

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Finance and Tax Committee

BILL: SB 1268

INTRODUCER: Senator Lawson

SUBJECT: Free License Plates/Choctaw Indians

DATE: April 10, 2008

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

|    | ANALYST  | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION             |
|----|----------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Davis    | Meyer          | TR        | <b>Favorable</b>   |
| 2. | ODonnell | Johansen       | FT        | <b>Pre-meeting</b> |
| 3. |          |                | TA        |                    |
| 4. |          |                |           |                    |
| 5. |          |                |           |                    |
| 6. |          |                |           |                    |

**I. Summary:**

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (department) to issue free motor vehicle license plates to members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe.

This bill substantially amends s. 320.0841, F.S.

**II. Present Situation:**

Section 320.0841, F.S., requires the department to issue each year, free of charge to any state agency or individual, a sufficient number of motor vehicle license plates for use on vehicles owned and operated by members of the Seminole and Miccosukee Indian Tribes. The allocation may be increased by an amount equal to up to 10 percent of the allocation for the prior year. Any request for an increase requires a formal certification of need by the Seminole or Miccosukee Tribal Council. In addition, the department must provide a form and procedures for request and issuance of the license plates.

According to the department, there are currently, 531 Miccosukee and 1,596 Seminole Tribal Members with active motor vehicle registrations.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill amends s. 320.0841, F.S., to allow members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe to receive free motor vehicle license plates for use on vehicles own and operated by the members. In addition, the annual allocation of motor vehicle license plates may be increased by an amount equal to up

to ten percent of the allocation for the previous year. A request for an increase must be accompanied by a formal certification of the need by the Choctaw Tribal Council.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe will be provided motor vehicle license plates free of charge.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The department estimates 300 free motor vehicle license plates will be issued to the Choctaw Indian Tribe. The average registration fee is \$47. Based on this information, there would be a \$14,100 revenue reduction due to an estimated 300 members of the Choctaw Indian Tribe being exempt from paying the annual registration fee of approximately \$47.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

The department recommends an October 1, 2008, effective date to allow adequate time for programming modifications.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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