



SUMMARY OF ENACTMENTS

89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION AND 2ND CALLED SESSION

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INTRODUCTION

Summary of Enactments, 89th Texas Legislature, provides summaries of all bills and joint resolutions passed by the Texas Legislature during the 2025 Regular Session and 2nd Called Session. No bills or joint resolutions were passed in the 1st Called Session. This publication is intended to be a convenient reference to the main features of enacted measures and is not to be considered a comprehensive or legal analysis.

The summaries are presented in alphabetical and numerical order by session, with summaries of vetoed bills duplicated in the [Vetoed by the Governor](#) section.

		Filed	Passed	Vetoed
Regular	Bills	8,719	1,213	26*
	Joint Resolutions	295	18	-
1st C.S.	Bills	369	0	-
	Joint Resolutions	39	0	-
2nd C.S.	Bills	368	21	1
	Joint Resolutions	40	0	-

The text of bills and joint resolutions and related histories, analyses, fiscal notes, and summaries are provided electronically through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website. This website also provides users the ability to search for bills and joint resolutions on a variety of subject areas. For further assistance in locating legislation, visit the website of the [Legislative Reference Library](#) or contact the library at (512) 463-1252.

Of the 18 joint resolutions passed in the Regular Session, 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution and were approved by voters in the election held on November 4, 2025. For more in-depth analyses of the amendments, see the Texas Legislative Council's [publications web page](#).

* The governor also vetoed several line items in the General Appropriations Act (S.B. 1) and a line item in the supplemental appropriations bill (H.B. 500).

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ENACTMENTS OF THE 89TH LEGISLATURE

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REGULAR SESSION, 2025

House Bill 2

House Author: Buckley et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2 is an omnibus bill relating to public education and public school finance that amends the Education Code, Government Code, Labor Code, and Tax Code to make the following changes, among others. The bill's provisions take effect June 20, 2025, except as otherwise provided.

Article 1 of House Bill 2 relates to teacher compensation and does the following:

- revises provisions relating to local optional teacher designation systems by establishing an acknowledged designation and a nationally board certified designation, expanding the type of assistance the Texas Education Agency (TEA) must provide regarding these systems, and providing for the designation of enhanced teacher incentive allotment systems;
- provides for a local optional teacher designation system grant program to expand the implementation of those systems and to increase the number of classroom teachers eligible for a designation;
- effective September 1, 2026, revises the teacher incentive allotment to increase the allotment payments and account for the new teacher designation levels;
- requires TEA to contract with a third party to provide classroom teachers with assistance in understanding their rights, duties, and benefits and with liability insurance;
- effective September 1, 2025, creates a teacher retention allotment and a support staff retention allotment for use in increasing salaries as provided by the bill;
- effective September 1, 2025, entitles a public school district that is subject to recapture but owes no recapture due to the collections-related recapture adjustment to receive certain additional state aid; and
- repeals provisions dedicating a certain percentage of any basic allotment increase to salary increases for certain district employees.

Article 2 of House Bill 2 relates to educator preparation and teacher rights and does the following:

- prohibits a district from employing an uncertified teacher of record for a course in the foundation curriculum but provides a limited, temporary exception for a district that has adopted a local innovation plan and also authorizes the commissioner of education to allow for the delayed implementation of the prohibition by certain districts;
- establishes a teacher certification incentive;
- sets out provisions establishing the types of teaching certificates and requirements for a traditional teacher preparation route, a teacher residency preparation route, and certain alternative teacher preparation routes;
- revises provisions relating to approval and renewal of educator preparation programs;
- extends eligibility for a school district teaching permit to certain persons currently enrolled in a postsecondary program;
- requires the commissioner to develop and make available instructional materials for use in educator preparation programs and training for faculty responsible for preparing educator candidates;
- establishes requirements for districts to differentiate compensation for beginning teachers based on their certification status and type;
- removes the expiration date of provisions relating to teacher achievement academies for literacy and mathematics and provides for an educator preparation program to receive a payment for completion of such an academy by certain teachers enrolled in the program;

