

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R3476 JRJ-D

S.B. 293
By: Shapiro
Infrastructure Development and Security
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, no law provides for a specialized motor vehicle license plate to benefit and increase awareness of Texas trees. As proposed, S.B. 293 creates a specialized license plate featuring the state tree of Texas and appropriates funds for the Texas Forest Service from the \$30 fee charged for obtaining the special plates.

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 Chapter 502F, Transportation Code, by adding Section 502.2935, as follows:

Sec. 502.2935. STATE TREE LICENSE PLATES. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to issue specially designed State Tree license plates for passenger cars and light trucks.

(b) Requires the license plates to include the words "Stand tall for Texas trees," depict the state tree, and have a certain appearance approved by the Texas Urban Forestry Council.

(c) Requires TxDOT to issue license plates under this section to a person who applies to his or her county assessor-collector on a form provided by TxDOT and who pays an annual fee of \$30 in addition to the fee prescribed by Section 502.161, 502.162, or, if applicable, 502.251.

(d) Requires TxDOT to deposit \$20 of each fee collected under this section to the Texas Urban Forestry Council account in the state treasury. Provides that the money in the account can only be used by the Texas Forest Service to make grants to benefit the Texas Urban Forestry Council.

(e) Requires that the remainder of each fee collected under this section be deposited to the state highway fund, and be used only to defray the costs of administering this section.

(f) Requires the owner of a vehicle registered under this section to return the special license plates to TxDOT if the owner disposes of the vehicle during the registration year.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.