1-1 By: Carona   S.B. No. 257
1-2   (In the Senate - Filed December 13, 2010; January 31, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation and
1-4 Homeland Security; February 9, 2011, rereferred to Committee on
1-5 Health and Human Services; March 7, 2011, reported favorably by the
1-6 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 1; March 7, 2011, sent to printer.)

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

1-9 relating to the issuance of "Choose Life" license plates and the
1-10 creation of the Choose Life account in the general revenue fund.
1-11   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-12   SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,
1-13 is amended by adding Section 504.662 to read as follows:
1-14   Sec. 504.662. CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES. (a) The
1-15 department shall issue specially designed license plates that
1-16 include the words "Choose Life." The department shall design the
1-17 license plates in consultation with the attorney general.
1-18   (b) After deduction of the department's administrative
1-19 costs, the department shall deposit the remainder of the fee for
1-20 issuance of license plates under this section in the state treasury
1-21 to the credit of the Choose Life account established by Section
1-22 402.036, Government Code.
1-23   SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is
1-24 amended by adding Sections 402.036 and 402.037 to read as follows:
1-25   Sec. 402.036. CHOOSE LIFE ACCOUNT. (a) The Choose Life
1-26 account is a separate account in the general revenue fund. The
1-27 account is composed of:
1-28   (1) money deposited to the credit of the account under
1-29 Section 504.662, Transportation Code; and
1-30   (2) gifts, grants, donations, and legislative
1-31 appropriations.
1-32   (b) The attorney general administers the Choose Life
1-33 account. The attorney general may spend money credited to the
1-34 account only to:
1-35   (1) make grants to an eligible organization; and
1-36   (2) defray the cost of administering the account.
1-37   (c) The attorney general may not discriminate against an
1-38 eligible organization because it is a religious or nonreligious
1-39 organization.
1-40   (d) The attorney general may accept gifts, donations, and
1-41 grants from any source for the benefit of the account.
1-42   (e) The attorney general by rule shall establish:
1-43   (1) guidelines for the expenditure of money credited
1-44 to the Choose Life account; and
1-45   (2) reporting and other mechanisms necessary to ensure
1-46 that the money is spent in accordance with this section.
1-47   (f) Money received by an eligible organization under this
1-48 section may be spent only to provide for the material needs of
1-49 pregnant women who are considering placing their children for
1-50 adoption, including the provision of clothing, housing, prenatal
1-51 care, food, utilities, and transportation, to provide for the needs
1-52 of infants who are awaiting placement with adoptive parents, to
1-53 provide training and advertising relating to adoption, and to
1-54 provide pregnancy testing or pre-adoption or postadoption
1-55 counseling, but may not be used to pay an administrative, legal, or
1-56 capital expense.
1-57   (g) In this section, "eligible organization" means an
1-58 organization in this state that:
1-59   (1) is exempt from federal income taxation under
1-60 Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an
1-61 exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of that
1-62 code;
1-63   (2) provides counseling and material assistance to
1-64 pregnant women who are considering placing their children for

2-1 adoption;
2-2   (3)   does not charge for services provided;
2-3   (4)   does not provide abortions or abortion-related
2-4 services or make referrals to abortion providers;
2-5   (5)   is not affiliated with an organization that
2-6 provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals
2-7 to abortion providers; and
2-8   (6)   does not contract with an organization that
2-9 provides abortions or abortion-related services or makes referrals
2-10 to abortion providers.
2-11   Sec. 402.037. CHOOSE LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
2-12 attorney general shall appoint a seven-member Choose Life advisory
2-13 committee.
2-14   (b) The committee shall:
2-15   (1) meet at least twice a year or as called by the
2-16 attorney general;
2-17   (2) assist the attorney general in developing rules
2-18 under Section 402.036(e); and
2-19   (3) review and make recommendations to the attorney
2-20 general on applications submitted to the attorney general for
2-21 grants funded with money credited to the Choose Life account.
2-22   (c) Members of the committee serve without compensation and
2-23 are not entitled to reimbursement for expenses. Each member serves
2-24 a term of four years, with the terms of three or four members
2-25 expiring on January 31 of each odd-numbered year.
2-26   (d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
2-27 committee.
2-28   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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