



# The National Standard

BULLETIN OF THE VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

NUMBER TWELVE  
SPRING-SUMMER  
2017



**2017 FLAG BILLS:** The 85th Legislature updated the flag code, but let other bills languish.  
*Courtesy Jon Willey*

## 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AMENDS FLAG CODE

Chapter 962, 2015 General and Special Laws of Texas

S.B. No. 1968

In the Senate: Zaffirini

In the House: Gutierrez

AN ACT

relating to the state flag code.

*Be It Enacted by The Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 3100.068(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the state flag or if the flag is passing in a parade or in review:

(1) each citizen of this state who is present and not in uniform should:

(A) face the state flag and stand at attention with the person's right hand over the heart; and

(B) if wearing a head covering that is easy to remove, remove the head covering with the right hand and hold it at the person's left shoulder, with the person's hand over the heart;

(2) each person who is present and in uniform should make the military salute; ~~and~~

(3) *each person who is present, not in uniform, and a member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military salute; and*

(4) each person who is present but not a citizen of this state should stand at attention.

SECTION 2. Section 3100.104, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3100.104. RECITING PLEDGE. If the pledge to the state flag is recited, each person who is present and:

### CONTENTS

2017 Meeting .....2  
Treasurer's Report .....2  
Other Flag Bills .....2

*continued on page 3*

## REPORT: 2017 BUSINESS MEETING, HOUSTON

The Association's annual business meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2017 auxiliary to the 121st annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association in San Antonio, was adjourned to March 3, 2018, auxiliary to the 122d annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association in San Marcos. The current board of directors continues in office until the next annual business meeting.

## REPORT: YEAR-END STATEMENTS FOR 2016

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			STATEMENT OF INCOME		
AS OF	12/31/15	12/31/16	FOR CALENDAR YEAR	2015	2016
<b>Assets:</b>			<b>Income (revenue):</b>		
Cash .....	\$2351.59	\$2611.59	Contributions .....	\$2000.00	\$ 0.00
Prepaid expenses .....	0.00	0.00	Membership dues .....	150.00	260.00
Total assets .....	<u>\$2351.59</u>	<u>\$2611.59</u>	Total income (revenue)....	<u>\$2150.00</u>	<u>\$260.00</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			<b>Expenses:</b>		
Accounts payable .....	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Total expenses .....	<u>\$2968.66</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Loan.....	0.00	0.00	Net income:.....	<u>\$ (818.66)</u>	<u>\$ 260.00</u>
Prepaid member dues .	0.00	0.00			
Total liabilities .....	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>			
<b>Net assets:</b>					
Total net assets .....	<u>\$2351.59</u>	<u>\$2611.59</u>			
Total liabilities & net assets.	<u>\$2351.59</u>	<u>\$2611.59</u>			

## REPORT: OTHER FLAG LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

H.B. 660 by Villalba, Darby, *Raymond* and Shine  
 Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for Texas state flags.  
*Left pending in the House Ways & Means Committee after a public hearing.*

H.B. 2041 by *Neave*  
 Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for United States flags and Texas state flags.  
*Referred to the House Committee on Ways & Means.*

H.C.R. 75 by Oliverson, *Raymond*, and Paul  
 Urging Texans not to use the flag emoji of the Republic of Chile when referring to the Texas flag.  
*Referred to the Senate Committee on Administration after passage by the House.*

S.B. No. 1200 by Campbell  
 Relating to guidelines for the proper care and display of the United States and Texas flags by public schools.  
*Referred to Senate Committee on Education.*

S.B. 1756 by *Zaffirini*  
 Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for Texas state flags.  
*Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.*

**THE NATIONAL STANDARD** (Continuing VAST News) (ISSN 2165-0101 (Print); ISSN 2165-011X (Online)) is published twice each year by the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas, member of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques. For questions or information, contact: VAST, 504 Branard Street, Houston, Texas 77006-5018 USA.  
 E-mail: [info@texflags.org](mailto:info@texflags.org) Internet: [www.texflags.org](http://www.texflags.org)

**VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS**  
**JAMES T. LISTON** President | **HUGH L. BRADY** FF Vice President | **CHARLES A. SPAIN** wsf Secretary-Treasurer

## LEGISLATION: 2017 TEXAS FLAG CODE AMENDMENTS

*continued from page 1*

(1) not in uniform should:

- (A) face the state flag and stand at attention with the person's right hand over the heart;
- (B) if wearing a head covering that is easy to remove, remove that head covering with the right hand and hold it at the person's left shoulder, with the person's hand over the heart; and
- (C) recite the pledge; ~~or~~

(2) *not in uniform and a member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military salute and recite the pledge; or*

(3) in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and make the military salute.

