

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 667  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 2, 2023; February 17, 2023,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources &  
 1-4 Economic Development; April 4, 2023, reported favorably by the  
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 4, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to establishing a state historical marker program to honor  
 1-20 African Americans who served in the Texas Legislature during  
 1-21 Reconstruction.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Texas Black  
 1-24 Reconstruction Legislators Recognition Act.

1-25 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 442, Government Code, is  
 1-26 amended by adding Section 442.0061 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 442.0061. STATE HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM TO HONOR  
 1-28 AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATORS. (a) The commission shall establish  
 1-29 and administer a state historical marker program to honor African  
 1-30 Americans who served in the Texas Legislature between 1870 and  
 1-31 1875, during the 12th, 13th, or 14th Legislative Session.

1-32 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the commission  
 1-33 shall install a historical marker at or as near as practicable to  
 1-34 the grave of each former member of the Texas Legislature described  
 1-35 by Subsection (a) in consultation with the:

1-36 (1) county historical commission established under  
 1-37 Chapter 318, Local Government Code, for the county in which the  
 1-38 grave is located; and

1-39 (2) cemetery association or other entity that manages  
 1-40 the cemetery in which the grave is located.

1-41 (c) If the former member's place of burial is unknown or the  
 1-42 commission determines that placement of a historical marker at the  
 1-43 former member's place of burial is inappropriate, the commission,  
 1-44 in consultation with the county historical commission established  
 1-45 under Chapter 318, Local Government Code, for each county  
 1-46 represented by the former member, shall install a historical marker  
 1-47 at an appropriate place within the boundaries of the counties  
 1-48 represented by the former member.

1-49 (d) Historical markers installed under this section must:

1-50 (1) have the same form, dimensions, and illustrations  
 1-51 as a large Official Texas Historical Marker described by Section  
 1-52 442.006(c) except that the markers must also include the state seal  
 1-53 at the bottom of the markers; and

1-54 (2) include text that reads:

1-55 "FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES  
 1-56 IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE  
 1-57 ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF  
 1-58 THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

1-59 "WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE  
 1-60 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN  
 1-61 AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO

2-1 THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENEED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON  
2-2 FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

2-3 "PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE  
2-4 AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND  
2-5 TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

2-6 "THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF:

2-7 "(FIRST NAME, MIDDLE INITIAL, AND SURNAME OF THE FORMER  
2-8 MEMBER) | (THE CHAMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE IN WHICH THE FORMER  
2-9 MEMBER SERVED AND THE LEGISLATURE DURING WHICH THE FORMER MEMBER  
2-10 SERVED) | (THE FORMER MEMBER'S DATE OF BIRTH OR "UNKNOWN," AS  
2-11 APPLICABLE) | (THE FORMER MEMBER'S DATE OF DEATH) | (EACH COUNTY  
2-12 REPRESENTED BY THE FORMER MEMBER)

2-13 "ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS  
2-14 HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY (NUMBER OF THE BILL PASSED  
2-15 BY THE 88TH LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE  
2-16 HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATORS)"

2-17 (e) The commission may seek assistance from other state and  
2-18 local governmental entities in carrying out the commission's duties  
2-19 under this section.

2-20 (f) The commission may seek and accept gifts, grants, and  
2-21 donations from public or private sources, including seeking  
2-22 available federal funds, to accomplish the purposes of this  
2-23 section.

2-24 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2025, the Texas  
2-25 Historical Commission shall install the historical markers  
2-26 required by Section 442.0061, Government Code, as added by this  
2-27 Act.

2-28 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

2-29 \* \* \* \* \*