

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 1135 License Plates

**SPONSOR(S):** Grant, J. and others

**TIED BILLS:** CS/HB 387 **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/CS/SB 412

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**FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:** 112 Y's

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**GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1135 passed the House on March 4, 2020, as amended. The bill was amended in the Senate on March 11, 2020, and March 12, 2020, and returned to the House. The House concurred in the Senate amendments and subsequently passed the bill as amended on March 13, 2020. The bill includes HB 27, CS/SB 108, HB 385, SB 568, SB 860, HB 873, and CS/SB 1454.

There are over 120 specialty license plates available to any motor vehicle owner or lessee who is willing to pay the annual use fee for such plate. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) distributes the collected fees to statutorily designated organizations in support of a particular cause or charity. DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if it fails to meet certain statutory requirements.

The bill authorizes the election of a permanent registration period for certain for-hire vehicles provided the appropriate license taxes and fees are paid annually. The bill makes several changes related to specialty and special license plates, including establishing a cap of 150 specialty license plates, providing a process for the discontinuation of low performing specialty license plates and the addition of new specialty license plates, and creating 32 new specialty license plates. The bill authorizes DHSMV to issue specialty license plates for fleet and motor vehicle dealer vehicles. The bill also removes existing provisions from law that delineate the \$25 annual use fee for various specialty license plates. CS/HB 387 (2020), which is linked to this bill, establishes an annual use fee of \$25 for any specialty license plate unless the amount is otherwise specified in law.

According to DHSMV, the bill will have a negative fiscal impact on state government expenditures associated with the programming requirements. See Fiscal Analysis section for details.

The bill was approved by the Governor on September 18, 2020, ch. 2020-181, L.O.F., and will become effective on October 1, 2020, except as otherwise provided.

## I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

### A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

#### **Permanent Registration for For-Hire Vehicles**

##### Present Situation

For purposes of motor vehicle licensing, the term “for-hire vehicle” includes any motor vehicle, when used for transporting persons or goods for compensation; let or rented to another for consideration; offered for rent or hire as a means of transportation for compensation; advertised in a newspaper or generally held out as being for rent or hire; used in connection with a travel bureau; or offered or used to provide transportation for persons solicited through personal contact or advertised on a share-expense basis.<sup>1</sup>

Under Florida law, registration license plates for such vehicles are issued for a 10-year period. At the end of the 10-year period, upon renewal, the plate must be replaced. With each license plate, a validation sticker must 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 license plate and validation sticker are issued based on the applicant’s appropriate renewal period.

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.<sup>2</sup>

Validation stickers issued to for-hire vehicles holding less than nine passengers<sup>3</sup> for any company that owns 250 vehicles or more may be placed on any vehicle in its 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.<sup>4</sup>

##### Effect of the Bill

Effective July 1, 2021, the bill provides that vehicles taxed as for-hire vehicles that carry under nine passengers may elect a permanent motor vehicle registration period, provided that the appropriate license taxes and fees are paid annually. The bill also provides that these validation stickers are void if the appropriate license taxes and fees are not paid annually. The bill also requires the license plate with a permanent registration to have a validation sticker showing permanent registration.

#### **Specialty License Plates**

##### Present Situation

The first Florida specialty license plates were enacted in 1986 and included the creation of the Challenger plate and 10 Florida collegiate plates. Today, there are over 120 specialty license plates available to any owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay the additional use fee for the privilege, typically \$25 annually.<sup>5</sup> Currently, there is no limit on the number of specialty license plates the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) may issue nor the number of specialty license plates the Legislature may approve.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 320.01(15)(a), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 320.06(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> These vehicles are taxed pursuant to s. 320.08(6)(a), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 320.06(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> The annual use fees for specific specialty license plates are provided in s. 320.08056(4), F.S.

### *Requirements for Establishing Specialty License Plates*

Section 320.08053, F.S., provides the statutory requirements to establish a specialty license plate. If a specialty license plate requested by an organization is approved by law, the organization submits its proposed art design to DHSMV as soon as practicable, but no later than 60 days after the act approving such plate becomes a law.<sup>6</sup>

Within 120 days following the specialty license plate becoming law, DHSMV must establish a method to issue a specialty license plate voucher allowing for the presale of such plate. The \$5 processing fee,<sup>7</sup> the service charge and branch fee,<sup>8</sup> and the annual use fee for the specialty license plate are charged for the voucher. All other applicable fees are charged at the time the license plate is issued.<sup>9</sup>

Within 24 months after establishing a presale specialty license plate voucher, the approved specialty license plate must record with DHSMV a minimum of 1,000 voucher sales before the license plate may be manufactured. If, at the conclusion of the 24-month presale period, the minimum sales requirement is not met, the specialty license plate is deauthorized and DHSMV discontinues the plate's development and the issuance of the presale vouchers. Upon deauthorization of the specialty license plate, a purchaser of the specialty license plate voucher may use the annual use fee collected as a credit towards any other specialty license plate or apply to DHSMV for a refund.<sup>10</sup>

### *Specialty License Plates, Generally*

DHSMV is responsible for developing specialty license plates authorized in s. 320.08053, F.S.<sup>11</sup> DHSMV must issue a specialty license plate to the owner or lessee of any motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, a commercial truck required to display two license plates, or a truck tractor, upon request and payment of the appropriate license tax and fees.<sup>12</sup>

Each request for a specialty license plate must annually be made to DHSMV or its authorized agent<sup>13</sup> accompanied by the following tax and fees: the vehicle's required license tax,<sup>14</sup> a processing fee of \$5,<sup>15</sup> a license plate fee,<sup>16</sup> and a license plate annual use fee as required for the specialty license plate.<sup>17</sup>

A request for a specialty license plate may be made any time during a vehicle's registration period. If a request is made for a specialty license plate to replace a current valid license plate, the specialty license plate must be issued with the appropriate decals attached with no license tax for the plate; however, all fees and service charges must be paid. If a request is made for a specialty license plate at the beginning of the registration period, the tax, together with all applicable fees and service charges, must be paid.

If a vehicle owner or lessee to whom DHSMV has issued a specialty license plate acquires a replacement vehicle within the owner's registration period, DHSMV authorizes a transfer of the

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<sup>6</sup> Section 320.08053(1), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> The processing fee is prescribed in s. 320.08056, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Service charges and branch fees are prescribed in s. 320.04, F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 320.08053(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section 320.08056(1), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 320.08056(2), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> DHSMV's authorized agents are the county tax collectors.

<sup>14</sup> Motor vehicle license taxes are set forth in s. 320.08, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> The \$5 processing fee is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

<sup>16</sup> Section 320.06(1)(b), F.S., provides for a \$2.80 annual license plate replacement fee to defray the cost of replacing the license plate every 10 years.

<sup>17</sup> Section 320.08056(3), F.S.

specialty license plate to the replacement vehicle.<sup>18</sup> The annual use fee or processing fee may not be refunded.<sup>19</sup>

Specialty license plates must bear the design required by law for the appropriate specialty license plate, and must conform to DHSMV's design specifications. All specialty license plates must be the same material and size as standard license plates issued for any registration period and may bear an appropriate slogan, emblem, or logo in a size and placement that conforms to DHSMV's design specifications.<sup>20</sup>

DHSMV must annually retain from the first proceeds derived from the annual use fees an amount sufficient to defray each specialty license plate's pro rata share of DHSMV's costs directly related to the specialty license plate program. Such costs include inventory costs, distribution costs, direct costs to DHSMV, costs associated with reviewing each organization's compliance with audit and attestation requirements,<sup>21</sup> and any applicable increased costs of manufacturing the specialty license plate. The Department of Management Services must verify any cost increase to DHSMV related to the actual cost of the plate, including a reasonable vendor profit. The balance of the proceeds from the annual use fees collected for that specialty license plate are distributed as provided by law.<sup>22</sup>

DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid specialty license plate registrations falls below 1,000 plates for at least 12 consecutive months. A warning letter is mailed to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of registrations falls below 1,000 plates. This does not apply to collegiate license plates.<sup>23, 24</sup>

DHSMV may discontinue the issuance of a specialty license plate and distribution of associated annual use fee proceeds if the organization no longer exists, if the organization has stopped providing services authorized to be funded from the annual use fee proceeds, if the organization does not meet the presale requirements,<sup>25</sup> or pursuant to an organizational recipient's request. Organizations must notify DHSMV immediately to stop all warrants for plate sales if any of these conditions exist and must meet certain audit and attestation requirements for any period of operation during a fiscal year.<sup>26</sup>

The organization that requested the specialty license plate may not redesign the specialty license plate unless the inventory of those plates has been depleted. However, the organization may purchase the remaining inventory of the specialty license plate from DHSMV at cost.<sup>27</sup>

A specialty license plate annual use fee collected and distributed, or any interest earned from those fees, may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities or for general or administrative expenses (except as authorized by law), and may not be used to pay the cost of a required audit or report. The fees, and any interest earned, may be expended only for use in this state unless the annual use fee is derived from the sale of United States Armed Forces and veterans-related specialty license plates.<sup>28</sup>

The term "administrative expenses" means those expenditures considered direct operating costs of the organization, and include, but are not limited to:

- Administrative salaries of employees and officers of the organization who do not or cannot prove, via detailed daily time sheets that they actively participate in program activities.

