

## The Law of April 6, 1830

The Mexican government reacted swiftly to Mier y Teran's report by passing several new laws for Texas: The Law of April 6, 1830

- Outlawed further immigration from the United States. Any empresario contracts that had not been completed were canceled.
- Encouraged European and Mexican colonists to move to Texas to dilute the influence of American settlers.
- Added taxes to any goods coming in from the United States to encourage trade with Mexico.
- Established new forts and sent soldiers to live in Texas to enforce the new laws and collect taxes.
- Prevented any Americans from living close to the border of the United States.

- One of the most controversial rules came from Article 10, which stated:  
*No change shall be made with respect to the slaves now in the states, but the Federal government and the government of each state shall most strictly enforce the colonization laws and prevent the further introduction of slaves.*



Mexico was preventing any more enslaved Africans from being brought into Texas. This law, in combination with the decree passed the year before which banned slavery, further alarmed the American colonists. Stephen F. Austin calls the law of April 6, 1830 "... a lightning bolt out of the blue..." because he realized the impact this new law would have on the Americans living in Texas.