

Amend CSHB 300 (Senate committee printing) by adding the following ARTICLE to the bill and renumbering subsequent ARTICLES accordingly:

ARTICLE __. CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES; CHOOSE LIFE ACCOUNT; CHOOSE LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SECTION __.01. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.659 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.659. CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES. (a) The department shall issue specially designed license plates that include the words "Choose Life." The department shall design the license plates in consultation with the attorney general.

(b) After deduction of the department's administrative costs, the department shall deposit the remainder of the fee for issuance of license plates under this section in the state treasury to the credit of the Choose Life account established by Section 402.035, Government Code.

SECTION __.02. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 402.035 and 402.036 to read as follows:

Sec. 402.035. CHOOSE LIFE ACCOUNT. (a) The Choose Life account is a separate account in the general revenue fund. The account is composed of:

(1) money deposited to the credit of the account under Section 504.659, Transportation Code; and

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

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

(1) make grants to an eligible organization; and

(2) defray the cost of administering the account.

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

(d) The attorney general may accept gifts, donations, and grants from any source for the benefit of the account.

(e) The attorney general by rule shall establish:

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

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

(f) Money received by an eligible organization under this section may be spent only to provide for the material needs of pregnant women who are considering placing their children for adoption, including the provision of clothing, housing, prenatal care, food, utilities, and transportation, to provide for the needs of infants who are awaiting placement with adoptive parents, to provide training and advertising relating to adoption, and to provide pregnancy testing or preadoption or postadoption counseling, but may not be used to pay an administrative, legal, or capital expense.

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

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

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

(3) does not charge for services provided;

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

(5) is not affiliated with an organization that provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals to abortion providers; and

(6) does not contract with an organization that provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals to abortion providers.

Sec. 402.036. CHOOSE LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The attorney general shall appoint a seven-member Choose Life advisory committee.

(b) The committee shall:

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

(2) assist the attorney general in developing rules under Section 402.035(e); and

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

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