



The National Standard

BULLETIN OF THE VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

NUMBER
TWENTY-EIGHT

SPRING-SUMMER
2025



2025 SESSION: The 89th Legislature passed patriotism-related measures and designated new state symbols, but let other bills languish. *José Pestana (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.).*

SUMMARIES OF LEGISLATION ENACTED IN 2025

H.B. 2703 (Chapter 221, 2025 General and Special Laws of Texas)

Effective immediately on May 28, 2025.

House Authors: Raymond *et al.* | Senate Sponsors: Hall *et al.*

Texas Legislative Council Summary: [A]mends the Government Code to designate July as American Patriotism Month to celebrate the United States of America and honor the values and principles on which it was founded[.]

S.B. 1350 (Chapter 496, 2025 General and Special Laws of Texas)

Effective on September 1, 2025.

Senate Authors: Hughes *et al.* | House Sponsor: Leach

House Research Organization Digest (May 19, 2025): SB 1350 would establish the Texas Bicentennial Commission and require the commission to:

- encourage and assist individuals, private organizations, and local governments to organize bicentennial celebrations;
- gather and disseminate information to the public about bicentennial events held in Texas;
- develop standards for bicentennial activities and sanction those that met the criteria;
- encourage individuals residing outside of Texas to attend and participate in bicentennial events, including by inviting national and international dignitaries;
- [establish and operate an affiliated nonprofit organization as necessary to carry out the commission's purposes;]
- develop a logo for commission use and permit its use by others as deemed appropriate; and
- sanction products the commission could sell, such as calendars or flags, commemorating the bicentennial.

Commission. The commission would consist of 23 members, including:

- nine members of the public appointed by the governor;
- three senators appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House; and
- eight ex officio members from certain state entities.

SB 1350 would provide for staggered six-year terms for appointed commission members, with the terms of three members appointed by the governor, one

continued on page 4

CONTENTS

2025 Legislation2

REPORT: FLAG, SYMBOL, OR RELATED LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

This report lists selected measures related to flags, symbols, or related rituals and observances introduced in the Legislature for consideration during the 89th regular session. Searches for legislation may be considered at Texas Legislature Online: *capitol.texas.gov*. Republicans are in roman text; Democrats in *italic text*.

Flags

Referred to H. Comm. on Pub. Educ:

H.B. 2456 by Slawson, et al., relating to the flying and display of flags by public schools.

Referred to H. Comm. on Pub. Educ. after Sen. passage:
S.B. 762 by Campbell, et al., relating to the display of flags in public schools; providing a civil penalty.

Referred to H. Comm. on St. Aff:

H.B. 3842 by Schatzline, relating to the prohibited display of certain flags in governmental buildings or on governmental property; providing a civil penalty.

Referred to H. Comm. on Trade, Wkfr. & Eco. Devo:

H.B. 1486 by Louderback, relating to dedicatory instruments prohibiting or restricting the display of Thin Blue Line flags by a property owners' association.

Referred to H. Comm. on Transportation:

H.B. 1909 by Schatzline, relating to crosswalk marking requirements.

Referred to the Sen. Comm. on Loc. Govt:

S.B. 2783 by Birdwell, relating to the authority of a property owners' association to regulate the display of certain flags.

Pending after public hrg. by H. Comm. on St. Aff:

H.B. 3990 by Hickland, relating to the display of flags by a building owned or operated by the state, a municipality, or a county.

H.B. 4247 by Metcalf, relating to increasing the criminal penalty for destruction of a flag.

Flag and Patriotic Rituals

Referred to H. Comm. on Pub. Educ:

H.B. 2171 by Harris, relating to a public school policy regarding the playing of the state song before certain school-sponsored athletic events.

H.B. 3152 by Hull, relating to the display of the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and the pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag in public school classrooms.

H.B. 5305 by Lowe, relating to recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America in public schools and in open-enrollment charter schools; providing exemptions.

Referred to H. Comm. on St. Aff:

H.B. 582 by Tepper, relating to proper etiquette during the recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the state flag.

Referred to the Sen. Comm. on Education K-16

S.B. 3024 by Menéndez, relating to the ability for students to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Adopting New State Symbols/Designations

Laid on the table subject to call

H.C.R. 89 by Hefner, et al., designating the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.

Referred to the House Committee on State Affairs

H.C.R. 99 by Spiller, designating the Texas strip steak as the official State Steak of Texas and directing the Texas Department of Agriculture to promote the Texas strip steak as part of efforts to support Texas beef and agricultural products.

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 Internet: www.texflags.org

VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

H.P. (PETE) VAN DE PUTTE JR. FF FVAST President

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Referred to the Sen. Comm. on Water, Agric. & Rural Aff. after H. adoption:

H.C.R. 101 by King, *et al.*, designating the tomahawk rib-eye steak as the official State Steak of Texas and directing the Texas Department of Agriculture to promote the tomahawk rib-eye steak as part of efforts to support Texas beef and agricultural products.

Referred to the H. Comm. on H. Admin:

H.C.R. 120 by Shofner, designating Galatians 5:13 of the New Living Translation of the Bible as the official Bible Verse of the Texas Legislature.

Referred to Sen. Comm. on Water, Agric. & Rural Aff:

S.C.R. 26 by Sparks, designating the Texas strip steak as the official State Steak of Texas and directing the Texas Department of Agriculture to promote the Texas strip steak as part of efforts to support Texas beef and agricultural products.

