

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: SB 1232

SPONSOR: Senator Sebesta

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle License Plates

DATE: April 8, 2001 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Vickers	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	FT	_____
3.	_____	_____	AGG	_____
4.	_____	_____	AP	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill provides for the issuance of a Pearl Harbor Survivor or 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 Florida residents who are 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 ss. 320.06 and 320.08, F.S.

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 a Pearl Harbor Survivor or Purple Heart motor vehicle license plate, without cost to a person who also qualifies for a disabled veteran’s license plate. There shall be a \$2.50 service charge retained by the Tax

Collector in accordance with the provisions of s. 320.04, F.S, for each initial application or renewal of registration and a fifty cent 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.

This bill will have minimal impact on license tax revenues assuming that qualifying disabled veterans only receive one free license plate. This bill will also require \$7,560 for contracted programming modifications to the Motor Vehicles Software System.

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:

None.

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.

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.

The Department noted that clarification is needed regarding whether disabled veterans owning more than one vehicle would be eligible to receive multiple license plates at no cost.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

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