

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

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BILL: SB 884

INTRODUCER: Senator Sachs

SUBJECT: Florida Salutes Veterans License Plates

DATE: March 8, 2013

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Eichin	Eichin	TR	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.	_____	_____	RC	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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**I. Summary:**

SB 884 increases from ten to twenty percent, the percentage of annual use fees accruing from sales of the Florida Salutes Veterans license plate that are distributed to the Florida Veterans' Foundation, Inc., and allows for continued distribution of the use fees to the foundation by eliminating the expiration date.

This bill substantially amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 320.08058

**II. Present Situation:**

The Florida Salutes Veterans specialty license plate was created by the 1989 Legislature. Persons wishing to register a vehicle with the plate must pay a \$15 annual use fee in addition to the normal fees required when registering a vehicle. Revenues from the use fee were deposited in the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund to be used solely for the purposes of constructing, operating, and maintaining domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans, and promotion and marketing of the plate.

In 2008<sup>1</sup>, the Legislature revised s. 320.08058(4)(b)(1), F.S., to direct 20 percent of the annual use fee to a direct-support organization<sup>2</sup> created under s. 292.055, F.S., (*i.e.*, the Florida

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 2008-84, Laws of Florida

<sup>2</sup> Section 292.055, F.S., authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a direct-support organization to provide assistance, funding, and support for the department in carrying out its mission. A "Direct-support organization" means an organization that is:

1. A Florida corporation not for profit, incorporated under chapter 617, exempted from filing fees, and approved by the Department of State.

Veterans Foundation, Inc.) for a period not to exceed 24 months from the date the organization was incorporated. In 2010, the statute was again amended<sup>3</sup> so that currently, the distribution of the annual use fee requires 10 percent of the annual use fee to be distributed to the direct-support organization for a period not to exceed 48 months after the date the direct-support organization is incorporated. All remaining fees are to be deposited in the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund, in the State Treasury.

In fiscal year 2011/2012, there were 22,660 vehicles registered using the Florida Salutes Veterans plate, with a total net revenue of \$456,220 accruing from use of the plate.

*The Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.*

The Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc. (foundation) was established as the Department of Veterans' Affairs direct support organization in 2008. The foundation exists to educate the public about the needs of veterans; and promote and aid charitable activities for the support of the livelihood and general welfare of Florida-resident veterans. The foundation is a Corporate Not-For-Profit organization under ch. 617, F.S., with one part-time employee, whose payroll and related expenses are administered by the State and reimbursed by the foundation. All other members of the organization serve on a volunteer basis. The foundation received \$35,749 in fiscal year 2011, and \$33,957 in fiscal year 2012 from the Florida Salutes Veterans specialty license plate annual use fee.<sup>4</sup> In compliance with the provisions of s. 320.08058(4)(b)(1), F.S., this distribution expired June 30 2012.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 884 revises s. 320.08058(4)(b)(1), F.S., to increase from ten to twenty percent, the percentage of annual use fees accruing from sales of the Florida Salutes Veterans license plate that are distributed to the Florida Veterans' Foundation, Inc., and to allow for continued distribution of the use fees to the foundation by eliminating the expiration date.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

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

None.

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

None.

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2. Organized and operated exclusively to obtain funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and bequests of moneys; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and administer in its own name securities, funds, or property; and make expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of the department, the veterans of this state, and congressionally chartered veteran service organizations having subdivisions that are incorporated in this state.
  3. Determined by the department to be operating in a manner consistent with the goals of the department and in the best interest of the state.

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 2010-168, Laws Of Florida.

<sup>4</sup> "Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc. Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2012."

[http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org/DOCs/FVF\\_Audited\\_Financial\\_Statements\\_for\\_2012.pdf](http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org/DOCs/FVF_Audited_Financial_Statements_for_2012.pdf) (last checked 3/11/13)

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill provides for continued distributions of annual use fees to the Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc., beyond the currently programmed expiration. The amounts of such distributions vary based on the number of license plates sold or renewed each year. Due to the increase from ten to twenty percent, near future distributions may be assumed to be approximately double the distribution of recent years. For comparison, the foundation received \$35,749 in fiscal year 2011, and \$33,957 in fiscal year 2012 from ten percent of the annual use fee.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**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.