

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA
**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,
 TOURISM, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Senator Hooper, Chair
Senator Trumbull, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2024
TIME: 1:00—2:30 p.m.
PLACE: *Toni Jennings Committee Room*, 110 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Hooper, Chair; Senator Trumbull, Vice Chair; Senators DiCeglie, Stewart, Thompson, Wright, and Yarborough

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	CS/SB 60 Transportation / Harrell (Similar H 105)	Specialty License Plates/General Aviation; Directing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a General Aviation license plate; providing for distribution and use of fees collected from the sale of the plate, etc. TR 12/06/2023 Fav/CS ATD 01/11/2024 Favorable FP	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0
2	SB 196 Simon (Identical H 141)	Regional Rural Development Grants Program; Deleting the requirement that certain grants received by a regional economic development organization must be matched in a certain manner; removing a provision requiring a certain consideration; removing certain demonstration requirements of program applicants, etc. CM 12/05/2023 Favorable ATD 01/11/2024 Fav/CS FP	Fav/CS Yeas 6 Nays 0
3	SB 244 Hooper (Identical H 645)	Specialty License Plates/Clearwater Marine Aquarium; Directing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a Clearwater Marine Aquarium license plate; providing for distribution and use of fees collected from the sale of the plate, etc. TR 12/13/2023 Favorable ATD 01/11/2024 Favorable FP	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0

Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

BILL: CS/SB 60

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates/General Aviation

DATE: January 11, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Shutes</u>	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Wells</u>	<u>Jerrett</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 60 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create a new specialty license plate for General Aviation. The annual use fee for the plate is \$25.

Proceeds of the sale of the General Aviation specialty license plate will be distributed to the Aerospace Center for Excellence located in Lakeland to fund scholarships for students who are pursuing careers in the field of aviation.

The DHSMV estimates programming and implementation of the plate will cost \$7,680.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Aerospace Center for Excellence

Aerospace Center for Excellence is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.¹ The organization's statement of purpose is "to engage, educate and accelerate the next generation of aerospace professionals."²

¹ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *Aerospace Center for Excellence, Inc.*, Sunbiz.org, Document number N00000007283 (October 10, 2023).

² *Id.*

The organization was founded in 2014, and consists of staff members focused on education, scholarships, and events to achieve their vision of “building a brighter future through aviation.” The Aerospace Center for Excellence hosts summer camps and student outreach programs that are presented by the staff to over 30,000 students annually. The organization provides educational support to the aerospace industry to include pilot, maintenance technicians, and college scholarships.³

Specialty License Plates

As of December 2023, there are 144 specialty license plates authorized by the Legislature. Of these plates, 109 are available for immediate purchase and 31 are in the presale process.⁴ Specialty license plates are available to an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay an annual use fee, ranging from \$15 to \$25, paid in addition to required license taxes and service fees.⁵ The annual use fees are distributed to organizations in support of a particular cause or charity signified on the plate’s design and designated in statute.⁶

In order to establish a specialty license plate and after the plate is approved by law, s. 320.08053, F.S., requires the following actions within certain timelines:

- Within 60 days, the organization must submit an art design for the plate, in a medium prescribed by the DHSMV;
- Within 120 days, the DHSMV must establish a method to issue presale vouchers for the specialty license plate; and
- Within 24 months after the presale vouchers are established, the organization must obtain a minimum of 3,000 voucher sales before manufacturing of the plate may begin.⁷

If the minimum sales requirement has not been met by the end of the 24-month presale period, then the DHSMV will discontinue the plate and issuance of presale vouchers. Upon discontinuation, a purchaser of a presale voucher may use the annual use fee as a credit towards any other specialty license plate or apply for a refund with the DHSMV.⁸

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., provided that presale requirements have been met. If the next listed specialty license plate has not met the presale requirement, the DHSMV will proceed in the order provided in s. 320.08058, F.S., to identify the next qualified specialty license plate that has met the presale requirement.⁹

³ Aerospace for Excellence, *About*, [About - Aerospace Center For Excellence \(aeeedu.org\)](https://www.aeeedu.org) (last visited October 10, 2023).

