

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
88R24535 BEE-D

H.B. 2323
By: Hayes (Parker)
Transportation
5/18/2023
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

"Texas, Our Texas" was written in 1924, the music by William J. Marsh and the lyrics by Gladys Yoakum Wright. The song was selected as the official state song by a concurrent resolution of the Texas Legislature in 1929, following a statewide competition. The 73rd Legislature again adopted "Texas, Our Texas" as the state song in 1993 and the song will be celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2024. The song has been performed at state functions and football games and has been sung by school children for generations. Its prominence as the state song for the past 100 years is deserving of recognition. H.B. 2323 seeks to honor the state song by creating a one time general issue license plate to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the writing of "Texas, Our Texas."

H.B. 2323 amends the Transportation Code to require license plates issued by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) during the five-year period beginning January 1, 2024, other than specialty license plates, to be designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the writing of the state song, "Texas, Our Texas," and include the words "Texas, Our Texas" and the dates "1924-2024." The bill requires TxDMV to deplete the current inventory of general issue license plates before issuing the commemorative license plates. These provisions expire January 1, 2030.

H.B. 2323 amends current law relating to the issuance of general-issue license plates commemorating the 100th anniversary of the writing of the state song.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 504.005, Transportation Code, by adding Subsection (e), as follows:

(e) Requires that the license plates issued by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) during the five-year period beginning January 1, 2024, other than specialty license plates, notwithstanding Subsection (c) (relating to requiring TxDMV to design each license plate to include a design at least one-half inch wide that represents in silhouette the shape of Texas and that appears between letters and numerals), be designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the writing of the state song, "Texas, Our Texas," and include the words "Texas, Our Texas" and the dates "1924-2024." Requires TxDMV to deplete the current inventory of general-issue license plates before issuing license plates described by this subsection. Provides that this subsection expires January 1, 2030.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2023.