

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 329 Special License Plates
SPONSOR(S): Ingram
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 112

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee		Whittaker	Smith
2) Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill amends s. 320.089, F.S., authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to issue a special use license plate for veterans who were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. The plate will be stamped with the words "Distinguished Flying Cross" with an image of the medal, followed by the serial number.

Revenue generated from the sale of the special use license plate will be administered the same as the existing special use license plates in s.320.089, F.S., 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 has a negative, but insignificant impact on the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund that can be absorbed with existing resources.

The bill could have a positive indeterminate impact on the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund with the sale of the new Distinguished Flying Cross special use license plate.

The bill shall take effect July 1, 2015.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Special License Plates – Military Service

There are currently 15 special use license plates authorized in s. 320.089, F.S., available to military service members or veterans for the following types of service:

- Veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
- Active or retired member of the Florida National Guard.
- Survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.
- Active or retired member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces Reserve.
- Recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge.
- Recipient of the Combat Medical Badge.
- Recipient of the Combat Action Badge.
- Former Prisoner of War.
- Veteran of the Korean War.
- Veteran of the Vietnam War.
- Service member or veteran of Operation Desert Shield.
- Service member or veteran of Operation Desert Storm.
- Service member or veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Service member or veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Special use license plates authorized under s. 320.089 (1)(a), F.S., are each stamped with words consistent with the type of special use plate issued. A likeness of the related campaign medal or badge appears on the plate followed by the serial number.

Applicants for special use license plates in s. 320.089, F.S., are required to pay the annual license tax 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.¹

The first \$100,000 of the general revenue generated annually from the issuance of special use plates is deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund under the Veterans' Nursing Homes of Florida Act, as described in s. 296.38(2), F.S.² Any additional general revenue is deposited into the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund and used to construct, operate, and maintain domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans.³ For fiscal year 2013-2014 the total revenue from these plates was \$2,087,743.⁴

Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross is a military decoration awarded to any officer or enlisted member of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, subsequent to November 11, 1918." The first award of the Distinguished Flying Cross was made by President Calvin Coolidge on May 2, 1927, to ten aviators of the Air Corps who had participated in the U.S. Army Pan American Flight, which took place from December 21, 1926 to May 2, 1927.⁵

¹ S. 320.089(2)(a), F.S.

² S. 320.089(1)(b), F.S.

³ Id.

⁴ Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2015 Agency Bill Analysis: SB 112

⁵ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_(United_States)) (last viewed 1/30/15)

Proposed Change

The bill amends s. 320.089, F.S., authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue a Distinguished Flying Cross special license plate to those who prove they were awarded this medal. The plate will be stamped with the words "Distinguished Flying Cross" with an image of the medal, followed by the serial number. Revenue generated from the sale of the Distinguished Flying Cross special use license plate will be administered the same as the existing special use license plates in s. 320.089, F.S., and deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund to support the State Veterans Homes Program.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 Amends s. 320.089, F.S., authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue a Distinguished Flying Cross license plate; specifying qualifications and requirements for the plate; providing that the use of proceeds from the sale of the plate will be made according to certain established guidelines.

Section 2 Provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill could have a positive indeterminate impact on the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund with the sale of the new Distinguished Flying Cross special use license plate.

2. Expenditures:

The bill has a negative, but insignificant impact on the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund that can be absorbed with existing resources.

The department would incur an initial startup cost (\$6,204) for the creation and manufacture of each new special license plate. An initial order of 2,200 license plates would be made ($2,200 \times \$2.82 = \$6,204$) and distributed to Tax Collector offices statewide to meet public demand.

For both specialty and special license plates, programming is required by the department. Approximately 130 non-recurring programming hours, which would be absorbed within existing resources (estimated cost of \$5,200).⁶

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

⁶ Email correspondence from HSMV on file with the Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee
STORAGE NAME: h0329.HWSS
DATE: 2/11/2015

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Distinguished Flying Cross special use license plate would be available to a new group of registrants who are recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a municipality or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill does not require a reduction of the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES