

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1301
By: Guillen
Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Legislative Budget Board's *Government Effectiveness and Efficiency* report (January 2011) examines various ways to increase private contributions for state parks. One recommendation in the report is to provide a mechanism for individuals to make a \$5 voluntary contribution for state park operations and maintenance when registering vehicles initially or by renewal. According to the report, the state of Washington implemented a similar voluntary approach that did not generate sufficient revenue. Currently, Washington motorists pay an automatic \$5 donation but can opt out of making the donation. This type of approach may warrant further consideration in Texas, as it would yield a more substantial and viable source of revenue for park operations and maintenance. H.B. 1301 establishes a voluntary opt-in mechanism for making a donation for state park operations and maintenance.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

H.B. 1301 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a person to contribute \$5 or more to the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) when the person registers or renews the registration of a motor vehicle and requires the county assessor-collector to send the contribution to the comptroller of public accounts for credit to TPWD. The bill authorizes money received by TPWD under the bill's provisions to be used only for the operation and maintenance of state parks, historic sites, or natural areas under the jurisdiction of TPWD.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2011.