⁴ DHSMV Presentation to the Senate Transportation Committee, *Specialty License Plates* (January 24, 2023), slideshow available at https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/TR/MeetingPacket/5615/10046_MeetingPacket_5615_3.pdf (last visited October 10, 2023).

⁵ Section 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., provides that except if specifically provided in s. 320.08056(4), the annual use fee for a specialty license plate is \$25.

⁶ Section 320.08058, F.S.

⁷ Chapter 2022-189, Laws of Fla., extended the presale requirement by an additional 24 months for an approved specialty license plate organization that, as of June 15, 2022, is in the presale period but had not recorded at least 3,000 voucher sales.

⁸ Section 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

⁹ Section 320.08053(3)(a), F.S.

If the Legislature has approved 135 or more specialty license plates, the DHSMV may not make any new specialty license plates available for design or issuance until a sufficient number of plates are discontinued so that the number of plates being issued does not exceed 135.¹⁰

Use of Specialty License Plate Fees

The annual use fees collected by an organization and any interest earned from the fees may be expended only for use in this state unless the annual use fee is derived from the sale of specified United States Armed Forces and veterans-related specialty plates.¹¹ Additionally, organizations must adhere to certain accountability requirements, including an annual audit or attestation document affirming that funds received have been spent in accordance with applicable statutes.¹²

The annual use fees collected by an organization and the interest earned from those fees may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, or general or administrative expenses, unless authorized by s. 320.08058, F.S.¹³ Additionally, the annual use fees and interest earned from those fees may not be used for the purpose of marketing to, or lobbying, entertaining, or rewarding, any employee of a governmental agency that is responsible for the sale and distribution of specialty license plates, or any elected member or employee of the Legislature.¹⁴

Discontinuance of Specialty Plates

Prior to June 30, 2023, the DHSMV was required to discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid registrations falls below 1,000 plates for at least 12 consecutive months. A warning letter was mailed to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty license plate registrations fell below 1,000 plates. Collegiate plates for Florida universities were exempt from the minimum specialty license plate requirement.¹⁵ In addition, the DHSMV was authorized to discontinue any specialty license plate if the organization ceased to exist, stopped providing services that are funded from the annual use fee proceeds, or pursuant to an organizational recipient's request.¹⁶

However, effective July 1, 2023, the requirement increased so that the DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid registrations falls below 3,000 or in the case of an out-of-state college or university license plate, 4,000, for at least 12 consecutive months. The DHSMV must mail a warning letter to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty plate registrations is below 3,000, or in the case of an out-of-state college or university license plate, 4,000. This does not apply to in-state collegiate license plates established under s. 320.08058(3), F.S., license plates of institutions in and entities of the State University System, specialty license plates that have statutory eligibility limitations for purchase, specialty license plates for which annual use fees are

¹⁰ Section 320.08053(3)(b), F.S.

¹¹ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹² Section 320.08062, F.S.; such fees may be used to pay for the cost of this required audit or report. See s. 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹³ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 320.08056(8)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 320.08056(8)(b), F.S.

distributed by a foundation for student and teacher leadership programs and teacher recruitment and retention, or Florida professional sports team license plates established under s. 320.08058(9), F.S.¹⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.08058, F.S., to authorize the DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for General Aviation. The annual use fee for the plate is \$25. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the department, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “Support General Aviation” at the bottom of the plate.

Proceeds from the sale of the plate will be distributed to Aerospace Center for Excellence, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of proceeds to promote and market the plate. The remaining funds must be used to fund scholarships for students in the state of Florida who are pursuing careers in the field of aviation.

The plate will be added to the DHSMV presale voucher process, but will not be produced unless the presale requirement of 3,000 vouchers is met and the 135 plate cap has not been reached.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None Identified.

¹⁷ Chapter 2020-181, s. 7, Laws of Fla.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the specialty license plate is produced, the Aerospace Center for Excellence will receive annual use fees associated with sales of the plate.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The DHSMV estimates programming and implementation of the plate will cost \$7,680.¹⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by Transportation on December 6, 2023:**

The committee substitute removes obsolete language and limits the permissible amount for administrative costs and marketing to 10 percent of annual use fees from the sale of the plate.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

¹⁸ DHSMV, *2024 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 60* (October 23, 2023) at p. 5.