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<sup>18</sup> This is in accordance with s. 320.0609, F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Section 320.08056(5), F.S.

<sup>20</sup> Section 320.08056(6), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Specialty license plate audit and attestations requirements are in s. 320.08062, F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Section 320.08056(7), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Collegiate license plates are established under s. 320.08058(3), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> Section 320.08056(8)(a), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Presale requirements are prescribed in s. 320.08053, F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 320.08056(8)(b), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 320.08056(9), F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

- Bookkeeping and support services of the organization.
- Office supplies and equipment not directly utilized for the specified program.
- Travel time, per diem, mileage reimbursement, and lodging expenses not directly associated with a specified program purpose.
- Paper, printing, envelopes, and postage not directly associated with a specified program purpose.
- Miscellaneous expenses such as food, beverage, entertainment, and conventions.<sup>29</sup>

The annual use fee from the sale of specialty license plates, the interest earned from those fees, or any fees received by an agency as a result of the sale of specialty license plates may not be used for the purpose of marketing to or lobbying, entertaining, or rewarding an employee of a governmental agency responsible for the sale and distribution of specialty license plates, or an elected member or employee of the Legislature.<sup>30</sup>

The application form for a specialty license plate must provide the applicant the option to instruct DHSMV to provide his or her name, address, and renewal date to the sponsoring organization.<sup>31</sup>

#### *Audits and Attestations*

All organizations receiving annual use fee proceeds from DHSMV are responsible for ensuring that proceeds are used in accordance with state law.<sup>32</sup> Any organization not subject to audit pursuant to the Florida Single Audit Act<sup>33</sup> must annually attest, under penalties of perjury, that such proceeds were used in compliance with applicable state laws.<sup>34</sup>

Any organization subject to audit pursuant to the Florida Single Audit Act must submit an audit report in accordance with the Auditor General's rules. The annual attestation must be submitted to DHSMV for review within nine months after the end of the organization's fiscal year.<sup>35</sup>

Within 120 days after receiving an organization's audit or attestation, DHSMV must determine which recipients of revenues from specialty license plate annual use fees have not complied with the appropriate statutory provisions. In determining compliance, DHSMV may commission an independent actuarial consultant, or an independent certified public accountant, who has expertise in nonprofit and charitable organizations.<sup>36</sup>

DHSMV must discontinue the distribution of revenues to any organization failing to submit the required documentation, but may resume distribution of the revenues upon receipt of the required information.<sup>37</sup>

If DHSMV or its designee determines that an organization has not complied with or has failed to use the revenues in accordance with applicable law, DHSMV must discontinue the distribution of the revenues to the organization. DHSMV must notify the organization of its findings and direct the organization to make the changes necessary in order to comply. If the officers of the organization sign an affidavit under penalties of perjury stating they acknowledge the findings of DHSMV and attest they have taken corrective action and that the organization will submit to a follow-up review by DHSMV, then DHSMV may resume the distribution of revenues.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Section 320.08056(10)(b), F.S.

<sup>30</sup> Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

<sup>31</sup> Section 320.08056(12), F.S.

<sup>32</sup> Section 320.08062(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>33</sup> Section 215.97, F.S.

<sup>34</sup> Section 320.08062(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>35</sup> Section 320.08062(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>36</sup> Section 320.08062(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>37</sup> Section 320.08062(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>38</sup> Section 320.08062(2)(c), F.S.

If an organization fails to comply with DHSMV's recommendations and corrective actions, the revenue distributions must be discontinued until completion of the next regular session of the Legislature. DHSMV must notify the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by the first day of the next regular session of any organization whose revenues have been withheld. If the Legislature does not provide direction to the organization and DHSMV regarding the status of the undistributed revenues, DHSMV must deauthorize the plate and the undistributed revenues are immediately deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.<sup>39</sup>

DHSMV or its designee has the authority to examine all records pertaining to the use of funds from the sale of specialty license plates.<sup>40</sup>

#### *Fleet/Dealer Specialty License Plates*

Section 320.06, F.S., provides requirements for the design of various license plates and requires dealer license plates to be imprinted with "Florida" at the top and "Dealer" at the bottom.

Current law provides for permanent registration for fleet license plates.<sup>41</sup> The term "fleet" means nonapportioned motor vehicles owned or leased by a company and used for business purposes.<sup>42</sup> According to DHSMV, in order to participate in the fleet vehicle program, a company must have a minimum of 200 vehicles or a minimum of 25 trailers or semitrailers used exclusively to haul agricultural products.<sup>43</sup>

The owner or lessee of a fleet of motor vehicles must, upon application in the manner and at the time prescribed, and upon DHSMV approval and payment of the appropriate license tax, be issued permanent fleet license plates. All vehicles with a fleet license plate must have the company's name or logo and unit number displayed so that they are readily identifiable.<sup>44</sup>

Fleet license plates must have the word "Fleet" appearing at the bottom and the word "Florida" appearing at the top. The plates must conform in all respects to ch. 320, F.S., except as specified.<sup>45</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill increases the required number of voucher sales needed before DHSMV will manufacture a specialty license plate, increasing the number from 1,000 to 3,000. The bill requires an out-of-state college or university license plate to meet a minimum sale of 4,000 vouchers.

The bill provides that new specialty license plates that have been approved by law but are awaiting issuance will be issued in the order they appear in s. 320.08058, F.S.,<sup>46</sup> provided all requirements, including the presale requirement, have been met. If the next awaiting specialty license plate has not met the presale requirement, DHSMV must proceed in the order provided in law to identify the next qualified specialty license plate that has met the presale requirement. DHSMV must cycle through the list in statutory order.

If the Legislature has approved 150 or more specialty license plates, DHSMV may not make any new specialty license plates available for design or issuance until a sufficient number of plates are discontinued<sup>47</sup> so that the number of plates being issued is reduced to fewer than 150. The 150-license

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<sup>39</sup> Section 320.08062(2)(d), F.S.

<sup>40</sup> Section 320.08062(3), F.S.

<sup>41</sup> Section 320.0657, F.S.

<sup>42</sup> Section 320.0657(1), F.S.

<sup>43</sup> Email from Kevin Jacobs, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, RE: HB 1135-Specialty License Plates, Jan. 9, 2020. (Copy on file with Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee).

<sup>44</sup> Section 320.0657(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>45</sup> Section 320.0657(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>46</sup> Section 320.08058, F.S., creates each specialty license plate.

<sup>47</sup> Specialty license plates will be discontinued pursuant to s. 320.08056(8), F.S.

plate limit applies to all specialty license plates, including those above the minimum sales threshold and those exempt from the threshold.

The bill removes existing \$25 annual use fees for various specialty license plates because CS/HB 387 (2020), which is linked to this bill, establishes an annual use fee of \$25 for all specialty license plates, unless the amount is otherwise specified in law.

The bill allows a vehicle owner or lessee issued a specialty license plate that has been discontinued by DHSMV to keep the discontinued specialty license plate for the remainder of the 10-year license plate replacement period and requires the owner or lessee to pay all other applicable registration fees. However, the owner or lessee is exempt from paying the applicable specialty license plate fee for the remainder of the 10-year license plate replacement period.

If DHSMV discontinues issuance of a specialty license plate, all annual use fees held or collected by the department must be distributed within 180 days after the date the specialty license plate is discontinued. Of those fees, DHSMV must retain an amount sufficient to defray the applicable administrative and inventory closeout costs associated with discontinuing the plate. The remaining funds are distributed to the appropriate organization or organizations.<sup>48</sup> If an organization no longer exists, DHSMV must deposit any undistributed funds into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

The bill requires DHSMV to discontinue the specialty license plate with the fewest number of plates in circulation, including license plates exempt from a statutory sales requirement on January 1 of each year. For the specialty license plates in the bottom 10 percent of sales, the bill requires DHSMV to mail a warning letter to the sponsoring organizations.

