

**House Bill 1397**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION (IE)  
(Unless otherwise indicated, all SECTIONS below are from  
FA1)

CONFERENCE

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

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

(b) The **commission** is responsible for the care and custody of the victory or death letter, the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Declaration of Independence.

(c) The **commission** shall:

- (1) designate an appropriate place in the Alamo complex for the secure display of the victory or death letter; and
- (2) on the Texas Historical Commission's determination that the transfer to and display of the letter at the Alamo complex is safe and appropriate, transfer the letter to that location for display.
- (d) Until the **commission** designates an appropriate place in the Alamo complex to display the victory or death letter and in collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission

SECTION 1. Chapter 443, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 443.031 to read as follows:

Sec. 443.031. CARE, CUSTODY, AND DISPLAY OF VICTORY OR DEATH LETTER, TEXAS CONSTITUTION, AND TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. (a) In this section, "victory or death letter" means the letter written by Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis dated February 24, 1836, and signed "Victory or Death."

(b) The **board** is responsible for the care and custody of the victory or death letter, the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Declaration of Independence. The board is responsible for the safety and preservation of the victory or death letter at all times, including when the letter is in the direct custody of the board, in storage, or on display in the Alamo complex, Capitol Complex, or another site the board determines appropriate under Subsection (f).

(c) The board, in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, shall:

- (1) designate an appropriate place in the Alamo complex for the secure display of the victory or death letter; and
- (2) on the Texas Historical Commission's determination that the transfer to and display of the letter at the Alamo complex is safe and appropriate, transfer the letter to that location for display.
- (d) Until the **board** designates an appropriate place in the Alamo complex to display the victory or death letter and in collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission determines

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determines an appropriate time to securely transfer the letter to that place, the **commission**

shall display the victory or death letter in the public location at the Capitol Complex at which the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence are displayed as required by Subsection (e).

(e) The **commission** shall collaborate with the Texas Historical Commission and **State Preservation Board** to determine an appropriate public location at the Capitol Complex for the secure display of the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence.

(e-1) The **commission**, in consultation and collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission and the **State Preservation Board** 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 historical resources.

(e-2) Subsection (e-1) and this subsection expire September 1, 2031.

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an appropriate time to securely transfer the letter to that place, the board, in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, shall display the victory or death letter in the public location at the Capitol Complex at which the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence are displayed as required by Subsection (e).

(e) The **board** shall collaborate with the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to determine an appropriate public location at the Capitol Complex for the secure display of the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence.

(e-1) The **board**, in consultation and collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission and the **Texas State Library and Archives Commission** and not later than December 1, 2027, shall:

(1) develop a plan to display:

(A) the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Constitution in the Capitol Complex; and

(B) the victory or death letter in the Alamo complex and other sites the board determines appropriate under Subsection (f);

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

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

(e-2) Subsection (e-1) and this subsection expire September 1, 2031.

(f) The **board**, in consultation and collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission and the **Texas State Library**

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

(g) Costs attributable to the display of the victory or death letter, the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Declaration of Independence shall be paid by the commission, using money available to the commission for that purpose.

No equivalent provision.

and Archives Commission, may authorize for a limited period the display of the Texas Constitution, the Texas Declaration of Independence, or the victory or death letter at a museum, historical event, or historical site.

(g) Costs attributable to the display of the victory or death letter, the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Declaration of Independence shall be paid by the board, using money available to the board for that purpose.

SECTION 2. On the day the Texas Constitution, the Texas Declaration of Independence, and the letter described by Section 443.031(a), Government Code, as added by this Act, are to be displayed at the Capitol Complex, as provided by Sections 443.031(d) and (e), Government Code, as added by this Act, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission shall transfer to the State Preservation Board the Texas Constitution, the Texas Declaration of Independence, and the letter described by Section 443.031(a), Government Code, as added by this Act.

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

SECTION 3. Same as House version.