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Harrell

596-01785-24

202460c1

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to specialty license plates; amending
 3 s. 320.08058, F.S.; directing the Department of
 4 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a General
 5 Aviation license plate; providing for distribution and
 6 use of fees collected from the sale of the plate;
 7 providing an effective date.
 8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
 11 Section 1. Subsection (127) is added to section 320.08058,
 12 Florida Statutes, to read:

13 320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

14 (127) GENERAL AVIATION LICENSE PLATES.—

15 (a) The department shall develop a General Aviation license
 16 plate as provided in this section and s. 320.08053. The plate
 17 must bear the colors and design approved by the department. The
 18 word "Florida" must appear at the top of the plate, and the
 19 words "Support General Aviation" must appear at the bottom of
 20 the plate.

21 (b) The annual use fees from the sale of the plate must be
 22 distributed to the Aerospace Center for Excellence located in
 23 Lakeland to fund scholarships for students in this state who are
 24 pursuing careers in the field of aviation. The Aerospace Center
 25 for Excellence may use up to 10 percent of such fees for
 26 administrative costs and marketing of the plate. The balance of
 27 the fees shall be used by the Aerospace Center for Excellence
 28 for the organization's operations, activities, programs, or
 29 projects.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

596-01785-24

202460c1

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

The Florida Senate COMMITTEE VOTE RECORD

COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
ITEM: CS/SB 60
FINAL ACTION: Favorable
MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2024
TIME: 1:00—2:30 p.m.
PLACE: 110 Senate Building

FINAL VOTE		SENATORS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
X		DiCeglie						
X		Stewart						
X		Thompson						
X		Wright						
		Yarborough						
X		Trumbull, VICE CHAIR						
X		Hooper, CHAIR						
6	0	TOTALS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay

CODES: FAV=Favorable RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute TP=Temporarily Postponed WD=Withdrawn
 UNF=Unfavorable RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment VA=Vote After Roll Call OO=Out of Order
 -R=Reconsidered RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment VC=Vote Change After Roll Call AV=Abstain from Voting

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

BILL: CS/SB 196

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development, and Senator Simon

SUBJECT: Regional Rural Development Grants Program

DATE: January 16, 2024 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Renner</u>	<u>McKay</u>	<u>CM</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>Jerrett</u>	<u>ATD</u>	Fav/CS
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>FP</u>	<u> </u>

I. Summary:

CS/SB 196 amends the Regional Rural Development Grants Program to:

- Eliminate the rural matching requirement;
- Eliminate the requirement that grant funds received by a regional economic development organization must be matched each year by nonstate resources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contributions;
- Remove the requirement that the Department of Commerce (DOC) consider the demonstrated need of the applicant for assistance when approving participants for the program; and
- Remove the requirement that an applicant must show proof that each local government and the private sector made a financial or in-kind commitment to the regional organization in order to receive funding.
- Continues Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.’s authority to retain interest earned on funds in its trust account rather than having it revert to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Regional Rural Development Grants Program

The Regional Rural Development Grants Program was established to provide funding, through matching grants, to build the professional capacity of regionally based economic development organizations located in rural communities. The concept of building the “professional capacity” of an economic development organization includes hiring professional staff to develop, deliver,

and provide economic development professional services. Professional services includes technical assistance, education and leadership development, marketing, and project recruitment.¹

Applications submitted to the Department of Commerce (DOC) for funding through this program must provide proof:²

- Of official commitments of support from each of the units of local government represented by the regional organization;
- That each local government has made a financial or in-kind commitments to the regional organization;
- That the private sector has made financial or in-kind commitment to the regional organization;
- That the regional organization is in existence and actively involved in economic development activities serving the region; and
- Of the manner in which the organization coordinates its efforts with those other local and state organizations.