- repeals provisions establishing the Texas Teacher Residency Program and establishes instead the Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Programs, which include the following:
 - the PREP Traditional Preservice Program, the PREP Residency Preservice Program, and the PREP Alternative Preservice Program, which enable qualified educator preparation programs to form partnerships with districts and charter schools for purposes of providing preservice practice opportunities for teacher candidates;
 - the PREP Grow Your Own Partnership Program, which enables qualified institutions of higher education and educator preparation programs to form partnerships with districts or charter schools to establish innovative staffing pipelines to ensure the availability of high-quality classroom teachers; and
 - the PREP Mentorship Program through which participating districts or charter schools implement a mentoring program for classroom teachers who have less than two years of teaching experience; and
- effective September 1, 2026, establishes a PREP Program allotment and an allotment for completion of teacher literacy or mathematics achievement academies and repeals the existing mentor program allotment.

Article 3 of House Bill 2 relates to the rights of public school educators and does the following:

- changes the deadline by which a district must provide notice to current district employees of a vacant position for which a certificate or license is required;
- provides for the waiver of bilingual and special education examination and certification fees;
- provides for an opportunity to retake failed portions of the bilingual target language proficiency test for teacher certification;
- specifies certain reasons for which a teacher may resign from a contract position after the resignation deadline without the consent of the district board of trustees;
- requires that classroom teachers be given the option to elect not to take their paid personal leave concurrently with unpaid FMLA leave for an absence due to pregnancy or the birth or adoption of a child;
- requires TEA to provide certain teacher quality assistance to districts and charter schools and to collect data to address teacher retention and recruitment;
- requires that a teacher or other district employee against whom a complaint is filed be given notice of the complaint and an opportunity to submit a written response;
- expands the grounds on which a teacher may remove a student from class, requires parental notification of such a removal, conditions the return of the student to class without the teacher's consent on the holding of a conference in which the teacher has been provided an opportunity to participate and the creation of a return to class plan, and authorizes a student to appeal their removal; and
- requires notice of a threat made against a campus to be provided to affected teaching staff.

Article 4 of House Bill 2 relates to special education and makes the same changes that are described in the summary of Senate Bill 568, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Article 5 of House Bill 2 relates to measures to support early childhood education and does the following:

- revises provisions relating to the literacy and mathematics achievement academy stipend for teachers and provides for TEA evaluation of such academies;
- requires the commissioner to develop and make available reading intervention academies and mathematics interventionist academies for teachers or other relevant professionals;

- revises and sets out requirements regarding the adoption and use of early literacy and numeracy tests, dyslexia screening, early literacy intervention, and training in mathematics for kindergarten through third grade;
- requires the development of an adaptive vocabulary assessment pilot program;
- extends eligibility for a tuition-free prekindergarten class to children of public school teachers employed by the district offering the class;
- sets out provisions relating to prekindergarten partnerships and revises the required qualifications of a teacher for a prekindergarten class provided by an entity with which a district contracts to provide a high quality prekindergarten program;
- requires reporting of certain data regarding students identified as having a vision disorder or other vision problem requiring vision care;
- effective September 1, 2028, revises the criteria that must be met to qualify for a resource campus designation;
- requires TEA to engage in efforts to meet the demand from districts and charter schools that request assistance in adopting and using the open education resource instructional material support program for the 2024-2025 or 2025-2026 school year;
- effective September 1, 2025, revises provisions relating to the incentive for additional instructional days and the early education allotment, establishes an incentive for additional instructional days for reading intervention and an early literacy intervention allotment, and provides for the distribution of certain early education allotment money for purposes of full-day prekindergarten;
- establishes a grant program to provide certain planning support to districts and charter schools regarding the incentive funding for additional instructional days; and
- establishes a first through third grade supplementary supports grant program to help improve student reading proficiency and, effective September 1, 2026, sets out provisions relating to funding for these grants.

Article 6 of House Bill 2 relates to college, career, and military readiness and generally makes the same changes that are described in the summary of House Bill 120, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025. However, there are certain minor differences in the provisions relating to the annual training for school counselors regarding postsecondary education information and the notice regarding military-related training programs, and House Bill 2 does not include the requirement for a district's college, career, and military readiness plan to include certain annual goals for student completion and graduate outcomes.

