

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: CS/SB 1514

SPONSOR: Transportation Committee and Senator Bronson

SUBJECT: Florida Panther License Plate

DATE: April 11, 2001 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Branning	Voigt	NR	Fav/1 amendment
2.	Vickers	Meyer	TR	Favorable/CS
3.	_____	_____	AGG	_____
4.	_____	_____	AP	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This CS revises the distribution of proceeds from the sale of the Florida Panther specialty license plate. Currently, 15 percent of the proceeds from the license plate annual use fee are distributed to the Florida Communities Trust Fund. The CS deletes this provision and directs all proceeds to be deposited into the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund for education and programs to protect the endangered Florida Panther.

This bill substantially amends section 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 320.08056, F.S., establishes a \$25 annual use fee for the Florida Panther specialty license plate.

Section 320.08058, F.S., directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to distribute proceeds from the Florida Panther license plate annual use fee in the following manner:

- 85 percent must be deposited in the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to be used for education and programs to protect the endangered Florida panther; and
- 15 percent, but no less than \$300,000, must be deposited in the Florida Communities Trust Fund to be used pursuant to the Florida Communities Trust Act.

According to DHSMV, 24,691 Florida Panther license plates were sold during 2000. This generated \$2,750,650 which was distributed to the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund and the Florida Communities Trust Fund.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This CS amends s. 320.08058, F.S., to revise the distribution of proceeds from the sale of the Florida Panther specialty license plate. Currently, 15 percent of the proceeds from the license plate annual use fee are distributed to the Florida Communities Trust Fund. The CS deletes this provision and directs all proceeds to be deposited into the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund for education and programs to protect the endangered Florida Panther.

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:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

The CS redirects all proceeds from sale of the Florida Panther license plate to the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund for education and programs to protect the endangered Florida Panther. This trust fund is administered by the Wildlife and Conservation Commission.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Section 372.672, F.S., provides that moneys deposited into the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund are to be used exclusively for the following purposes:

(1) To manage and protect existing Florida panther populations by increasing panther food sources where food is a limiting factor, determining conflicts between public use and panther survival, maintaining sufficient genetic variability in existing populations, and undertaking management and enforcement activities that protect panther habitat.

(2) To educate the public concerning the value of the panther and the necessity for panther management.

(3) To reestablish Florida panthers into areas of suitable habitat, where feasible, by assessing the necessity of a captive breeding program for purposes of reintroduction of the panthers into the suitable habitat; selecting potential sites for reintroduction and investigating associated human sociological aspects; and assessing the potential for panther habitat acquisition.

(4) To fund and administer education programs authorized in s. 372.674, F.S.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

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