

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: CS/SB 1232

SPONSOR: Finance and Taxation Committee and Senator Sebesta

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle License Plates

DATE: April 24, 2001                      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Keating</u>	<u>Johansen</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AGG</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

This bill provides for the issuance of one Pearl Harbor Survivor or one Purple Heart license plate to certain disabled veterans without payment of the required license tax.

This bill substantially amends section 320.089 of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

Currently, s. 320.089(1), F.S., provides that each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use or a motor home or truck camper, who is an active duty or retired National Guard members, active duty U.S. Armed Forces Reservists, former Prisoners of War (POW), or Pearl Harbor Survivors and 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". The cost to these purchasers include the fees as established in s. 320.06, F.S., (\$2 replacement fee and 50-cents reflectorization fee) and s. 320.08, F.S., (\$14.50 - \$32.50 on each private automobile or truck registration, based on net weight of the motor vehicle; \$35 flat fee - motor home or truck camper).

Section 320.084, F.S., allows for one free motor vehicle license plate to be issued to disabled veterans who have been a resident of the state for the last 5 years and who were honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces. At the time of application, the applicant must present proof that his or her vehicle was acquired through financial assistance by the Department of Veterans Affairs and they have a 100% service connected disability rating.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This bill amends s. 320.089, F.S., to provide for the issuance of one Pearl Harbor Survivor or one Purple Heart motor vehicle license plate to a resident of the state who also qualifies for a disabled veteran's license plate, without payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08, F.S. For each initial application or renewal of registration, there will be a \$2.50 service charge retained by the Tax Collector in accordance with the provisions of s. 320.04, F.S., a \$2 replacement fee as provided in s. 320.06(1)(b), F.S., and a 50-cents reflectorization fee for the license plate as provided in s. 320.06(3)(b), F.S. Registration under this section shall be renewed annually during the applicable renewal period on forms prescribed by the Department.

**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:**

This bill will have minimal impact on license tax revenues assuming that qualifying disabled veterans only receive one free license plate.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Pearl Harbor Survivors or Purple Heart license plate recipients who qualify for a disabled veteran's license plate would not pay an annual license tax fee required in s. 320.08, F.S.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Department estimates the bill will require \$7,560 for contracted programming modifications to the Motor Vehicles Software System.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

According to the Department, there are approximately 23,000 Purple Heart license plates currently in circulation. There are approximately 12,000 disabled veteran plates in circulation. The exact number of Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates currently in circulation is unknown, however, the number is relatively small.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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