An organization may receive up to \$50,000 a year or \$250,000 if located in a rural area of opportunity (RAO).³ Grants must be matched by an amount of non-state resources equal to 25 percent of the state contribution. The DOC is authorized to spend up to \$750,000 each fiscal year from funds appropriated to the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund to carry out this program.⁴

Rural Area of Opportunity

An RAO is a rural community,⁵ or region comprised of rural communities, designated by the Governor, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster.⁶ An area may also be designated as an RAO if it presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact. The designation of an RAO must be agreed upon by the DOC, as well as the county and municipal governments to be included in the RAO.⁷

Based on recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI),⁸ the Governor may designate up to three RAOs by executive order.⁹ This designation establishes

¹ Section 288.018(1)(b), F.S.

² Section 288.018(2), F.S.

³ Section 288.018(1)(c), F.S.

⁴ Section 288.018(4), F.S.

⁵ Section 288.0656(2)(e), F.S., defines a “rural community” as is any county with a population of 75,000 or fewer, any county with a population of 125,000 or fewer that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer, a municipality in a county that meets either of the aforementioned criteria, or an unincorporated federal enterprise community or an incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or fewer and an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress factors.

⁶ Section 288.0656(2)(d), F.S.

⁷ Section 288.0656(7)(b), F.S.

⁸ Section 288.0656(1)(a), F.S. REDI was established by the Legislature to encourage and facilitate the location and expansion of major economic development projects of significant scale in rural communities.

⁹ Section 288.0656(7)(a), F.S.

these areas as priority assignments for REDI and allows the Governor, acting through REDI, to waive criteria, requirements, or similar provisions of any economic development initiative.

Currently, there are three designated RAO areas:

- Northwest RAO: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington counties, and portions of Walton County (the City of Freeport and lands north of the Choctawhatchee Bay and intercoastal waterway).
- South Central RAO: DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties, and the cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay in Palm Beach County and the city of Immokalee in Collier County.
- North Central RAO: Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union counties.¹⁰

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., was created in 2013 by the Legislature to manage, distribute, and assess the use of certain funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.¹¹ Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is organized as a nonprofit corporation, administratively housed within the Department of Commerce. The corporation is a separate entity from state government and not subject to control, supervision, or direction of the Department of Commerce.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is required to administer the Recovery Fund and all programs created under the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor Act in a transparent manner and in accordance with all applicable laws, bylaws, or contractual requirements.¹² The corporation is required to monitor, review, and evaluate awardees and related projects or programs. The evaluation process must be used to determine funding priorities and determine whether an award should be reauthorized or terminated. The corporation is also required to maintain a website that provides information related to meetings, issuance of awards, and the status of projects and programs.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 288.018, F.S., to specify that funding provided under the Regional Rural Development Grants Program are not matching grants. The bill eliminates the requirement that grant funds received by a regional economic development organization must be matched each year by nonstate resources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contributions. The bill also removes the requirement that the DOC consider the demonstrated need of the applicant for assistance when approving participants for the program. The bill removes the requirement that an applicant must show proof that each local government and the private sector made a financial or in-kind commitment to the regional organization in order to receive funding.

¹⁰ Department of Economic Opportunity, *Rural Areas of Opportunity*, available at <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/rural-community-programs/rural-areas-of-opportunity> (last visited November 15, 2023). The economic development organizations for these RAOs are named Opportunity Florida, Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative, and the North Florida Economic Development Partnership, respectively.

¹¹ Section 288.8013(1), F.S.

¹² Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., available at <https://www.myfloridatriumph.com/> (last visited January 16, 2024).

Additionally, the bill amends s. 288.8013, F.S., to allow Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to retain interest earned on the funds in its trust account rather than having those funds revert to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund. The funds held are required to be used to make awards or for administrative costs.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill does not affect state revenues or expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 288.018 and 288.8013.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development on January 11, 2024:

The committee substitute continues Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. authority to retain interest earned on the funds in its trust account. The funds retained are required to be used to make awards or pay for administrative costs.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.