Effective July 1, 2023, the bill requires DHSMV to discontinue the issuance of approved specialty license plates if the number of valid registrations falls below 3,000 plates for 12 consecutive months. The threshold for out-of-state college or university license plates is 4,000. In addition to the existing exemption from the 3,000 plate sales requirement for in-state collegiate license plates, the bill provides exceptions from the discontinuance requirement for license plates:

- For institutions in and entities of the State University System;
- With statutory eligibility limitations for purchase;
- For which the annual use fees are distributed by a foundation for student and teacher leadership programs and teacher recruitment and retention; and
- Florida Professional Sports Team license plates.<sup>49</sup>

Notwithstanding s. 320.08058(3)(a), F.S.,<sup>50</sup> the bill requires DHSMV, in cooperation with the independent colleges and universities, to create a standard template specialty license plate with a unique logo or graphic identifying each independent college or university. Each independent college or university may elect to use this standard template specialty license plate in lieu of its own specialty license plate. Annual use fees from the sale of these license plates are distributed to the independent college or university for which the logo or graphic is displayed and must be used as provided in s. 320.08058(3), F.S. Independent colleges and universities opting to use the standard template specialty license plate will have their plate sales combined for purposes of meeting the 3,000 plate minimum sales threshold and determining the 150 plate limit. These plates must be ordered directly from DHSMV.

Prior to the development of an out-of-state college or university license plate, DHSMV must have documentation on file indicating the college or university has consented to use an appropriate image on the license plate. Similarly, DHSMV may not issue any out-of-state college or university license plates

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<sup>48</sup> Distributions to recipient organizations are pursuant to s. 320.08058, F.S.

<sup>49</sup> Florida Professional Sports Team license plates are established in s. 320.08058(9), F.S.

<sup>50</sup> Section 320.08058(3), F.S., pertains to collegiate license plates.

until first confirming that the state in which the college or university is located has authorized license plates for Florida colleges or universities.

The bill prohibits any entity from using specialty license plate revenue for lobbying. The current prohibition is limited to agencies.

The bill requires DHSMV to audit any specialty license plate revenue recipient every three years if the organization is not subject to the Florida Single Audit Act. The purpose of this audit is to ensure that specialty license plate proceeds have been used in compliance with Florida Statutes.

The bill authorizes “Dealer” and “Fleet” specialty license plates. It provides that a dealer specialty license plate is not required to say “dealer” at the bottom of the license plate. The bill provides that for the additional annual use fee, fleet companies may purchase specialty license plates in lieu of the standard fleet license plates. Fleet companies are responsible for all costs associated with the specialty license plates, including all annual use fees, processing fees, fees associated with switching license plate types, and other applicable fees. The bill establishes similar requirements for dealer specialty license plates. A dealer or fleet specialty license plate must include the letters “DLR” or “FLT” on the right side of the license plate. Dealer and fleet specialty license plates must be ordered directly through DHSMV.

The bill removes the Support Soccer plate, American Red Cross plate, Donate Organs Pass It On plate, St. Johns River plate, and Hispanic Achievers plate from law as these plates have been discontinued.

## **Special Olympics Florida License Plate**

### Present Situation

Section 320.08058(7), F.S., creates the Special Olympics Florida license plate with an annual use fee of \$15. The license plate contains the official Special Olympics Florida logo with “Florida” centered at the bottom of the plate and “Everyone Wins” centered at the top of the plate.

The license plate annual use fees are to be distributed as follows:

- The first \$5 million collected annually must be forwarded to the private nonprofit corporation as described in s. 393.002, F.S.,<sup>51</sup> and must be used solely for Special Olympics purposes as approved by the private nonprofit corporation.
- Any additional fees must be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

### Effect of the Bill

The bill redesigns the Special Olympics Florida license plate with “Florida” centered at the top of the plate and “Be a Fan” centered at the bottom of the plate. The bill also amends the distribution of proceeds from the sale of this plate to directly forward the proceeds to Special Olympics Florida.

## **Live the Dream License Plate**

### Present Situation

Section 320.08058(48), F.S., creates the Live the Dream license plate with an annual use fee of \$25. Proceeds from the Live the Dream specialty license plate are distributed to the Dream Foundation, Inc., which retained the first \$60,000 in proceeds from the annual use fees as reimbursement for administrative costs, startup costs, and costs incurred in the license plate approval process. After those costs are reimbursed, up to 25 percent of the proceeds must be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate and concept. The remaining funds must be distributed as follows:

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<sup>51</sup> Section 393.002, F.S. transfers the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council to a private nonprofit corporation.

- 25 percent equally among the sickle cell organizations that are Florida members of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc., for programs providing research, care, and treatment for sickle cell disease.
- 25 percent to the Florida chapter of the March of Dimes for programs and services improving the health of babies through preventing birth defects and infant mortality.
- 10 percent to the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions to decrease racial disparity in infant mortality and to increase healthy birth outcomes.
- 10 percent to the Community Partnership for Homeless, Inc., for programs that provide relief from poverty, hunger, and homelessness.
- 5 percent to the Dream Foundation, Inc., for administrative costs directly associated with operations relating to the management and distribution of the proceeds.

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill revises the distribution of funds for the Live the Dream license plate. The bill provides that the proceeds from the annual use fees be distributed to the Dream Foundation, Inc., to be used as follows:

- Up to 5 percent may be used to administer, promote, and market the license plate.
- At least 60 percent must be distributed equally among the sickle cell organizations that are Florida members of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.
- At least 30 percent must be distributed to Chapman Partnership, Inc.<sup>52</sup>
- Up to 5 percent may be distributed by DHSMV on behalf of the Dream Foundation, Inc. to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc., as a royalty for the use of the image of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **In God We Trust License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Section 320.08058(66), F.S., creates the In God We Trust license plate with an annual use fee of \$25. The annual use fees are distributed to the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., to fund educational scholarships for the children of Florida residents who are members of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, and the United States Armed Forces Reserve and for the children of public safety employees who have died in the line of duty who are not covered by existing state law. In addition, funds must be distributed to other non-profit organizations that may apply for grants and scholarships and to provide educational grants to public and private schools to promote the historical and religious significance of American and Florida history. The In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., must distribute the license plate annual use fees in the following manner:

- The In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., retains all revenues from the sale of the license plates until all startup costs for developing and establishing the license plate have been recovered.
- 10 percent of the funds received by the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., must be spent on administrative costs, promotion, and marketing of the license plate directly associated with the operations of the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc.
- All remaining funds must be expended by the In God We Trust Foundation, Inc., for programs.

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill revises the distribution of the annual use fees to allow the foundation to use up to 10 percent of the proceeds to offset marketing, administration, and promotion, and the remainder of the proceeds to address the needs of the military community and the public safety community; provide educational grants and scholarships to foster self-reliance and stability in Florida's children; and provide education in public and private schools regarding the historical significance of religion in American and Florida history.

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<sup>52</sup> In 2011, Community Partnership for the Homeless changed its name to Chapman Partnership.

## Fallen Law Enforcement Officer License Plate

### Present Situation

Section 320.08058(80), F.S., creates the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers license plate with an annual use fee of \$25. The annual use fees are distributed to the Police and Kids Foundation, Inc., which may use a maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds to promote and market the plate. The remainder of the proceeds must be used by the Police and Kids Foundation, Inc., to invest and reinvest, and the interest earnings must be used for the operation of the Police and Kids Foundation, Inc.

### Effect of the Bill

The bill maintains the 10 percent cap on the use of the proceeds for marketing the license plate, and requires that all remaining proceeds be used for the operations, activities, programs, and projects of the Police and Kids Foundation, Inc.

## Ducks Unlimited License Plate

### Present Situation

Ducks Unlimited is a waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization founded in 1937. The mission of Ducks Unlimited is habitat conservation.<sup>53</sup> Since 1985, Ducks Unlimited has worked to conserve more than 29,000 acres of Florida wetlands.<sup>54</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates a Ducks Unlimited license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Conserving Florida Wetlands” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fee is distributed to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., to be used as follows:

- Up to 5 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative costs and marketing of the plate.
- At least 95 percent of the proceeds must be used in Florida to support Ducks Unlimited’s mission and efforts to conserve, restore, and manage Florida wetlands and associated habitats for the benefit of waterfowl, other wildlife, and people.

## Out-of-State College and University License Plates

### Present Situation

Currently, Florida does not have any specialty license plates for out-of-state colleges or universities.

The Tampa Bay Auburn Club is an officially chartered group of Auburn University Alumni and Friends. Its stated mission is to encourage more top Tampa Bay area students to attend Auburn University and to foster the spirit of Auburn University throughout the Tampa Bay Area.<sup>55</sup> The Tampa Bay Auburn Club currently administers an endowed scholarship.<sup>56</sup>

The Georgia Bulldog Club of Jacksonville is America’s largest bulldog club.<sup>57</sup> In 1988, the club established the Vince Dooley Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to attend the University of Georgia to students from Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Clay, or Baker counties based on academic and economic need.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Ducks Unlimited, *About Ducks Unlimited*, <https://www.ducks.org/About-DU?po=footer-m> (last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>54</sup> Ducks Unlimited, *Florida Conservation Projects*, <http://www.ducks.org/florida/florida-conservation-projects> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>55</sup> Tampa Bay Auburn Club, Inc., *Tampa Bay Auburn Club*, <http://tampabayauburnclub.com/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>56</sup> Tampa Bay Auburn Club, *Scholarships*, <http://tampabayauburnclub.com/scholarships/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>57</sup> Georgia Bulldog Club of Jacksonville, *Welcome to the Home of the Georgia Bulldog Club of Jacksonville*, <https://jaxbulldogs.com/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>58</sup> Georgia Bulldog Club of Jacksonville, *Scholarship*, <https://jaxbulldogs.com/scholarship-fund/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

The Pensacola Bama Club is a non-profit, fan-based organization representing the University of Alabama National Alumni Association in Pensacola, Florida. The Bama Club is open to alumni, friends, and fans of the University of Alabama. One of the organization's primary missions is to provide scholarships to deserving local high school students.<sup>59</sup>

In 1984, the Florida Legislature authorized school districts to create local education foundations to raise private funds for programs to support students, teachers, and public schools in their respective districts.

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates an Auburn University license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "War Eagle" appears at the bottom of the plate.

The bill creates a University of Georgia license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "University of Georgia" appears at the bottom of the plate.

The bill creates a University of Alabama license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Roll Tide" appears at the bottom of the plate.

For these out-of-state university license plates, the bill distributes the annual use fees from the sale of the plates as follows:

- Up to 10 to the appropriate booster club for continued marketing and promotion of the plates.
- In each school district that has a district prekindergarten through grade 12 public school foundation or a direct-support organization, the moneys raised in that school district through the sale of these license plates must be distributed to the foundation or organization for enhancing educational programs.
- In each school district that does not have a district prekindergarten through grade 12 public school foundation or a direct support organization, the moneys raised in that school district through the sale of these license plates must be distributed to the district school board and must be used at the discretion of the board for enhancing educational programs.

### **Beat Childhood Cancer License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Neuroblastoma (Nb) is a cancer that affects children. It is among the most common childhood tumors, and typically affects children under five years old. The majority of childhood Nb cases are aggressive, showing survival rates of less than 60 percent with standard chemotherapy, and a 50 percent relapse rate. Once relapsed, there is currently no curative treatment, and for those under five years old, the survival rate is less than 10 percent.<sup>60</sup> Beat Nb's mission is to support Nb cancer research and to raise awareness of the disease.<sup>61</sup>

The Ryan Callahan Foundation's goal is to give the families of children battling cancer an exciting escape, far from their daily hardships.<sup>62</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Beat Childhood Cancer license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Beat Childhood Cancer" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the Beat Childhood Cancer license plate must be distributed as follows:

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<sup>59</sup> Pensacola Bama Club, *About*, <https://www.pensacolabamaclub.org/about> (Last visited Jan. 14, 2020).

<sup>60</sup> Beat Nb, Inc. *Neuroblastoma*, <https://beatnb.org/neuroblastoma/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>61</sup> Beat Nb, Inc. *Our Mission and Vision*, <https://beatnb.org/about-us/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>62</sup> Ryan Callahan Foundation, <https://ryancallahanfoundation.org/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

- 75 percent of the proceeds are distributed to Beat Nb, Inc., which may use up to 10 percent of its proceeds for administrative costs directly associated with the operation of the corporation and for marketing and promoting the plate. Beat Nb, Inc., must use all remaining proceeds to fund pediatric cancer treatment and research.
- 25 percent of the proceeds are distributed to the Ryan Callahan Foundation, Inc., to be used by the corporation to fund pediatric cancer treatment and research.

## **Walt Disney World License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Walt Disney World Resort's corporate citizenship mission is "to strengthen the Central Florida community, with a focus on children, through our special brand of magic."<sup>63</sup>

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida, Inc., serves 45 counties including the central, northern, and Space Coast regions of Florida.<sup>64</sup> Volunteers, donors, and supporters assist with the Make-A-Wish vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a critical illness. The Make-A-Wish Foundation believes a wish experience can be a game-changer. This one belief guides them and inspires them to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids they serve.<sup>65</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Walt Disney World license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Walt Disney World" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the Walt Disney World license plate must be distributed to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative and marketing costs. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida, Inc., must use all remaining proceeds for activities and programs for critically ill children.

## **Florida 4-H License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Florida 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., was founded in 1963. The objective of the 4-H program is to develop youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. Current activities include organized clubs, centers, school enrichment programs, various activities, and individual memberships.<sup>66</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Florida 4-H license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "4-H" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the sale of the Florida 4-H license plate are distributed to the Florida 4-H to be used as follows:

- Up to 10 percent for administrative and marketing costs of the plate;
- 20 percent to support leadership development in this state, including leadership development programs operated by 4-H University, state agencies, and the Legislature;
- 20 percent to support 4-H competitive teams in this state; and
- The remaining proceeds to support Florida 4-H camps under the Florida 4-H program as designated by the University of Florida.

<sup>63</sup> About Walt Disney World, *Our Mission*, <https://aboutwaltdisneyworldresort.com/our-mission/> (Last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>64</sup> Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida, *Our Chapter*, <https://cnfl.wish.org/about-us/our-chapter> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>65</sup> Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida, *About Us*, <https://cnfl.wish.org/about-us> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>66</sup> Florida 4-H, *History*, <http://florida4h.org/about/history/> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

## **Donate Life Florida License Plate**

### Present Situation

Donate Life Florida is a non-profit organization contracted by the Agency for Health Care Administration to create the state's organ, tissue, and eye donor registry.<sup>67</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Donate Life Florida license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate, and "Donors Save Lives" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the Donate Life Florida license plate are distributed to Donate Life Florida, which may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for marketing and administrative costs. All remaining proceeds must be used by Donate Life Florida to educate Florida residents on the importance of organ, tissue, and eye donation and for the continued maintenance of the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, which is Florida's official donor registry.

## **Florida State Beekeepers Association License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Florida State Beekeepers Association is dedicated to keeping Florida apiculture strong and healthy and is the major voice for the state's beekeeping industry. Its mission is to:

- Provide resources for the improvement of beekeeping by using proven techniques and procedures in the management of honeybees and share this knowledge with everyone interested in the art of beekeeping.
- Promote the development of practical beekeeping methods in the state of Florida.
- Act in the interest of Florida beekeepers in advocating for and carrying on statewide beekeeping affairs.
- Act as a medium for and to aid in cooperative and mutual beekeeping methods.
- Act as the representative of the Florida beekeepers in state and national beekeeping affairs.<sup>68</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Florida State Beekeepers Association license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Save the Bees" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the sale of the Florida State Beekeepers license plate are distributed to the Florida States Beekeepers Association. The association may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for administrative, promotional, and marketing costs of the plate and all remaining proceeds must be used to fund outreach and education to raise awareness of the importance of beekeeping to Florida agriculture, and to fund honeybee research and husbandry. The association's board of managers must approve and is accountable for all such expenditures.

## **Rotary License Plate**

### Present Situation

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad.<sup>69</sup> The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay is dedicated to helping individuals in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando counties. The Foundation functions as a partnership between donors, nonprofits, community and business leaders, professional advisors, volunteers, and the residents of its four-county region.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Donate Life Florida, *About the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry*, <https://www.donatelifeflorida.org/about/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>68</sup> Florida State Beekeepers Association, <https://flstatebeekeepers.com/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>69</sup> Rotary, *Who We Are*, <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>70</sup> Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, *What We Do*, <https://www.cftampabay.org/what-we-do/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Rotary license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Rotary” appears at the bottom of the plate. The license plate will also bear the Rotary International wheel emblem. The annual use fees from the sale of the Rotary license plate are distributed to the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Inc., to be distributed as follows:

- Up to 10 percent of the proceeds for administrative costs and for marketing the plate;
- 10 percent of the proceeds are distributed to Rotary’s Camp Florida for direct support to all programs and services provided to special needs children who attend the camp; and
- All remaining proceeds are distributed, proportionally based on sales, to each Rotary district in the state to support Rotary youth programs in Florida.

### **Highwaymen License Plate**

#### Present Situation

From the early 1950s through the 1980s, a group of 26 African-American artists, known as the “Florida Highwaymen,” used vivid and bright colors to display the beautiful untouched Florida landscape. They painted from their garages and backyards on inexpensive Upson board and, on the weekends, traveled and sold their paintings to hotels, offices, businesses, and individuals for approximately \$25 apiece. Currently, the market for an original work of art by a Florida Highwayman can bring \$5,000 or more. Some of the Highwaymen who are still living have resumed painting to meet the continuing demand for their work.<sup>71</sup>

The St. Lucie County Education Foundation is a non-profit direct-support organization of the St. Lucie County School Board that advances K-12 public education in St. Lucie County by increasing the capacity and resources of the district in partnership with key stakeholders.<sup>72</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates a Highwaymen license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Highwaymen” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the Highwaymen specialty license plate are distributed to the City of Fort Pierce, subject to a city resolution designating the city as the license plate’s fiscal agent. The city may use up to 10 percent of the fees for administrative costs and marketing the license plate and must use the remainder of the fees as follows:

- Before completion of the construction of the Highwaymen Museum and African-American Cultural Center, the city must distribute at least 15 percent of the proceeds to the St. Lucie Education Foundation, Inc., to fund art education and art projects in public schools within St. Lucie County. All remaining proceeds must be used by the city to fund the construction of the Highwaymen Museum and African-American Cultural Center.
- Upon completion of construction of the Highwaymen Museum and African American Cultural Center, the city must distribute at least 10 percent to the St. Lucie Education Foundation, Inc., to fund area education and art projects within St. Lucie County. All remaining proceeds must be used by the city to fund the day-to-day operations of the Highwaymen Museum and African-American Cultural Center.

