

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 1366

SPONSOR: Senator Wasserman-Schultz

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Protection Programs

DATE: March 4, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Akhavein/James</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>TR</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>FT</u>	_____
5.	_____	_____	<u>AGG</u>	_____
6.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

This bill creates the "Animal Friend" specialty license plate, and establishes an annual use fee of \$25, to be paid by purchasers of the plate in addition to license taxes and fees. Annual use fees are distributed to the Florida Animal Friend Council which is created by the bill. The council is authorized to spend up to 25 percent of the annual use fees in the first year of issuance for administrative costs directly associated with operations, marketing and promotion. Thereafter, administrative costs are limited to 20 percent of annual use fees collected.

The bill creates the Florida Animal Friend Council as a direct-support organization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The council, consisting of representatives of the Humane Society, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, the Florida Animal Control Association, and at-large members appointed by the council and the Commissioner of Agriculture, will meet at least twice a year to determine the distribution of annual use fee proceeds.

The council is required to develop and administer a grant solicitation and award process that supports Florida spay and neuter programs, or if unanimously agreed upon by the council, other emergency animal welfare protection programs or projects.

This bill creates section 570.93 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill amends sections 320.08056 and 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Specialty license plates are available to anyone with a motor vehicle who to pays a fee up to \$25, along with taxes and licensing fees. Funds are distributed to the designated organization. The Legislature may create a new license plate of its own initiative or at the request of an organization under s. 320.08053, F.S.

An organization must submit a request to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, describing the plate, indicating how many people will purchase the plate, the application fee and a marketing strategy at least 90 days prior to the start of the regular session of the Legislature. If enacted by the Legislature a prototype of the license plate is submitted to the Florida Highway Patrol, the Governor and the Cabinet for approval. After approval, PRIDE (correctional facilities) will begin manufacturing the plates.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Creates s. 570.93, F.S., providing for the creation of the Florida Animal Friend Council as a direct-support organization of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide for distribution of annual use fees collected from the sale of the Animal Friend specialty license plate. The council, consisting of representatives of the United States Humane Society, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, the Florida Animal Control Association and one at-large member appointed by the council and one appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, will meet at least twice a year to determine the distribution of annual use fee proceeds.

Section 2. Amends s. 320.08056, F.S., providing an annual use fee of \$25 for the Animal Friend specialty license plate.

Section 3. Amends s. 320.08058, F.S., creating an Animal Friend specialty license plate and providing for the distribution of annual use fees collected from its sale.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2004.

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:

Persons who wish to purchase an Animal Friend License Plate would pay \$25 a year in addition to their annual taxes and fees.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There is a minimal cost to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to act as staff to the council which can be managed with existing resources. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles would incur the initial estimated cost of \$59,460 for the issuance of the Animal Friend License Plate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

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