

By: Sparks

S.B. No. 2641

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation and management of the Panhandle-Plains
Historical Museum by the Texas Historical Commission.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER B-3. PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Sec. 442.067. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "museum"
means the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.

Sec. 442.068. PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM; FUND.

(a) The museum currently consists of a facility on the campus of
West Texas A&M University and a collection owned by the
Panhandle-Plains Historical Society.

(b) To the extent authorized by law, the commission may
enter into a contract with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society
for the operation and management of the museum. The commission may
also enter into a contract with West Texas A&M University or The
Texas A&M University System, as needed for the construction,
renovation, expansion, maintenance, or management of museum
facilities on the campus of West Texas A&M University.

(c) The contract with the Panhandle-Plains Historical
Society authorized by this section must include provisions for:

(1) expanding, renovating, managing,
maintaining, operating, or providing financial support for the

1 museum collection and museum facility and related assets;

2 (2) preserving the museum's collection;

3 (3) employing a museum director and other
4 employees the commission considers necessary to fulfill its duties
5 and responsibilities under the contract;

6 (4) accepting donations of money, property, and
7 historical relics; and

8 (5) acquiring property and historical relics
9 with funds available for that purpose.

10 (d) The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum fund is created
11 as a fund outside the state treasury. The commission shall
12 administer the fund but may contract with the Panhandle-Plains
13 Historical Society for administration of the fund. The fund
14 consists of:

15 (1) admissions revenue from the operation of the
16 museum;

17 (2) sales revenue from the operation of the
18 museum gift shop; and

19 (3) donations made to the commission for the
20 museum.

21 (e) Money in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum
22 fund may be spent without legislative appropriation and only to
23 administer, operate, preserve, repair, expand, or otherwise
24 maintain the museum.

25 (f) Interest and income from the assets of the
26 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum fund shall be credited to and
27 deposited in the fund.

SECTION 2. Section 61.003(6), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(6) "Other agency of higher education" means The University of Texas System, System Administration; The University of Texas at El Paso Museum; Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; The Texas A&M University System, Administrative and General Offices; Texas A&M AgriLife Research; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service (a part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service); Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (including the Texas A&M Transportation Institute); Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas Division of Emergency Management; Texas Tech University Museum; Texas State University System, System Administration; Sam Houston Memorial Museum; ~~[Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum]~~ Cotton Research Committee of Texas; Texas Water Resources Institute; Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory; and any other unit, division, institution, or agency which shall be so designated by statute or which may be established to operate as a component part of any public senior college or university, or which may be so classified as provided in this chapter.

SECTION 3. On September 1, 2025, an employee of West Texas A&M University assigned exclusively to the museum becomes an employee of the commission.

SECTION 4. Section 102.35, Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.