

1-1 By: Parker, et al. H.B. No. 2497
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Creighton, Schwertner)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2021;
 1-4 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-5 Education; May 24, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 7, Nays 2; May 24, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Taylor	X			
1-9 Lucio			X	
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Hall	X			
1-12 Hughes	X			
1-13 Menéndez		X		
1-14 Paxton	X			
1-15 Perry	X			
1-16 Powell		X		
1-17 Schwertner	X			
1-18 West			X	

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to the establishment and duties of the Texas 1836 Project.
 1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-24 SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
 1-25 by adding Chapter 451 to read as follows:
 1-26 CHAPTER 451. TEXAS 1836 PROJECT
 1-27 Sec. 451.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:
 1-28 (1) "1836 Project" means the advisory committee
 1-29 established under this chapter.
 1-30 (2) "Patriotic education" includes the:
 1-31 (A) presentation of the history of this state's
 1-32 founding and foundational principles;
 1-33 (B) examination of how this state has grown
 1-34 closer to those principles throughout its history; and
 1-35 (C) explanation of why commitment to those
 1-36 principles is beneficial and justified.
 1-37 (3) "State agency" means a department, commission,
 1-38 board, office, or other agency in the executive branch of state
 1-39 government that is created by the constitution or a statute of this
 1-40 state.
 1-41 Sec. 451.002. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The 1836 Project is
 1-42 established as an advisory committee to promote patriotic education
 1-43 and increase awareness of the Texas values that continue to
 1-44 stimulate boundless prosperity across this state.
 1-45 (b) The 1836 Project is composed of nine members. The
 1-46 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
 1-47 representatives shall each appoint three members. The appointees
 1-48 may include persons in the private sector with relevant experience
 1-49 or subject matter expertise.
 1-50 (c) Members serve two-year terms and may not be removed
 1-51 except for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.
 1-52 (d) The governor shall appoint one member of the 1836
 1-53 Project as the presiding officer.
 1-54 (e) The presiding officer shall:
 1-55 (1) convene regular meetings of the 1836 Project; and
 1-56 (2) coordinate and direct the activities of the 1836
 1-57 Project.
 1-58 Sec. 451.003. DUTIES. (a) The 1836 Project shall:
 1-59 (1) promote awareness among residents of this state of
 1-60 the following as they relate to the history of prosperity and
 1-61 democratic freedom in this state:

2-1 (A) Texas history, including the indigenous
 2-2 peoples of this state, the Spanish and Mexican heritage of this
 2-3 state, Tejanos, the Texas War for Independence, annexation of Texas
 2-4 by the United States, the Christian heritage of this state, this
 2-5 state's heritage of keeping and bearing firearms in defense of life
 2-6 and liberty and for use in hunting, and Juneteenth;
 2-7 (B) the founding documents of this state;
 2-8 (C) the founders of this state;
 2-9 (D) state civics; and
 2-10 (E) the role of this state in passing and
 2-11 reauthorizing the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
 2-12 Section 10101 et seq.), highlighting:
 2-13 (i) President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing
 2-14 of the act;
 2-15 (ii) President George W. Bush's 25-year
 2-16 extension of the act; and
 2-17 (iii) Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's
 2-18 successful efforts to broaden the act to include Spanish-speaking
 2-19 communities;
 2-20 (2) advise the governor on the core principles of the
 2-21 founding of this state and how those principles further enrich the
 2-22 lives of its residents;
 2-23 (3) facilitate the development and implementation of
 2-24 the Gubernatorial 1836 Award to recognize student knowledge of
 2-25 Texas Independence and other items listed in Subdivisions
 2-26 (1)(A)-(D);
 2-27 (4) advise state agencies with regard to their efforts
 2-28 to ensure patriotic education is provided to the public at state
 2-29 parks, battlefields, monuments, museums, installations, landmarks,
 2-30 cemeteries, and other places important to the Texas War for
 2-31 Independence and founding of this state, as appropriate and
 2-32 consistent with applicable law; and
 2-33 (5) facilitate, advise on, and promote other
 2-34 activities to support public knowledge of and patriotic education
 2-35 on the Texas War for Independence and founding of this state, as
 2-36 appropriate and consistent with applicable law.
 2-37 (b) In carrying out its duties under Subsection (a)(2), the
 2-38 project may solicit statements and contributions from intellectual
 2-39 and cultural figures.
 2-40 Sec. 451.004. FUNDING; COMPENSATION. (a) The Texas
 2-41 Education Agency shall provide funding and administrative support
 2-42 for the 1836 Project, including for the pamphlets described by
 2-43 Section 451.005, to the extent funds are available for those
 2-44 purposes.
 2-45 (b) A member of the 1836 Project is not entitled to
 2-46 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel
 2-47 expenses incurred by the member while transacting project business,
 2-48 as provided by the General Appropriations Act.
 2-49 Sec. 451.005. PAMPHLET. Not later than September 1, 2022,
 2-50 the 1836 Project shall provide a pamphlet to the Texas Department of
 2-51 Public Safety that explains the significance of policy decisions
 2-52 made by this state that promote liberty and freedom for businesses
 2-53 and families. The contents must include:
 2-54 (1) an overview of Texas history and civics;
 2-55 (2) the legacy of economic prosperity in this state;
 2-56 and
 2-57 (3) the abundant opportunities for businesses and
 2-58 families in this state.
 2-59 Sec. 451.006. REPORT. (a) Not later than September 1,
 2-60 2022, the 1836 Project shall prepare and produce a written report
 2-61 that includes:
 2-62 (1) a description of the activities of the project;
 2-63 (2) the findings and recommendations of the project;
 2-64 (3) a plan that identifies the best method of carrying
 2-65 out the duties under Sections 451.003(a)(1), (4), and (5);
 2-66 (4) any proposals for legislation; and
 2-67 (5) any other matter the project considers
 2-68 appropriate.
 2-69 (b) Subsequent to the report required under Subsection (a),

3-1 the 1836 Project may prepare and produce additional reports the
3-2 project considers appropriate.

3-3 (c) The Texas Education Agency shall make a report described
3-4 by this section available to the public on the agency's Internet
3-5 website.

3-6 (d) To the extent existing agency resources are available
3-7 for this purpose, the Texas Education Agency may provide to the 1836
3-8 Project any agency resources necessary to prepare or produce a
3-9 report described by this section.

3-10 Sec. 451.007. ABOLITION; EXPIRATION. The 1836 Project is
3-11 abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2036.

3-12 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
3-13 is amended by adding Section 521.013 to read as follows:

3-14 Sec. 521.013. TEXAS 1836 PROJECT PAMPHLET. (a) The
3-15 department shall provide the pamphlet described by Section 451.005,
3-16 Government Code, to persons who receive a driver's license:

3-17 (1) after applying under Section 521.144; or

3-18 (2) with an expiration provided by Section
3-19 521.271(a-2) or (a-3).

3-20 (b) The department shall make the pamphlet described by
3-21 Section 451.005, Government Code, available to the public on the
3-22 department's Internet website.

3-23 SECTION 3. As soon as possible after the effective date of
3-24 this Act, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of
3-25 the house of representatives shall make the appointments to the
3-26 1836 Project under Section 451.002, Government Code, as added by
3-27 this Act.

3-28 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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