HOUSE
RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION bill analysis   5/2/2017

HB 3997
Raymond
(CSHB 3997 by Thierry)

SUBJECT: Allowing certain counties to increase junkyard license fees

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Coleman, Springer, Hunter, Neave, Roberts, Thierry, Uresti

               2 nays — Biedermann, Stickland

WITNESSES: For — Donald Lee, Texas Conference of Urban Counties

               Against — None

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code, sec. 396.041 authorizes the commissioners court of
               a county to adopt an ordinance to require a junkyard or automotive
               wrecking and salvage yard in operation after June 1, 1987, to be licensed
               by the county. The ordinance may impose a license issue or renewal fee of
               up to $150 in Tarrant County or up to $500 in Harris County. Other
               counties may impose a fee of $25.

DIGEST: CSHB 3997 would allow the commissioners court of a county located on
               the Texas-Mexico border with certain population requirements (Webb
               County) to adopt an ordinance to impose a fee of no more than $150 for a
               license to operate a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.

               The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

SUPPORTERS   CSHB 3997 would allow Webb County to increase fees for a license to
SAY: operate a junkyard or automotive wreckage and salvage yard. Currently,
               the county may levy a fee of only $25 to issue or reissue a license. This
               fee does not cover the administrative costs for operating a wrecking and
               salvage yard enforcement program in the quickly growing county.
               Because the county currently has to subsidize the program with property
               taxes to make up the difference, the bill would be a relief to local
               taxpayers. CSHB 3997 would solve a local problem by allowing for the
               increase of the junkyard license fee as the commissioners court of Webb
               County found necessary.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

CSHB 3997 would burden certain businesses in Webb County by allowing the commissioners court to impose greater fees for junkyard and wrecking yard licenses. The fee would be another regulation on these businesses and would limit their ability to grow.