

By: Miller, Riddle, Callegari, Mercer,  
et al.

H.B. No. 575

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to displaying or reading from certain historical texts in  
public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
amended by adding Section 28.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.010. READING FROM OR DISPLAY OF CERTAIN HISTORICAL  
TEXTS. In order to ensure that students understand and appreciate  
the histories of the United States and Texas, an educator at an  
elementary or secondary school, including an open-enrollment  
charter school, may read from or display any of the following  
historical texts in the school building in which the educator is  
employed:

- (1) the United States national motto;
- (2) the United States national anthem;
- (3) the United States pledge of allegiance;
- (4) the preamble to the Texas Constitution;
- (5) the United States Declaration of Independence or  
the Texas Declaration of Independence;
- (6) the Mayflower Compact;
- (7) any writings, speeches, documents, or  
proclamations of the original signers of the United States  
Declaration of Independence or the Texas Declaration of  
Independence, presidents or vice presidents of the United States,

1 presidents or vice presidents of the Republic of Texas, governors  
2 of Texas throughout its history, members of the women's suffrage  
3 movement, or members of the civil rights movement;

4 (8) any published decision of the United States  
5 Supreme Court or Texas Supreme Court, including any decision  
6 related to prayer in public school;

7 (9) any laws or resolutions passed by the United  
8 States Congress or Texas Legislature;

9 (10) documents that acknowledge the contributions of  
10 women and people of color to the United States and Texas;

11 (11) documents that acknowledge the contributions of  
12 Native Americans; or

13 (12) any writing or other document that acknowledges  
14 the contributions of an individual honored by a holiday of this  
15 state.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.