

- SUBJECT:** Vietnam Veteran license plates for motorcycles and other vehicles
- COMMITTEE:** Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Corte, Berman, Delisi, P. Moreno, Noriega  
0 nays  
4 absent — Campbell, Mabry, Merritt, Seaman
- WITNESSES:** For — None  
Against — None  
On — Jerry Dike, Texas Department of Transportation
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) creates and issues personalized prestige and other specialized license plates under Transportation Code, ch. 502. It offers specialty license plates, almost all of which also may be personalized, featuring universities and colleges, military and veterans themes, nonprofit and other organizations, sports teams, and miscellaneous designations, in addition to personalized standard plates. Sec. 502.264 requires TXDOT to issue specially designed license plates for passenger cars and light trucks owned by Vietnam veterans who were honorably discharged or are still on active military duty.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 528 would require TXDOT to issue specially designed Vietnam veteran license plates for each type of vehicle registered under Transportation Code, ch. 502. In designing the plates, TXDOT could vary the design by vehicle type. If the plates were lost, stolen, or mutilated, the owner could obtain replacement plates by paying the existing fee.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

Though this bill would apply to any vehicle registered under Transportation Code, ch. 502, it specifically would respond to demand among motorcycle riders who wish to have their military service in the Vietnam War recognized on their vehicle. Vietnam veterans who drive cars and light trucks already have this privilege, and it should be extended to their fellow proud veterans who drive other types of vehicles.

The bill's fiscal note projects no significant fiscal implication the state, as TxDOT analysis indicated that the agency could implement these provisions by using existing resources.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:**

The committee substitute would expand the bill's applicability from motorcycles to all vehicles registered under Transportation Code, ch. 502. It would require TxDOT to design the plates and would allow it to vary the plate design by vehicle type. The substitute also would provide for replacement plates in case of loss, theft, or mutilation.

The substance of CSHB 528 also is contained within HB 3106 by Garza, an omnibus license plate bill, which was reported favorably, as substituted, by the House Transportation Committee on April 22