

1-1 By: Gallego, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 4465  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2009;  
1-3 May 6, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Transportation and Homeland Security; May 18, 2009, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 18, 2009, sent  
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to "Welcome to Texas" signs on highways entering Texas and  
1-10 to the placement of Texas flags at international ports-of-entry.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 201.617, Transportation Code, as added  
1-13 by Chapter 474 (H.B. 137), Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular  
1-14 Session, 2005, is repealed.

1-15 SECTION 2. Subchapter O, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,  
1-16 is amended by adding Section 201.979 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 201.979. "WELCOME TO TEXAS" SIGNS. (a) The  
1-18 department shall erect a "Welcome to Texas" sign to designate the  
1-19 state boundary on an interstate, United States, or state highway  
1-20 entering the state.

1-21 (b) A "Welcome to Texas" sign erected by the department must  
1-22 include the following elements:

1-23 (1) a depiction of the state flag; and

1-24 (2) the phrase "Drive Friendly - The Texas Way."

1-25 (c) A "Welcome to Texas" sign may also include the phrase  
1-26 "Welcome to Texas - Proud Home of Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson,  
1-27 George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush."

1-28 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c) above, if the president  
1-29 of the United States is a resident of Texas, a "Welcome to Texas"  
1-30 sign erected by the department shall include the phrase "Welcome to  
1-31 Texas - Proud Home of President [insert name of the president of the  
1-32 United States]."

1-33 SECTION 3. Subchapter O, Chapter 201, Transportation Code,  
1-34 is amended by adding Section 201.980 to read as follows:

1-35 Sec. 201.980. TEXAS FLAGS AT INTERNATIONAL PORTS-OF-ENTRY.

1-36 (a) The department shall erect and maintain a Texas flag to  
1-37 designate the state boundary at an appropriate location at or near  
1-38 each interstate, United States, or state highway originating at an  
1-39 official port-of-entry along an international border.

1-40 (b) A Texas flag flown under this section shall be visible  
1-41 from the international port-of-entry and must be equal in size or  
1-42 larger than the flag of any foreign nation flown at the  
1-43 port-of-entry operating on the other side of the international  
1-44 border.

1-45 (c) The department may contract with any governmental or  
1-46 private entity for the care and maintenance of any Texas flag flown  
1-47 under this section.

1-48 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2010.

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