

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.H.B. 5616
By: Howard et al. (Johnson)
Economic Development
5/24/2025
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The bill author has informed the committee that, as the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, Texas stands uniquely positioned to lead in commemorating this historic milestone. Texas is the only state with three presidential libraries, which honor the legacies of Lyndon B. Johnson, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush. The bill author has further informed the committee that these institutions preserve the history of American leadership, democracy, and the enduring principles of freedom, service, and national unity. H.B. 5616 seeks to foster civic pride, historical literacy, and economic growth throughout Texas by proposing a partnership between the three presidential foundations to educate, inspire, and engage Texans in reflecting on the foundations of our democracy and the pivotal role the state and its leaders have played in shaping our nation's history.

(Original Author's/Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

C.S.H.B. 5616 amends current law relating to the Texas presidential library promotion program and funding for the program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 442, Government Code, by adding Subchapter H, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. TEXAS PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY PROMOTION PROGRAM

Sec. 442.301. DEFINITION. Defines "program."

Sec. 442.302. TEXAS PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY PROMOTION PROGRAM. (a) Requires the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to establish and administer the Texas presidential library promotion program (program) to recognize that the presidential libraries in this state are vital historical and educational resources that attract visitors from across the country and contribute to this state's cultural and economic landscape and to provide funding and support to the presidential libraries, promote tourism, and educate the public on the contributions of the presidents from this state.

(b) Provides that the program is established to support certain presidential libraries in this state.

(c) Requires that the program provide financial support to the presidential libraries for the renovation and enhancement of permanent exhibits, market and promote the presidential libraries to increase tourism to and public awareness of the libraries, and in collaboration with the presidential libraries, develop a mobile exhibit to be displayed in communities, schools, and other public institutions that features for each president significant artifacts, multimedia presentations, and educational materials and highlights the historical impact and legacies of

President Lyndon B. Johnson, President George H. W. Bush, and President George W. Bush.

(d) Authorizes THC to enter into a contract with a nonprofit entity for the nonprofit entity to administer and operate the program.

Sec. 442.303. FUNDING. (a) Requires THC to establish an account into which gifts, grants, and other donations received by THC for purposes of this subchapter are authorized to be deposited.

(b) Authorizes THC to deposit money appropriated to THC by the legislature for purposes of this subchapter into the account.

(c) Provides that THC is authorized to spend money in the account only for a purposed described by this subchapter.

SECTION 2. Requires THC, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, to establish the program as required by Section 442.302, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2025.