86R5779 MTB-D

By:  Biedermann H.B. No. 2216

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to display of the national motto in government buildings.

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

SECTION 1.  Subtitle E, Title 10, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2207 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2207. DISPLAY OF NATIONAL MOTTO IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Sec. 2207.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Political subdivision" includes a public school district.

(2)  "State agency" includes an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

Sec. 2207.002.  DISPLAY OF NATIONAL MOTTO. (a) A building owned by this state or a political subdivision of this state must display a durable poster or framed copy of the United States national motto, "In God We Trust," if the poster or framed copy meets the requirements of Subsection (b) and is:

(1)  donated for display in the building; or

(2)  purchased from private donations and made available for the building.

(b)  A poster or framed copy of the national motto described by Subsection (a) must contain a representation of the United States flag centered under the national motto and a representation of the state flag.

(c)  A state agency and political subdivision may accept and use private donations for the purposes of Subsection (a).

SECTION 2.  Section 1.004, Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.