Article 7 of House Bill 2 relates to public education and public school finance and does the following effective September 1, 2025:

- provides for automatic increases to the basic allotment through use of a new guaranteed yield increment adjustment, which is set at \$55 for the 2026-2027 biennium;
- increases the small and mid-sized district allotment and the school safety allotment;
- establishes an allotment for basic costs;
- revises the guaranteed yield for a district's golden pennies;
- revises provisions regarding the bilingual education allotment to provide funding for alternative language education methods using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model and to allow the allotment to be used for teacher salaries;
- repeals a limitation on the use of compensatory education allotment funds;
- revises provisions regarding state funding for charter schools;
- establishes reporting requirements for districts and TEA regarding district facility usage;
- requires TEA to approve high-impact tutoring providers for purposes of providing accelerated or supplemental instruction;
- expands the requirements for procedures regarding the use of restraint and time-out with respect to a student with a disability receiving special education services;

- grants the commissioner certain authority to resolve unintended consequences relating to public school finance;
- sets out requirements for notice to districts regarding recourse for invalid property values;
- requires the commissioner, periodically throughout the school year, to adjust certain school finance determinations to reflect current school year estimates of a district's enrollment and average daily attendance; and
- provides for additional state aid for regional insurance cost differentials and additional state aid to ensure funding of retention allotments.

House Bill 6

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Leach et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 6 amends the Education Code to revise and set out provisions relating to discipline management in public schools. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- grants a professional employee of a public school district immunity from disciplinary proceedings for the reporting of a violation of state law regarding discipline in public schools to another professional employee of a district, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), or a law enforcement agency or for an action taken in good faith to remove a student from class;
- for purposes of the parent-directed special education services program, includes crisis prevention and intervention training for a student's parent or person standing in parental relation among the qualifying supplemental services;
- revises the requirements for a student code of conduct;
- revises provisions regarding campus behavior coordinators, including by establishing such a coordinator's responsibility to monitor disciplinary referrals and report certain student conduct to the campus's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team;
- authorizes a district's board of trustees to adopt a policy for parental involvement in school disciplinary placements and sets out requirements for such a policy;
- expands the grounds on which a teacher may remove a student from class, requires parental notification of such a removal, conditions the return of the student to class without the teacher's consent on the holding of a conference in which the teacher has been provided an opportunity to participate and the creation of a return to class plan, and authorizes a student to appeal their removal;
- specifies that an in-school suspension is not subject to any time limit but requires review of such a suspension at least once every 10 school days to determine if it should be continued;
- requires a school to provide a student subject to an in-school suspension with appropriate behavioral support services and comparable educational services as the student would receive in the classroom;
- revises the conduct for which a student enrolled in a grade level below grade three may be placed in out-of-school suspension and allows for reassignment of the student to an in-school suspension on request of a parent or person standing in parental relation who is unable to provide suitable supervision for the student during school hours during the suspension period;
- revises the grounds for mandatory or discretionary placement of a student in a disciplinary alternative education program;
- expands the conduct that triggers mandatory expulsion of a student, including by removing restrictions on where applicable conduct occurs;
- authorizes placement of a student who has been expelled in a virtual expulsion program that is established by the respective district if a juvenile justice alternative education program is not

available for certain reasons and sets out requirements and prohibitions relating to such a virtual program;

- revises the grounds on which a student may be excluded from an open-enrollment charter school;
- prohibits the exemption of a district of innovation from state law regarding school discipline;
- prohibits TEA from withholding any state funding or imposing a penalty on a district based on the number of students in the district that have been removed from a classroom, placed into in-school or out-of-school suspension, placed in a disciplinary alternative education program or a juvenile justice alternative education program, or expelled; and
- establishes that the team conducting a threat assessment of a student in a special education program must include a person who has knowledge of student disabilities and how student disabilities manifest and may include specified types of professionals.

