

By: Davis of Dallas

H.B. No. 1384

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing certain nature centers to charge admission fees.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 10, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 337 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 337. NATURE CENTERS

Sec. 337.001. AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN NATURE CENTERS TO CHARGE ADMISSION FEE. (a) In this chapter, "nature center" means a property with limited development, or an undeveloped property, that:

(1) is at least 30 acres but not more than 50 acres;

(2) has been dedicated to preserving a unique geological or environmental feature, including a habitat;

(3) allows passive or low-impact outdoor recreation, such as hiking; and

(4) offers educational programs.

(b) This section applies only in a county with a population of 1.8 million or more.

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

1 (d) Fees collected under this section may be used only to
2 provide educational programs conducted on, to maintain, or to
3 construct improvements to the county and municipal property.

4 (e) Fees collected under this section shall be audited
5 annually by an independent auditor. All audit reports shall be
6 submitted to the county and the municipality on completion.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all of the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.