

By: Gallego, Riddle, Moody, Marquez

H.B. No. 4465

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to "Welcome to Texas" signs on highways entering Texas and to the placement of Texas flags at international ports-of-entry.

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

SECTION 1. Section 201.617, Transportation Code, as added by Chapter 474 (H.B. 137), Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, is repealed.

SECTION 2. Subchapter O, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.979 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.979. "WELCOME TO TEXAS" SIGNS. (a) The department shall erect a "Welcome to Texas" sign to designate the state boundary on an interstate, United States, or state highway entering the state.

(b) A "Welcome to Texas" sign erected by the department must include the following elements:

(1) a depiction of the state flag; and

(2) the phrase "Drive Friendly - The Texas Way."

(c) A "Welcome to Texas" sign may also include the phrase "Welcome to Texas - Proud Home of Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush."

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c) above, if the president of the United States is a resident of Texas, a "Welcome to Texas" sign erected by the department shall include the phrase "Welcome to Texas - Proud Home of President [insert name of the president of the

1 United States]."

2 SECTION 3. Subchapter O, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,
3 is amended by adding Section 201.980 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 201.980. TEXAS FLAGS AT INTERNATIONAL PORTS-OF-ENTRY.

5 (a) The department shall erect and maintain a Texas flag to
6 designate the state boundary at an appropriate location at or near
7 each interstate, United States, or state highway originating at an
8 official port-of-entry along an international border.

9 (b) A Texas flag flown under this section shall be visible
10 from the international port-of-entry and must be equal in size or
11 larger than the flag of any foreign nation flown at the
12 port-of-entry operating on the other side of the international
13 border.

14 (c) The department may contract with any governmental or
15 private entity for the care and maintenance of any Texas flag flown
16 under this section.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2010.