

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment and duties of the Texas 1836 Project.

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

4 SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
5 by adding Chapter 451 to read as follows:

6 CHAPTER 451. TEXAS 1836 PROJECT

7 Sec. 451.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

8 (1) "1836 Project" means the advisory committee
9 established under this chapter.

10 (2) "Patriotic education" includes the:

11 (A) presentation of the history of this state's
12 founding and foundational principles;

13 (B) examination of how this state has grown
14 closer to those principles throughout its history; and

15 (C) explanation of why commitment to those
16 principles is beneficial and justified.

17 (3) "State agency" means a department, commission,
18 board, office, or other agency in the executive branch of state
19 government that is created by the constitution or a statute of this
20 state.

21 Sec. 451.002. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The 1836 Project is
22 established as an advisory committee to promote patriotic education
23 and increase awareness of the Texas values that continue to
24 stimulate boundless prosperity across this state.

1 (b) The 1836 Project is composed of nine members reflective
2 of the diversity of the state. The governor, lieutenant governor,
3 and speaker of the house of representatives shall each appoint
4 three members. The appointees may include persons in the private
5 sector with relevant experience or subject matter expertise.

6 (c) Members serve two-year terms and may not be removed
7 except for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.

8 (d) The governor shall appoint one member of the 1836
9 Project as the presiding officer.

10 (e) The presiding officer shall:

11 (1) convene regular meetings of the 1836 Project; and

12 (2) coordinate and direct the activities of the 1836
13 Project.

14 Sec. 451.003. DUTIES. (a) The 1836 Project shall:

15 (1) promote awareness among residents of this state of
16 the following as they relate to the history of prosperity and
17 democratic freedom in this state:

18 (A) Texas history, including the indigenous
19 peoples of this state, the Spanish and Mexican heritage of this
20 state, Tejanos, the African-American heritage of this state, the
21 Texas War for Independence, Juneteenth, annexation of Texas by the
22 United States, the Christian heritage of this state, and this
23 state's heritage of keeping and bearing firearms in defense of life
24 and liberty and for use in hunting;

25 (B) the founding documents of this state;

26 (C) the founders of this state;

27 (D) state civics; and

1 (E) the role of this state in passing and
2 reauthorizing the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
3 Section 10101 et seq.), highlighting:

4 (i) President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing
5 of the act;

6 (ii) President George W. Bush's 25-year
7 extension of the act; and

8 (iii) Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's
9 successful efforts to broaden the act to include Spanish-speaking
10 communities;

11 (2) advise the governor on the core principles of the
12 founding of this state and how those principles further enrich the
13 lives of its residents;

14 (3) facilitate the development and implementation of
15 the Gubernatorial 1836 Award to recognize student knowledge of
16 Texas Independence and other items listed in Subdivisions
17 (1)(A)-(D);

18 (4) advise state agencies with regard to their efforts
19 to ensure patriotic education is provided to the public at state
20 parks, battlefields, monuments, museums, installations, landmarks,
21 cemeteries, and other places important to the Texas War for
22 Independence and founding of this state, as appropriate and
23 consistent with applicable law; and

24 (5) facilitate, advise on, and promote other
25 activities to support public knowledge of and patriotic education
26 on the Texas War for Independence and founding of this state, as
27 appropriate and consistent with applicable law.

1 (b) In carrying out its duties under Subsection (a)(2), the
2 project may solicit statements and contributions from intellectual
3 and cultural figures.

4 Sec. 451.004. FUNDING; COMPENSATION. (a) The Texas
5 Education Agency shall provide funding and administrative support
6 for the 1836 Project, including for the pamphlets described by
7 Section 451.005, to the extent funds are available for those
8 purposes.

9 (b) A member of the 1836 Project is not entitled to
10 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel
11 expenses incurred by the member while transacting project business,
12 as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

13 Sec. 451.005. PAMPHLET. Not later than September 1, 2022,
14 the 1836 Project shall provide a pamphlet to the Texas Department of
15 Public Safety that explains the significance of policy decisions
16 made by this state that promote liberty and freedom for businesses
17 and families. The contents must include:

- 18 (1) an overview of Texas history and civics;
19 (2) the legacy of economic prosperity in this state;

20 and

21 (3) the abundant opportunities for businesses and
22 families in this state.

23 Sec. 451.006. REPORT. (a) Not later than September 1,
24 2022, the 1836 Project shall prepare and produce a written report
25 that includes:

- 26 (1) a description of the activities of the project;
27 (2) the findings and recommendations of the project;

1 (3) a plan that identifies the best method of carrying
2 out the duties under Sections 451.003(a)(1), (4), and (5);

3 (4) any proposals for legislation; and

4 (5) any other matter the project considers
5 appropriate.

6 (b) Subsequent to the report required under Subsection (a),
7 the 1836 Project may prepare and produce additional reports the
8 project considers appropriate.

9 (c) The Texas Education Agency shall make a report described
10 by this section available to the public on the agency's Internet
11 website.

12 (d) To the extent existing agency resources are available
13 for this purpose, the Texas Education Agency may provide to the 1836
14 Project any agency resources necessary to prepare or produce a
15 report described by this section.

16 Sec. 451.007. ABOLITION; EXPIRATION. The 1836 Project is
17 abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2036.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
19 is amended by adding Section 521.013 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 521.013. TEXAS 1836 PROJECT PAMPHLET. (a) The
21 department shall provide the pamphlet described by Section 451.005,
22 Government Code, to persons who receive a driver's license:

23 (1) after applying under Section 521.144; or

24 (2) with an expiration provided by Section
25 521.271(a-2) or (a-3).

26 (b) The department shall make the pamphlet described by
27 Section 451.005, Government Code, available to the public on the

1 department's Internet website.

2 SECTION 3. As soon as possible after the effective date of
3 this Act, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of
4 the house of representatives shall make the appointments to the
5 1836 Project under Section 451.002, Government Code, as added by
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 4. The Texas Education Agency and the Department of
8 Public Safety of the State of Texas are required to implement a
9 provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money
10 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
11 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, those agencies
12 may, but are not required to, implement a provision of this Act
13 using other appropriations available for that purpose.

14 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2497 was passed by the House on May 5, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 19, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2497 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 133, Nays 13, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2497 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 10.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor