

By: Wu

H.B. No. 302

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a certificate program to promote tourism to and travel throughout this state; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter L, Chapter 481, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 481.175 to read as follows:

Sec. 481.175. TOURISM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM. (a) The office by rule shall create and implement a tourism certificate program that includes:

(1) issuance of a certificate by the office to an individual who obtains a certain number of stamps for visiting various locations in this state; and

(2) on payment of a fee determined by the office, issuance of an "Honorary Texan" certificate to a non-Texas resident.

(b) The program under Subsection (a)(1) must include:

(1) different location categories of certificates, such as "BBQ Pitmaster," "Beachcomber," "Traveler," "Museum Visitor," and "Rodeo Visitor";

(2) different levels of certificates within a location category, such as issuance of a "Basic" certificate for visiting locations in at least four regions of the state, issuance of an "Advanced" certificate for visiting locations in at least six regions of the state, and issuance of a "Master" certificate for

1 visiting locations in at least eight regions of the state;

2 (3) the registration of a location to participate in
3 the program by payment of a fee determined by the office for
4 issuance of stamps; and

5 (4) on payment of a fee determined by the office, the
6 issuance of a certificate by the office to an individual who obtains
7 the required number of stamps for a certain level within a location
8 category.

9 (c) The office shall divide the state into eight regions for
10 determining levels of certificates.

11 (d) A certificate issued under Subsection (a)(2) does not
12 confer on the holder of the certificate any residency or other legal
13 status or right.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.