

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 passenger cars and light trucks to support the activities of the  
10 Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

11 (b) The license plates must bear one or more graphic images  
12 designed by the Parks and Wildlife Department in consultation with  
13 the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

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

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

19 (2) pays an annual fee of \$25, in addition to the fee  
20 prescribed by Section 502.161 or 502.162, and, if personalized  
21 prestige license plates are issued, in addition to the fee  
22 prescribed by Section 502.251.

23 (d) The fee for replacement of a lost, stolen, or mutilated  
24 plate issued under this section is \$25, in addition to the fee

1 prescribed by Section 502.184(a).

2 (e) Of each fee collected under this section, \$5 may be used  
3 to defray the cost of administering this section by the department  
4 and the Parks and Wildlife Department. The department shall  
5 deposit the remainder of each fee collected under this section to  
6 the credit of an account in the state treasury. Money in the  
7 account may be used only by the Parks and Wildlife Department to  
8 support the activities of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network  
9 in the recovery, rehabilitation, and release of stranded marine  
10 mammals. The Parks and Wildlife Department shall establish  
11 reporting and other mechanisms necessary to ensure that the money  
12 is spent for purposes for which it is dedicated.

13 (f) If the owner of a vehicle registered under this section  
14 disposes of the vehicle during the registration year, the owner  
15 shall return the special license plates to the department.

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