605750

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/11/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (Trumbull) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Before line 13

insert:

Section 1. Notwithstanding the expiration and reversion in section 65 of chapter 2023-240, Laws of Florida, subsection (3) of section 288.8013, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

288.8013 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; creation; funding; investment.—

(3) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall establish a trust



11 account at a federally insured financial institution to hold
12 funds received from the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund and make
13 deposits and payments. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may invest
14 surplus funds in the Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund,
15 pursuant to s. 218.407. Earnings generated by investments and
16 interest of the fund may be retained and used to make awards
17 pursuant to this act or, notwithstanding paragraph (2)(d), for
18 administrative costs, including costs in excess of the cap.
19 Administrative costs may include payment of travel and per diem
20 expenses of board members, audits, salary or other costs for
21 employed or contracted staff, including required staff under s.
22 288.8014(9), and other allowable costs. The annual salary for
23 any employee or contracted staff may not exceed \$130,000, and
24 associated benefits may not exceed 35 percent of salary.

25
26 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

27 And the title is amended as follows:

- 28 Delete lines 2 - 3
- 29 and insert:
- 30 An act relating to economic development; amending s.
- 31 288.8013, F.S.; carrying forward the authority of
- 32 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to retain earnings generated
- 33 by investments and interests earned; amending s.
- 34 288.018, F.S.; deleting

By Senator Simon

3-00486-24

2024196__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Regional Rural Development
3 Grants Program; amending s. 288.018, F.S.; deleting
4 the requirement that certain grants received by a
5 regional economic development organization must be
6 matched in a certain manner; removing a provision
7 requiring a certain consideration; removing certain
8 demonstration requirements of program applicants;
9 providing an effective date.

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11 Section 1. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (1)
12 and subsection (2) of section 288.018, Florida Statutes, are
13 amended to read:

14 288.018 Regional Rural Development Grants Program.—

15 (1)

16 (b) The department shall establish a ~~matching~~ grant program
17 to provide funding to regional economic development
18 organizations for the purpose of building the professional
19 capacity of those organizations. Building the professional
20 capacity of a regional economic development organization
21 includes hiring professional staff to develop, deliver, and
22 provide needed economic development professional services,
23 including technical assistance, education and leadership
24 development, marketing, and project recruitment. ~~Matching~~ Grants
25 may also be used by a regional economic development organization
26 to provide technical assistance to local governments, local
27 economic development organizations, and existing and prospective
28
29

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30 businesses.

31 (c) A regional economic development organization may apply
32 annually to the department for a ~~matching~~ grant. The department
33 is authorized to approve, on an annual basis, grants to such
34 regional economic development organizations. The maximum amount
35 an organization may receive in any year will be \$50,000, or
36 \$250,000 for any three regional economic development
37 organizations that serve an entire region of a rural area of
38 opportunity designated pursuant to s. 288.0656(7) if they are
39 recognized by the department as serving such a region.

40 ~~(d) Grant funds received by a regional economic development~~
41 ~~organization must be matched each year by nonstate resources in~~
42 ~~an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contribution.~~

43 (2) In approving the participants, the department shall
44 consider the demonstrated need of the applicant for assistance
45 and require the following:

46 (a) Documentation of official commitments of support from
47 each of the units of local government represented by the
48 regional organization.

49 ~~(b) Demonstration that each unit of local government has~~
50 ~~made a financial or in-kind commitment to the regional~~
51 ~~organization.~~

52 ~~(c) Demonstration that the private sector has made~~
53 ~~financial or in-kind commitments to the regional organization.~~

54 (b) ~~(d)~~ Demonstration that the organization is in existence
55 and actively involved in economic development activities serving
56 the region.

57 (c) ~~(e)~~ Demonstration of the manner in which the
58 organization is or will coordinate its efforts with those of

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59 other local and state organizations.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.



The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

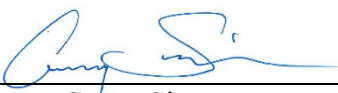
To: Senator Ed Hooper, Chair
Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic
Development

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: January 8, 2024

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill # 196**, relating to Regional Rural Development Grants Program, be placed on the:

- Committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- Next committee agenda.



