

By: Paxton

S.B. No. 1017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the funding for and administration of travel and information operations by the Texas Department of Transportation.

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

SECTION 1. Section 204.003, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 204.003. TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS. (a) The department shall maintain and operate travel information centers ~~[at the principal gateways to this state]~~ to provide highway information, travel guidance, and descriptive material designed to assist the traveling public and stimulate travel to and within this state.

(b) The department may:

(1) enter into an agreement with a local government, including a commission created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code, for the operation of a travel information center that is located within the boundaries of the local government; and

(2) issue a request for proposals to private or nonprofit entities for the operation of a travel information center.

(c) The department may sell commercial advertising space at a travel information center if the advertising is not visible from the main traveled way of the highway. If the department sells commercial advertising space, the department shall set rates for

1 the advertising and other services available at a travel  
2 information center at a level that generates receipts approximately  
3 sufficient to cover the cost of its travel and information  
4 operations.

5 (d) The department may not engage in an activity authorized  
6 under Subsection (c) or another provision of this chapter that  
7 would decrease the amount of federal highway funding available to  
8 the department.

9 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 204.009, Transportation  
10 Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 Sec. 204.009. SALE OF PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, ADVERTISING, AND  
12 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

13 SECTION 3. Section 204.009, Transportation Code, is amended  
14 by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as  
15 follows:

16 (a-1) The department may enter into an agreement for the  
17 acknowledgment of donations if the acknowledgment does not contain  
18 comparative or qualitative descriptions of the donor's products,  
19 services, facilities, or companies.

20 (b) All proceeds from the sale of the items and advertising  
21 under this chapter and all donations acknowledged under this  
22 section shall be deposited to the credit of a separate account in  
23 the state highway fund. Money in the account is dedicated for the  
24 department's use in its travel and information operations.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.