

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Floor: WD/2R 04/26/2013 12:13 PM

Senator Brandes moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 441 - 513 and insert:

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Section 4. Effective September 1, 2013, subsection (1) of section 320.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.04 Registration service charge.-

(1) (a) There shall be a service charge of \$2.50 \$5 for each application which is handled in connection with original issuance, duplicate issuance, or transfer of any license plate, mobile home sticker, or validation sticker or with transfer or duplicate issuance of any registration certificate, which shall . Of that amount, \$2.50 shall be deposited into the General

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Revenue Fund, and the remainder shall be retained by the department or by the tax collector, as the case may be, as other fees accruing to those offices.

- (b) There shall also be a service charge of \$1 \$3 for the issuance of each license plate validation sticker, vessel decal, and mobile home sticker issued from an automated vending facility or printer dispenser machine, which is payable to the department and. Of that amount, \$1 shall be used to provide for automated vending facilities or printer dispenser machines used to dispense such stickers and decals by each tax collector's or license tag agent's employee. The remaining \$2 shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
- (c) The tax collector may impose an additional service charge of not more than 50 cents on any transaction specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), or on any transaction specified in s. 319.32(2) (a) or s. 328.48 if such transaction occurs at any tax collector's branch office.

Section 5. Effective September 1, 2013, subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 320.06, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

320.06 Registration certificates, license plates, and validation stickers generally .-

(1) (a) Upon the receipt of an initial application for registration and payment of the appropriate license tax and other fees required by law, the department shall assign to the motor vehicle a registration license number consisting of letters and numerals or numerals and issue to the owner or lessee a certificate of registration and one registration license plate, unless two plates are required for display by s.

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320.0706, for each vehicle so registered.

(b) Registration license plates bearing a graphic symbol and the alphanumeric system of identification shall be issued for a 10-year period. At the end of that 10-year period, upon renewal, the plate shall be replaced. The department shall extend the scheduled license plate replacement date from a 6year period to a 10-year period. The fee for such replacement is \$28, \$2.80 of which shall be paid each year before the plate is replaced, to be credited towards the next \$28 replacement fee. The fees shall be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund. A credit or refund may not be given for any prior years' payments of such prorated replacement fee if the plate is replaced or surrendered before the end of the 10-year period, except that a credit may be given if a registrant is required by the department to replace a license plate under s. 320.08056(8)(a). With each license plate, a validation sticker shall be issued showing the owner's birth month, license plate number, and the year of expiration or the appropriate renewal period if the owner is not a natural person. The validation sticker shall be placed on the upper right corner of the license plate. Such license plate and validation sticker shall be issued based on the applicant's appropriate renewal period. The registration period is 12 months, the extended registration period is 24 months, and all expirations occur based on the applicant's appropriate registration period. A vehicle with an apportioned registration shall be issued an annual license plate and a cab card that denote the declared gross vehicle weight for each apportioned jurisdiction in which the vehicle is authorized to operate.

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(c) Registration license plates equipped with validation stickers subject to the registration period are valid for not more than 12 months and expire at midnight on the last day of the registration period. A registration license plate equipped with a validation sticker subject to the extended registration period is valid for not more than 24 months and expires at midnight on the last day of the extended registration period. For each registration period after the one in which the metal registration license plate is issued, and until the license plate is required to be replaced, a validation sticker showing the month and year of expiration shall be issued upon payment of the proper license tax amount and fees and is valid for not more than 12 months. For each extended registration period occurring after the one in which the metal registration license plate is issued and until the license plate is required to be replaced, a validation sticker showing the year of expiration shall be issued upon payment of the proper license tax amount and fees and is valid for not more than 24 months. When license plates equipped with validation stickers are issued in any month other than the owner's birth month or the designated registration period for any other motor vehicle, the effective date shall reflect the birth month or month and the year of renewal. However, when a license plate or validation sticker is issued for a period of less than 12 months, the applicant shall pay the appropriate amount of license tax and the applicable fee under s. 320.14 in addition to all other fees. Validation stickers issued for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(6)(a), for any company that owns 250 vehicles or more, or for semitrailers taxed under the provisions of s. 320.08(5)(a), for any company that owns 50

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vehicles or more, may be placed on any vehicle in the fleet so long as the vehicle receiving the validation sticker has the same owner's name and address as the vehicle to which the validation sticker was originally assigned.

