

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2497

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

CHAPTER 451. TEXAS 1836 PROJECT

Sec. 451.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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

(2) "Patriotic education" includes the:

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

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

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

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

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

1       (b) The 1836 Project is composed of nine members. The  
2 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of  
3 representatives shall each appoint three members. The appointees  
4 may include persons in the private sector with relevant experience  
5 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 Texas War for  
19 Independence, annexation of Texas by the United States, and  
20 Juneteenth;

21                       (B) the founding documents of this state;

22                       (C) the founders of this state; and

23                       (D) state civics;

24               (2) advise the governor on the core principles of the  
25 founding of this state and how those principles further enrich the  
26 lives of its residents;

27               (3) facilitate the development and implementation of

1 the Gubernatorial 1836 Award to recognize student knowledge of  
2 Texas Independence, including knowledge of items listed in  
3 Subdivisions (1)(A)-(C);

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

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

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

17 Sec. 451.004. FUNDING; COMPENSATION. (a) The Texas  
18 Education Agency shall provide funding and administrative support  
19 for the 1836 Project, including for the pamphlets described by  
20 Section 451.005, to the extent funds are available for those  
21 purposes.

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

26 Sec. 451.005. PAMPHLET. Not later than September 1, 2022,  
27 the 1836 Project shall provide a pamphlet to the Texas Department of

1 Public Safety that explains the significance of policy decisions  
2 made by this state that promote liberty and freedom for businesses  
3 and families. The contents must include:

- 4 (1) an overview of Texas history and civics;  
5 (2) the legacy of economic prosperity in this state;  
6 and  
7 (3) the abundant opportunities for businesses and  
8 families in this state.

9 Sec. 451.006. REPORT. (a) Not later than September 1,  
10 2022, the 1836 Project shall prepare a written report that  
11 includes:

- 12 (1) a description of the activities of the project;  
13 (2) the findings and recommendations of the project;  
14 (3) a plan that identifies the best method of carrying  
15 out the duties under Sections 451.003(a)(1), (4), and (5);  
16 (4) any proposals for legislation; and  
17 (5) any other matter the project considers  
18 appropriate.

19 (b) The 1836 Project may prepare subsequent reports as the  
20 project sees appropriate under this section.

21 (c) The Texas Education Agency shall make the reports  
22 described by this section available to the public on the agency's  
23 Internet website.

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

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

1       Sec. 521.013. TEXAS 1836 PROJECT PAMPHLET. The department  
2 shall provide the pamphlet described by Section 451.005, Government  
3 Code, to persons who receive a driver's license.

4       SECTION 3. As soon as possible after the effective date of  
5 this Act, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of  
6 the house of representatives shall make the appointments to the  
7 1836 Project under Section 451.002, Government Code, as added by  
8 this Act.

9       SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.