Senator Corey Simon
Florida Senate, District 3

January 11, 2024

The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECORD

196

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Darrick D McGhee, Sr. Phone (850) 321-6489

Address 537 East Park Avenue Email darrick@teamjb.com

Street

Tallahassee FL 32301

City

State

Zip

Reset Form

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida's Great Northwest

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flisenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/11/24

Meeting Date

TED

Committee

SB 196

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Brett Bacot

Phone 850-445-1465

Address 215 S. Monroe St.

Email brett.bacot@bipr.com

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida Rural Economic Development Association

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf](#) [flsenate.gov](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

BILL: SB 244

INTRODUCER: Senator Hooper

SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates/Clearwater Marine Aquarium

DATE: January 11, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Shutes	Vickers	TR	Favorable
2.	Wells	Jerrett	ATD	Favorable
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 244 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to create a new specialty license plate for Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The annual use fee for the plate is \$25.

Proceeds of the sale of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium specialty license plate will be distributed to Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc. The organization may use up to ten percent of proceeds to promote, administer, and market the plate. The remaining funds must be used to fund its efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and release marine life; provide environmental education; conduct research; and promote conservation strategies.

The DHSMV estimates programming and implementation of the plate will cost \$7,680.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024

II. Present Situation:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Florida Department of State.¹ The organization’s website includes the following mission statement: “We believe in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life; environment education; research; and conservation.”²

¹ Florida Department of State: Division of Corporations, *Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc.* Sunbiz.org, Document number 722979 (October 27, 2023).

² *Id.*

The organization was founded in 1972 by a group of volunteers who were passionate about marine life and wanted to help educate the community of Clearwater.³

Specialty License Plates

As of December 2023, there are 144 specialty license plates authorized by the Legislature. Of these plates, 109 are available for immediate purchase and 31 are in the presale process.⁴ Specialty license plates are available to an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is willing to pay an annual use fee, ranging from \$15 to \$25, paid in addition to required license taxes and service fees.⁵ The annual use fees are distributed to organizations in support of a particular cause or charity signified on the plate's design and designated in statute.⁶

In order to establish a specialty license plate and after the plate is approved by law, s. 320.08053, F.S., requires the following actions within certain timelines:

- Within 60 days, the organization must submit an art design for the plate, in a medium prescribed by the DHSMV;
- Within 120 days, the DHSMV must establish a method to issue presale vouchers for the specialty license plate; and
- Within 24 months after the presale vouchers are established, the organization must obtain a minimum of 3,000 voucher sales before manufacturing of the plate may begin.⁷

If the minimum sales requirement has not been met by the end of the 24-month presale period, then the DHSMV will discontinue the plate and issuance of presale vouchers. Upon discontinuation, a purchaser of a presale voucher may use the annual use fee as a credit towards any other specialty license plate or apply for a refund with the DHSMV.⁸

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., provided that presale requirements have been met. If the next listed specialty license plate has not met the presale requirement, the DHSMV will proceed in the order provided in s. 320.08058, F.S., to identify the next qualified specialty license plate that has met the presale requirement.⁹

If the Legislature has approved 135 or more specialty license plates, the DHSMV may not make any new specialty license plates available for design or issuance until a sufficient number of plates are discontinued so that the number of plates being issued does not exceed 135.¹⁰

³ Clearwater Marine Aquarium, *50 Years of Marine Conservation*, [50 Years of Marine Conservation - Clearwater Marine Aquarium \(cmaqarium.org\)](https://www.cmaqarium.org) (last visited October 27, 2023).

⁴ DHSMV Presentation to the Senate Transportation Committee, *Specialty License Plates* (January 24, 2023), slideshow available at https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/TR/MeetingPacket/5615/10046_MeetingPacket_5615_3.pdf (last visited October 10, 2023).

⁵ Section 320.08056(3)(d), F.S., provides that except if specifically provided in s. 320.08056(4), the annual use fee for a specialty license plate is \$25.

⁶ Section 320.08058, F.S.

⁷ Chapter 2022-189, Laws of Fla., extended the presale requirement by an additional 24 months for an approved specialty license plate organization that, as of June 15, 2022, is in the presale period but had not recorded at least 3,000 voucher sales.