- (2) The department shall provide the several tax collectors and license plate agents with the necessary number of validation stickers.
- (3) (a) Registration license plates must be made of metal specially treated with a retroreflection material, as specified by the department. The registration license plate is designed to increase nighttime visibility and legibility and must be at least 6 inches wide and not less than 12 inches in length, unless a plate with reduced dimensions is deemed necessary by the department to accommodate motorcycles, mopeds, or similar smaller vehicles. Validation stickers must also be treated with a retroreflection material, must be of such size as specified by the department, and must adhere to the license plate. The registration license plate must be imprinted with a combination of bold letters and numerals or numerals, not to exceed seven digits, to identify the registration license plate number. The license plate must be imprinted with the word "Florida" at the top and the name of the county in which it is sold, the state motto, or the words "Sunshine State" at the bottom. Apportioned license plates must have the word "Apportioned" at the bottom and license plates issued for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(3)(d), (4)(m) or (n), (5)(b) or (c), or (14) must have the word "Restricted" at the bottom. License plates issued for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(12) must be imprinted with the word "Florida" at the top and the word "Dealer" at the bottom.

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Manufacturer license plates issued for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(12) must be imprinted with the word "Florida" at the top and the word "Manufacturer" at the bottom. License plates issued for vehicles taxed under s. 320.08(5)(d) or (e) must be imprinted with the word "Wrecker" at the bottom. Any county may, upon majority vote of the county commission, elect to have the county name removed from the license plates sold in that county. The state motto or the words "Sunshine State" shall be printed in lieu thereof. A license plate issued for a vehicle taxed under s. 320.08(6) may not be assigned a registration license number, or be issued with any other distinctive character or designation, that distinguishes the motor vehicle as a for-hire motor vehicle.

(b) An additional fee of 50 cents \$1.50 shall be collected and deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund on each motor vehicle registration or motor vehicle renewal registration issued in this state in order for all license plates and validation stickers to be fully treated with retroreflection material. Of that amount, \$1 shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and 50 cents shall be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

Section 6. Effective September 1, 2013, section 320.0804, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.0804 Surcharge on license tax; transportation trust fund.—There is hereby levied and imposed on each license tax imposed under s. 320.08, except those set forth in s. 320.08(11), a surcharge in the amount of \$2 \$4, which shall be collected in the same manner as the license tax and. Of this amount, \$2 shall be deposited into the State Transportation

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Trust Fund, and \$2 shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

Section 7. Effective September 1, 2013, section 320.08046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.08046 Surcharge on license tax.-There is levied on each license tax imposed under s. 320.08, except those set forth in s. 320.08(11), a surcharge in the amount of \$1 \$5.50, which shall be collected in the same manner as the license tax and. Of the proceeds of each license tax surcharge, \$4.50 shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and \$1 shall be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in the Department of Juvenile Justice to fund the juvenile crime prevention programs and the community juvenile justice partnership grants program.

Section 8. Effective September 1, 2013, for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 320.06, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (4) of section 320.0807, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

320.0807 Special license plates for Governor and federal and state legislators.-

(4) License plates purchased under subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (3) shall be replaced by the department at no cost, other than the fees required by ss. 320.04 and 320.06(3)(b), when the person to whom the plates have been issued leaves the elective office with respect to which the license plates were issued. Within 30 days after leaving office, the person to whom the license plates have been issued shall make application to the department for a replacement license plate. The person may return the prestige license plates to the

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department or may retain the plates as souvenirs. Upon receipt of the replacement license plate, the person may not continue to display on any vehicle the prestige license plate or plates issued with respect to his or her former office.

Section 9. Subsection (8) is added to section 554.1021, Florida Statutes, to read:

- 554.1021 Definitions.—As used in ss. 554.1011-554.115:
- (8) "Authorized inspection agency" means:
- (a) Any county, city, town, or other governmental subdivision that has adopted and administers, at a minimum, Section I of the A.S.M.E. Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code as a legal requirement and whose inspectors hold valid certificates of competency in accordance with s. 554.113; or
- (b) Any insurance company that is licensed or registered by an appropriate authority of any state of the United States or province of Canada and whose inspectors hold valid certificates of competency in accordance with s. 554.113.

