

By: Eiland

H.B. No. 923

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to special license plates to aid the recovery,
3 rehabilitation, and release of stranded marine mammals.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 502.3031 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 502.3031. MARINE MAMMAL RECOVERY LICENSE PLATES. (a)
8 The department shall issue specially designed license plates for
9 each type of vehicle subject to registration under this chapter to
10 support the activities of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding
11 Network.

12 (b) The license plates must bear one or more graphic images
13 designed by the department in consultation with the Parks and
14 Wildlife Department and the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.
15 The department may vary the design according to the type of vehicle
16 for which the license plates are issued.

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

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

22 (2) pays an annual fee of \$30, in addition to any
23 applicable fee prescribed by Subchapter D and, if personalized
24 prestige license plates are issued, in addition to the fee

1 prescribed by Section 502.251.

2 (d) Of each fee collected under this section:

3 (1) \$8 shall be deposited to the credit of the state
4 highway fund to defray the cost of administering this section;

5 (2) 50 cents shall be deposited by the county
6 treasurer of the county in which the applicant resides to the credit
7 of the general fund of the county to pay the costs of administering
8 this section; and

9 (3) the remainder shall be deposited to the credit of
10 an account in the state treasury. Money in the account may be used
11 only by the Parks and Wildlife Department to support the activities
12 of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network in the recovery,
13 rehabilitation, and release of stranded marine mammals. The Parks
14 and Wildlife Department shall establish reporting and other
15 mechanisms necessary to ensure that the money is spent for purposes
16 for which it is dedicated.

17 (e) If license plates issued under this section are lost,
18 stolen, or mutilated, the owner of the vehicle for which the license
19 plates were issued may obtain replacement plates from the
20 department by paying the fee prescribed by Section 502.184(a)(2).

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.