

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.H.B. 2760
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State Affairs
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Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Texas law permits the Texas Department of Transportation to issue specialized license plates, some of which commemorate groups that have made special contributions to the state and nation. Persons who have served in the merchant marine of the United States have never been honored by the State of Texas in this way. The merchant marine has played an active role in the United States wars and military conflicts, and a vital part in American and Texas history. C.S.H.B. 2760 would establish specialized license plates for persons retired from service in the merchant marine of the United States.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.H.B. 2760 establishes specialized license plates for persons retired from service in the merchant marine of the United States.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 502F, Transportation Code, by adding Section 502.2585, as follows:

Sec. 502.2585. PERSONS RETIRED FROM SERVICE IN MERCHANT MARINE OF THE UNITED STATES. Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (department) to issue specially designed license plates for passenger cars and light trucks owned by persons who served in the merchant marine of the United States. Requires the plates to include the wording "merchant marine." Requires the department to issue the license plates to certain individuals. Requires the department to send a portion of the proceeds to certain county funds and for the county treasurer to use the funds to pay the cost of administering this section. Authorizes a person to be issued only one set of license plates. Provides that if the owner of a registered vehicle disposes of the vehicle during the registration year, the owner shall return the special license plates to the department. Authorizes the owner to then apply for issuance of those plates to another vehicle.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.