

By: Madden

H.B. No. 1600

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the issuance of special license plates for members of  
3 the American Legion.

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 502.2735 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 502.2735. MEMBERS OF AMERICAN LEGION. (a) The  
8 department shall issue specially designed license plates for  
9 passenger cars and light trucks owned by members of the American  
10 Legion.

11 (b) License plates issued under this section to members of  
12 the American Legion must include the words "Still Serving America"  
13 and the emblem of the American Legion.

14 (c) The department shall design the license plate issued  
15 under this section in consultation with the American Legion,  
16 Department of Texas.

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

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

21 (2) pays an annual fee of \$18, in addition to the fee  
22 prescribed by Section 502.161 or Section 502.162 and, if  
23 personalized prestige license plates are issued, in addition to the  
24 fee prescribed by Section 502.251; and

1           (3) submits proof that the person is eligible under  
2 this section.

3           (e) Of each fee collected under Subsection (d)(2), \$8 shall  
4 be used by the department only to defray the cost of administering  
5 this section. The department shall deposit the remainder of each  
6 fee collected to the credit of the American Legion, Department of  
7 Texas account in the state treasury. Money in the account may be  
8 used by the Texas Veterans Commission in making grants to the  
9 American Legion Endowment Fund for scholarships and youth programs  
10 sponsored by the American Legion, Department of Texas.

11           (f) If the owner of a vehicle for which license plates were  
12 issued under this section disposes of the vehicle during a  
13 registration year or ceases to be a member of the American Legion,  
14 the owner shall return the special license plates to the  
15 department.

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