

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1742
By: West, Royce
Intergovernmental Relations
4/25/2005
Committee Report (Amended)

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

S.B. 1742 authorizes certain nature centers to charge admission fees to supplement the managing organization's existing funding and ensure that adequate resources are available to maintain the property's acreage and its many trails. This legislation will not provide primary revenue for the operations and management of the centers, but will ensure that supplemental funding is available to ensure adequate levels of operations for the safety and comfort of the many visiting children and adults.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter C, Title 10, Local Government Code, by adding Chapter 336, as follows:

CHAPTER 336. NATURE CENTERS

Sec. 336.001. AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN NATURE CENTERS TO CHARGE ADMISSION FEE. (a) Provides that this section applies only in a county with a population of 1.8 million or more.

(b) Authorizes the board of directors of a not-for-profit entity that maintains county and municipal park property as a nature center under a formal agreement to charge an admission fee for entrance onto or use of the county and municipal property. Requires any fee to be approved each year by the county and the municipality.

(c) Authorizes fees collected under this section to be used only to provide educational programs conducted on, to maintain, or to construct improvements to the county and municipal property.

(d) Requires fees collected under this section to be audited annually by an independent auditor. Requires all audit reports to be submitted to the county and municipality on completion.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

In Section 336.001, add a new Subsection (a) that reads as follows:

(a) Defines "nature center." Renumbers subsequent subsections accordingly.