

Published February 17, 2003

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist12/pr03/p021703a.htm>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2003

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Senator Nelson Files Legislation to Protect Scenic Byways

AUSTIN -- Texas State Senator Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, today filed two pieces of legislation designed to preserve the scenic beauty of Texas roadways and make the state eligible for federal highway beautification dollars.

SB 511:

- * Enrolls Texas in the National Scenic Byways program.
- * Directs the Texas Department of Transportation to develop a system for Texas roadways to apply for federal Scenic Byways grants for beautification and tourist markers.

SB 512:

- * Prevents new construction of billboards along highways or streets in Texas. More than 200 Texas cities have already adopted such an ordinance.
- * Prevents any of Texas' more than 30,000 billboards that are deteriorating from being reconstructed or replaced.
- * Provides civil penalties.

"I want future generations of Texans to be able to enjoy the scenic drives of our beautiful state without having to peek through advertisements. Billboards are unnecessary, intrusive distractions to the natural beauty of Texas. They are becoming obsolete anyway because of electronic advertising, navigational systems and other mediums for information sharing in the cyber age. Our scenic byways are worth protecting for future Texans," Senator Nelson said.

For more information about scenic byways, visit Scenic Texas at www.scenictexas.org

Senator Jane Nelson represents District 12, which includes the growing suburban communities of Denton and Tarrant counties and parts of the city of Fort Worth.