Section 10. Section 554.107, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

554.107 Special inspectors.

- (1) Upon application by any authorized inspection agency company licensed to insure boilers in this state, the chief inspector shall issue a certificate of competency as a special inspector to any inspector employed by the authorized inspection agency company, provided that such inspector satisfies the competency requirements for inspectors as provided in s. 554.113.
- (2) The certificate of competency of a special inspector shall remain in effect only so long as the special inspector is



employed by an authorized inspection agency a company licensed to insure boilers in this state. Upon termination of employment with such agency company, a special inspector shall, in writing, notify the chief inspector of such termination. Such notice shall be given within 15 days following the date of termination.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 554.109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

554.109 Exemptions.-

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(1) Any insurance company insuring a boiler located in a public assembly location in this state shall inspect or contract with an authorized inspection agency to inspect such boiler so insured, and shall annually report to the department the identity of any authorized inspection agency performing any required boiler inspection on behalf of the company. A any county, city, town, or other governmental subdivision that which has adopted into law the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Board Inspection Code for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, and repair of boilers, regulating such boilers in public assembly locations, shall inspect such boilers so regulated; provided that such inspection shall be conducted by a special inspector licensed pursuant to ss. 554.1011-554.115. Upon filing of a report of satisfactory inspection with the department, such boiler is exempt from inspection by the department.

Section 12. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 624.413, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 624.413 Application for certificate of authority.-
- (1) To apply for a certificate of authority, an insurer

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shall file its application therefor with the office, upon a form adopted by the commission and furnished by the office, showing its name; location of its home office and, if an alien insurer, its principal office in the United States; kinds of insurance to be transacted; state or country of domicile; and such additional information as the commission reasonably requires, together with the following documents:

(f) If a foreign or alien insurer, a copy of the report of the most recent examination of the insurer certified by the public official having supervision of insurance in its state of domicile or of entry into the United States. The end of the most recent year covered by the examination must be within the 5-year 3-year period preceding the date of application. In lieu of the certified examination report, the office may accept an audited certified public accountant's report prepared on a basis consistent with the insurance laws of the insurer's state of domicile, certified by the public official having supervision of insurance in its state of domicile or of entry into the United States.

Section 13. Subsections (5) through (9) of section 624.509, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

624.509 Premium tax; rate and computation.-

(5) (a) 1. There shall be allowed a credit against the net tax imposed by this section equal to 15 percent of the amount paid by an insurer in salaries to employees located or based within this state and who are covered by the provisions of chapter 443.

2. As an alternative to the credit allowed in subparagraph 1., an affiliated group of corporations which includes at least

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one insurance company writing premiums in Florida may elect to take a credit against the net tax imposed by this section in an amount that may not exceed 15 percent of the salary of the employees of the affiliated group of corporations who perform insurance-related activities, are located or based within this state, and are covered by chapter 443. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "affiliated group of corporations" means two or more corporations that are entirely owned directly or indirectly by a single corporation and that constitute an affiliated group as defined in s. 1504(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The amount of credit allowed under this subparagraph is limited to the combined Florida salary tax credits allowed for all insurance companies that were members of the affiliated group of corporations for the tax year ending December 31, 2002, divided by the combined Florida taxable premiums written by all insurance companies that were members of the affiliated group of corporations for the tax year ending December 31, 2002, multiplied by the combined Florida taxable premiums of the affiliated group of corporations for the current year. An affiliated group of corporations electing this alternative calculation method must make such election on or before August 1, 2005. The election of this alternative calculation method is irrevocable and binding upon successors and assigns of the affiliated group of corporations electing this alternative. However, if a member of an affiliated group of corporations acquires or merges with another insurance company after the date of the irrevocable election, the acquired or merged company is not entitled to the affiliated group election and shall only be entitled to calculate the tax credit under



subparagraph 1.

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In no event shall the salary paid to an employee by an affiliated group of corporations be claimed as a credit by more than one insurer or be counted more than once in an insurer's calculation of the credit as described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. Only the portion of an employee's salary paid for the performance of insurance-related activities may be included in the calculation of the premium tax credit in this subsection.

