



PRESS RELEASE

Senator Craig Estes
Texas State Senate District 30

For Immediate Release
Date: June 8, 2015
Contact: Nicole Lancaster
512.463.0130

Governor Abbott Signs State Parks Funding Bill
Legislators Approve Dedicated Funding to State Parks

Austin - Governor Greg Abbott signed House Bill 158 into law on Monday. This bill will dedicate future appropriations of the sporting goods sales tax exclusively for state and local parks and historical sites.

"I was very proud to sponsor this legislation in the Senate, and it was exciting to be with Governor Abbott today as he signed it into law," Senator Estes said. "I believe it is important that we restore transparency in our budgeting process by ensuring the sporting goods sales tax is used for its intended purpose. I want to thank Representative Larson for also filing this bill, as well as the many legislators who signed on as coauthors."

A portion of the sporting goods sales tax revenue is allocated to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission for the use of state park operations and local park grants. However, the Legislature has only appropriated 40 percent of these funds to TPWD in recent years, leaving the rest of the funding in General Revenue to be spent on items not germane to parks.

This diversion of funding has caused great concern due to the high cost and dire need of maintenance for our parks in Texas. House Bill 185 will remedy this by ensuring 100 percent of sporting goods sales tax revenue will be used for parks and historical sites.

Estes serves nearly 820,000 constituents across Senate District 30, which includes all of Archer, Clay, Cooke, Erath, Grayson, Jack, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Wichita, Wise, and Young counties and parts of Collin and Denton counties.

###