SECTION 3. Sections 3100.152(b) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) During a retirement ceremony:

(1) each citizen of this state who is present and not in uniform should:

- (A) stand at attention with the person's right hand over the heart; and
- (B) if wearing a head covering that is easy to remove, remove the head covering with the person's right hand and hold it at the person's left shoulder, with the right hand over the heart;

(2) each person who is present and in uniform should make the military salute at the appropriate time as designated by the ceremony; ~~and~~

(3) *each person who is present, not in uniform, and a member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military salute at the appropriate time as designated by the ceremony; and*

(4) each person who is present but not a citizen of this state should stand at attention.

(d) The official retirement ceremony for the state flag encouraged for public use is:

I am your Texas flag!

I was born January 25, 1839.

I am one of only two flags of an American state that has also served as the symbol of an independent nation—The Republic of Texas.

While you may honor me in retirement, the spirit I represent will never retire!

I represent the spirit of Texas—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow!

I represent the bravery of the Alamo and the Victory at San Jacinto.

My spirit rode with the Texas Rangers over the Forts Trail of the Big Country and herded cattle through the Fort Worth stockyards. I have sailed up Galveston Bay and kept a watchful eye over our El Paso del Norte.

My colors are in the waters of the Red River and in the Bluebonnets of the Texas Hill Country.

You'll find my spirit at the Light House of Palo Duro and in the sands of Padre Island;

I am *at the Johnson Space Center* in ~~[the space station at]~~ Houston and atop the oil wells of West Texas.

From the expanse of the Big Bend to the Riverwalk of San Antone—all of Texas is my home!

I wave over the cotton and grain fields of the High Plains, and I am deep in the rich soil of the Rio Grande Valley.

I am proudly displayed under the Capitol Dome, and I fly high above the concrete canyons of downtown Dallas.

You'll find my spirit in the East Texas piney woods and along the Grandeur of the Rio Grande.

I represent Texas—every Child, Woman, and Man!

The blue field in me stands for the valor of our ancestors in the battles for our country.

Let us retire the blue—Salute!

My white field stands for the purity in all our Texas hearts! It represents the honor that each of us should pay to our state each day.

Let us retire the white—Salute!

The red is for all of the men and women who have died in service of our state—whether as members of the armed services or as citizen Samaritans.

Let us retire the red—Salute!

My lone, independent star is recognized worldwide because it represents ALL of Texas and stands for our unity as one for God, State, and Country.

Let us retire the lone star—Salute!

Join in the pledge to the Texas flag:

“Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

SECTION 4. Section 3101.006(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) During the performance of the state song:

(1) when the state flag is displayed:

(A) each citizen of this state who is present and not in uniform should:

(i) face the flag and stand at attention with the person’s right hand over the heart; and

(ii) if wearing a head covering that is easy to remove, remove the head covering with the right hand and hold it at the person’s left shoulder, with the person’s right hand over the heart;

(B) each person who is present and in uniform should make the military salute at the first note of the state song and retain that position until the last note; ~~and~~

(C) *each person who is present, not in uniform, and a member of the armed forces or a veteran may make the military salute at the first note of the state song and retain that position until the last note; and*

(D) each person who is present but not a citizen of this state should stand at attention; and

(2) when the state flag is not displayed, each person present should face toward the music and act in the same manner as the person would if the state flag were displayed there.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed the Senate on April 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0. Passed the House on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective June 15, 2017.

#### **AUTHOR’S / SPONSOR’S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The state last updated the Texas flag code to conform with the United States flag code in 1993. Since then, however, the federal code has been amended, particularly with regard to military salutes made by veterans and members of the military who are not in uniform at patriotic ceremonies. Accordingly, S.B. 1968 would update Texas law with more recent changes to the federal code.

For example, to mirror the federal code, S.B. 1968 would clarify that a veteran or a member of the military who is not in uniform may make the military salute during the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the state flag or if the flag is passing in a parade or in review; may make the military salute and recite the pledge to the state flag; may make the military salute at the appropriate time during a retirement ceremony for the state flag; and may make the military salute during a performance of the state song.

What’s more, S.B. 1968 would replace an erroneous reference to “the space station at Houston” with “the Johnson Space Center in Houston” in the language regarding the official retirement ceremony for the state flag.

S.B. 1968 amends current law relating to the state flag code.

*Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security*  
April 3, 2017