- (b) For purposes of this subsection:
- 1. The term "salaries" does not include amounts paid as commissions.
- 2. The term "employees" does not include independent contractors or any person whose duties require that the person hold a valid license under the Florida Insurance Code, except adjusters, managing general agents, and service representatives, as defined in s. 626.015.
- 3. The term "net tax" means the tax imposed by this section after applying the calculations and credits set forth in subsection (4).
- 4. An affiliated group of corporations that created a service company within its affiliated group on July 30, 2002, shall allocate the salary of each service company employee covered by contracts with affiliated group members to the companies for which the employees perform services. The salary allocation is based on the amount of time during the tax year that the individual employee spends performing services or otherwise working for each company over the total amount of time

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the employee spends performing services or otherwise working for all companies. The total amount of salary allocated to an insurance company within the affiliated group shall be included as that insurer's employee salaries for purposes of this section.

a. Except as provided in subparagraph (a) 2., the term "affiliated group of corporations" means two or more corporations that are entirely owned by a single corporation and that constitute an affiliated group of corporations as defined in s. 1504(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

b. The term "service company" means a separate corporation within the affiliated group of corporations whose employees provide services to affiliated group members and which are treated as service company employees for reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation and common law purposes. The holding company of an affiliated group may not qualify as a service company. An insurance company may not qualify as a service company.

c. If an insurance company fails to substantiate, whether by means of adequate records or otherwise, its eligibility to claim the service company exception under this section, or its salary allocation under this section, no credit shall be allowed.

5. A service company that is a subsidiary of a mutual insurance holding company, which mutual insurance holding company was in existence on or before January 1, 2000, shall allocate the salary of each service company employee covered by contracts with members of the mutual insurance holding company system to the companies for which the employees perform

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services. The salary allocation is based on the ratio of the amount of time during the tax year which the individual employee spends performing services or otherwise working for each company to the total amount of time the employee spends performing services or otherwise working for all companies. The total amount of salary allocated to an insurance company within the mutual insurance holding company system shall be included as that insurer's employee salaries for purposes of this section. However, this subparagraph does not apply for any tax year unless funds sufficient to offset the anticipated salary credits have been appropriated to the General Revenue Fund prior to the due date of the final return for that year.

a. The term "mutual insurance holding company system" means two or more corporations that are subsidiaries of a mutual insurance holding company and in compliance with part IV of chapter 628.

b. The term "service company" means a separate corporation within the mutual insurance holding company system whose employees provide services to other members of the mutual insurance holding company system and are treated as service company employees for reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation and common-law purposes. The mutual insurance holding company may not qualify as a service company.

c. If an insurance company fails to substantiate, whether by means of adequate records or otherwise, its eligibility to claim the service company exception under this section, or its salary allocation under this section, no credit shall be allowed.

(c) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss.

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120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this subsection.

(5) (6) (a) The total of the credit granted for the taxes paid by the insurer under chapter 220 and the credit granted by subsection (5) may not exceed 65 percent of the tax due under subsection (1) after deducting therefrom the taxes paid by the insurer under ss. 175.101 and 185.08 and any assessments pursuant to s. 440.51.

(b) To the extent that any credits granted by subsection (5) remain as a result of the limitation set forth in paragraph (a), such excess credits related to salaries and wages of employees whose place of employment is located within an enterprise zone created pursuant to chapter 290 may be transferred, in an aggregate amount not to exceed 25 percent of such excess salary credits, to any insurer that is a member of an affiliated group of corporations, as defined in subsubparagraph (5) (b) 4.a., that includes the original insurer qualifying for the credits under subsection (5). The amount of such excess credits to be transferred shall be calculated by multiplying the amount of such excess credits by a fraction, the numerator of which is the sum of the salaries qualifying for the credit allowed by subsection (5) of employees whose place of employment is located in an enterprise zone and the denominator of which is the sum of the salaries qualifying for the credit allowed by subsection (5). Any such transferred credits shall be subject to the same provisions and limitations set forth within part IV of this chapter. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to an affiliated group of corporations that participate in a common paymaster arrangement as defined in s. 443.1216.

