

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				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Huffman	X			
1-10	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-11	Alvarado	X			
1-12	Bettencourt	X			
1-13	Campbell	X			
1-14	Creighton	X			
1-15	Flores	X			
1-16	Hall	X			
1-17	Kolkhorst	X			
1-18	Nichols	X			
1-19	Paxton	X			
1-20	Perry	X			
1-21	Schwertner	X			
1-22	West	X			
1-23	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;

2-1 (B) constructing a historically accurate
 2-2 replication of the first Republic of Texas senate building on the
 2-3 site;
 2-4 (C) constructing and maintaining a visitor
 2-5 center on the site to provide educational resources, exhibitions,
 2-6 and interactive experiences for visitors; and
 2-7 (D) implementing other improvements to the
 2-8 site's facilities and infrastructure in accordance with the site's
 2-9 purpose and mission;
 2-10 (3) assume responsibility for the historic
 2-11 preservation and interpretation of the first capitol site and
 2-12 replica by:
 2-13 (A) preserving and maintaining historical
 2-14 documents, artifacts, relics, and other items of historical
 2-15 significance related to the site and this state;
 2-16 (B) developing exhibitions and interpretive
 2-17 programs to reflect the site's mission and educate the public; and
 2-18 (C) conducting ongoing research to enhance the
 2-19 accuracy and depth of the site's programs;
 2-20 (4) oversee the operations of and personnel for the
 2-21 first capitol site and replica by:
 2-22 (A) employing a site director and other personnel
 2-23 the commission considers necessary to fulfill the commission's
 2-24 duties and responsibilities for the site;
 2-25 (B) establishing efficient operational and
 2-26 visitor engagement policies and procedures; and
 2-27 (C) ensuring personnel development aligns with
 2-28 current best practices for historic site management;
 2-29 (5) acquire resources and seek donations for the first
 2-30 capitol site and replica by:
 2-31 (A) accepting and managing donations of money,
 2-32 land, historical relics, or other donations supporting the site's
 2-33 mission;
 2-34 (B) seeking grant opportunities and
 2-35 public-private partnerships to increase funding for site
 2-36 preservation and improvement efforts; and
 2-37 (C) acquiring property and artifacts aligned
 2-38 with the historical significance of the site that contribute to the
 2-39 site's mission and narrative;
 2-40 (6) strategically develop the first capitol site and
 2-41 replica by:
 2-42 (A) identifying and acquiring real property
 2-43 adjacent or relevant to the site to support the mission of and
 2-44 expand the site;
 2-45 (B) ensuring all acquisition of real property
 2-46 aligns with the historical context of the site and contributes to an
 2-47 authentic and immersive visitor experience; and
 2-48 (C) engaging in strategic planning to enhance the
 2-49 site's presence in the nearby community and promote heritage
 2-50 tourism;
 2-51 (7) facilitate community engagement and partnership
 2-52 for the first capitol site and replica by:
 2-53 (A) collaborating with local organizations,
 2-54 schools, and other relevant stakeholders to foster community
 2-55 involvement and support of the site;
 2-56 (B) establishing partnerships with historical
 2-57 societies, institutions of higher education, and cultural
 2-58 organizations to strengthen the site's educational impact; and
 2-59 (C) hosting events, lectures, and programs that
 2-60 encourage public participation and awareness of this state's
 2-61 history; and
 2-62 (8) ensure responsible stewardship of resources and
 2-63 the first capitol site and replica by:
 2-64 (A) maintaining ethical and professional
 2-65 standards for site operations; and
 2-66 (B) conducting periodic assessments to measure
 2-67 progress and identify areas to improve stewardship of the site.
 2-68 Sec. 442.0682. GRANTS; DONATIONS. The commission may
 2-69 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.

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