### **Dan Marino Campus License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Based in Fort Lauderdale, the Dan Marino Foundation, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons with autism or other developmental disabilities.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Florida Highwaymen, available at <http://www.floridahighwaymenpaintings.com/> (last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>72</sup> Education Foundation, *About Us*, available at <https://www.educationfoundationstlucie.org/p/3/about-us#.WjFxDGhSyUk> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>73</sup> Dan Marino Foundation Website. <https://danmarinofoundation.org/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates a Dan Marino Campus license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Marino Campus” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the sale of the Dan Marino Campus license plate are distributed to the Dan Marino Foundation, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative costs and marketing the plate and all remaining proceeds must be used to assist Floridians with developmental disabilities in becoming employed, independent, and productive; to promote awareness of such services; and to promote and fund education scholarships related to such services.

### **Orlando City Soccer License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Section 320.08058(9), F.S., provides that Florida Professional Sports Team license plates must bear DHSMV-approved colors and design and must include the official league or team logo or both, as appropriate, for each team. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate. The annual use fee is distributed as follows:

- 55 percent of the proceeds must be deposited into the Professional Sports Development Trust Fund within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), to be used solely to attract and support major sports events in this state.
- The remaining proceeds must be allocated to Enterprise Florida, Inc., and must be deposited into the Professional Sports Development Trust Fund within DEO. These funds must be used by Enterprise Florida, Inc., to:
  - Promote the economic development of the sports industry;
  - Distribute licensing and royalty fees to participating professional sports teams;
  - Promote education programs in Florida schools that provide an awareness of the benefits of physical activity and nutrition standards;
  - Partner with the Department of Education and the Department of Health to develop a program that recognizes schools whose students demonstrate excellent physical fitness or fitness improvement;
  - Institute a grant program for communities bidding on minor sporting events that create an economic impact for the state;
  - Distribute funds to Florida-based charities designated by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the participating professional sports teams; and
  - Fulfill the sports promotion responsibilities of DEO.

The proceeds from the Professional Sports Development Trust Fund may be used for operational expenses of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and financial support of the Sunshine State Games.

Orlando City Soccer Club was formed in 2010 and was awarded a Major League Soccer franchise in November 2013.<sup>74</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates an Orlando City Soccer Club license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The new license plates will display the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and must include the official league or team logo, or both. The annual use fee from the Orlando City Soccer license plate is distributed pursuant to the distribution of Florida Professional Sports Team license plates provided in current law.

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<sup>74</sup> Orlando City Soccer Club Website, *History*, <https://www.orlandocitysc.com/club/history> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

## Daughters of the American Revolution License Plate

### Present Situation

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded October 11, 1890, by a group of women in Washington, D.C., after being excluded from the men's organizations to celebrate the women's ancestors who fought during the Revolutionary War. The objectives of the DAR are to continue the memory and spirit of men and women who achieved America's independence, to educate the public, and to foster patriotism and love of country. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 950,000 members.<sup>75</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Daughters of the American Revolution license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Daughters of the American Revolution" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for promoting and marketing the plate. The remainder of the proceeds must be used by the organization to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and secure America's future through educational programs for local public and private K-12 students and scholarships and other educational funding for underprivileged children.

## Gadsden Flag License Plate

### Present Situation

During the American Revolution, Colonel Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina had seen and liked a bright yellow banner with a hissing, coiled rattlesnake rising up in the center, and beneath the serpent the same words that appeared on the Striped Rattlesnake Flag – Don't Tread On Me. Colonel Gadsden made a copy of this flag and submitted the design to the Provincial Congress in South Carolina.<sup>76</sup>

The Florida Veterans Foundation is the direct-support organization of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Foundation's mission is to provide educational and outreach programs that will seek out and help veterans with suicide prevention and veterans with an opioid addiction recovery, provide a statewide veterans charity registry, and register veterans for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.<sup>77</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Gadsden Flag license plate, which must replicate the color, layout, and design of the Gadsden Flag. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the words "Don't Tread on Me" must appear at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc., and must be used to benefit veterans. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate.

## America the Beautiful License Plate

### Present Situation

The America the Beautiful Fund is the fictitious name of Live Laugh Love Give, Inc.<sup>78</sup> Based in Tampa, this organization is a registered Florida nonprofit corporation.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Daughters of the American Revolution, *DAR History*, <https://www.dar.org/national-society/about-dar/dar-history> (Last visited January 8, 2020).

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.usflag.org/history/gadsden.html> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>77</sup> Florida Veterans Foundation, *About Florida Veterans Foundation*, <https://helpflvets.org/about/> (Last visited Jan. 14, 2020).

<sup>78</sup> Department of State, Sunbiz.org, *Fictitious Name Detail, America the Beautiful Fund*, Registration No. G15000109272.

<sup>79</sup> Department of State, Sunbiz.org, *Detail by Entity Name, Live Laugh Love Give, Inc.*, Document No. N15000007314.

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the America the Beautiful license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved design and colors. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “America the Beautiful” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the America the Beautiful Fund to be used as follows:

- 10 percent to offset administrative, marketing, and promotion costs.
- 90 percent for projects and programs teaching character, leadership, and service to Florida youth; the provision of support services and assistance to the military community; outdoor education advancing self-sufficiency; wildlife conservation; the maintenance of historic or culturally important sites, buildings, structures, or objects; and the development and modification of playgrounds, recreational areas, or other outdoor amenities, including disability access.

## **Explore Off Road Florida License Plate**

### Present Situation

The purpose of the Florida Off Road Foundation, Inc., is to provide and distribute funds to the foundation from the sale of the Florida Off Road license plates to help preserve and protect Florida’s off road natural habitat, environment, and other programs.<sup>80</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Explore Off Road Florida license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate and “Explore Off Road” must appear at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Florida Off Road Foundation, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the funds may be used for marketing of the plate, administrative costs directly associated with the creation of the plate, and administrative costs related to the distribution of proceeds, including annual audit services and compliance affidavit costs. The remainder of the funds must be used by the Florida Off Road Foundation, Inc., to fund qualified non-profit organizations that protect and preserve Florida’s natural off-road habitat, educate Floridians about responsible use of the off-road environment; support civilian volunteer programs to promote the use of off-road vehicles to assist law enforcement in situations such as search and rescue; support organized cleanups, trail maintenance, and restoration; or preserve Florida’s off-road culture.

## **American Eagle License Plate**

### Present Situation

Based in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, the American Eagle Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect the bald eagle and other birds of prey through education, re-population, conservation, and rehabilitation.<sup>81</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the American Eagle license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate and “In God We Trust” must appear at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the American Eagle Foundation for deposit in its national endowment fund. Up to 10 percent of the funds received may be used for administrative costs and marketing the plate. The foundation must use the remainder of the proceeds to fund public education programs, rescue and care programs, and other conservation efforts in Florida that benefit bald eagles.

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<sup>80</sup> Florida Off Road Foundation, Inc., Articles of Incorporation, Available at: <http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/ConvertTiffToPDF?storagePath=COR%5C2019%5C0214%5C40153624.tif&documentNumber=N19000001532> (Last visited Jan. 20, 2020).

<sup>81</sup> American Eagle Foundation website: <https://www.eagles.org/> (Last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

## **Guardian Ad Litem License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Florida Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Foundation's mission is to provide additional resources for the GAL Program, its volunteers, and its affiliated nonprofit organizations in order to promote GAL representation for abused, neglected, and abandoned children in Florida's dependency system."<sup>82</sup>

The GAL Foundation has worked to provide targeted support to children involved in the GAL Program through grants, individual or corporate donations, or time. The foundation funds medical needs and activities related to normalcy for children represented by GAL volunteers.<sup>83</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the GAL license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Heartfelt Child Advocacy" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Florida GAL Foundation, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative costs and the marketing of the plate. The remaining proceeds must be used in this state to support the mission and efforts of the statewide GAL Program to represent abused, abandoned, and neglected children and advocate for their best interests; recruit and retain volunteer child advocates; and meet the unique needs of the dependent children the program serves.

## **Jumbo Shrimp License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp is a Double-A affiliate of the Miami Marlins baseball team.<sup>84</sup>

St. Johns Riverkeeper is a privately-funded and independent organization for the St. Johns River. It is a nonprofit organization that relies on the support of members, donors, and volunteers to defend, advocate, and activate others to protect and restore the St. Johns River. The organization is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance. The Waterkeeper Alliance is the world's fastest growing environmental movement, with over 300 Waterkeeper Organizations protecting waterways on six continents.<sup>85</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Jumbo Shrimp license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Jumbo Shrimp" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the St. Johns Riverkeeper, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate. The St. Johns Riverkeeper must use the remaining proceeds for programs and activities related to fulfilling its mission to protect and restore the health of the St. Johns River.

## **Thank a Lineman License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Lake-Sumter State College Foundation, Inc., helps individuals, businesses, and organizations support the college's mission of developing the community through education. The foundation supports the Lake-Sumter State College through the funding of projects that directly or indirectly benefit students. These projects have included assistance for equipment for classroom instruction and the athletics department; libraries; the nursing program; computer labs; and support for faculty, staff, and students.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Florida Guardian Ad Litem Foundation, *About Us*, <https://flgal.org/about/> (Last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>83</sup> *Id.*

<sup>84</sup> Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, <https://www.milb.com/jacksonville> (Last visited Mar. 12, 2020).

<sup>85</sup> St. Johns Riverkeeper, *About Us*, <https://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/about-us/> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>86</sup> LSSC Foundation, <https://www.lssc.edu/dept/foundation/> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Thank a Lineman license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Thank a Lineman" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Lake-Sumter State College Foundation, Inc., to fund scholarships for students enrolled in the Electrical Distribution Technology Program at Lake-Sumter State College. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for marketing the plate and costs directly associated with the administration of the foundation.

### **Best Buddies License Plate**

#### Present Situation

The Best Buddies International, Inc., is a nonprofit organization "dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities."<sup>87</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Best Buddies license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "BestBuddies.org" appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to Best Buddies International, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative costs and marketing the plate. The remaining proceeds must be used to create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### **Divine Nine License Plate**

#### Present Situation

The nine historically Black Greek letter organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council are collectively known as "The Divine Nine."<sup>88</sup>

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded in 1906 at Cornell University and was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans.<sup>89</sup> The mission for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for communities.<sup>90</sup> Alpha Phi Alpha's charitable foundation is the Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded in 1908 at Howard University.<sup>91</sup> Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind".<sup>92</sup> Alpha Kappa Alpha's charitable foundation is the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation, Inc.

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<sup>87</sup> Best Buddies, *Mission*, <https://www.bestbuddies.org/what-we-do/mission-vision-goals/> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.blackgreek.com/divinenine/> (Last visited Mar. 11, 2020).

<sup>89</sup> Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters, *Brief History of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.*, <http://flfederation.org/about-us/history/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>90</sup> Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters, *About Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.*, <http://flfederation.org/about-us/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>91</sup> Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., *About*, <http://www.aka1908.com/about> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>92</sup> Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., *Mission*, <http://www.aka1908.com/about/mission> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is a college fraternity chartered and incorporated originally under the laws of the State of Indiana as Kappa Alpha Nu in 1911. Its name changed to Kappa Alpha Psi in 1915.<sup>93</sup> Kappa Alpha Psi's charitable foundation is the Southern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., founded in 1911, was the first international fraternal organization on the campus of Howard University with "manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift" adopted as the cardinal principles.<sup>94</sup> Omega Psi Phi's charitable foundation is the Florida Omega Friendship Foundation, Inc.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in 1913 at Howard University.<sup>95</sup> Its purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world.<sup>96</sup> Delta Sigma Theta's charitable foundation is the Delta Research and Educational Foundation, Inc.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was founded at Howard University in 1914. Its mission statement provides that in order to accomplish the Fraternity's objectives, it is essential that systems are instituted that effectively embody "Culture For Service and Service For Humanity" and promote brotherhood, scholarship and service.<sup>97</sup> Phi Beta Sigma's charitable foundation is the TMB Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920, at Howard University. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's national and local programs include the endowment of its National Educational Foundation community outreach services and support of multiple affiliate organizations. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority chapters and auxiliaries give hours of voluntary service to educate the public, assist youth, provide scholarships, support organized charities, and promote legislation for social and civic change.<sup>98</sup> Zeta Phi Beta's charitable foundation is Florida Pearls, Inc.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority was established in 1922, at Butler University. Its mission of is to enhance the quality of life for women and their families in the U.S. and globally through community service. Its goal is to achieve greater progress in the areas of education, healthcare, and leadership development.<sup>99</sup> Sigma Gamma Rho's charitable foundation is the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority National Education Fund.

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity was established in 1963, at Morgan State College. The fraternity's purpose is "[t]he development and perpetuation of Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity, and Brotherhood among Men."<sup>100</sup> Iota Phi Theta's charitable foundation is the National Iota Foundation, Inc.

The United Negro College Fund's mission is "to build a robust and nationally-recognized pipeline of under-represented students who, because of UNCF support, become highly-qualified college graduates and to ensure that our network of member institutions is a respected model of best practice in moving students to and through college."<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Kappa Alpha Psi, *A Brief History*, <http://www.kappaalphapsi1911.com/?page=history> (last visited Mar. , 2020)

<sup>94</sup> Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., *The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*, <https://oppf.org/about-omega/#omegahistory> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020).

<sup>95</sup> Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., *Founders*, <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org/founders> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>96</sup> Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., *Statement of Purpose*, <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org/mission-purpose/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>97</sup> Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., *About Us*, <https://phibetasigma1914.org/index.php/about/history/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>98</sup> Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., *About Zeta Phi Beta*, <http://www.zphib1920.org/our-history/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>99</sup> Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., *History*, [https://www.sgrho1922.org/SGRho/About\\_Us/SGRho/SGRho\\_About/About.aspx?hkey=205007b1-6a63-4a8e-9187-6d046505ee95](https://www.sgrho1922.org/SGRho/About_Us/SGRho/SGRho_About/About.aspx?hkey=205007b1-6a63-4a8e-9187-6d046505ee95) (last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>100</sup> Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., *About*, <https://www.iotaphitheta.org/about> (Last visited Mar. 12, 2020)

<sup>101</sup> United Negro College Fund, *Our Mission*, <https://uncf.org/our-mission> (Last visited Ma. 12, 2020)

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Divine Nine license plate using a standard template and a unique logo, graphic, or color for each of the organizations in the Divine Nine. The plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and design and must include the official logo, graphic, or color as appropriate for each organization. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate and the words “Divine Nine” must appear at the bottom of the plate.

The annual use fees from the sale of the plate are distributed as follows:

- 5 percent of the proceeds are distributed to the United Negro College Fund, Inc., for college scholarships for Florida residents attending Florida’s historically black colleges and universities.
- The remaining 95 percent of the proceeds are distributed to the appropriate charitable foundations based on the purchaser’s selected license plate as follows:
  - 10 percent solely for marketing of the plate; and
  - 85 percent to promote community awareness and action through educational, economic, and cultural service activities within this state.

The Divine Nine license plates will have their plate sales combined for the purpose of meeting the 3,000 plate minimum sales threshold and for determining the 150-plate limit on specialty license plates. Divine Nine license plates must be ordered directly from DHSMV.

## **Florida Bay Forever License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Florida National Parks Association, Inc., (FNPA) is the official not for profit entity of Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve. The purpose of the FNPA is to generate additional revenues to help supplement the park service’s budget as well as support educational, interpretive, and historical and scientific research. The FNPA also operates bookstores within the parks to help generate revenues as well as providing a visitor information services function on behalf of the National Park Service.<sup>102</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Florida Bay Forever license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Florida Bay Forever” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the sale of the Florida Bay Forever license plate are distributed to the FNPA. FNPA may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for administrative costs and marketing the plate and all remaining proceeds must be used to supplement the Everglades National Park budget and to support educational, interpretive, historical, and scientific research relating to the Everglades National Park.

## **Bonefish and Tarpon Trust License Plate**

### Present Situation

The Bonefish and Tarpon Trust’s mission is to conserve and restore bonefish and tarpon fisheries and habitats through research, stewardship, education, and advocacy.<sup>103</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates a Bonefish and Tarpon Trust license plate, bearing DHSMV-approved colors and designs. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Bonefish and Tarpon Trust” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees from the sale of the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust license plate are distributed to the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust. The trust may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds to promote and market the license plate and all remaining proceeds must be used to

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<sup>102</sup> Florida National Parks Association Website, <https://floridanationalparksassociation.com/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>103</sup> Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, *BTT Mission*, <https://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/btt-mission> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

conserve and enhance Florida bonefish and tarpon fisheries and their respective environments through stewardship, research, education, and advocacy.