(6) (6) (7) Credits and deductions against the tax imposed by

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this section shall be taken in the following order: deductions for assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; and credits for income taxes paid under chapter 220 and the credit allowed under subsection (5), as these credits are limited by subsection (5) (6); all other available credits and deductions.

(7) From and after July 1, 1980, the premium tax authorized by this section shall not be imposed upon receipts of annuity premiums or considerations paid by holders in this state if the tax savings derived are credited to the annuity holders. Upon request by the Department of Revenue, any insurer availing itself of this provision shall submit to the department evidence which establishes that the tax savings derived have been credited to annuity holders. As used in this subsection, the term "holders" shall be deemed to include employers contributing to an employee's pension, annuity, or profit-sharing plan.

(8) (9) As used in this section "insurer" includes any entity subject to the tax imposed by this section.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 624.5091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

624.5091 Retaliatory provision, insurers.-

(1) (a) When by or pursuant to the laws of any other state or foreign country any taxes, licenses, and other fees, in the aggregate, and any fines, penalties, deposit requirements, or other material obligations, prohibitions, or restrictions are or would be imposed upon Florida insurers or upon the agents or representatives of such insurers, which are in excess of such taxes, licenses, and other fees, in the aggregate, or which are in excess of the fines, penalties, deposit requirements, or

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other obligations, prohibitions, or restrictions directly imposed upon similar insurers, or upon the agents or representatives of such insurers, of such other state or country under the statutes of this state, so long as such laws of such other state or country continue in force or are so applied, the same taxes, licenses, and other fees, in the aggregate, or fines, penalties, deposit requirements, or other material obligations, prohibitions, or restrictions of whatever kind shall be imposed by the Department of Revenue upon the insurers, or upon the agents or representatives of such insurers, of such other state or country doing business or seeking to do business in this state. In determining the taxes to be imposed under this section, 80 percent and a portion of the remaining 20 percent as provided in paragraph (b) of the credit provided by s. 624.509(5), as limited by s. 624.509(6) and further determined by s. 624.509(7), shall not be taken into consideration.

(b) As used in this subsection, the term "portion of the remaining 20 percent" shall be calculated by multiplying the remaining 20 percent by a fraction, the numerator of which is the sum of the salaries qualifying for the credit allowed by s. 624.509(5) of employees whose place of employment is located in an enterprise zone created pursuant to chapter 290 and the denominator of which is the sum of the salaries qualifying for the credit allowed by s. 624.509(5).

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 624.51055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

624.51055 Credit for contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations.-

(1) There is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible



contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization under s. 1002.395 against any tax due for a taxable year under s. 624.509(1) after deducting from such tax deductions for assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; and credits for income taxes paid under chapter 220; and the credit allowed under s. 624.509(5), as these credits are such credit is limited by s. 624.509(5) s. 624.509(6). An insurer claiming a credit against premium tax liability under this section shall not be required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied pursuant to s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credit. Section 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any manner.

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======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========= And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 22 - 37

494 and insert:

> registering a motor vehicle; amending s. 320.04, F.S.; reducing the service charges that are collected with an application for the original issuance, duplicate issuance, or transfer of certain specified registration certificates; amending s. 320.06, F.S.; reducing a fee collected for a motor vehicle registration; amending ss. 320.0804 and 320.08046, F.S.; reducing a surcharge on a license tax; reenacting s. 320.0807(4), F.S., relating to special vehicle license plates for the Governor and federal and state legislators, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 320.06, F.S., in a reference thereto;

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amending s. 554.1021, F.S.; defining the term "authorized inspection agency"; amending s. 554.107, F.S.; requiring the chief inspector of the state boiler inspection program to issue a certificate of competency as a special inspector to certain individuals; specifying how long such certificate remains in effect; amending s. 554.109, F.S.; authorizing specified insurers to contract with an authorized inspection agency for boiler inspections; requiring such insurers to annually report the identity of contracted authorized inspection agencies to the Department of Financial Services; amending s. 624.413, F.S.; revising a specified time period applicable to a certified examination that must be filed by a foreign or alien insurer applying for a certificate of authority; amending s. 624.509, F.S.; deleting a credit based on the amount paid in salaries to employees within this state; amending ss. 624.5091 and 624.51055, F.S.; revising provisions to conform to changes made by the act;