

By: Metcalf, Harris, Isaac, Hefner, et al.

H.B. No. 5032

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the display of certain historical state documents.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter L, Chapter 441, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 441.206 and 441.207 to read as follows:

Sec. 441.206. DISPLAY OF CERTAIN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN CAPITOL COMPLEX. (a) The commission, in consultation and collaboration with the State Preservation Board and the Texas Historical Commission, shall designate an appropriate place in the Capitol Complex to securely display the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence.

(b) The commission shall pay the costs attributable to the display of the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence using available funds or funds appropriated to the commission for that purpose.

(c) The commission, in consultation and collaboration with the State Preservation Board and the Texas Historical Commission and not later than December 1, 2027, shall:

(1) develop a plan to display in the Capitol Complex the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Constitution;

(2) publish the plan on the commission's Internet website; and

(3) provide a copy of the plan to the standing committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over the state's

1 historical resources.

2 (d) Subsection (c) and this subsection expire September 1,  
3 2031.

4 (e) The commission, in consultation and collaboration with  
5 the State Preservation Board and the Texas Historical Commission,  
6 may authorize for a limited period the display of the Texas  
7 Constitution or the Texas Declaration of Independence at a  
8 historical event or historical site.

9 Sec. 441.207. CARE, CUSTODY, AND DISPLAY OF VICTORY OR  
10 DEATH LETTER. (a) In this section, "victory or death letter" means  
11 the letter written by Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis dated  
12 February 24, 1836, and signed "Victory or Death."

13 (b) The commission, in consultation and collaboration with  
14 the State Preservation Board and the Texas Historical Commission,  
15 is responsible for the care and custody of the victory or death  
16 letter.

17 (c) The commission shall designate an appropriate place in  
18 the Alamo complex to securely display the victory or death letter.

19 (d) Until the commission designates an appropriate place in  
20 the Alamo complex to display the victory or death letter and  
21 determines an appropriate time to securely transfer the letter to  
22 that place, the commission shall display the victory or death  
23 letter at the Capitol Complex with other historical documents,  
24 including the Texas Constitution and Texas Declaration of  
25 Independence.

26 (e) Costs attributable to the display of the victory or  
27 death letter under Subsection (c) or (d) shall be paid by money from

1 the Alamo complex account and are an authorized use of the money  
2 under Section 31.454(e), Natural Resources Code.

3 (f) The commission, in consultation and collaboration with  
4 the State Preservation Board and the Texas Historical Commission,  
5 may authorize for a limited period the display of the victory or  
6 death letter at a historical event or historical site.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.