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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 539 |
| By: Bailes |
| Transportation |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  Currently, there is no option for Texas ranchers to indicate that a vehicle is a commercial ranch vehicle though such an option exists for a commercial farm vehicle. Ranchers are deeply valued and appreciated in the state of Texas, and providing them a distinctive license plate would acknowledge that appreciation. H.B. 539 seeks to address this issue by providing for the issuance of specialty license plates for ranch vehicles. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS**  H.B. 539 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to provide a person who registers a commercial motor vehicle as a farm vehicle the option of being issued a distinguishing license plate that includes the text "Farm Vehicle" or "Ranch Vehicle." |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2023. |