

By: Smithee

H.B. No. 5554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation and management of the Panhandle-Plains
Historical Museum by the Texas Historical Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 442, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter B-3 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B-3. PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Sec. 442.067. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "museum"
means the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.

Sec. 442.068. PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM; FUND.

(a) The museum currently consists of a facility on the campus of
West Texas A&M University and a collection owned by the
Panhandle-Plains Historical Society.

(b) To the extent authorized by law, the commission may
enter into a contract with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society
for the operation and management of the museum. The commission may
also enter into a contract with West Texas A&M University or The
Texas A&M University System, as needed for the construction,
renovation, expansion, maintenance, or management of museum
facilities on the campus of West Texas A&M University.

(c) The contract with the Panhandle-Plains Historical
Society authorized by this section must include provisions for:

(1) expanding, renovating, managing, maintaining,
operating, or providing financial support for the museum collection

1 and museum facility and related assets;

2 (2) preserving the museum's collection;

3 (3) employing a museum director and other employees
4 the commission considers necessary to fulfill its duties and
5 responsibilities under the contract;

6 (4) accepting donations of money, property, and
7 historical relics; and

8 (5) acquiring property and historical relics with
9 funds available for that purpose.

10 (d) The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum fund is created
11 as a fund outside the state treasury. The commission shall
12 administer the fund but may contract with the Panhandle-Plains
13 Historical Society for administration of the fund. The fund
14 consists of:

15 (1) admissions revenue from the operation of the
16 museum;

17 (2) sales revenue from the operation of the museum
18 gift shop; and

19 (3) donations made to the commission for the museum.

20 (e) Money in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum fund
21 may be spent without legislative appropriation and only to
22 administer, operate, preserve, repair, expand, or otherwise
23 maintain the museum.

24 (f) Interest and income from the assets of the
25 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum fund shall be credited to and
26 deposited in the fund.

27 SECTION 2. Section [61.003](#)(6), Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (6) "Other agency of higher education" means The University
3 of Texas System, System Administration; The University of Texas at
4 El Paso Museum; Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at The
5 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; The Texas A&M
6 University System, Administrative and General Offices; Texas A&M
7 AgriLife Research; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Rodent and
8 Predatory Animal Control Service (a part of the Texas A&M AgriLife
9 Extension Service); Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
10 (including the Texas A&M Transportation Institute); Texas A&M
11 Engineering Extension Service; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas
12 Division of Emergency Management; Texas Tech University Museum;
13 Texas State University System, System Administration; Sam Houston
14 Memorial Museum; [~~Panhandle Plains Historical Museum,~~] Cotton
15 Research Committee of Texas; Texas Water Resources Institute; Texas
16 A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory; and any other unit,
17 division, institution, or agency which shall be so designated by
18 statute or which may be established to operate as a component part
19 of any public senior college or university, or which may be so
20 classified as provided in this chapter.

21 SECTION 3. On September 1, 2025, an employee of West Texas
22 A&M University assigned exclusively to the museum becomes an
23 employee of the commission.

24 SECTION 4. Section 102.35, Education Code, is repealed.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

H.B. No. 5554

1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.