the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate, which will have an indeterminate, positive economic impact on the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc. The bill may have an indeterminate, negative economic impact on certain organizations that receive annual use fees from specialty license plates, directly or indirectly, if such organizations do not qualify as not-for-profits in Florida.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Agency Analysis of 2026 House Bill 639*, p. 4 (Dec. 12, 2025) (on file with the Government Operations Subcommittee)

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### Specialty License Plates

Specialty license plates are available to the owner or lessee of any motor vehicle who is willing to pay an annual use fee, in addition to the required license tax and fees.<sup>2</sup> The annual use fees range from \$15-\$25,<sup>3</sup> and are distributed directly to the sponsoring organization or other entity as designated in statute.<sup>4</sup> As of October 2025, there are 118 specialty license plates available for sale and an additional 14 in presale.<sup>5</sup>

To establish a specialty license plate, an organization must first receive approval in law. Once approval has been granted, the organization has 60 days to submit the proposed art design for the specialty license plate to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).<sup>6</sup> Within 120 days of the specialty license plate becoming law, DHSMV must establish a method to issue presale vouchers for the specialty license plate. If a person wants a presale voucher, he or she pays a \$5 processing fee,<sup>7</sup> a \$2.50 service charge, a 50¢ branch fee,<sup>8</sup> and the specialty license plate's annual use fee.<sup>9</sup> All other applicable fees are paid at the time of issuance of the specialty license plate.<sup>10</sup>

After the presale vouchers are established, the organization has 24 months to obtain 3,000 voucher sales before the plate is manufactured.<sup>11</sup> If the sales requirement has not been met by the end of the presale period, the specialty license plate is deauthorized and DHSMV must discontinue the development of the plate and issuance of the presale vouchers. Upon deauthorization of the license plate or if the plate has met the presale requirement but has not been issued, a purchaser of the presale voucher may use the annual use fee paid as a credit towards any other specialty license plate or may apply for a refund.<sup>12</sup>

New specialty license plates that have been approved by law but are awaiting issuance are issued in the order they appear in statute,<sup>13</sup> provided that they have met all statutory requirements, including the presale requirement.<sup>14</sup> If the next specialty license plate listed in statute has not met the presale requirement, DHSMV moves down the list to the next qualified specialty license plate to identify the next qualified specialty license plate that has met the presale requirement.<sup>15</sup>

The number of specialty license plates issued cannot exceed 135. If the Legislature approves more than 135 specialty license plates, DHSMV cannot issue any new specialty license plates until a sufficient number of plates are discontinued in order to not exceed the limit.<sup>16</sup>

DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid specialty license plate registrants falls below 3,000 plates for 12 consecutive months. After the first month in which the

<sup>2</sup> S. [320.08056\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> S. [320.08056\(3\)\(d\), F.S.](#), states that the annual use fee for any specialty license plate is \$25, except if otherwise specified in [S. 320.08056\(4\), F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> S. [320.08058, F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Agency Analysis of 2026 House Bill 231*, p. 2 (Oct. 21, 2025) (on file with the Government Operations Subcommittee)

<sup>6</sup> S. [320.08053\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>7</sup> The processing fee is prescribed in [S. 320.08056\(3\), F.S.](#)

<sup>8</sup> The service charge and branch fee are prescribed in [S. 320.04, F.S.](#)

<sup>9</sup> The annual use fee is prescribed in [S. 320.08056, F.S.](#)

<sup>10</sup> S. [320.08053\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>11</sup> S. [320.08053\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> S. [320.08058, F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> S. [320.08053\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>15</sup> S. [320.08053\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>16</sup> S. [320.08053\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

number of specialty license plate registration falls below 3,000 (or 4,000 for out-of-state or university plates), a warning letter is mailed to the sponsoring organization.<sup>17</sup> This discontinuation requirement does not apply to:

- In-state collegiate specialty license plates.
- Specialty 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.
- Florida professional sports team specialty license plates.<sup>18</sup>

DHSMV may discontinue a specialty license plate and distribution of associated annual use fee if the organization no longer exists, stops providing services that are authorized to be funded from the annual use fee proceeds, or pursuant to an organizational recipient's request.<sup>19</sup>

On January 1 of each year, DHSMV must discontinue the specialty license plate with the fewest number of plates in circulation, including specialty license plates exempt from the sales requirement. A warning letter is mailed to the organizations in the lowest 10 percent of valid, active specialty license plate registrations as of December 1 of each year.<sup>20</sup>

The annual use fees collected by an organization and any interest earned from those fees may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, or general or administrative expenses, unless authorized by the specialty license plates specific enabling statute.<sup>21</sup> Further, 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 an 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.<sup>22</sup>

