

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 768

SPONSOR: Transportation Committee, Senator Latvala and others

SUBJECT: License Plates

DATE: April 12, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This CS provides that certain revenue generated through the sale of military license plates would be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund for the benefit of the Veterans' Nursing Home of Florida and its residents. This CS also revises the distribution of revenue generated through sales of the Sea Turtle license plate and the Share the Road license plate.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 320.089 and 320.08058.

II. Present Situation:

Military License Plates. Section 320.089(1), F.S., provides that Florida residents who are active duty or retired National Guard members, active duty U.S. Armed Forces Reservists, former Prisoners of War (POW), Pearl Harbor Survivors, or Purple Heart recipients, may purchase license plates having their military affiliation stamped on the license plate in the following manner: "National Guard", "Pearl Harbor Survivor", "Combat-Wounded Veteran", "U.S. Reserve", and "Purple Heart". Currently, purchasers of these plates are subject to the regular costs imposed on license plate transactions.

Sea Turtle License Plate. Section 320.08058(19), F.S., provides that annual use fees generated through the Sea Turtle license plate are to be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. The first \$500,000 in annual revenue is to be used by the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program to conduct sea turtle protection, research, and recovery programs. The remaining annual use proceeds shall be used by the commission for sea turtle conservation activities, except that up to 30 percent of the remaining annual use fee proceeds shall be annually disbursed through the marine turtle grants program as provided in s. 370.12(1)(h).

Share the Road License Plate. Section 320.08058 (31), F.S., provides that annual use fees generated through the Share the Road license plate are to be distributed to the Florida Governor's

Council on Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports, a portion of which must be used for marketing and promotion of the "Share the Road" concept and license plate. The remaining funds are to be divided equally between Bike Florida, Inc., and the Florida Bicycle Association, Inc., to be used for: (1) education and awareness programs, for bicycle safety and motorist safety, with emphasis on sharing the roadway by all users; (2) training, workshops, educational materials, and media events; and (3) the promotion of safe bicycling.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The CS amends s. 320.089, F.S., to provide that the first \$50,000 in general revenue generated through the sale of the "National Guard", "Pearl Harbor Survivor", "Combat-Wounded Veteran", or "U.S. Reserve" license plates are to be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund authorized under s. 296.38(2), F.S., for the benefit of the Veterans' Nursing Home of Florida and its residents. Section 296.38(2), F.S., stipulates that funds in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund must be expended for the common benefit of the residents of the home, such as recreational equipment, improved facilities, and recreational supplies.

The CS amends s. 320.08058(19), F.S., to provide that annual Sea Turtle license plate revenue beyond the first \$500,000 (deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund) is to be dispersed through the marine turtle grants program authorized in s. 370.12(1)(h), F.S. Distribution of funds to the marine turtle grants program is capped at 30 percent of the total revenue generated through the Sea Turtle license plate. Remaining funds in excess of the 30 percent allocated through the marine turtle grants program would be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Program. License plate supporters indicated that this language restores the distribution formula to original intent of the sponsors, and will increase funds available to counties through the marine turtle grants program.

The CS amends s. 320.08058(31), F.S., delete a reference to Florida Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports (discontinued) and provide that up to 25 percent of the annual revenue generated through the sale of the Share the Road license plate must be used by Bike Florida, Inc., for the purposes of marketing and promoting the Share the Road concept and license plate. The remaining funds would continue to be divided equally between Florida Bike, Inc., and Florida Bicycle Association, Inc., for the purposes currently authorized in statute.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Changes enacted to the revenue distribution formula for specified military license plate could potentially generate an additional \$200,000 annually for the Grants and Donations Trust Fund supporting the Veterans' Nursing Home of Florida. Funds deposited into the general revenue fund would be reduced by a corresponding amount.

Changes enacted to the revenue distribution provisions of the Sea Turtle and Share the Road license plates should have minimal fiscal impact.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

According to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), approximately 16,300 "Purple Heart" license plates have been issued; 1,320 "National Guard" license plates have been issued; 2,260 "U.S. Reserve" license plates have been issued; and 985 "Pearl Harbor" license plates have been issued.

According to DHSMV, a total of 29,546 Sea Turtle license plates (enacted July 1997) have been purchased as of December 1999. License plate supporters indicated that annual sales of the Sea Turtle license plate may exceed \$500,000 for first time in the year 2000. The number of Share the Road license plates (enacted July 1999) is unknown at this time.

VIII. Amendments:

None.