The bill also amends the Education Code and Health and Safety Code to set out provisions regarding the Texas Child Health Access through Telemedicine program operated by the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. The bill does the following:

- authorizes a district to offer to each enrolled student access to mental health services provided through the program if the consortium makes such services available to the district but prohibits the district from requiring a student to participate in any such service;
- establishes certain consent requirements for program referrals, participation, and record sharing;
- requires the program to maintain, provide to each district at which the program is available, and post quarterly on the consortium's website a list of health providers to which the program refers participants and the process used in vetting those providers; and
- requires the consortium's biennial report to include certain data regarding participants and potential participants of the program.

House Bill 9

House Author: Meyer et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 9 amends the Tax Code to increase the value of income-producing tangible personal property subject to exemption from property taxation to \$125,000 of the market value of the property and to set out the conditions under which a person is required to render such property. Accordingly, the bill revises Property Tax Code provisions regarding reporting forms prescribed by the comptroller of public accounts. The bill takes effect January 1, 2026, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 1.

House Bill 11

House Author: Phelan

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 11 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to maximize licensing reciprocity agreements for TDLR-issued licenses to the extent allowed by law, identify state laws that prevent TDLR from entering into a reciprocity agreement with a licensing authority in another state, and biennially submit a related report to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board. The bill requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to establish procedures for TDLR to determine whether the licensing requirements of another state are substantially equivalent to Texas' requirements and, with respect to states with such licensing requirements, to enter into and implement reciprocity agreements with the applicable licensing authorities.

House Bill 12

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 12 amends the Government Code to create public notification requirements for the Sunset Advisory Commission and certain state agencies being reviewed by the sunset commission under the Texas Sunset Act. The bill expands the required contents of the sunset commission's report on applicable agencies and advisory committees to include certain performance-related components. The bill authorizes the sunset commission to recommend to the legislature that a limited review of a regulatory agency be conducted and sets out provisions relating to such a review, including requiring a regulatory agency to report to the sunset commission its progress in addressing review items.

Additionally, House Bill 12 requires applicable state agencies to undergo an efficiency audit overseen by the state auditor, who must adopt an audit schedule. The bill sets out provisions relating to such an efficiency audit, including the scope of the audit and the selection of an auditor, and provides for a report of such an audit with associated recommendations not later than November 1 of the year the audit is conducted. The bill requires the administrative head of an audited state agency to deliver a plan for implementing the recommendations that must include a reasoned justification for any recommendation the agency declines to implement.

House Bill 14

House Author: Harris et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 14 amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Office to, among other objectives, lead the transition to a balanced energy future by advancing innovative nuclear energy generation technologies while delivering safe, reliable, and clean energy solutions that address the state's growing demand. The bill provides for the administration and duties of the office and authorizes the director of the office to employ a nuclear permitting coordinator to assist businesses throughout the nuclear energy permitting and regulatory process.

House Bill 14 creates the Texas Advanced Nuclear Development Fund as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and provides for the use of money in the fund. The bill also establishes the following grant programs:

- the project development and supply chain reimbursement program;
- the advanced nuclear construction reimbursement program; and
- the completion bonus grant program for interconnected reactors.

House Bill 18

House Author: VanDeaver et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 18, the Rural Health Stabilization and Innovation Act, amends the Government Code to include among the required contents of the state's strategic plan for rural hospital services a rural hospital financial needs assessment and financial vulnerability index quantifying the likelihood that a rural hospital, during the next two-year period, will be able to maintain the types of patient services the hospital currently offers at the same level of service, meet the hospital's current financial obligations, and remain operational. The bill also establishes the State Office of Rural Hospital Finance, the Texas Rural Hospital Officers Academy, and numerous grant programs for rural hospitals, hospital districts, and hospital authorities. Among other provisions, the bill revises the facilities to which provisions governing the Pediatric Tele-Connectivity Resource Program for Rural Texas apply.

House Bill 18 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium to establish or expand provider consultation programs to assist health care practitioners

providing services at rural hospitals or rural health clinics to identify and assess the behavioral health needs of pediatric and perinatal patients seeking services at the hospital or clinic and to identify necessary mental health care services to improve access to mental health care services for such patients. The bill further provides for the development of a plan to establish telemedicine or telehealth programs to identify and assess behavioral health needs and provide access to mental health care services for pediatric patients.

