

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 830
By: Larson
Transportation
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

As an iconic shrine of Texas liberty, the Alamo attracts people from around the world to visit the structure and experience its story. Interested parties note that both the preservation of the shrine and the educational programs that help tell its story are costly and therefore contend that a new revenue source is needed to provide for educational programs and to improve visitors' experiences at the Alamo. C.S.H.B. 830 seeks to provide this additional revenue through the issuance of specialty license plates.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 830 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to issue specialty license plates that include the image of the Alamo and the word "Remember" at the bottom of each plate. The bill requires the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates, after deduction of TxDMV's administrative costs, to be deposited to the credit of an account in a trust fund outside the general revenue fund created by the comptroller of public accounts. The bill requires the General Land Office to use 75 percent of the money deposited to the account for the preservation of the Alamo and the remaining 25 percent of the money to enhance the Alamo visitor experience or to fund education programs about the Alamo.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2015.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 830 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.665 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.665. THE ALAMO LICENSE PLATES. (a) The department shall issue specialty license plates that include the image of the Alamo and the word "Remember" at the bottom of each plate. The department shall design the license plates in consultation with the Alamo Mission Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

(b) After deduction of the department's administrative costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates shall be deposited to the credit of an account created by the comptroller in the manner provided by Section 504.6012(b). Money deposited to that account may be used only by the Texas Historical Commission to provide grants to benefit the Alamo Mission Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to fund Texas history education programs.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.665 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.665. ALAMO LICENSE PLATES. (a) The department shall issue specialty license plates that include the image of the Alamo and the word "Remember" at the bottom of each plate.

(b) After deduction of the department's administrative costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates shall be deposited to the credit of an account created by the comptroller in the manner provided by Section 504.6012(b). Money deposited to that account may be used only by the General Land Office as follows:

- (1) 75 percent of the money shall be used for the preservation of the Alamo; and
- (2) 25 percent of the money shall be used to enhance the Alamo visitor experience or to fund education programs about the Alamo.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.