

By: Carona

S.B. No. 2500

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of specialty license plates.

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

SECTION 1. Section 504.309, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 504.309. FEDERAL SERVICE [~~MILITARY~~] ACADEMY LICENSE PLATES. The department shall issue specialty license plates for persons who:

(1) are graduates of:

(A) the United States Military Academy;

(B) [~~7~~] the United States Naval Academy;

(C) [~~7-04~~] the United States Air Force Academy;

(D) the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(E) the United States Coast Guard Academy; or

(F) the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Academy; and

(2) are current or former commissioned officers of the United States armed forces.

SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.659 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.659. TEXAS BUFFALO SOLDIERS LICENSE PLATES. The department shall issue specially designed license plates to honor the Texas Buffalo Soldiers.

SECTION 3. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,

1 is amended by adding Section 504.660 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 504.660. CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES. (a) The
3 department shall issue specially designed license plates that
4 include the words "Choose Life." The department shall design the
5 license plates in consultation with the attorney general.

6 (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
7 costs, the department shall deposit the remainder of the fee for
8 issuance of license plates under this section in the state treasury
9 to the credit of the Choose Life account established by Section
10 402.035, Government Code.

11 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is
12 amended by adding Sections 402.035 and 402.036 to read as follows:

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

16 (1) money deposited to the credit of the account under
17 Section 504.660, Transportation Code; and

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

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

23 (1) make grants to an eligible organization; and

24 (2) defray the cost of administering the account.

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

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

3 (e) The attorney general by rule shall establish:

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (3) does not charge for services provided;

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

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

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

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

10 (b) The committee shall:

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

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

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

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

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.