House Bill 20

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Gates et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 20 amends the Education Code to require the commissioner of education to establish and administer the Applied Sciences Pathway program. Among other provisions, the bill provides for program partnerships between public school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and public institutions of higher education to provide courses of study for students in grade level 11 or 12 that lead to a high school diploma and completion of a certificate program with a successful job placement rate in high-wage, high-growth jobs in one of the industries specified by the bill.

House Bill 21

Effective: 5-28-25

House Author: Gates et al.

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 21 amends the Local Government Code to revise the Texas Housing Finance Corporations Act by clarifying the area of operation in which a housing finance corporation (HFC) may exercise its powers and by imposing additional conditions for beneficial property tax treatment for certain multifamily residential developments. Among other provisions, the bill limits the area of operation in which an HFC may own real property for residential development or engage in residential development and provides for the eligibility of such a development for the HFC tax exemption, subject to additional affordability requirements including the reservation of very low, lower, moderate, and middle income housing units and caps on the amount of rent that may be charged for each income tier of reserved units. The bill provides for a compliance audit of the HFC or HFC user of a development that claims the exemption and makes such a development ineligible for the exemption in any given tax year in which the HFC or HFC user is not in compliance with the applicable eligibility requirements.

House Bill 22

Effective: 1-1-26

House Author: Noble et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 22 amends the Tax Code to make all intangible personal property exempt from property taxation.

House Bill 24

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Orr et al.

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 24 amends the Local Government Code to replace provisions relating to a protest of a proposed change to a municipal zoning regulation or zoning district boundary with provisions that do the following:

- require a protest of a proposed change to a municipal zoning regulation or zoning district boundary that is not a proposed comprehensive zoning change to be written and signed by the owners of the following:
 - at least 20 percent of the area of the lots or land covered by the proposed change;

- at least 20 percent of the area of the lots or land immediately adjoining the area covered by the proposed change and extending 200 feet from that area; or
- at least 60 percent of the area of the lots or land immediately adjoining the area covered by the proposed change and extending 200 feet from that area if the proposed change has the effect of allowing more residential development than the existing zoning regulation or district boundary and does not have the effect of allowing additional commercial or industrial uses unless the additional use is limited to the first floor of any residential development and does not exceed 35 percent of the overall development; and
- require the protested proposed change to receive, in order to take effect, the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of all members of the governing body for a protest with a 20 percent threshold or at least a majority of all the members for a protest with the 60 percent threshold.

House Bill 24 specifies the only notices required for a proposed comprehensive zoning change. The bill establishes that a change to a zoning regulation or district boundary that has the effect of allowing more residential development than the previous regulation is conclusively presumed valid and to have occurred in accordance with all applicable statutes and ordinances if an action to annul or invalidate the change has not been filed before the 60th day after the change's effective date. The bill requires the zoning commission of a home-rule municipality, not later than the 10th day before the date the commission holds a hearing on a proposed change in zoning classification that does not apply to the whole municipality and until the date of a final determination on the proposed change by the municipality's governing body, to post a notice sign on the property affected by the change or on a public right-of-way for a change initiated by the municipality that affects multiple properties.

House Bill 26

House Author: Hull et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 26 amends the Government Code to require a Medicaid managed care contract to contain language permitting the contracting managed care organization (MCO) to offer qualifying nutrition counseling and instruction services from a list of services approved by the state Medicaid managed care advisory committee and included in the contract in lieu of services specified in the state Medicaid plan. The bill also authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission to establish a pilot program under which Medicaid MCOs may offer and provide additional nutrition support services in lieu of services specified in the state Medicaid plan to pregnant Medicaid recipients who are diagnosed with a chronic health condition or disease that may contribute to a high-risk pregnancy or birth complications.

House Bill 27

House Author: King et al.

Senate Sponsor: Flores et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

Previous law required high school students in public schools to complete at least one-half credit either in economics or in personal financial literacy and economics as part of the social studies curriculum. House Bill 27 amends the Education Code to replace that curriculum requirement with a requirement to complete at least one-half credit in personal financial literacy and to provide the option to complete one credit in economics as an alternative to world geography or world history. The bill requires the State Board of Education to allow a student to comply with the personal financial literacy curriculum requirement by successfully completing an advanced placement course containing substantively similar and rigorous academic content.

