relating to the issuance of military specialty license plates; providing an exemption from a fee.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 504.202(e-1), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e-1) Other than license plates issued under Subsection (h), license plates issued under this section to a person also entitled to license plates issued under Section 504.308, 504.315, [or] 504.316, or 504.319 may, at the request of the person, include one emblem from the other license plates to which the person is entitled.

SECTION 2. Section 504.301, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Section 504.702 does not apply to a specialty license plate issued under this subchapter.

SECTION 3. Section 504.3015(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person applying for a set of license plates under this subchapter shall pay the registration fee required under Chapter 502 and the applicable special plate fee required under this section, except that one set of license plates shall be issued under Section 504.308, [or] 504.315, or 504.319 without the payment of the registration fee.

SECTION 4. Section 504.315(a), Transportation Code, as added by Chapter 709 (H.B. 559), Acts of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Bronze Star Medal and Bronze Star Medal with Valor. License plates issued under this subsection must include the Bronze Star Medal emblem and must include the words “Bronze Star Medal” at the bottom of each plate. License plates issued under this subsection to recipients of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor that are not personalized must also include the letter “V” as a prefix or suffix to the numerals on each plate. [Section 504.702 does not apply to license plates authorized under this subsection.]

SECTION 5. Section 504.315(a), Transportation Code, as added by Chapter 460 (S.B. 1755), Acts of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is redesignated as Section 504.315(b), Transportation Code, and amended to read as follows:

(b) [aa] The department shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal. License plates issued under this subsection must include the Distinguished Service Medal emblem and the words “Distinguished Service Medal” at the bottom of each plate. [Section 504.702 does not apply to license plates authorized under this subsection.]

SECTION 6. Section 504.315(h), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h) The department shall issue special license plates for recipients of the Silver Star Medal. License plates issued under this subsection must include the Silver Star Medal emblem and must include the words “Silver Star Medal” at the bottom of each plate. [Section 504.702 does not apply to license plates authorized by this subsection.]

SECTION 7. Subchapter D, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.319 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.319. DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENTS. The department shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Defense Superior Service Medal. License plates issued under this section shall include the words “Defense Superior Service Medal” at the bottom of each plate.

SECTION 8. Section 681.008(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A vehicle on which license plates described by Subsection (a)(2) or issued under Section 504.202, 504.315, [Section 504.315(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h), or Section] 504.316, or 504.319 are displayed is exempt from the payment of a parking fee collected through a parking meter charged by a governmental authority other than a branch of the federal government, when being operated by or for the transportation of:
(1) the person who registered the vehicle under Section 504.202(a), 504.315, [Section 504.315(a), (b), (c), (d), (g), or (h), or Section 504.316, or 504.319;]

(2) a person described in Section 504.202(b) if the vehicle is registered under that subsection; or

(3) the owner or operator of a vehicle displaying license plates described by Subsection (a)(2).

SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 11, 2013: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 17, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 224

H.B. No. 139

AN ACT

relating to the exercise of urban renewal powers by certain counties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 374.902(b), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A county with a population of more than 250,000 and located along an international border or a county with a population of more than 1.3 million may exercise the powers provided for municipalities under this chapter with respect to areas of the county that are not within the corporate boundaries of a municipality. A county with a population of more than 250,000 and located along an international border may exercise the powers provided for municipalities under this chapter with respect to areas of the county located within the corporate boundaries of a municipality, if the municipality approves the county's participation in an urban renewal project through an interlocal agreement under Chapter 791, Government Code. The county may not exercise those powers until the commissioners court of the county adopts a resolution in the manner provided by Section 374.011 for adoption of a resolution by a municipality. The resolution must be approved at an election held in the county in the manner provided for a municipal election under Section 374.011. The adoption of the resolution is not approved unless a majority of the voters who vote on the question in the entire county as well as in each municipality in the county approve the adoption of the resolution. In a municipality that is only partially located in the affected county, only voters who reside in the county may vote.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 25, 2013: Yeas 122, Nays 14, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 139 on May 20, 2013: Yeas 138, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 17, 2013: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.