

SUBJECT: Official designations and symbols of Texas

COMMITTEE: State, Federal, and International Relations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Hunter, Chavez, Isett, Pitts, West
0 nays
4 absent — Moreno, Palmer, Seaman, Wise

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: HB 686 would amend VACS Title 106, dealing with “Patriotism and the Flag.” The bill would:

- provide standards for proper conduct of non-Texans during the pledge of allegiance to the state flag.
- designate the 1839 pilot flag of the Republic of Texas as the official flag of the governor, and describe its features, proportions and colors, and the protocol for its display. The governor would be authorized to recommend any changes in the description or display of the flag considered appropriate and could express any proposed changes through an executive order printed in the Texas Register.
- designate “Friendship” as the state motto, the mockingbird as the state bird, the bluebonnet as the state flower, and the pecan as the state tree. The bill would establish legislative intent for state agencies to continue to give due consideration to the pecan when planning state park beautification efforts.