### **Coastal Conservation Association License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Coastal Conservation Association Florida (CCAF) is a statewide, non-profit marine organization working in an advocacy role to protect the state's marine resources and the interests of saltwater anglers. It is comprised of 30 local chapters from Key West to Pensacola and it supports resource-based law enforcement, access to recreational fishing, and fishery regulations to protect state and federal fish stocks. CCAF is one of the 17 state chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association.<sup>104</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Coastal Conservation Association license plate. The license plate must bear DHSMV-approved colors and design. The new license plates will display the word "Florida" at the top of the plate and "Conserve Florida's Fisheries" at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fee is distributed to CCAF to support the mission and efforts of CCAF for habitat enhancement and restoration, saltwater fisheries conservation, and education; to advise the public on the conservation of marine resources; and to promote and enhance the present and future availability of those coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. CCAF may use up to 10 percent of the proceeds for administrative costs and up to 10 percent of the proceeds to promote and market the plate.

### **Johnson and Wales University License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Johnson and Wales University-North Miami is a campus of the Johnson & Wales University located in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1992, JWU established its Florida campus, initially focusing on culinary programs. In 1996, a hospitality program was launched and a College of Business began in 1997, offering seven majors. Currently, the university offers 34 majors and programs.<sup>105</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Johnson and Wales University license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word "Florida" appears at the top of the plate and "Johnson and Wales University" appears at the bottom of the plate. The official Johnson and Wales University logo must appear on the left side of plate. The annual use fees are distributed to Johnson and Wales University-North Miami. A maximum of 10 percent may be used to promote and market the plate. The remaining proceeds must be used to fund Johnson and Wales University-North Miami's charitable activities, including, but not limited to, student need-based scholarships.

### **Florida Stands with Israel License Plate**

#### Present Situation

The Hatzalah of Miami-Dade, Inc., is a volunteer not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to improve medical outcomes and save lives by augmenting existing emergency medical services in South Florida with community-based state-certified emergency medical technician volunteer responders.<sup>106</sup> Hatzalah provides "trained volunteers capable of responding to any type of emergency with the skill and equipment necessary to provide competent medical care until the arrival of those professional personnel who have primary responsibility of treating and transporting ill or injured persons."<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Coastal Conservation Association Florida, <https://www.ccaflorida.org/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>105</sup> Johnson & Wales University, *About JWU North Miami*, available at <https://www.jwu.edu/campuses/north-miami/about-jwu-north-miami/index.html> (Last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>106</sup> Hatzalah of Miami-Dade, *Home*, <http://www.miamihatlah.com/> (Last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

<sup>107</sup> Hatzalah of Miami-Dade, *FAQ*, <https://www.hatzalahsouthflorida.org/faq> (Last visited Mar. 7, 2020).

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Florida Stands with Israel license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Florida Stands with Israel” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Hatzalah of Miami-Dade, Inc., to be used as follows:

- 10 percent must be used solely to promote and market the plate; and
- 90 percent must be used to assist in training and deploying first responders to expedite emergency response.

### **Give Kids the World License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Give Kids the World, Inc., is a central Florida-based nonprofit resort that fulfills wish vacations for critically ill children and their families to visit the area’s theme parks. In addition to receiving theme park passes, the families enjoy free accommodations, transportation, entertainment, and accessible rides.<sup>108</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Give Kids the World license plate. The license plate must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Give Kids the World” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to Give Kids the World, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate. The Give Kids the World, Inc., must use the remaining proceeds to support its mission of providing weeklong, cost-free vacations to children with critical illnesses and their families.

### **Marine Corps League License Plate**

#### Present Situation

The Marine Corps League’s mission is to promote the interest and to preserve the traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism. The Marine Corps League supports Marines in many programs and activities, including supporting Toys For Tots, providing funeral honors, providing scholarships, and assisting transitioning Marines and their families in support of the Marine Corps' Marine for Life program.<sup>109</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Marine Corps League license plate, which must bear DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” must appear at the top of the plate and “Marine Corps League” must appear at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to the Marine Corps League, Department of Florida, to be used as follows:

- Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative costs and to promote and market the plate.
- At least 15 percent must be distributed to the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans' Affairs to be used to support program operations that benefit veterans or the operation, maintenance, or construction of domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans.
- At least 40 percent must be distributed to the Marine Corps League John Piazza Memorial Scholarship Fund to fund scholarships and assist Marine Corps Junior ROTC and Young Marine programs in this state.
- At least 20 percent must support the Marine Corps League efforts in disaster relief, aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines and former Marines and to their widows and orphans in this state.

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<sup>108</sup> Give Kids the World Village, *About Us*, <https://www.gktw.org/about/index.php> (last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>109</sup> Marine Corps League, *About*, <https://www.mclnational.org/about.html> (last visited Mar. 3, 2020).

- At least 15 percent must be distributed to the Injured Warriors Fund of Florida to assist those warriors injured in combat residing in this state.

## **K9s United License Plate**

### Present Situation

K9s United, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that is “committed to supporting and honoring K9 law enforcement officers who detect, protect and serve communities by giving them the best equipment, amenities, and quality of life during and after their service, and memorializing those who give the ultimate sacrifice.”<sup>110</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the K9s United license plate, which must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “K9s United” appears at the bottom of the plate. The annual use fees are distributed to K9s United, Inc. Up to 10 percent of the proceeds may be used to promote and market the plate. K9s United, Inc., must use the remaining proceeds to support K9 units throughout the state.

## **Florida Native License Plate**

### Present Situation

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc., is “to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.” The mission is fulfilled through:

- Support for conservation land acquisition;
- Land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants;
- Education;
- Public policies that protect native flora, especially rare species;
- Research on native plant species; and
- Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida’s native plant heritage.<sup>111</sup>

### Effect of the Bill

The bill creates the Florida Native license plate, which must bear the DHSMV-approved colors and design. The word “Florida” appears at the top of the plate and “Native” appears at the bottom of the plate. The plate must contain a camouflage background including leaves, flowers, or fronds of a minimum of five different Florida native plants. DHSMV will retain all annual use fees from the sale of the plate until all startup costs for developing and issuing the plate have been recovered. Thereafter, the annual use fees are distributed to the Florida Native Plant Society. A maximum of 10 percent of the proceeds may be used for administrative costs and to market and promote the plate. The remaining proceeds must be used by the Florida Native Plant Society to fulfill the mission of the society, which is to restore and preserve native Florida plants on private and public lands through grants, education, and community projects.

## **Preserve Vision**

### Present Situation

Preserve Vision Florida, formerly Prevent Blindness Florida, is a non-profit organization offering vision education and services to Florida’s children and adults. Its focus is promoting a lifetime of healthy vision care through advocacy, education, screening, and research. Its mission is to promote healthy vision through vision awareness and education, vision screening, assistance to receive medical eye

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<sup>110</sup> K9s United, *We're here for the officers who are here for you*, <https://www.k9sunitied.org/about> (Last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

<sup>111</sup> Florida Native Plant Society, *Who We Are, History and Mission*, <https://www.fnps.org/who-we-are/history> and <https://www.fnps.org/who-we-are/mission> (Last visited Mar. 9, 2020).

care, and advocacy for vision and medical eye care health service.<sup>112</sup> Prevent Blindness Florida changed its name to Preserve Vision Florida in May 2016.<sup>113</sup>

Section 320.08068, F.S., creates a motorcycle specialty license plate with an annual use fee of \$20. The annual use fee is distributed to The Able Trust as its custodial agent. After paying administrative costs, The Able Trust distributes 20 percent of the proceeds to Prevent Blindness Florida.<sup>114</sup>

#### Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill updates the reference from “Prevent Blindness Florida” to “Preserve Vision Florida” to reflect the change in the organization’s name.

### **Special License Plates for Former Federal and State Legislators**

#### Present Situation

Section 320.0807, F.S., provides for special license plates for the Governor and federal and state legislators. Section 320.0807(5), F.S., provides that upon application by any current or former President of the Senate or current or former Speaker of the House of Representatives, and payment of the appropriate fees,<sup>115</sup> DHSMV may issue a license plate stamped “Senate President” or “House Speaker” followed by the number assigned by DHSMV or chosen by the applicant if it is not already in use.

Upon application by any former member of Congress or former member of the state Legislature and payment of the appropriate registration fees, plus a one-time fee of \$500, DHSMV may issue a former member of Congress, State Senator, or State Representative a license plate stamped “Retired Congress,” “Retired Senate,” or “Retired House,” as appropriate, for a vehicle owned by the former member. To qualify for a Retired Congress, Retired Senate, or Retired House prestige license plate, a former member must have served at least four years as a member of Congress, State Senator, or State Representative. Of the one-time \$500 fee collected for the license plate, \$450 is distributed to the Florida Historic Capitol’s direct-support organization<sup>116</sup> to benefit the Florida Historic Capitol Museum, and the remaining \$50 is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

#### Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill provides that in order to obtain a former President of the Senate or former Speaker of the House of Representatives license plate, an applicant must have served in this position prior to January 1, 2021. For former legislator plates, the bill requires an applicant to have served at least two years as a state senator or representative prior to January 1, 2021. Finally, the bill deletes the former member of Congress license plates.

