

By: Wohlgemuth, Brown of Kaufman, Zedler,
Paxton, Kuempel, et al.

H.B. No. 1655

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1655:

By: Davis of Harris

C.S.H.B. No. 1655

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of "Choose Life" license plates and to the
creation of the Choose Life account in the general revenue fund.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,
is amended by adding Section 502.304 to read as follows:

Sec. 502.304. CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES. (a) The
department shall issue specially designed license plates for
passenger cars and light trucks that include the words "Choose
Life."

(b) The department shall design the license plates in
consultation with the attorney general.

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

(1) applies to the county 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 and, if personalized prestige license
plates are issued, in addition to the fee prescribed by Section
502.251.

(d) Of each fee collected under this section, the department
shall deposit \$5 to the credit of the state highway fund and \$25 in
the state treasury to the credit of the Choose Life account

1 established by Section 402.031, Government Code.

2 (e) If the owner of a vehicle registered under this section
3 disposes of the vehicle during the registration year, the owner
4 shall return the special license plates to the department.

5 (f) If the license plates issued under this section are
6 lost, stolen, or mutilated, the owner of the vehicle for which the
7 plates were issued may obtain replacement plates from the
8 department by paying the replacement fee prescribed by Section
9 502.184(a)(2).

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is
11 amended by adding Sections 402.031 and 402.032 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 402.031. CHOOSE LIFE ACCOUNT. (a) The Choose Life
13 account is a separate account in the general revenue fund. The
14 account is composed of:

15 (1) money deposited to the credit of the account under
16 Section 502.304, Transportation Code; and

17 (2) gifts, grants, donations, and legislative
18 appropriations.

19 (b) The attorney general administers the Choose Life
20 account. The attorney general may spend money credited to the
21 account only to:

22 (1) make grants to an eligible organization; and

23 (2) defray the cost of administering the account.

24 (c) The attorney general may not discriminate against an
25 eligible organization because it is a religious or nonreligious
26 organization.

27 (d) The attorney general may accept gifts, donations, and

1 grants from any source for the benefit of the account.

2 (e) The attorney general by rule shall establish:

3 (1) guidelines for the expenditure of money credited
4 to the Choose Life account; and

5 (2) reporting and other mechanisms necessary to ensure
6 that the money is spent in accordance with this section.

7 (f) Of any money received by an eligible organization under
8 this section, at least 50 percent must be spent to provide for the
9 material needs of pregnant women who are considering placing their
10 children for adoption, including the provision of clothing,
11 housing, prenatal care, food, utilities, and transportation, and to
12 provide for the needs of infants who are awaiting placement with
13 adoptive parents. The remainder may be used to provide counseling,
14 training, and pregnancy testing, but may not be used to pay an
15 administrative, legal, or capital expense.

16 (g) In this section, "eligible organization" means an
17 organization in this state that:

18 (1) qualifies as a charitable organization under
19 Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

20 (2) provides counseling and material assistance to
21 pregnant women who are considering placing their children for
22 adoption;

23 (3) does not charge for services provided;

24 (4) does not provide abortions or abortion-related
25 services or make referrals to abortion providers; and

26 (5) is not affiliated with an organization that
27 provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals

1 to abortion providers.

2 Sec. 402.032. CHOOSE LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
3 attorney general shall appoint a seven-member Choose Life advisory
4 committee.

5 (b) The committee shall:

6 (1) meet at least twice a year or as called by the
7 attorney general;

8 (2) assist the attorney general in developing rules
9 under Section 402.031(e); and

10 (3) review and make recommendations to the attorney
11 general on applications submitted to the attorney general for
12 grants funded with money credited to the Choose Life account.

13 (c) Members of the committee serve without compensation and
14 are not entitled to reimbursement for expenses. Each member serves
15 a term of four years, with the terms of three or four members
16 expiring on January 31 of each odd-numbered year.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.