

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 535

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation, purpose, implementation, and funding of the County Park Beautification and Improvement Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 10, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 328 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 328. COUNTY PARK BEAUTIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 328.001. PURPOSE; CREATION. It is the intent of the legislature that each county dedicating land for use as county parks be encouraged to beautify and improve those parks through measures including but not limited to improvements in or additions to lighting, directional and educational signs, litter abatement strategies, and landscaping and landscape maintenance policies. In furtherance of these goals, the County Park Beautification and Improvement Program is established.

Sec. 328.002. IMPLEMENTATION. The commissioners court of a county may by majority vote elect to participate in the program. On such election, the commissioners court shall designate one person in the division of the county government responsible for the care and maintenance of the county parks as the coordinator for the program. The coordinator may solicit advice and assistance from state and county agencies and private organizations in developing and implementing the program.

Sec. 328.003. REPORT; ADOPTION. The coordinator shall

1 report to the commissioners court the coordinator's findings and  
2 shall recommend an implementation strategy to the commissioners  
3 court. The commissioners court may reject or adopt the  
4 implementation strategy. If the commissioners court rejects the  
5 strategy, it shall specify to the coordinator the reasons for such  
6 rejection, and the coordinator shall develop a new implementation  
7 strategy to present to the commissioners court within six months of  
8 the rejection. On adoption of an implementation strategy, the  
9 commissioners court may fund the program as provided in Section  
10 328.004.

11 Sec. 328.004. FUNDING. The commissioners court of a county  
12 electing to participate in the program may solicit and accept  
13 bequests, donations, grants, and other money, goods, and services  
14 from federal, state, and private sources to finance and further the  
15 goals of the program but may not levy any tax or receive any  
16 legislative appropriation to fund such participation. The state is  
17 not liable for debts or other obligations incurred by a county in  
18 implementing or planning to implement the program under this  
19 chapter.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
25 legislative session.