

By: Geren

H.B. No. 3799

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the preservation and maintenance of the governor's mansion.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 443, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 443.029 to read as follows:

Sec. 443.029. GOVERNOR'S MANSION. (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided by this section, the State Preservation Board is solely responsible for the preservation and maintenance of the Governor's Mansion and the protection of the historical and architectural integrity of the mansion's exterior, interior, contents, and grounds. Except as provided by Subsections (d) and (f), a substantial addition, deletion, or other alteration may not be made to the mansion or its contents or grounds without the prior approval of the State Preservation Board.

(b) The State Preservation Board shall:

(1) develop and maintain an inventory of the contents of the Governor's Mansion that includes all furnishings, fixtures, works of art, and decorative objects and states the owner of each of those items;

(2) manage a plan for the acquisition, by purchase, donation, or loan, of furnishings, fixtures, works of art, and decorative objects for the mansion, especially early 19th-century American, museum-quality items and items having historical

1 significance to the Governor's Mansion;

2 (3) manage a plan for the disposition of furnishings,
3 fixtures, works of art, and decorative objects that the State
4 Preservation Board determines are not needed or inappropriate; and

5 (4) recommend and arrange for the conservation or
6 restoration of furnishings, fixtures, works of art, and decorative
7 objects in the mansion that are owned by the state.

8 (c) The State Preservation Board may accept gifts, grants,
9 or other donations on behalf of the Governor's Mansion. The State
10 Preservation Board shall contract with a nonprofit organization
11 formed to assist in the preservation and maintenance of the
12 Governor's Mansion to develop and implement a plan for the
13 solicitation and acceptance of gifts, grants, devises, and bequests
14 of money, other property, and services to be used in the acquisition
15 of furnishings, fixtures, works of art, and decorative objects for
16 the Governor's Mansion or for necessary conservation or restoration
17 services. The State Preservation Board also may contract with a
18 nonprofit organization described by this subsection for the
19 performance of any duty provided by Subsection (b). A contract
20 under this subsection may not exceed a term of two years and must
21 expire on December 31 of an odd-numbered year.

22 (d) The State Preservation Board shall solicit the advice
23 and approval of the governor and the governor's spouse concerning
24 activities of the State Preservation Board under this section and
25 the advice of the governor and the governor's spouse concerning the
26 provisions of any contract executed under Subsection (c). Except
27 for a change in or to the Pease bedroom, the Sam Houston bedroom,

1 the hallway, or the stairwell, a nonstructural decorative change in
2 or to the private living and guest quarters of the governor and the
3 governor's family on the second floor of the Governor's Mansion does
4 not require the prior approval of the State Preservation Board.

5 (e) The Texas Historical Commission and the office of the
6 governor may exercise the powers and shall perform the duties
7 relating to the Governor's Mansion that are provided by applicable
8 law, subject to the requirements of this section.

9 (f) The Texas Historical Commission shall be consulted on
10 any and all proposed changes to the Governor's Mansion which may
11 relate to the status of the building as a designated Recorded Texas
12 Historic Landmark or as a site listed on the National Register of
13 Historic Places.

14 SECTION 2. Section 442.0071, Government Code, is repealed.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.