

By: Herrero

H.B. No. 3957

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to honor
3 active and former members of the United States armed forces exposed
4 to open burn pits.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 504.331 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 504.331. VETERANS EXPOSED TO OPEN BURN PITS. (a) The
9 department shall issue specialty license plates for active and
10 former members of the United States armed forces who were exposed to
11 open burn pits during their military service. The license plates
12 must include:

13 (1) the words "Burn Pits 360 Veterans Organization";
14 and

15 (2) a depiction of the Burn Pits 360 nonprofit
16 organization logo.

17 (b) The department shall send any fee for issuance of the
18 license plates made under this section to the comptroller for
19 deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the open burn pit
20 registry fund not later than the 14th day of each month. Before
21 sending the money to the fund, the department may deduct money equal
22 to the amount of reasonable expenses for administering this
23 section.

24 SECTION 2. Chapter 99, Health and Safety Code, as added by

1 Chapter 153 (H.B. 306), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular
2 Session, 2019, is amended by adding Section 99.008 to read as
3 follows:

4 Sec. 99.008. OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY FUND. (a) The open
5 burn pit registry fund is a special fund in the state treasury
6 outside the general revenue fund. The fund is composed of:

7 (1) money transferred to the fund at the direction of
8 the legislature;

9 (2) gifts and grants contributed to the fund;

10 (3) the earnings of the fund; and

11 (4) money deposited to the credit of the fund under
12 Section 411.1742, Government Code.

13 (b) Money in the fund may be appropriated only to the
14 department. The department may use the money only for the purpose
15 of creating and maintaining the open burn pit registry established
16 under Section 99.003, except that the department may use the money
17 for any other purpose consistent with appropriation if the
18 department finds that contributions exceed the amount necessary for
19 adequately funding the open burn pit registry.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.