

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 2179

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts, the  
3 dedication and rededication of revenue and allocation of accrued  
4 interest on dedicated revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated  
5 money from use for general governmental purposes.

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

7 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In any provision of this Act that  
8 does not amend current law, "state agency" means an office,  
9 institution, or other agency that is in the executive branch or the  
10 judicial branch of state government, has authority that is not  
11 limited to a geographical portion of the state, and was created by  
12 the constitution or a statute of this state. The term does not  
13 include an institution of higher education as defined by Section  
14 [61.003](#), Education Code.

15 SECTION 2. ABOLITION OF FUNDS, ACCOUNTS, AND DEDICATIONS.  
16 Except as otherwise specifically provided by this Act, all funds  
17 and accounts created or re-created by an Act of the 86th  
18 Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, that becomes law and all  
19 dedications or rededications of revenue collected by a state agency  
20 for a particular purpose by an Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular  
21 Session, 2019, that becomes law are abolished on the later of August  
22 31, 2019, or the date the Act creating or re-creating the fund or  
23 account or dedicating or rededicating revenue takes effect.

24 SECTION 3. PREVIOUSLY EXEMPT DEDICATIONS, FUNDS, AND

1 ACCOUNTS. Section 2 of this Act does not apply to:

2 (1) statutory dedications, funds, and accounts that  
3 were enacted before the 86th Legislature convened to comply with  
4 requirements of state constitutional or federal law;

5 (2) dedications, funds, or accounts that remained  
6 exempt from former Section 403.094(h), Government Code, at the time  
7 dedications, accounts, and funds were abolished under that  
8 provision;

9 (3) increases in fees or in other revenue dedicated as  
10 described by this section; or

11 (4) increases in fees or in other revenue required to  
12 be deposited in a fund or account described by this section.

13 SECTION 4. FEDERAL FUNDS. Section 2 of this Act does not  
14 apply to funds created under an Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular  
15 Session, 2019, for which separate accounting is required by federal  
16 law, except that the funds shall be deposited in accounts in the  
17 general revenue fund unless otherwise required by federal law.

18 SECTION 5. TRUST FUNDS. Section 2 of this Act does not  
19 apply to trust funds or dedicated revenue deposited to trust funds  
20 created under an Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session,  
21 2019, except that the trust funds shall be held in the state  
22 treasury, with the comptroller in trust, or outside the state  
23 treasury with the comptroller's approval.

24 SECTION 6. BOND FUNDS. Section 2 of this Act does not apply  
25 to bond funds and pledged funds created or affected by an Act of the  
26 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, except that the funds  
27 shall be held in the state treasury, with the comptroller in trust,

1 or outside the state treasury with the comptroller's approval.

2 SECTION 7. CONSTITUTIONAL FUNDS. Section 2 of this Act does  
3 not apply to funds or accounts that would be created or re-created  
4 by the Texas Constitution or revenue that would be dedicated or  
5 rededicated by the Texas Constitution under a constitutional  
6 amendment proposed by the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019,  
7 or to dedicated revenue deposited to funds or accounts that would be  
8 so created or re-created, if the constitutional amendment is  
9 approved by the voters.

10 SECTION 8. ADDITIONAL USES FOR DEDICATED FUNDS OR ACCOUNTS.  
11 Section 2 of this Act does not apply to a newly authorized use of a  
12 dedicated fund or dedicated account as provided by an Act of the  
13 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, to the extent:

14 (1) the fund or account was exempted from abolition by  
15 an Act of the legislature that became law before January 1, 2019;  
16 and

17 (2) the newly authorized use is within the scope of the  
18 original dedication of the fund or account.

19 SECTION 9. REALLOCATION OF INTEREST ACCRUED ON CERTAIN  
20 DEDICATED REVENUE. Effective September 1, 2019, Section 403.0956,  
21 Government Code, is reenacted to read as follows:

22 Sec. 403.0956. REALLOCATION OF INTEREST ACCRUED ON CERTAIN  
23 DEDICATED REVENUE. Notwithstanding any other law, all interest or  
24 other earnings that accrue on all revenue held in an account in the  
25 general revenue fund any part of which Section 403.095 makes  
26 available for certification under Section 403.121 are available for  
27 any general governmental purpose, and the comptroller shall deposit

1 the interest and earnings to the credit of the general revenue  
2 fund. This section does not apply to:

3 (1) interest or earnings on revenue deposited in  
4 accordance with Section 51.008, Education Code;

5 (2) an account that accrues interest or other earnings  
6 on deposits of state or federal money the diversion of which is  
7 specifically excluded by federal law;

8 (3) the lifetime license endowment account;

9 (4) the game, fish, and water safety account;

10 (5) the coastal protection account;

11 (6) the Alamo complex account; or

12 (7) the artificial reef account.

