

By: King of Parker

H.B. No. 3257

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Antisemitism.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 448 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 448. TEXAS COMMISSION ON ANTISEMITISM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 448.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Antisemitism" means a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. The term includes rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

(2) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Antisemitism.

Sec. 448.002. SUNSET PROVISION. The Texas Commission on Antisemitism is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the commission is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2033.

Sec. 448.003. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT. The commission is administratively attached to the Texas Historical Commission.

SUBCHAPTER B. TEXAS COMMISSION ON ANTISEMITISM

Sec. 448.051. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION. (a) The governor shall appoint nine members to the commission.

1 (b) A member of the commission must be a resident of this
2 state.

3 (c) The commission must include members who have
4 demonstrated a significant interest in and are knowledgeable about
5 issues in the Jewish community and antisemitism.

6 Sec. 448.052. TERMS. (a) Commission members serve
7 staggered six-year terms with the terms of three members expiring
8 February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

9 (b) A commission member is eligible for reappointment to
10 another term or part of a term.

11 (c) A commission member may not serve more than two
12 consecutive terms. For purposes of this subsection, a member is
13 considered to have served a term only if the member served two or
14 more years of the member's term.

15 Sec. 448.053. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall
16 designate a member of the commission as presiding officer of the
17 commission to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the
18 governor.

19 Sec. 448.054. COMPENSATION; EXPENSES. A member of the
20 commission is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to
21 reimbursement for the travel expenses incurred by the member while
22 transacting commission business, as provided by the General
23 Appropriations Act.

24 Sec. 448.055. MEETINGS; QUORUM; PUBLIC ACCESS. (a) The
25 commission shall meet at least quarterly at the times and places in
26 this state the commission designates.

27 (b) Five voting members of the commission constitute a

1 quorum for transacting commission business.

2 (c) The commission shall develop and implement policies
3 that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear
4 before the commission and speak on any issue under the jurisdiction
5 of the commission.

6 Sec. 448.056. COORDINATOR; STAFF. (a) The Texas
7 Historical Commission shall provide one part-time employee to serve
8 as the coordinator for the commission to transact commission
9 business.

10 (b) The Texas Historical Commission may provide staff and
11 may support functions and activities of the commission from money
12 available to the Texas Historical Commission that may be used for
13 this purpose. The legislature may also specifically appropriate
14 money to the Texas Historical Commission to provide staff and to
15 otherwise support functions and activities of the commission.

16 SUBCHAPTER C. DUTIES AND FUNDING

17 Sec. 448.101. ADVISORY STATUS OF COMMISSION. (a) In
18 implementing its powers and duties under this chapter, the
19 commission functions only in an advisory capacity. Membership on
20 the commission does not constitute a public office.

21 (b) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the commission.

22 Sec. 448.102. DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a) The commission
23 shall:

24 (1) conduct a study on antisemitism in this state and
25 submit a report on the results of the study to the governor, the
26 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
27 and each member of the legislature not later than November 1 of each

1 even-numbered year;

2 (2) provide advice and assistance to public and
3 private primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher
4 education in this state regarding methods of combating
5 antisemitism;

6 (3) meet with appropriate representatives of public
7 and private organizations, including service organizations, to
8 provide information on and to assist in planning, coordinating, or
9 modifying antisemitism awareness programs; and

10 (4) solicit volunteers to participate in
11 commemorative events designed to enhance public awareness of the
12 fight against antisemitism.

13 (b) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary for its
14 own procedures.

15 Sec. 448.103. FUNDING; AFFILIATED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

16 (a) The commission may accept gifts, grants, and donations from a
17 public or private source for the commission to use in performing the
18 commission's duties under this chapter.

19 (b) The commission may participate in the establishment and
20 operation of an affiliated nonprofit organization whose purpose is
21 to raise funds for or provide services or other benefits to the
22 commission.

23 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
24 of this Act, the governor shall appoint members to the Texas
25 Commission on Antisemitism as provided by Chapter 448, Government
26 Code, as added by this Act. To implement the staggering of terms of
27 members of the commission provided by Section 448.052, Government

1 Code, as added by this Act, in making the first appointments to the
2 commission, the governor shall provide for three of the members to
3 serve terms expiring February 1, 2023, three of the members to serve
4 terms expiring February 1, 2025, and three of the members to serve
5 terms expiring February 1, 2027. Subsequent appointments shall be
6 for six-year terms, as provided by Section 448.052, Government
7 Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.