

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 294

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to optional fees on the registration of a vehicle imposed by a county.

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

SECTION 1. Section 502.172(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners court of a county by order may impose an additional fee, not to exceed \$15 [~~\$10~~], for registering a vehicle in the county.

SECTION 2. Section 502.1725, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 502.1725. OPTIONAL COUNTY FEE FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS. (a) [~~This section applies only to a county:~~

~~[(1) that borders the United Mexican States,~~

~~[(2) that has a population of more than 300,000, and~~

~~[(3) in which the largest municipality has a population of less than 300,000.~~

~~[(b)]~~ The commissioners court of a county by order may impose an additional fee, not to exceed \$50 [~~\$10~~], for registering a vehicle in the county.

(b) [~~(c)~~] A vehicle that may be registered under this chapter without payment of a registration fee may be registered in a county imposing a fee under this section without payment of the additional fee.

1 (c) [~~(d)~~] A fee imposed under this section may take effect
2 only on January 1 of a year. The county must adopt the order and
3 notify the department not later than September 1 of the year
4 preceding the year in which the fee takes effect.

5 (d) [~~(e)~~] A fee imposed under this section may be
6 removed. The removal may take effect only on January 1 of a
7 year. A county may remove the fee only by:

8 (1) rescinding the order imposing the fee; and

9 (2) notifying the department not later than September
10 1 of the year preceding the year in which the removal takes effect.

11 (e) [~~(f)~~] The county assessor-collector of a county
12 imposing a fee under this section shall collect the additional fee
13 for a vehicle when other fees imposed under this chapter are
14 collected. The county shall deposit [~~send~~] the fee revenue in a
15 special account in the county general fund. Money in the account may
16 be used only to contract with:

17 (1) [~~to~~] the regional mobility authority of the county
18 to promote and maintain a public purpose of the county that involves
19 funding [~~fund~~] long-term transportation projects in the county; or

20 (2) a transportation governmental entity designated
21 under Subsection (i) to promote and maintain a public purpose of the
22 county that involves funding long-term transportation projects in
23 the county.

24 (f) [~~(g)~~] The department shall collect the additional fee
25 on a vehicle that is owned by a resident of a county imposing a fee
26 under this section and that, under this chapter, must be registered
27 directly with the department. The department shall send all fees

1 collected for a county under this subsection to the county for
2 deposit and use as provided by Subsection (e) [~~regional mobility~~
3 ~~authority of the county to fund long-term transportation projects~~
4 ~~in the county~~].

5 (g) [~~(h)~~] The department shall adopt rules and develop
6 forms necessary to administer registration by mail for a vehicle
7 being registered in a county imposing a fee under this section.

8 (h) The total amount of fees imposed by a commissioners
9 court of a county under this section and under Section 502.172 may
10 not exceed \$65.

11 (i) The department shall designate the governmental
12 entities that serve primarily a transportation function and with
13 which counties may contract under Subsection (e).

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.