Annual use fees collected by an organization and any interest earned from those fees may be expended only in Florida, unless the annual use fees are derived from the sale of United States Armed Forces or veterans-related specialty license plates.<sup>23</sup>

Organizations receiving annual use fees must submit an annual audit or attestation document to DHSMV that proceeds were used in compliance with the applicable specialty license plate statutes.<sup>24</sup> If DHSMV finds that an organization receiving annual use fees has failed to use the revenues as authorized or failed to submit required documentation for the audit and attestation forms, then DHSMV is required to discontinue the organization's revenues until such organization has taken corrective action as prescribed by DHSMV.<sup>25</sup> If the organization fails to comply with DHSMV's corrective action recommendations, then the revenues of the organization must be discontinued until completion of the next regular session of the Legislature. DHSMV is required to notify the Legislature by the first day of each regular session of any organization that has withheld revenues. If the Legislature does not provide direction to DHSMV and the organization regarding the status of the undistributed revenues, then DHSMV must deauthorize the plate and the revenues are immediately deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>17</sup> S. [320.08056\(8\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> S. [320.08056\(8\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>20</sup> S. [320.08056\(8\)\(f\), F.S.](#)

<sup>21</sup> S. [320.08056 \(10\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>22</sup> S. [320.08056 \(11\), F.S.](#)

<sup>23</sup> S. [320.08056\(10\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>24</sup> S. [320.08062, F.S.](#) Annual use fees may be used to pay for the cost of this required audit or report. See [s. 320.08056\(10\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>25</sup> S. [320.08062\(2\)\(c\), F.S.](#)

<sup>26</sup> S. [320.08062\(2\)\(d\), F.S.](#)

## **Fraternal Order of Police License Plate**

The Fraternal Order of Police license plate is created in Florida law and provides that the word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and "Fraternal Order of Police" at the bottom.<sup>27</sup> The colors and design of the plate were approved by DHSMV<sup>28</sup> and the plate is only issued to an applicant who submits a notarized letter from the Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police stating that he or she is a member of the lodge in good standing or a member of a lodge member's family.<sup>29</sup> The annual fees of the plate are distributed to the Florida State Lodge Memorial Foundation of the Fraternal Order of Police, a Florida not-for-profit corporation, as follows:

- 10 percent of the proceeds are authorized for promoting and marketing the plate; administering the license plate program; and paying administrative costs directly associated with the state Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial.
- The remaining funds are used to fund projects, programs, or events related to the memorial or to fund improvements, maintenance, or other support for the memorial.<sup>30</sup>

## **Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc.,<sup>31</sup> a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>32</sup> honors those who died in the line of duty by adding such honorees to the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial located at the State Capitol.<sup>33</sup> The foundation also provides a state scholarship program for children or grandchildren of active members of the Fraternal Order of Police.<sup>34</sup>

### Articles of Incorporation

Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc's articles of incorporation provides that the foundation has the following purposes that are exclusively charitable and educational:

- The perpetual care and maintenance of the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial Monument.
- To raise awareness regarding the sacrifices of law enforcement officers killed or injured in the line of duty.
- To aid, support, and assist by gifts, contributions, grief counseling, or otherwise, the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.
- To hold an annual memorial service in recognition of those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- To provide educational opportunities for the children of officers killed in the line of duty.
- To do any and all lawful activities which may be necessary, useful, or desirable for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attaining the forgoing purposes.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> S. [320.08058\(67\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>28</sup> DHSMV, [Florida License Plates](#) (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

<sup>29</sup> [S. 320.08058\(67\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>30</sup> [S. 320.08058\(67\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>31</sup> In 2008, the corporation's name was amended to Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc. See Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Amendment and Name Change](#) (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

<sup>32</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc.](#) (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

<sup>33</sup> Florida Fraternal Order of Police, [2026 Law Enforcement Memorial Services](#) (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

<sup>34</sup> Florida Fraternal Order of Police, [Scholarships / Florida State Lodge FOP](#) (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

<sup>35</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Foundation, Inc.](#) (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

## BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#"><u>Government Operations</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Subcommittee</u></a>	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/11/2026	Toliver	Walker
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required that any organization that receives specialty license plate funds (directly or indirectly) be registered as a not-for-profit corporation in Florida.</li> <li>• Required certain organizations to submit specified information to DHSMV and authorizes the plate to be deauthorized if the information is not received by a specified timeframe.</li> <li>• Required DHSMV to submit, by a specified date, certain information to the Governor and the Legislature.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#"><u>State Affairs Committee</u></a>				

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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