

# 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/CS/HB 639](#)

**TITLE:** Specialty License Plates

**SPONSOR(S):** Brannan

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

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** [CS/SB 246](#) (Gruters)

## Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

18 Y, 0 N, As CS



[State Affairs](#)

26 Y, 0 N, As CS

## 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 creates the following new specialty license plates with an annual use fee of \$25:

- Miami Northwestern Alumni Association.
- Christopher Columbus High School.
- Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).
- United States Naval Academy.
- United States Military Academy.
- Miami Dade College.
- Florida Film Legacy

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 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (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 fees or interest earned from a specialty license plate be distributed only to certain not-for-profits.

### 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](#))

#### **Miami Northwestern Alumni Association License Plate**

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The bill creates the Miami Northwestern Alumni Association license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)-approved colors and designs, with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “Miami Northwestern Alumni Association” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to the [Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc.](#), which may use up to 10 percent of the fees for administrative costs and marketing of the plate. The balance of the fees must be used by the Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc., to fund academic programs, athletic programs, and need-based scholarships for the benefit of Miami Northwestern Senior High School students and the Miami Northwestern Senior High School Performing and Visual Arts Center. (Section [3](#))

### **Christopher Columbus High School License Plate**

The bill creates the Christopher Columbus High School license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and designs, with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “Christopher Columbus High School” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to [Christopher Columbus High School, Inc.](#), which may use up to 10 percent of the fees for administrative costs and marketing of the plate. The balance of the fees must be used by the Christopher Columbus High School, Inc., to fund academic programs, athletic programs, and need-based scholarships for the benefit of Christopher Columbus High School students. (Section [3](#))

### **Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) License Plate**

The bill creates the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and designs, with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “UFC Lives Here” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to the [UFC Foundation](#), which may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds to promote and market the plate. The UFC Foundation will use the remainder of the proceeds to support charities and not-for-profits in Florida that align with the foundation's mission and goals. Such support may include:

- Partnering with children's hospitals.
  - Supporting first responders and the military.
  - Supporting youth advocacy and mentorship.
  - Developing and operating youth mentorship programs in partnership with local law enforcement agencies.
- (Section [3](#))

### **United States Naval Academy License Plate**

The bill creates the United States Naval Academy license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and designs, with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “Go Navy, Beat Army!” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to the [Jacksonville Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association](#), which may use up to 10 percent of the fees for administrative costs related to promotion and marketing of the plate. The chapter will use the remaining fees to provide grants to charitable organizations in Florida which directly support veterans and their families for purposes including:

- Providing food or shelter.
- Providing service animals or support animals to wounded veterans.
- Supporting children of servicemembers killed in the line of duty. (Section [3](#))

### **United States Military Academy License Plate**

The bill creates the United States Military Academy license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and designs, with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “Go Army, Beat Navy!” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to [Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.](#), which may use up to 10 percent of the fees for administrative costs related to promotion and marketing of the plate. The balance of the fees must be used by Bay Area Legal Services, Inc., to fund the Florida Veterans Legal Helpline. (Section [3](#))

### **Miami Dade College License Plate**

The bill creates the Miami Dade College license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and designs, with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “Miami Dade College” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to the [Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc.](#), which may use up to 10 percent of the fees for administrative costs and marketing of the plate. The balance of the fees must be used by the Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc., to fund student scholarships. (Section [3](#))

### **Florida Film Legacy License Plate**

The bill creates the Florida Film Legacy license plate, with an annual use fee of \$25. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and designs, in consultation with Feature Florida Partnerships, Inc., with “Florida” appearing at the top of the plate and “Film Legacy” appearing at the bottom of the plate. (Section [3](#))

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be distributed to [Feature Florida Partnerships, Inc.](#) The bill requires Feature Florida Partnerships, Inc., to submit a financial report to DHSMV detailing the use of the annual use fees during the preceding fiscal year. Such financial report must be submitted by September 1, 2027, and annually thereafter. (Section [3](#))

