

A BILL

to prohibit social and economic discrimination because of national origin, language or ancestry.

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

FINDINGS AND POLICY

Section 1. The practice of denying equal accommodations, facilities and treatment in or admission to public places of business or amusement to persons of Mexican or Latin-American origin, or to persons whose native speech is Spanish; and the practice of denying employment opportunities to and discriminating in employment against properly qualified persons by reasons of their Mexican or Latin-American extraction or their native language, foment domestic strife and unrest and adversely affect the general welfare of the State by depriving it of the fullest utilization of its capacity for production, by lowering the earnings and living standards of large groups of people within the State, and by creating a feeling of dissatisfaction, thereby committing grave injury to the public safety and welfare, endangering public health and undermining the living standards of all other people within the rest of the Americas, contrary to the national policy of the good neighbor. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the State to eliminate such discrimination and all the provisions of this act shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of this purpose.

PROHIBITION OF UNFAIR SOCIAL PRACTICES.

Section 2. a. No person or group of persons operating public places of business or amusement shall refuse equal accommodations, facilities and fair treatment to any person because of his national origin, language or ancestry.

b. No corporation, person or association, nor proprietor, lessee or agents thereof, operating an opera house, theatre, molodeon, museum, circus, caravan, race course, or fair, or any other place of public amusement or entertainment shall refuse admittance to any person who presents a ticket for admission, or who tenders the price thereof, because of his national origin, language or ancestry.

PROHIBITION OF UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Section 3. a. No employer shall refuse employment to any person, discharge any person, or discriminate against any person in compensation or in other terms or conditions of employment because of such persons' national origin, language or ancestry.

b. No labor union shall deny full membership rights and privileges to any person, expel any person from membership, or discriminate against any member, employer, or employee, because of his national origin, language or ancestry.

c. No employer or labor union shall discharge, expel or otherwise discriminate against any person because he had opposed any practices forbidden by this Act, or because he had filed a charge, testified or assisted in any proceedings under this Act.

Section 4. a. Any person, group of persons, corporation, proprietor, lessee, or agents thereof, who shall willfully refuse equal accommodations, facilities, privileges, treatment or admission to public places of business or amusement to any person because of his national origin, language, or ancestry, shall be fined not less than twenty five nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment in jail not less than one month nor more than two years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

b. Any person, group of persons, corporation, proprietor, lessee, or agents thereof, who shall willfully refuse equal accommodations, facilities, privileges, treatment or admission to public places of business or amusement to any person because of his national origin, language, or ancestry and who operates under a license from the State of Texas shall, in addition to the penalty prescribed in the preceding section, automatically forfeit its license to do business.

Section 4. c. Any employer who shall willfully refuse employment to any person, discharge any person, or discriminate against any person in compensation or in other terms or conditions of employment because of the person's national origin, language, or ancestry, shall be fined not less than twenty five nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment in jail for not less than one month nor more than two years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 5. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to persons, corporations, or associations owning or operating public places of business or amusement exclusively for the benefit of persons of the Negro Race and persons of the Caucasian Race may be lawfully excluded from all such places.

Section 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

EMERGENCY NATURE

Section 7 a. National Defense requires unity of interests between the various groups of people within the State and Nation for the effective prosecution of the war and for the maximum production essential to the early achievement of victory.

b. Hemispheric solidarity demands the maintenance of harmonious relations with all the countries in the Americas.

c. The need for the elimination of discrimination against persons because of their national origin, language or ancestry being essential to the attainment of both better understanding among the various groups of people within the State and the people of the Americas constitutes an emergency and an imperative public necessity.

d. The Constitutional Rule requiring Bills to be read on three several days in each house shall be, therefore, suspended and said Rule is hereby suspended and this Act shall take effect and be in full force from and immediately after its passage and, it is so enacted.