⁸ Section 320.08053(2)(b), F.S.

⁹ Section 320.08053(3)(a), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 320.08053(3)(b), F.S.

Use of Specialty License Plate Fees

The annual use fees collected by an organization and any interest earned from the fees may be expended only for use in this state unless the annual use fee is derived from the sale of specified United States Armed Forces and veterans-related specialty plates.¹¹ Additionally, organizations must adhere to certain accountability requirements, including an annual audit or attestation document affirming that funds received have been spent in accordance with applicable statutes.¹²

The annual use fees collected by an organization and the interest earned from those fees may not be used for commercial or for-profit activities, or general or administrative expenses, unless authorized by s. 320.08058, F.S.¹³ Additionally, the annual use fees and interest earned from those fees may not be used for the purpose of marketing to, or lobbying, entertaining, or rewarding, any employee of a governmental agency that is responsible for the sale and distribution of specialty license plates, or any elected member or employee of the Legislature.¹⁴

Discontinuance of Specialty Plates

Prior to June 30, 2023, the DHSMV was required to discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid registrations falls below 1,000 plates for at least 12 consecutive months. A warning letter was mailed to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty license plate registrations fell below 1,000 plates. Collegiate plates for Florida universities were exempt from the minimum specialty license plate requirement.¹⁵ In addition, the DHSMV was authorized to discontinue any specialty license plate if the organization ceased to exist, stopped providing services that are funded from the annual use fee proceeds, or pursuant to an organizational recipient's request.¹⁶

However, effective July 1, 2023, the requirement increased so that the DHSMV must discontinue the issuance of an approved specialty license plate if the number of valid registrations falls below 3,000 or in the case of an out-of-state college or university license plate, 4,000, for at least 12 consecutive months. The DHSMV must mail a warning letter to the sponsoring organization following the first month in which the total number of valid specialty plate registrations is below 3,000, or in the case of an out-of-state college or university license plate, 4,000. This does not apply to in-state collegiate license plates established under s. 320.08058(3), F.S., license plates of institutions in and entities of the State University System, specialty license plates that have statutory eligibility limitations for purchase, specialty license plates for which annual use fees are distributed by a foundation for student and teacher leadership programs and teacher recruitment and retention, or Florida professional sports team license plates established under s. 320.08058(9), F.S.¹⁷

¹¹ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹² Section 320.08062, F.S.; Such fees may be used to pay for the cost of this required audit or report. See s. 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹³ Section 320.08056(10)(a), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 320.08056(11), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 320.08056(8)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 320.08056(8)(b), F.S.

¹⁷ Chapter 2020-181, s. 7, Laws of Fla.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 320.08058, F.S., to authorize the DHSMV to create a new specialty license plate for the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The annual use fee for the plate is \$25. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by the department, with the word “Florida” at the top of the plate and the words “Clearwater Marine Aquarium” at the bottom of the plate.

Proceeds from the sale of the plate will be distributed to Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc. The organization may use up to 10 percent of the fees for the administration, promotion, and marketing of the plate. The remaining fees must be used by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc., to fund its efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and release marine life; provide environmental education; conduct research; and promote conservation strategies.

The plate will be added to the DHSMV presale voucher process, but will not be produced unless the presale requirement of 3,000 vouchers is met and the 135 plate cap has not been reached.

The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None Identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the specialty license plate is produced, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium will receive annual use fees associated with sales of the plate.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The DHSMV estimates programming and implementation of the plate will cost \$7,680.¹⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 320.08058 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

¹⁸ DHSMV, *2024 Legislative Bill Analysis: SB 244* (November 3, 2023) at p. 5.