13 SECTION 10. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 403.095, GOVERNMENT CODE.  
14 Effective September 1, 2019, Sections 403.095(b), (d), and (f),  
15 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (b) Notwithstanding any law dedicating or setting aside  
17 revenue for a particular purpose or entity, dedicated revenues that  
18 on August 31, 2021 [~~2019~~], are estimated to exceed the amount  
19 appropriated by the General Appropriations Act or other laws  
20 enacted by the 86th [~~85th~~] Legislature are available for general  
21 governmental purposes and are considered available for the purpose  
22 of certification under Section 403.121.

23 (d) Following certification of the General Appropriations  
24 Act and other appropriations measures enacted by the 86th [~~85th~~]  
25 Legislature, the comptroller shall reduce each dedicated account as  
26 directed by the legislature by an amount that may not exceed the  
27 amount by which estimated revenues and unobligated balances exceed

1 appropriations. The reductions may be made in the amounts and at  
2 the times necessary for cash flow considerations to allow all the  
3 dedicated accounts to maintain adequate cash balances to transact  
4 routine business. The legislature may authorize, in the General  
5 Appropriations Act, the temporary delay of the excess balance  
6 reduction required under this subsection. This subsection does not  
7 apply to revenues or balances in:

8 (1) funds outside the treasury;

9 (2) trust funds, which for purposes of this section  
10 include funds that may or are required to be used in whole or in part  
11 for the acquisition, development, construction, or maintenance of  
12 state and local government infrastructures, recreational  
13 facilities, or natural resource conservation facilities;

14 (3) funds created by the constitution or a court; or

15 (4) funds for which separate accounting is required by  
16 federal law.

17 (f) This section expires September 1, 2021 [~~2019~~].

18 SECTION 11. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 504.6012, TRANSPORTATION  
19 CODE. Effective September 1, 2019, Section 504.6012,  
20 Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

21 Sec. 504.6012. ELIMINATION OF DEDICATED REVENUE ACCOUNTS;  
22 REVENUES IN TRUST. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, not later  
23 than September 30, 2019 [~~2015~~], the comptroller shall eliminate all  
24 dedicated accounts established for specialty license plates and  
25 shall set aside the balances of those dedicated accounts so that the  
26 balances may be appropriated only for the purposes intended as  
27 provided by the dedications.

1           (b) On and after September 1, 2019 [~~2015~~], the portion of a  
2 fee payable that is designated for deposit to a dedicated account  
3 shall be paid instead to the credit of an account in a trust fund  
4 created by the comptroller outside the general revenue fund. The  
5 comptroller shall administer the trust fund and accounts and may  
6 allocate the corpus and earnings on each account only in accordance  
7 with the dedications of the revenue deposited to the trust fund  
8 accounts.

9           SECTION 12. EFFECT OF ACT. (a) This Act prevails over any  
10 other Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019,  
11 regardless of the relative dates of enactment, that purports to  
12 create or re-create a special fund or account or to dedicate or  
13 rededicate revenue to a particular purpose, including any fund,  
14 account, or revenue dedication abolished under former Section  
15 403.094, Government Code.

16           (b) An exemption from the application of Section 403.095,  
17 Government Code, contained in another Act of the 86th Legislature,  
18 Regular Session, 2019, that is exempted from the application of  
19 Section 2 of this Act has no effect.

20           (c) Revenue that, under the terms of another Act of the 86th  
21 Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, would be deposited to the  
22 credit of a special account or fund shall be deposited to the credit  
23 of the undedicated portion of the general revenue fund unless the  
24 fund, account, or dedication is exempted under this Act.

25           SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE. Except as otherwise provided  
26 by this Act:

27           (1) this Act takes effect immediately if this Act

1 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
2 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution;  
3 and

4           (2) if this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
5 immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the  
6 last day of the legislative session.