### **Military Special License Plates**

#### Present Situation

There are currently 21 special use license plates for motor vehicles authorized in s. 320.089, F.S. These special license plates are available to military service members or veterans for various types of service. Examples of military service special license plates include Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, World War II Veteran, and Woman Veteran. While anyone who pays the appropriate fees may purchase most specialty license plates, an applicant must provide proof of eligibility to obtain a special license plate.

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<sup>112</sup> Preserve Vision Florida Website, <http://pvfla.org/about-us/> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>113</sup> Department of State, Division of Corporations – Sunbiz.org, *Preserve Vision Florida, Inc.* (May 4, 2016), <http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/ConvertTiffToPDF?storagePath=COR%5C2016%5C0509%5C84865905.Tif&documentNumber=706503> (last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>114</sup> Section 320.08068(4), F.S.

<sup>115</sup> The fees are prescribed in s. 320.0805, F.S.

<sup>116</sup> The Florida Historic Capitol direct-support organization is established pursuant to s. 272.136, F.S.

Special license plates are each stamped with words consistent with the type of special license plate issued. A likeness of the related campaign medal or badge appears on the plate followed by the license plate serial number.

Applicants for special license plates are required to pay the annual license tax<sup>117</sup> with the exception of certain disabled veterans who qualify for the Pearl Harbor, Purple Heart, or Prisoner of War plate, to whom such plates are issued at no cost.<sup>118</sup> The first \$100,000 in revenue annually generated from the issuance of special use plates is deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund under the Veterans' Nursing Homes of Florida Act.<sup>119</sup> Any additional revenue is deposited into the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund and used to construct, operate, and maintain domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans.<sup>120</sup>

There are currently no special license plates authorized for motorcycles.

### *Purple Heart*

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.<sup>121</sup>

### *Bronze Star*

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, after December 6, 1941, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces, distinguishes himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service not involving participation in aerial flight.<sup>122</sup>

### Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates the Purple Heart motorcycle special license plate. Upon application to DHSMV and payment of the motorcycle license tax,<sup>123</sup> a resident who owns or leases a motorcycle that is not used for-hire or commercial use must be issued a Purple Heart motorcycle license plate if he or she provides documentation acceptable to DHSMV that he or she is a recipient of the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart motorcycle special license plate will be stamped with the term "Combat-wounded Veteran." The license plate may have the term "Purple Heart" stamped on the plate and the likeness of the Purple Heart Medal stamped on the license plate.

The bill creates the Bronze Star automobile special use license plate for recipients of the Bronze Star medal who provide proof of their qualification. The license plate will be stamped with the term "Bronze Star" and a likeness of the related campaign medal. Revenue generated from the sale of the Bronze Star special use license plate will be administered the same as the existing special use license plates, and deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund to support the State Veterans Homes Program.

The bill also creates Veteran and Woman Veteran special motorcycle license plates for qualifying military veterans. The design for these motorcycle license plates will be the same as the Veteran and Woman Veteran license plate, with the word "Veteran" or "Woman Veteran" displayed at the bottom of the plate.

## **United States Paratrooper License Plate**

### Present Situation

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<sup>117</sup> The annual license tax is provided in s. 320.08, F.S.

<sup>118</sup> Section 320.089(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>119</sup> Section 320.089(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>120</sup> *Id.*

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.purpleheart.org/HistoryOrder.aspx> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>122</sup> Bronze Star Metal, <https://www.thebalance.com/bronze-star-medal-3344939> (Last visited Jan. 8, 2020).

<sup>123</sup> The license tax is provided in s. 320.08, F.S.

Section 320.0891, F.S., requires DHSMV to develop a United States Paratroopers license plate with an annual use fee of \$20, and provides for the plates design. U.S. Paratroopers license plates may only be purchased by current or former United States military personnel who, as part of their military duty, have been trained to jump from flying aircraft.<sup>124</sup> Each application for a U.S. Paratrooper license plate must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has been decorated as a parachutist or has completed the U.S. Army Jump School.<sup>125</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill authorizes persons who completed U.S. Army Air Assault School to obtain a U.S. Paratrooper license plate.

### **Gold Star Family License Plate**

#### Present Situation

Section 320.0894, F.S., requires DHSMV to develop a special license plate honoring the family members of servicemembers who have been killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. The license plate is officially designated as the Gold Star license plate.

Each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use upon providing proof of meeting the statutory qualifications must, upon application to DHSMV and payment of the appropriate license tax and fees be issued a Gold Star license plate.<sup>126</sup> The surviving spouse and a surviving parent meeting the statutory requirements must, upon application, be issued the Gold Star license plate for one vehicle per household free of charge. Renewal decals for the plate are also issued at no cost.<sup>127</sup>

The Gold Star license plate may only be issued to family members of a servicemember who resided in Florida at the time of the servicemember's death.<sup>128</sup> Any family member of a servicemember killed while serving may be issued a Gold Star license plate upon payment of the license tax and appropriate without regard to the state of residence of the servicemember.<sup>129</sup> To qualify for issuance of a Gold Star license plate, the applicant must be directly related to a fallen servicemember as a spouse, parent or sibling.<sup>130</sup>

#### Effect of the Bill

The bill authorizes up to three, instead of one, Gold Star license plates to be issued per household. The bill also expands the eligibility to receive the Gold Star license plate to family members of a servicemember killed while serving in the U.S. armed forces, not just if the servicemember was killed when he or she resided in Florida.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

#### **1. Revenues:**

Proceeds from the sale of the Orlando City Soccer Club license plate will be deposited into the Professional Sports Development Trust Fund within DEO. To the extent that individuals choose to purchase this specialty license plate, there may be a positive, but indeterminate impact to the Professional Sports Development Trust Fund.

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<sup>124</sup> Section 320.0891(2), F.S.

<sup>125</sup> Section 320.0891(3), F.S.

<sup>126</sup> Section 320.0894(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>127</sup> Section 320.0894(3)(b)1., F.S.

<sup>128</sup> Section 320.0894(4)(a)1.a., F.S.

<sup>129</sup> Section 320.0894(4)(a)1.b., F.S.

<sup>130</sup> Section 320.0894(4)(a)2., F.S.

Proceeds from the sale of the Gadsden Flag license plate will be distributed to the Florida Veterans Foundation, which is a direct support organization for the Department of Veterans Affairs. To the extent individuals choose to purchase this license plate, there may be an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on this organization.

Portions of the revenue collected from the Marine Corps League license plate will be deposited into the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund within the Department of Veteran's Affairs. To the extent individuals choose to purchase this license plate, there may be an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on this trust fund.

Revenue collected from the sale of the Purple Heart Motorcycle plate and the Bronze Star plate will be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. To the extent eligible individuals choose to purchase these license plates, there may be an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on these trust funds.

The Florida Historic Capitol Trust Fund and the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund may experience a reduction in revenues due to the changes in eligibility for "Senate President" or "House Speaker" special license plates and special license plates for former members of Congress, former State Senators, and former State Representatives. However, the amount of revenue is likely insignificant.

## 2. Expenditures:

DHSMV may incur some costs associated with providing the option of permanent registration for certain for-hire vehicles. However, the fiscal impact of this provision is indeterminate.

According to DHSMV, creation or modification of specialty and special license plates require system programming to implement. Depending on the number of distributions tied to the plate, the amount of programming may vary as will the resources needed to complete the changes. The average specialty/special license plate with a single distribution requires approximately 200-250 hours of programming, at a rate of \$35 to \$40 per hour.<sup>131</sup> The bill creates 32 new specialty license plates, four new special license plates and removes from law five specialty license plates that have been discontinued. While DHSMV has not determined its fiscal impact,<sup>132</sup> it is likely to be between \$7,000 and \$10,000 per plate created.

DHSMV states the cost to perform an audit every three years of each specialty license plate may result in a workload impact that can also be absorbed within existing resources.

## B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

### 1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

### 2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

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<sup>131</sup> Email from Kevin Jacobs, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles., RE., HBs 273/275 and 199/201, (January 24, 2019). Follow-up e-mail from Kevin Jacobs, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, RE. Specialty License Plate Fiscal. (August 12, 2019). On file with the Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee.

<sup>132</sup> Email from Kevin Jacobs, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, RE: HB 1135 Fiscal, (March 18, 2020). On File with the Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Organizations receiving specialty license plate revenue may experience additional revenues associated with the sale of the organization's specialty license plates.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Current law prohibits the redesign of a specialty license plate unless the inventory of the license plate has been depleted. However, the organization may purchase the remaining inventory of the specialty license plate from DHSMV at the department's cost.<sup>133</sup> Special Olympics Florida may be required to purchase the remaining inventory of its specialty license plate at DHSMV's cost prior to the authorized redesign of its license plates.

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<sup>133</sup> Section 320.08056(9), F.S.