

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1522

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation, funding and administration of the Texas Veterans Trust Fund.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 434.0081, to read as follows:

Sec. 434.0081. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND GRANTS. The commission may solicit, accept, or refuse a gift or grant of money or property for any public purpose related to the duties of the commission. Money or property accepted by the commission shall be deposited in the Texas veterans trust fund.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code is amended by adding Sec. 434.0135 to read as follows:

Sec. 434.0135(a) The Texas veterans trust fund is created as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and shall be administered by the commission for the purposes of supporting veterans outreach and service programs authorized by this chapter.

(b) The fund is composed of:

(1) gifts, grants, and donations received by the commission under Section 434.007 (b);

(2) a portion of the license plate fees collected from the sale of the "Fight Terrorism" specialty license plates authorized under Section 504.647, Transportation Code;

(3) a portion of the license plate fees collected from

1 the sale of the "United We Stand" specialty license plates
2 authorized under Section 504.628, Transportation Code;

3 (4) a portion of the license plate fees collected from
4 the sale of the "Support the Troops" specialty license plate
5 authorized under Section 504.657, Transportation Code; and

6 (5) legislative appropriations made to the trust fund.

7 (c) Money in the fund may be used by the commission only for
8 the purpose of providing assistance to Texas' veteran population
9 under this chapter.

10 (d) Interest or other income from investment of the fund
11 shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

12 SECTION 3. Section 504.647(b), Transportation Code is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
15 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates
16 [The fee] shall be deposited to the credit of the Texas veterans
17 trust fund [state highway fund].

18 SECTION 4. Section 504.628(b), Transportation Code is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
21 costs, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates
22 shall be deposited to the credit of the Texas veterans trust fund
23 [Texas mobility fund].

24 SECTION 5. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code
25 is amended by adding Section 504.657 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 504.657. SUPPORT THE TROOPS LICENSE PLATES. (a) The
27 department shall issue "Support the Troops" specialty license

1 plates. The Texas Veterans Commission shall design the license
2 plates in consultation with the department.

3 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
4 cost, the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates
5 shall be deposited to the credit of the Texas veterans trust fund.

6 SECTION 6. The issuance of the Support the Troops specialty
7 license plates by the department pursuant to Section 504.657,
8 Transportation Code shall not be subject to the cash deposit
9 requirements or the minimum license application requirement of
10 Section 504.702(b)(3), Transportation Code.

11 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.