

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 2221
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Transportation
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

As one of the oldest law enforcement associations in the nation, the Sheriffs' Association of Texas provides vital protective services and training to the 254 county sheriffs' departments. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles currently offers several different types of specialty license plates recognizing various professions. While there are multiple plate designs for law enforcement, first responders, and military designations, there is not currently a specialty plate for one of the oldest law enforcement associations in the nation, the Sheriffs' Association of Texas (SAT).

S.B. 2221 creates a specialty license plate for SAT and directs the revenue generated to a fund dedicated to supporting their efforts to train and educate Texas sheriffs' departments. The bill seeks to recognize the service of Texas sheriffs, deputies, jailers, and support staff that work to protect our Texas communities. Funds raised from the sales of these specialty license plates will assist in the Sheriffs' Association of Texas' mission of training and educating sheriffs and their staff, ultimately improving the training and professionalism of their departments.

As proposed, S.B. 2221 amends current law relating to issuance of specialty license plates to honor Texas Sheriffs' Deputies.

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 Subchapter G, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, by adding Section 504.###, as follows:

Sec. 504.###. SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS LICENSE PLATE. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to issue specialty license plates to honor sheriffs' office personnel. Requires that the license plates include:

- (1) the words "Support Your Sheriffs' Office"; and
- (2) a depiction of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas logo.

(b) Requires that the remainder of the fee for issuance of the license plates, after deduction of TxDMV's administrative costs, be deposited to the credit of an account created by the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. Authorizes money deposited to that account to be used only for the training, retention, and increasing the professionalism of sheriffs' deputies, county jail employees, emergency service center employees, or other positions and offices which a Sheriff is the administrator over.

(c) Provides that Section 504.702 (Specialty License Plates Authorized After January 1, 1999) does not apply to a specialty license plate issued under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2023.