

**SUBJECT:** Establishing an official governor's flag.

**COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation and Tourism — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Homer, D. Howard, Dukes, T. King, Kleinschmidt, Kuempel, McCall, Phillips, Thibaut

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 401.104 states that the governor may adopt a flag for the governor's official use. The governor must provide, by executive order, a description of the flag, published in the Texas Register. Currently, there is no published description of a governor's flag in the Texas Register.

**DIGEST:** HB 2500 would amend Government Code, sec. 401.104 to establish the 1893 pilot flag of the Republic of Texas as the governor's flag.

The governor's flag would consist of:

- a rectangle that is 1 and 1/2 times longer than it is wide;
- with a horizontal white stripe on top, a horizontal blue stripe in the middle, and a horizontal red strip on the bottom;
- a white, regular five-pointed star in the middle of the blue stripe; and
- red and blue colors that are the same colors used in the Texas flag.

When the governor's flag was mounted on a staff, it could be decorated with gold fringe, and the staff could be decorated with gold cords and tassels.

When the governor's flag was displayed on a staff, the staff should be 2 and 1/2 times longer than the flag's hoist; the flag should be attached to the staff's peak; and the staff's finial should be either a lone star or a spearhead.

The governor could prescribe any changes relating to the description or display of the governor's flag that the governor deemed appropriate.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

The 1893 pilot flag of the Republic of Texas, if it were established as the governor's flag, would provide an historical link to the Texas Lone Star Flag authorized by the same 1839 act. HB 2500 would give consistency to and build recognition of the governor's flag by designating one official flag. Designating a specific flag would increase good will and could be presented to visiting dignitaries and heads of state by the governor. The 1839 pilot flag of the Republic of Texas would symbolize the governor's role as chief executive.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

This bill is unnecessary because the governor currently has a flag for official use. The current governor's flag has been in use since 2000, and changing the flag would cause confusion. The governor should retain the flexibility of choosing the flag the governor considers appropriate for the Office of the Governor.

**NOTES:**

During the 2007 regular session, an identical bill, HB 3661 by Dunnam, was reported favorably, without amendment, by the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee, but the bill died in the Calendars Committee.