

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 575
By: Miller
Public Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Many Texas students graduate from public school with little knowledge of the United States' founding and historical documents. Some feel this is due to the fact that many educators are unsure about whether or not certain texts are allowed in schools because of recent out-of-state court decisions. C.S.H.B. 575 would encourage schools to teach students about U.S. historical documents by explicitly allowing educators to read or display certain historical texts in a school building.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 575 amends the Education Code to authorize an educator, in a school building, to read or display the U.S. national motto, U.S. national anthem, U.S. pledge of allegiance, preamble to the Texas Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Mayflower Compact, writings or speeches of the original signers of the United States Declaration of Independence or presidents of the United States, decisions of the United States or Texas Supreme Court, or any laws or resolutions passed by the United States Congress or Texas Legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

C.S.H.B. 575 modifies the original version by replacing founding fathers with original signers and replacing any legislation enacted or resolved with laws or resolutions passed by the United States Congress or Texas Legislature.