

1-1 By: Huffman S.B. No. 1426
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 19, 2025; March 6, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Finance;
1-4 April 7, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 15, Nays 0; April 7, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
Huffman	X			
Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
Alvarado	X			
Bettencourt	X			
Campbell	X			
Creighton	X			
Flores	X			
Hall	X			
Kolkhorst	X			
Nichols	X			
Paxton	X			
Perry	X			
Schwertner	X			
West	X			
Zaffirini	X			

1-24 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1426 By: Huffman

1-25 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-26 AN ACT

1-27 relating to operation and management of the first capitol state
1-28 historic site and replica by the Texas Historical Commission.

1-29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-30 SECTION 1. Chapter 442, Government Code, is amended by
1-31 adding Subchapter B-3 to read as follows:

1-32 SUBCHAPTER B-3. FIRST CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC SITE

1-33 Sec. 442.068. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-34 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Historical
1-35 Commission.

1-36 (2) "First capitol site" means the first capitol state
1-37 historic site located in West Columbia, Texas.

1-38 (3) "Replica" means the replica of the first Republic
1-39 of Texas house of representatives building housed on the first
1-40 capitol site.

1-41 Sec. 442.0681. JURISDICTION AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRST
1-42 CAPITOL SITE AND REPLICA. (a) The first capitol site and replica
1-43 are under the jurisdiction of the commission. The commission is
1-44 responsible for the preservation, maintenance, and operation of the
1-45 site and replica.

1-46 (b) The commission shall:

1-47 (1) develop, expand, and manage the first capitol site
1-48 and replica by:

1-49 (A) expanding, renovating, and managing the site
1-50 and replica to enhance visitor experience and historical accuracy;

1-51 (B) overseeing maintenance and operations of the
1-52 site and replica to ensure long-term preservation and public
1-53 accessibility; and

1-54 (C) providing financial support for ongoing
1-55 operations and new projects, such as administration, personnel, and
1-56 site improvements;

1-57 (2) enhance the facilities and infrastructure for the
1-58 site by:

1-59 (A) relocating the replica to a historically
1-60 accurate location on the site;

(B) constructing a historically accurate replication of the first Republic of Texas senate building on the site;

(C) constructing and maintaining a visitor center on the site to provide educational resources, exhibitions, and interactive experiences for visitors; and

(D) implementing other improvements to the site's facilities and infrastructure in accordance with the site's purpose and mission;

(3) assume responsibility for the historic preservation and interpretation of the first capitol site and replica by:

(A) preserving and maintaining historical documents, artifacts, relics, and other items of historical significance related to the site and this state;

(B) developing exhibitions and interpretive programs to reflect the site's mission and educate the public; and

(C) conducting ongoing research to enhance the accuracy and depth of the site's programs:

accuracy and depth of the Site's programs,
(4) oversee the operations of and personnel for the
first capitol site and replica by:
(A) employing a site director and other personnel

the commission considers necessary to fulfill the commission's

duties and responsibilities for the site;
(B) establishing efficient operational and visitor engagement policies and procedures; and

visitor engagement policies and procedures; and
(C) ensuring personnel development aligns with
current best practices for historic site management;
(5) acquire resources and seek donations for the first

(5) acquire resources and seek donations for the first capitol site and replica by:

(A) accepting and managing donations of money,

land, historical relics, or other donations supporting the site's mission;

(B) seeking grant opportunities and public-private partnerships to increase funding for site preservation and improvement efforts; and

(C) acquiring property and artifacts aligned with the historical significance of the site that contribute to the

site's mission and narrative; (6) strategically develop the first capitol site and replica by:

replied by: (A) identifying and acquiring real property adjacent or relevant to the site to support the mission of and expand the site;

and the site; (B) ensuring all acquisition of real property aligns with the historical context of the site and contributes to an authentic and immersive visitor experience; and

(C) engaging in strategic planning to enhance the site's presence in the nearby community and promote heritage tourism;

(7) facilitate community engagement and partnership for the first capitol site and replica by:
(A) collaborating with local organizations, schools, and other relevant stakeholders to foster community

schools, and other relevant stakeholders to foster community involvement and support of the site;

(B) establishing partnerships with historical societies, institutions of higher education, and cultural

societies, institutions of higher education, and cultural organizations to strengthen the site's educational impact; and
(C) hosting events, lectures, and programs that encourage public participation and awareness of this state's

encourage public participation and awareness of this State's history; and

(8) ensure responsible stewardship of resources and

the first capitol site and replica by:
(A) maintaining ethical and professional standards for site operations and

standards for site operations; and
(B) conducting periodic assessments to measure
progress and identify areas to improve stewardship of the site.

Sec. 442.0682. GRANTS; DONATIONS. The commission may accept a grant or donation for any program or purpose of the first

3-1 capitol site and replica.

3-2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

3-3

* * * * *