## **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 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 Florida not-for-profit ([domestic corporation](#)) that has filed its articles of incorporation with the Department of State or a foreign not-for-profit corporation ([foreign corporation](#)) that is

authorized by law to conduct its affairs in Florida. 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 Florida not-for-profit that has filed its articles of incorporation with the Department of State or a foreign not-for-profit corporation that is authorized by law to conduct its affairs in Florida. (Section 2)

The bill is effective on October 1, 2026. (Section 5)

## FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

### STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill will have a negative, but insignificant, fiscal impact to DHSMV for:

- Programming costs related to creating additional specialty license plates and revising the issuance and fee distribution procedures for the Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plate.<sup>1</sup>
- 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. Additionally, once a specialty license plate goes into production, organizations authorized for a distribution from the proceeds of the sale of the respective license plate will benefit. Therefore, the following organizations may see an increase in revenues:

- Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc.
- Christopher Columbus High School, Inc.
- UFC Foundation.
- Jacksonville Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association.
- Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.
- Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc.
- Feature Florida Partnerships, 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 or foreign not-for-profits authorized to conduct business in Florida.

## 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

<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)

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

<sup>3</sup> Section [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.](#)

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 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.

<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.](#) Presale voucher requirements do not apply to any collegiate license plate established after October 1, 2002, pursuant to [s. 320.08058\(3\)\(a\), 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.](#)

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

- 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>

### **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

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<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.](#)  
<sup>27</sup> [S. 320.08058\(67\)\(a\), F.S.](#)  
<sup>28</sup> DHSMV, *Florida License Plates* (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

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>

### **Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc.**

Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>36</sup> promotes the general welfare of Miami Northwestern Senior High School.<sup>37</sup> The 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 Miami.<sup>38</sup> The school has various programs, including a Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program, that work to assure that all students have the opportunity to develop artistic, creative, and physical abilities in a challenging, safe, and nurturing environment.<sup>39</sup>

<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).

<sup>36</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for the Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, Inc.](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>37</sup> The Miami Northwestern Alumni Association, [About Us](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026)

<sup>38</sup> Miami Northwestern Senior High School, [Home - School Profile - Miami Northwestern Senior High School](#), (last visited February 21, 2026).

<sup>39</sup> *Id.*

### Christopher Columbus High School, Inc.

Christopher Columbus High School, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>40</sup> is a private four-year (all-boys) high school that serves 1,700 students and is located in Miami, Florida.<sup>41</sup> The school offers various curriculum pathways for its students, including artistic design and production, biomedical science, business and entrepreneurship, computer science, engineering, law and civic engagement, multimedia journalism, and sports management. The school also has various athletic programs, including a basketball team and a track and field team that are current state champions.<sup>42</sup>

### UFC Foundation

The UFC Foundation is a Nevada-based not-for-profit corporation authorized to conduct its affairs in Florida,<sup>43</sup> with a mission focused on:

- Public service (military veterans, active service men and woman, first responders, and environmental responsibility).
- Sustainability (responsible management of natural resources).
- Youth advocacy/arts and education (establishing youth mentoring programs).
- Equality (gender and cultural equality).
- Overcoming adversity (mental health awareness, and fighting for those who are striving to overcome critical and life-threatening illnesses).<sup>44</sup>

In 2025, UFC and the UFC Foundation partnered with more than 120 not-for-profit organizations in 10 countries around the world (United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, China, Jamaica, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom).<sup>45</sup> In 2025, one of the UFC Foundation's projects included partnering with children's hospitals to provide toys and inspiration to pediatric patients fighting to overcome life-threatening illnesses. The UFC Foundation also launched youth mentoring programs in partnership with local law enforcement to provide underprivileged youth with a safe space to train, get fit, build confidence, and receive free after-school training.<sup>46</sup>

### Jacksonville Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association

The Jacksonville Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association, a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>47</sup> supports its local United States Naval Academy alumni and community.<sup>48</sup> The United States Naval Academy is the four-year undergraduate college for the United States naval service. The academy prepares its students to become professional officers of competence, character, and compassion in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Naval Academy students are midshipmen on active duty in the United States Navy. Naval Academy graduates serve at least five years in the Navy or Marine Corps.<sup>49</sup>

### Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>50</sup> provides free civil legal services to low-income Tampa Bay area residents.<sup>51</sup> Additionally, Bay Area Legal Services, Inc., manages the Florida Veterans Legal

<sup>40</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for the Christopher Columbus High School, Inc.](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>41</sup> Christopher Columbus High School, [Our History](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>42</sup> Christopher Columbus High School, [2025-26 School Profile](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>43</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Authorization to Conduct Affairs in Florida: UFC Foundation](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>44</sup> UFC Foundation, [2025 Community Impact Report](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>45</sup> *Id.*

<sup>46</sup> *Id.*

<sup>47</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for the USNAAA Jacksonville Chapter, Inc.](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>48</sup> United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, [President's Corner](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>49</sup> United States Naval Academy, [About](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>50</sup> Department of State's Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for the Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>51</sup> Bay Area Legal Services, [About](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

Helpline, which is available to eligible veterans living in Florida who have a legal pending issue in Florida. The helpline is free to qualified veterans and provides specified noncriminal legal services for specified types of cases, such as those involving veterans benefits, housing issues, and family issues (divorce, child support, and custody).<sup>52</sup>

### **Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc.**

Miami Dade College has more than 125,000 students enrolled annually across its eight campuses. Miami Dade College Foundation, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>53</sup> serves as a fundraising arm for the Miami Dade College and provides scholarships, supports academic programs, and makes other strategic investments that benefit its students and the community. For example, the foundation invests more than \$35 million annually in student scholarships and program support.<sup>54</sup>

### **Feature Florida Partnerships, Inc.**

Feature Florida Partnerships, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation,<sup>55</sup> is dedicated to bringing film, television, commercial, and digital media production back to Florida. Its mission is to support productions that hire Florida workers, use Florida businesses, and tell Florida stories.<sup>56</sup>

## **Department of State and Not-for-profits**

### Domestic Corporation

A “corporation” or “domestic corporation” is a corporation not-for-profit, subject to the provisions of chapter 617, F.S., excluding a foreign corporation. A corporation or domestic corporation must [file its articles of incorporation<sup>57</sup> with the Department of State.](#)<sup>58</sup>

### Foreign Corporation

A “foreign corporation” means a corporation not-for-profit organized under laws other than the laws of Florida.<sup>59</sup> A foreign corporation may apply for a certificate of authority to conduct its affairs in Florida by delivering an application<sup>60</sup> to the Department of State for filing.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Bay Area Legal Services, [Florida Veterans Legal Helpline](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>53</sup> Department of State’s Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for Miami Dade College Foundation](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>54</sup> Miami Dade College Foundation, [Miami Dade College Foundation Impact Report](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>55</sup> Department of State’s Division of Corporations, [Articles of Incorporation for Feature Florida Partnerships, Inc.](#) (last visited Feb. 21, 2026).

<sup>56</sup> Feature Florida Partnerships, [About](#) (last visited Feb. 26, 2026).

<sup>57</sup> [Section 617.01401, F.S.](#), provides that the term “Articles of Incorporation” includes original, amended, and restated articles of incorporation, articles of consolidation, and articles of merger, and all amendments thereto, including documents designated by the laws of Florida as charters, and, in the case of a foreign corporation, documents equivalent to articles of incorporation in the jurisdiction of incorporation.

<sup>58</sup> [S. 617.01401\(4\), F.S.](#)

<sup>59</sup> [S. 617.01401\(9\), F.S.](#)

<sup>60</sup> Department of State, [Application for a foreign not-for-profit to Conduct its Affairs in Florida](#) (last visited Feb. 22, 2026)

<sup>61</sup> [S. 617.1503\(1\), F.S.](#)

**BILL HISTORY**

<b>COMMITTEE REFERENCE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF</b>	<b>ANALYSIS PREPARED BY</b>
<a href="#">Government Operations Subcommittee</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="#">State Affairs Committee</a>	26 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/26/2026	Williamson	Walker
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created seven additional specialty license plates.</li> <li>• Required that any organization that receives specialty license plate funds (directly or indirectly) be either a not-for-profit corporation registered in Florida or a foreign not-for-profit corporation that is authorized by law to conduct its affairs in Florida.</li> </ul>			

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