

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 5248

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the establishment of a task force to provide  
3 recommendations for the repatriation and disposition of Indigenous  
4 objects held by state institutions and agencies.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Chapter 442, Texas Historical  
7 Commission is amended by adding section 442.0066. to read as  
8 follows:

9 Sec. 442.0069. NATIVE AMERICAN PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION  
10 TASK FORCE. (a) The Texas Historical Commission shall establish a  
11 task force to investigate and provide recommendations for the  
12 repatriation and disposition of Native American and indigenous  
13 human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and other objects  
14 of cultural patrimony that are held by state institutions and  
15 agencies.

16 (b) The task force shall operate for no more than two years  
17 from the date of which it is established by the commission.

18 (c) The task force shall consist of representatives from the  
19 following groups:

20 (1) Federally recognized indigenous tribes who have  
21 ancestral ties to Texas.

22 (2) Non-federally recognized indigenous tribes who  
23 have ancestral ties to Texas and have requested remains or other  
24 objects through the Native American Graves Protection and

1 Repatriation process previously.

2 (3) The Texas Historical Commission.

3 (4) The State Archeological Program.

4 (d) The Texas Historical Commission may include other  
5 non-federally recognized indigenous tribes at their discretion.

6 (e) The Task Force shall provide an annual report with their  
7 recommendations to the Legislature no later than December 31 each  
8 year they are active.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.