

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 1742
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2005; March 30, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental
1-4 Relations; April 26, 2005, reported favorably, as amended, by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 26, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1 By: Deuell

1-7 Amend S.B. No. 1742, in Section 336.001, by adding a new Subsection
1-8 (a) to read as follows:

1-9 (a) In this section, "nature center" means a geologically or
1-10 environmentally unique undeveloped property of at least 30-50 acres
1-11 that has been assembled for the purpose of preserving this geology
1-12 or habitat, that provides passive or low-impact recreational
1-13 activities like hiking, that has limited development, and that
1-14 offers educational programs.

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to authorizing certain nature centers to charge admission
1-18 fees.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 10, Local Government Code, is
1-21 amended by adding Chapter 336 to read as follows:

1-22 CHAPTER 336. NATURE CENTERS

1-23 Sec. 336.001. AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN NATURE CENTERS TO CHARGE
1-24 ADMISSION FEE. (a) This section applies only in a county with a
1-25 population of 1.8 million or more.

1-26 (b) The board of directors of a not-for-profit entity that
1-27 maintains county and municipal park property as a nature center
1-28 under a formal agreement may charge an admission fee for entrance
1-29 onto or use of the county and municipal property. Any fee must be
1-30 approved each year by the county and the municipality.

1-31 (c) Fees collected under this section may be used only to
1-32 provide educational programs conducted on, to maintain, or to
1-33 construct improvements to the county and municipal property.

1-34 (d) Fees collected under this section shall be audited
1-35 annually by an independent auditor. All audit reports shall be
1-36 submitted to the county and the municipality on completion.

1-37 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-38 a vote of two-thirds of all of the members elected to each house, as
1-39 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-40 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-41 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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