

By: Kuempel

H.B. No. 499

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of urban forestry license plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 502.2737 to read as follows:

Sec. 502.2737. URBAN FORESTRY LICENSE PLATES. (a) The department shall issue specially designed license plates for passenger cars and light trucks.

(b) The department shall design the license plates in consultation with any organization described in Subsection (d).

(c) The department shall issue license plates under this section to a person who:

(1) applies to the assessor-collector of the county in which the person resides on a form provided by the department; and

(2) pays an annual fee of \$30, in addition to the fee prescribed by Section 502.161 or 502.162 and, if personalized prestige license plates are issued, in addition to the fee prescribed by Section 502.251.

(d) Of each fee collected under Subsection (c)(2), \$8 shall be used by the department only to defray the cost of administering this section. The department shall deposit the remainder of each fee collected to the credit of the urban forestry account in the state treasury. Money in the account may be used by the Texas Forest Service in making grants to support the activities of a

1 statewide nonprofit organization located in Texas whose primary  
2 purpose is to sponsor projects involving urban and community:

- 3 (1) tree planting;  
4 (2) tree preservation; and  
5 (3) tree education programs.

6 (e) If the owner of a vehicle for which license plates were  
7 issued under this section disposes of the vehicle during a  
8 registration year, the owner shall return the special license  
9 plates to the department.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.