

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1968

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state flag code.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3100.068(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the state flag or if the flag is passing in a parade or in review:

(1) each citizen of this state who is present and not in uniform should:

(A) face the state flag and stand at attention with the person's right hand over the heart; and

(B) if wearing a head covering that is easy to remove, remove the head covering with the right hand and hold it at the person's left shoulder, with the person's hand over the heart;

(2) each person who is present and in uniform should make the military salute; ~~and~~

(3) each person who is present, not in uniform, and a member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military salute; and

(4) each person who is present but not a citizen of this state should stand at attention.

SECTION 2. Section 3100.104, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3100.104. RECITING PLEDGE. If the pledge to the state

1 flag is recited, each person who is present and:

2 (1) not in uniform should:

3 (A) face the state flag and stand at attention
4 with the person's right hand over the heart;

5 (B) if wearing a head covering that is easy to
6 remove, remove that head covering with the right hand and hold it at
7 the person's left shoulder, with the person's hand over the heart;
8 and

9 (C) recite the pledge; [~~or~~]

10 (2) not in uniform and a member of the armed forces or
11 a veteran may make the military salute and recite the pledge; or

12 (3) in uniform should remain silent, face the flag,
13 and make the military salute.

14 SECTION 3. Sections 3100.152(b) and (d), Government Code,
15 are amended to read as follows:

16 (b) During a retirement ceremony:

17 (1) each citizen of this state who is present and not
18 in uniform should:

19 (A) stand at attention with the person's right
20 hand over the heart; and

21 (B) if wearing a head covering that is easy to
22 remove, remove the head covering with the person's right hand and
23 hold it at the person's left shoulder, with the right hand over the
24 heart;

25 (2) each person who is present and in uniform should
26 make the military salute at the appropriate time as designated by
27 the ceremony; [~~and~~]

1 (3) each person who is present, not in uniform, and a
2 member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military salute
3 at the appropriate time as designated by the ceremony; and

4 (4) each person who is present but not a citizen of
5 this state should stand at attention.

6 (d) The official retirement ceremony for the state flag
7 encouraged for public use is:

8 I am your Texas flag!

9 I was born January 25, 1839.

10 I am one of only two flags of an American state that has
11 also served as the symbol of an independent nation--The
12 Republic of Texas.

13 While you may honor me in retirement, the spirit I
14 represent will never retire!

15 I represent the spirit of Texas--Yesterday, Today, and
16 Tomorrow!

17 I represent the bravery of the Alamo and the Victory at
18 San Jacinto.

19 My spirit rode with the Texas Rangers over the Forts
20 Trail of the Big Country and herded cattle through the Fort
21 Worth stockyards. I have sailed up Galveston Bay and kept a
22 watchful eye over our El Paso del Norte.

23 My colors are in the waters of the Red River and in the
24 Bluebonnets of the Texas Hill Country.

25 You'll find my spirit at the Light House of Palo Duro and
26 in the sands of Padre Island;

27 I am at the Johnson Space Center in [~~the space station~~

1 ~~at~~] Houston and atop the oil wells of West Texas.

2 From the expanse of the Big Bend to the Riverwalk of San
3 Antone--all of Texas is my home!

4 I wave over the cotton and grain fields of the High
5 Plains, and I am deep in the rich soil of the Rio Grande
6 Valley.

7 I am proudly displayed under the Capitol Dome, and I fly
8 high above the concrete canyons of downtown Dallas.

9 You'll find my spirit in the East Texas piney woods and
10 along the Grandeur of the Rio Grande.

11 I represent Texas--every Child, Woman, and Man!

12 The blue field in me stands for the valor of our
13 ancestors in the battles for our country.

14 Let us retire the blue--Salute!

15 My white field stands for the purity in all our Texas
16 hearts! It represents the honor that each of us should pay to
17 our state each day.

18 Let us retire the white--Salute!

19 The red is for all of the men and women who have died in
20 service of our state--whether as members of the armed
21 services or as citizen Samaritans.

22 Let us retire the red--Salute!

23 My lone, independent star is recognized worldwide
24 because it represents ALL of Texas and stands for our unity as
25 one for God, State, and Country.

26 Let us retire the lone star--Salute!

27 Join in the pledge to the Texas flag:

1 "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee,
2 Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

3 SECTION 4. Section 3101.006(a), Government Code, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (a) During the performance of the state song:

6 (1) when the state flag is displayed:

7 (A) each citizen of this state who is present and
8 not in uniform should:

9 (i) face the flag and stand at attention
10 with the person's right hand over the heart; and

11 (ii) if wearing a head covering that is easy
12 to remove, remove the head covering with the right hand and hold it
13 at the person's left shoulder, with the person's right hand over the
14 heart;

15 (B) each person who is present and in uniform
16 should make the military salute at the first note of the state song
17 and retain that position until the last note; ~~and~~

18 (C) each person who is present, not in uniform,
19 and a member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military
20 salute at the first note of the state song and retain that position
21 until the last note; and

22 (D) each person who is present but not a citizen
23 of this state should stand at attention; and

24 (2) when the state flag is not displayed, each person
25 present should face toward the music and act in the same manner as
26 the person would if the state flag were displayed there.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.