

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

H. B. No. 5032

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

# 1 AN ACT

2 relating to the display of certain historical state documents.

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

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

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 DISPLAY OF CERTAIN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN  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

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

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

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

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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.