

CS/CS/HB 351 — Specialty License Plates

by Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Roads, Bridges, & Ports Policy Committee; Reps. Patterson and Kelly (CS/SB 736 by Transportation Committee and Senator Garcia)

The bill authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to develop three new specialty license plates all of which may be purchased by payment of the appropriate license taxes and fees and a \$25 annual use fee. The plates are:

- “Catch Me, Release Me.” Annual use fees shall be distributed to the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Inc., which may use up to ten percent of the proceeds for the administrative costs directly associated with the operation of the foundation and for the promotion and marketing of the plates. The remaining proceeds shall be used to fund scientific research related to marine issues, including research of free-ranging pelagic marine species that inhabit, use, or migrate through the waters of this state, and to fund conservation initiatives and education and public outreach programs for school-aged children.
- “Discover Florida’s Horses.” Annual fees shall be distributed to Florida Agriculture Center and Horse Park Authority, which may use up to five percent of the proceeds to administer the license plate and up to five percent of the proceeds to promote and market the plate. The remaining fees shall be used to support continued development of the park, including the construction of additional educational facilities, barns, and other structures; to provide improvements to the existing infrastructure at the park; and to provide for operational expenses of the park.
- “Save Wild Florida.” Annual use fees shall be distributed to the Florida Biodiversity Foundation, Inc., which may use up to ten percent of the proceeds to fund the administrative, promotion, and marketing costs of the license plate program. The remaining fees shall be used by the Florida Biodiversity Foundation to fund research, education, and scientific study of the diversity of animals and plants and to aid in the preservation, study, conservation, and recovery of imperiled organisms.

Section 320.08058(4)(b), F.S., pertaining to the “Florida Salutes Veterans” license plates, is amended to reduce from 20 to 10 percent the amount of annual use fees that may be transferred to the direct-support organization and expands the time frame to transfer such funds from 24 to 48 months.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 37-2; House 116-0