By Senator Hooper

21-00404-24

2024244__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to specialty license plates; amending
 3 s. 320.08058, F.S.; directing the Department of
 4 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a
 5 Clearwater Marine Aquarium license plate; providing
 6 for distribution and use of fees collected from the
 7 sale of the plate; providing an effective date.
 8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 10
 11 Section 1. Subsection (127) is added to section 320.08058,
 12 Florida Statutes, to read:
 13 320.08058 Specialty license plates.-
 14 (127) CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM LICENSE PLATES.-
 15 (a) The department shall develop a Clearwater Marine
 16 Aquarium license plate as provided in this section and s.
 17 320.08053. The plate must bear the colors and design approved by
 18 the department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the
 19 plate, and the words "Clearwater Marine Aquarium" must appear at
 20 the bottom of the plate.
 21 (b) The annual use fees from the sale of the plate shall be
 22 distributed to Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc., a Florida
 23 nonprofit corporation under s. 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue
 24 Code, which may use up to 10 percent of the fees for the
 25 administration, promotion, and marketing of the plate. The
 26 remaining fees must be used by Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Inc.,
 27 to fund its efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and release marine
 28 life; provide environmental education; conduct research; and
 29 promote conservation strategies.

Page 1 of 2

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

21-00404-24

2024244__

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Page 2 of 2

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE VOTE RECORD

COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
ITEM: SB 244
FINAL ACTION: Favorable
MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2024
TIME: 1:00—2:30 p.m.
PLACE: 110 Senate Building

FINAL VOTE		SENATORS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
X		DiCeglie						
X		Stewart						
X		Thompson						
X		Wright						
		Yarborough						
X		Trumbull, VICE CHAIR						
X		Hooper, CHAIR						
6	0	TOTALS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay

CODES: FAV=Favorable RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute TP=Temporarily Postponed WD=Withdrawn
 UNF=Unfavorable RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment VA=Vote After Roll Call OO=Out of Order
 -R=Reconsidered RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment VC=Vote Change After Roll Call AV=Abstain from Voting

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

1/11/2024

Meeting Date

SB 244

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Approps. on Transportation, TOURISM, & Economic Dev. Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name James "Buddy" Powell

Phone 941.661.2941

Address Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Email jpowell@cmaquarium.org

Street

249 Windward Passage

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 110

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Appropriations on Transportation, Tourism, and Development. **Judge:**

Started: 1/11/2024 1:00:05 PM

Ends: 1/11/2024 1:15:10 PM

Length: 00:15:06

1:00:11 PM	Sen. Hooper (Chair)
1:00:59 PM	S 196
1:01:06 PM	Sen. Simon
1:02:08 PM	Am. 605750
1:02:16 PM	Sen. Trumbull
1:03:11 PM	Sen. Trumbull
1:03:25 PM	S 196 (cont.)
1:03:32 PM	Brett Bacot (waives in support)
1:03:36 PM	Darrick D McGhee, Sr. (waives in support)
1:03:53 PM	Sen. Simon
1:04:30 PM	S 244
1:04:38 PM	Sen. Trumbull (Chair)
1:04:43 PM	Sen. Hooper
1:05:44 PM	James "Buddy" Powell (waives in support)
1:05:59 PM	Sen. Hooper
1:06:03 PM	Sen. Trumbull
1:06:27 PM	Sen. Hooper (Chair)
1:09:57 PM	Sen. Hooper
1:10:02 PM	S 60
1:10:07 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:11:48 PM	Sen. Wright
1:11:58 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:12:04 PM	Sen. Wright
1:12:06 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:12:08 PM	Sen. Wright
1:12:29 PM	Sen. Hooper
1:12:43 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:13:26 PM	Sen. Harrell
1:13:36 PM	Sen. Hooper
1:14:33 PM	Sen. Stewart
1:14:42 PM	Sen. Hooper



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary, *Chair*
Appropriations Committee on Criminal
and Civil Justice
Appropriations Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Criminal Justice
Education Postsecondary
Education Pre-K -12
Fiscal Policy
Rules

JOINT COMMITTEES:

Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

SENATOR CLAY YARBOROUGH

4th District

January 11, 2024

Chair Ed Hooper
406 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Chair Hooper,

I would like to request an excusal from today's Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development committee meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Yarborough".

Clay Yarborough

REPLY TO:

- 1615 Huffingham Road, Suite 1, Jacksonville, Florida 32216 (904) 723-2034
- 308 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5004

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President of the Senate

DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore