

By: Gallego

H.B. No. 1977

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the creation of a Star of Texas license plate and the  
3 presentation of Star of Texas awards for all peace officers,  
4 firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who are killed  
5 or sustain serious or fatal injuries in the line of duty.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 3105.002(a), Government Code, as added  
8 by Chapter 614, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session,  
9 2003, is amended to read as follows:

10 (a) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award shall [~~may~~] be  
11 awarded to each [~~a~~] peace officer who is seriously injured in the  
12 line of duty and [~~or~~] the surviving next of kin of each [~~a~~] peace  
13 officer who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of  
14 duty.

15 SECTION 2. Section 3105.003(a), Government Code, as added  
16 by Chapter 614, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session,  
17 2003, is amended to read as follows:

18 (a) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award shall [~~may~~] be  
19 awarded to each [~~a~~] firefighter who is seriously injured in the line  
20 of duty and [~~or~~] the surviving next of kin of each [~~a~~] firefighter  
21 who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

22 SECTION 3. Section 3105.004(a), Government Code, as added  
23 by Chapter 614, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session,  
24 2003, is amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas  
2 Award shall [~~may~~] be awarded to each [~~an~~] emergency medical first  
3 responder who is seriously injured in the line of duty and [~~or~~] the  
4 surviving next of kin of each [~~an~~] emergency medical first  
5 responder who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of  
6 duty.

7 SECTION 4. Subchapter E, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,  
8 is amended by adding Section 504.414 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 504.414. STAR OF TEXAS AWARD RECIPIENTS. (a) The  
10 department shall issue specialty license plates for any person who  
11 is the recipient of a Star of Texas Award under Chapter 3105,  
12 Government Code, as added by Chapter 614, Acts of the 78th  
13 Legislature, Regular Session, 2003. The license plates shall  
14 include the words "Star of Texas Award Recipient" and a depiction of  
15 the award issued to the recipient. The department shall design the  
16 license plates in consultation with the members of the advisory  
17 committees created under Chapter 3105, Government Code, as added by  
18 Chapter 614, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003.

19 (b) The fee for the license plates is \$30.

20 (c) After deduction of \$8 to reimburse the department for  
21 its administrative costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of  
22 the license plates shall be deposited to the credit of the Star of  
23 Texas Awards account in the general revenue fund. Money in the  
24 account may be used only by the office of the governor for the  
25 purpose of purchasing awards to be presented under Section  
26 3105.006, Government Code, as added by Chapter 614, Acts of the 78th  
27 Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, and administering the

1 presentation of the awards.

2           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.