

**L A W S**

OF THE

**REPUBLIC OF TEXAS**

PASSED THE

**FIRST SESSION OF THIRD CONGRESS**

**1839**

HOUSTON.

1839

IN CONVENTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE RE-  
PUBLIC OF TEXAS JULY 4, 1845.

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AN ORDINANCE.

Preamble re-  
citing the offi-  
cial action of  
the Congress  
and President  
of the United  
States and of  
the President  
and Congress  
of Texas, in  
regard to an-  
nexation.

Whereas the Congress of the United States of America has passed resolutions providing for the annexation of Texas to that Union, which resolutions were approved by the President of the United States on the first day of March one thousand eight hundred and forty-five; and whereas the President of the United States has submitted to Texas the first and second sections of the said resolution, as the basis upon which Texas may be admitted as one of the States of the said Union; and whereas the existing government of the Republic of Texas has assented to the proposals thus made, the terms and conditions of which are as follows,

JOINT RESOLUTION FOR ANNEXING TEXAS  
TO THE UNITED STATES.

Consent of  
Congress giv-  
en to annexa-  
tion as a State.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress doth consent, that the territory, properly included within, and rightfully belonging to the Republic of Texas, may be erected into a new State, to be called the State of Texas, with a republican form of government, to be adopted by the people of said Republic, by deputies in convention assembled, with the consent of the existing government, in order that the same may be admitted as one of the States of this Union.

Conditions and  
guarantees.

2nd. And be it further resolved, That the foregoing consent of Congress is given upon the following conditions, and with the following guarantees, to wit: First, Said State to be formed, subject to the adjustment by this government, of all questions of boundary that may arise with other governments;

Boundaries to  
be adjusted by  
the U. States.

and the Constitution thereof with the proper evidence of its adoption by the people of said Republic of Texas, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, to be laid before Congress for its final action, on or before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six. Second, Said State, when admitted into the Union, after ceding to the United States all public edifices, fortifications, barracks, ports and harbors, navy and navy yards, docks, magazines, arms and armaments, and all other property and means pertaining to the public defence belonging to the said Republic of Texas, shall retain all the public funds, debts, taxes, and dues of every kind, which may belong to or be due & owing to the said Republic; and shall also retain all the vacant and unappropriated lands lying within its limits, to be applied to the payment of the debts and liabilities of said Republic of Texas, and the residue of said lands, after discharging said debts and liabilities, to be disposed of as said State may direct; but in no event are said debts and liabilities to become a charge upon the government of the United States. Third, New States of convenient size, not exceeding four in number, in addition to said State of Texas, and having sufficient population, may hereafter, by the consent of said State, be formed out of the territory thereof, which shall be entitled to admission under the provisions of the Federal Constitution. And such states as may be formed out of that portion of said territory lying south of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, commonly known as the Missouri Compromise Line, shall be admitted into the Union, with or without slavery, as the people of each State, asking admission may desire. And in such State or States, as shall be formed out of said territory; north of said Missouri Compromise Line, slavery or involuntary servitude (except for crime) shall be prohibited.

State Constitution to be adopted and presented.

What to be ceded to the U. States.

What to be retained.

Public debt of Texas.

New States may be formed out of Texian territory.

Missouri Compromise Line established.

Now, in order to manifest the assent of the people of this Republic as required in the above recited portions of the said resolutions; We the deputies

of the people of Texas in convention assembled in their name and by their authority, do ordain and declare, that we assent to, and accept the proposals, conditions and guarantees contained in the first and second sections of the resolution of the Congress of the United States aforesaid.

Done at the city of Austin, Republic of Texas July 4th 1845

THO. J. RUSK, President.

PHIL. M. CUNY	JOS. L. HOGG,
H. G. RUNNELS	CHAS. S. TAYLOR
ROBERT M. FORBES	DAVID GAGE
SAM. LUSK	HENRY J. JEWETT
JNO. CALDWELL	CAVITT ARMSTRONG
JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO	JAMES POWER
GEO. WM. BROWN	ALBERT H. LATIMER
GUSTAVUS A. EVERTS	WM. C. YOUNG
LEMUEL DALE EVANS	J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON
J. B. MILLER	NICHOLAS H. DARNELL
R. E. B. BAYLOR	EMERY RAINS
J. S. MAYFIELD	A. W. O. HICKS
R. BACHE	JAMES M. BURROUGHS
JAMES LOVE	H. L. KINNEY
WM. L. HUNTER	WILLIAM L. CAZNEAU
JOHN D. ANDERSON	A. S. CUNNINGHAM
ISAAC PARKER	ABNER S. LIPSCOMB
P. O. LUMPKIN	JOHN HEMPHILL
FRANCIS MOORE, JR.	VAN R. IRION
ISAAC W. BRASHEAR	VOLNEY E. HOWARD
ALEXANDER MCGOWAN,	E. H. TARRANT
ISAAC VAN ZANDT	FRANCIS M. WHITE
S. HOLLAND	JAMES DAVIS
EDWARD CLARK	GEORGE T. WOOD
GEO. W. SMYTH	G. W. WRIGHT
JAMES ARMSTRONG	H. R. LATIMER
JOHN M. LEWIS	W. B. OCHILTREE
JAMES SCOTT	OLIVER JONES
ARCHIBALD McNEILL	B. C. BAGBY
A. C. HORTON	CHS. BELLINGER STEW-
ISRAEL STANDEFER	ART

Attest

JAS. H. RAYMOND,  
Secretary of the Convention.

furnished by the first day of May next.

IRA INGRAM,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

RICHARD ELLIS,

President pro tem. of the senate.

Approved, Dec. 17, 1836.

SAM. HOUSTON.

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AN ACT,

To define the Boundaries of the Republic of Texas.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the republic of Texas, in congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, the civil and political jurisdiction of this republic be, and is hereby declared to extend to the following boundaries, to wit: beginning at the mouth of the Sabine river, and running west along the Gulf of Mexico three leagues from land, to the mouth of the Rio Grande, thence up the principal stream of said river to its source, thence due north to the forty-second degree of north latitude, thence along the

boundary line as defined in the treaty between the United States and Spain, to the beginning: and that the president be, and is hereby authorized and required to open a negotiation with the government of the United States of America, so soon as in his opinion the public interest requires it, to ascertain and define the boundary line as agreed upon in said treaty.

IRA INGRAM,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

RICHARD ELLIS,

President pro tem. of the senate.

Approved, Dec. 19, 1836.

SAM. HOUSTON.

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AN ACT

Authorizing the Printing and Publishing the Laws of the Provisional Government, the Acts of the Convention of March last, and the present Congress.