

# 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.)

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Prepared By: Transportation Committee

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BILL: SB 1460

SPONSOR: Senators Bennett and Miller

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Registration Voluntary Contribution

DATE: March 9, 2005

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION           |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | Evans   | Meyer          | TR        | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 2. |         |                | CF        |                  |
| 3. |         |                | TA        |                  |
| 4. |         |                |           |                  |
| 5. |         |                |           |                  |
| 6. |         |                |           |                  |

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## Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), to include a check-off for a voluntary \$1.00 contribution to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc., on each motor vehicle registration and renewal form. Southeastern Guide Dogs is a non-profit educational organization, providing guide dogs to blind individuals.

This bill substantially amends sections 320.02 of the Florida Statutes.

### I. Present Situation:

Section 320.02, F.S., currently authorizes check-offs for voluntary contributions appearing on the motor vehicle registration and renewal application forms for the following organizations in the following amounts:

- \$5 for the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund;
- \$1 for the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund;
- \$1 for Prevent Blindness Florida; and
- An unspecified amount for Florida Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Inc.

Voluntary contributions may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, nor for general or administrative expenses, except as authorized by law or to pay the cost of an audit or report required by law. See s. 320.023 (5) F.S. Any voluntary contributions authorized by law shall only be distributed under an appropriation by the Legislature. See s. 320.023 (5), F.S.

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization, providing guide dogs to blind individuals. The corporation is located in Manatee County, Florida, and is one of only ten

training centers in the field within the United States. The organization is supported entirely by public contributions.

#### DHSMV's Check-off Requirements

Section 320.023, F.S., provides a procedure an organization must follow prior to seeking Legislative authorization to establish a voluntary check-off on a motor vehicle registration application. Before the organization is eligible, the organization must submit to DHSMV for review at least 90 days before the convening of the regular session of the Legislature.

- A request for the particular voluntary contribution being sought, describing it in general terms;
- An application fee of up to \$10,000 to defray DHSMV's costs for reviewing the application and developing the check-off, if authorized; and
- A short and long-term marketing strategy and a financial analysis outlining the anticipated revenues and the planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the voluntary contributions.

DHSMV must discontinue the check-off if less than \$25,000 has been contributed by the end of the fifth year, or if less than \$25,000 is contributed during any subsequent 5-year period.

## **II. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** amends s. 320.02, F.S., requiring DHSMV to include on each application for motor vehicle registration or renewal, language permitting a voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.; provides for use of the funds; exempts such funds from the general revenue service charge. This section also provides the funds must be used for the purpose of breeding, raising, and training guide dogs for the blind. Such funds may also be used to pay in-residence training for the individual receiving a guide dog.

**Section 2** provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

## **III. Constitutional Issues:**

### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

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

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Citizens wishing to contribute \$1.00 to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc., would be able to select this organization from a voluntary check-off on the motor vehicle registration or renewal forms.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc., has paid an application fee of \$10,000 to defray DHSMV's costs for reviewing the application and developing the check-off.

**V. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VI. Related Issues:**

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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## **VII. Summary of Amendments:**

None.

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