

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 927
By: Hall
Natural Resources & Economic Development
4/13/2019
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Battle of the Alamo was a defining moment in the history of Texas and illustrates the passion the early settlers had for freedom and independence. The battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" still stirs the hearts of patriots who cherish the sacrifice paid for our proud and independent state.

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has proposed plans that, in the words of the *San Antonio Express News*, "create a world-class museum that tells not just the full story of the 1836 battle, but the layers and layers of history at the site. This is a rare chance to redefine how Texas and the world view the Alamo."

As the Texas symbol for liberty and freedom, few Texans have a desire to "redefine" how the Alamo is viewed. S.B. 927 would require the GLO to center the narrative of exhibits within the Alamo compound on the 1836 Battle. It would also require the compound exhibits to feature three aspects of the 1836 Battle of the Alamo: the lives of the defenders, the lasting impact of the Battle on Texas history, and the pride of Texans in the heroism of the defenders.

The GLO would still be allowed to place exhibits featuring other eras and aspects of the Alamo history, so long as they are not on the Alamo compound grounds. There is legitimate concern that "redefining" the site will fail to portray the significant history of the pivotal 1836 battle, which has so defined the vision and spirit of Texans for almost 200 years. The people of Texas have made it clear that the 1836 Battle of the Alamo is the defining period of history at the site.

S.B. 927 defines "Alamo complex" as, "the municipal and state property, whether owned or leased, consisting of and adjacent to the Alamo, including the Alamo Mission, the Alamo compound, the Alamo Plaza, the Plaza de Valero, and the Long Barrack."

"Alamo compound" is defined in this bill as "the area of the original Alamo mission footprint contained within the walls of the mission as those walls stood in 1836."

C.S.S.B. 927 amends current law relating to exhibits presented at the Alamo complex.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter I, Chapter 31, Natural Resources Code, by adding Section 31.4512, as follows:

Sec. 31.4512. EXHIBITS IN ALAMO COMPLEX. (a) Defines "Alamo complex," and "Alamo compound."

(b) Requires the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to ensure that each exhibit presented in the Alamo compound has as its primary theme the 1836 Battle of the Alamo. Requires the exhibit to include information on:

(1) the lives of the individuals who defended the Alamo during the battle and the sacrifices made by those individuals for Texas independence and the freedom of Texans;

(2) the impact of the battle on Texas history and culture; and

(3) the pride felt by Texans with respect to the individuals who defended the Alamo during the battle.

(c) Requires GLO to ensure that an exhibit featuring a historical period or individual unrelated to the 1836 Battle of the Alamo is presented at a location in the Alamo complex other than the Alamo compound.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2019.