

AN ACT

relating to the display of the national motto in public schools and institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1.004, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1.004. DISPLAY OF NATIONAL MOTTO. (a) A public elementary or secondary school or an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003 must [may] display in a conspicuous place in each building of the school or institution a durable poster or framed copy of the United States national motto, "In God We Trust," if the poster or framed copy meets the requirements of Subsection (b) and is:

(1) donated for display at the school or institution; or

(2) purchased from private donations and made available to the school or institution [in each classroom, auditorium, and cafeteria].

(b) A poster or framed copy of the national motto described by Subsection (a):

(1) must contain a representation of the United States flag centered under the national motto and a representation of the state flag; and

(2) may not depict any words, images, or other information other than the representations listed in Subdivision (1).

(c) A public elementary or secondary school and an institution of higher education may accept and use private donations for the purposes of Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. 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, 2021.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 797 passed the Senate on April 19, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 797 passed the House on May 25, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 106, Nays 35, four present not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

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Date

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Governor