Abolishing or Redesignating Confederate Heroes Day

Referred to H. Comm. on Delivery of Govt. Efficiency:

H.B. 2238 by Dutton, relating to the creation and elimination of certain state holidays.

Referred to the Sen. Comm. on St. Aff:

S.B. 1297 by Johnson, relating to the creation and elimination of certain state holidays.

S.B. 2724 by Cook, relating to abolishing Confederate Heroes Day.

Establishing New State Holidays

Referred to H. Comm. on Delivery of Govt. Efficiency:

H.B. 374 by Bucy, *et al.*, relating to the designation of certain election days as state holidays.

H.B. 911 by Cain, *et al.*, relating to the designation of Celebration of Life Day as a state holiday.

H.B. 1047 by Bhojani, *et al.*, relating to the designation of certain optional holidays.

H.B. 1471 by Meza, relating to the designation of Diwali and Dashain as optional holidays.

Referred to H. Comm. on Culture, Rec. & Tourism:

H.B. 806 by Bell of Montgomery, relating to designating July as American Pride Month.

Referred to the Sen. Comm. on Bus. & Comm:

S.B. 862 by Johnson, relating to the designation of Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and Diwali as optional holidays.

Authorizing New Monuments

Referred to H. Comm. on Culture, Rec. & Tourism:

H.B. 1143 by Oliverson, *et al.*, relating to the establish-

ment of a memorial monument dedicated to unborn children on the Capitol grounds.

Restricting Monument Removal, Relocation, or Alterations

Referred to the H. Comm. on Culture, Rec. & Tourism:

H.B. 840 by Spiller, *et al.*, relating to the removal, relocation, alteration, or construction of certain monuments, memorials, or designations located on public property; authorizing a civil penalty.

Referred to the H. Comm. on Crim. Juris:

H.B. 4133 by Shaheen, relating to the offense of criminal mischief involving the damage or destruction of a monument or memorial.

Reported favorably (substituted) by H. Comm. on Culture, Rec. & Tourism:

H.B. 3227 by Gerdes, *et al.*, relating to the removal, relocation, alteration, or construction of certain monuments or memorials located on public property; authorizing a civil penalty.

Placed on the Sen. Intent Calendar for consideration and subsequently withdrawn:

S.B. 317 by Creighton, *et al.*, relating to the removal, relocation, alteration, or construction of certain monuments or memorials located on public property; authorizing a civil penalty.

Miscellaneous Legislation Related to History and Culture

Referred to H. Comm. on Culture, Rec. & Tourism:

H.B. 1497 by Cain, *et al.*, relating to the placement of a nativity scene on the Capitol grounds.

H.B. 4405 by Cain, relating to a commission to coordinate celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of Texas' independence.

Referred to H. Comm. on Pub. Educ:

H.B. 2732 by Curry, relating to prohibiting school districts from providing student instruction on Veterans Day.

Referred to the Sen. Comm. on St. Aff:

S.B. 515 by Middleton, relating to the placement of a nativity scene on the Capitol grounds.

Pending after public hrg. by Sen. Comm. on Eco. Devo:

H.B. 5032 by Metcalf, *et al.* (Sponsor: Zaffirini), relating to the display of certain historical state documents.

SUMMARIES OF 2025 LEGISLATION

continued from page 1

member appointed by the lieutenant governor, and one member appointed by the speaker expiring on January 31 of each odd-numbered year.

The bill would require the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker to appoint the initial members to the commission by December 1, 2025. Initial appointments would be assigned to terms ending January 31 of 2027, 2029, and 2031.

Each commission member would be a voting member. The public members appointed by the governor would have to reflect the diverse geographic regions and population groups of Texas. A commission member who was a [legislator] would vacate the member's position if the member ceased to hold the underlying position that qualified the member for service on the commission.

Presiding officer and meetings. SB 1350 would require the governor to appoint one commission member to serve as a presiding officer. The bill would require the commission to meet at least quarterly and at other times at the call of the presiding officer or as provided by commission rule. The Open Meetings Act would apply to commission meetings.

Compensation. SB 1350 would not entitle a commission member to compensation for service but would entitle a member to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties, subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by the [biennial budget].

Executive director. SB 1350 would authorize the commission to employ an executive director to serve as the executive head of the commission and perform its administrative functions, and would authorize the executive director to employ staff necessary to administer the commission.

Commission reporting and rules. SB 1350 would require the commission, by September 1, 2037, to file a report with the governor and the Legislature containing information about the effects of the bicentennial activities conducted in Texas on the state's economy. The bill would authorize the commission to adopt rules necessary to perform its functions and to solicit and accept, on behalf of the state, gifts, grants, and donations from any source to be used by the commission to perform its duties.

Sunset provision. The commission would be abolished, and the bill's provisions would expire on September 1, 2037.

H.B. 1397 (Chapter 936, 2025 General and Special Laws of Texas)

Effective on September 1, 2025.

House Authors: Harris *et al.* | Senate Sponsors: Middleton *et al.*

Texas Legislative Council Summary: [A]mends the Government Code to make the State Preservation Board responsible for the care and custody of the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence [and their display in the Capitol Complex] and for the care, custody, safety, and preservation of the [Travis Letter and its display in the Alamo Complex].

H.C.R. 107

Effective on May 24, 2025.

House Author: Metcalf | Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Designating the Texas Almanac as the official State Book of Texas.

S.C.R. 22

Effective on May 29, 2025.

Senate Author: Hughes | House Sponsor: Hefner

Designating the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.

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No. 28
Spring-Summer 2025

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