House Bill 29**House Author:** Gerdes et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al.**Effective:** 5-29-25**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 29 amends the Water Code to require a municipally owned utility that provides potable water through more than 150,000 service connections and that has filed an annual water audit with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to do the following:

- not later than the 180th day after the date the audit was filed, complete a validation of the audit to ensure the utility accurately assessed potential inaccuracies in data used in the audit;
- not later than the first anniversary of the date the audit was filed, develop and submit to the TWDB a water loss mitigation plan; and
- not later than December 31, 2030, and every 10 years thereafter:
 - complete a more detailed validation of the utility's most current water audit to determine whether the implementation of water leakage reduction strategies is appropriate and to investigate the accuracy of the utility's billing data; and
 - update the utility's water loss mitigation plan accordingly.

Among other provisions, the bill requires the water loss mitigation plan to be incorporated into the utility's most recent water conservation plan not later than the first anniversary of the date the mitigation plan is completed and requires the utility, as part of its annual water conservation report, to report its progress in implementing the mitigation plan.

House Bill 29 requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to assess an administrative penalty of \$25,000 against a municipally owned utility that fails to develop and submit to the TWDB its water loss mitigation plan.

House Bill 30**House Author:** Troxclair et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al.**Effective:** 1-1-26**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 30 amends the Tax Code to revise the process through which voter-approval tax rates (VATR) in disaster areas are calculated and adopted. The bill allows the governing body of a taxing unit, other than a school district or a special taxing unit, that is located in a disaster area to calculate a VATR that is equal to the lesser of the VATR calculated in the manner provided for a special taxing unit or the VATR calculated according to a specific formula that incorporates disaster relief costs.

House Bill 30 repeals the authorization for a taxing unit, other than a school district, that is in a disaster area to adopt a property tax rate that exceeds the VATR or de minimis rate, as applicable, without holding an election to approve the adopted tax rate when increased expenditure of money by the taxing unit is necessary to respond to the disaster.

House Bill 33**House Author:** McLaughlin et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 33, the Uvalde Strong Act, amends the Education Code, Government Code, Local Government Code, and Occupations Code to implement safety and security requirements relating to active shooter incidents at primary and secondary school facilities and other emergencies for certain law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, governmental entities, emergency medical services providers, fire protection personnel, and political subdivisions, including by providing for the following:

- security reviews of public school district and public junior college district facilities;
- a template and training program for active shooter incident response for use by a local law enforcement agency or emergency medical services provider;

- a guide developed by the Texas Division of Emergency Management on preparing for and responding to such an incident;
- required evaluation and report by an entity that responds to such an incident;
- certification and continuing education requirements for certain public information officers;
- a first responder and telecommunicator active attack integrated response training grant program;
- mutual aid agreements between the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies; and
- school safety meetings in certain counties.

House Bill 34

House Author: Metcalf et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 34 amends the Government Code to prohibit an investing entity from acquiring a security issued by a country of concern, including China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia, or an entity owned or controlled by or subject to the jurisdiction of a country of concern, and from investing or making a deposit in a bank with a principal place of business located in a country of concern. The bill sets out the conditions under which a company is a scrutinized company with respect to organization, control, or ownership by a country of concern and subjects such a company to investment prohibitions and divestment requirements for certain investments of public money.

House Bill 35

House Author: Thompson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 35 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to require the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), not later than March 31, 2026, to develop a first responder peer support network for emergency medical services personnel and firefighters that includes peer-to-peer support, training for peer service coordinators and peers that includes suicide prevention training, technical assistance for program development and implementation, and identification, retention, and screening of licensed mental health professionals. TDEM must ensure first responders have support in both urban and rural jurisdictions to the extent possible and may establish a program to connect first responders with clinical resources at no cost to the first responders. The bill provides certain protections for first responders participating in peer-to-peer support and services regarding the confidentiality of participant information and prohibitions against disciplinary action based on that participation.

House Bill 37

House Author: Plesa et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 37, Everly's Law, amends the Health and Safety Code to require hospitals with a maternal level of care designation to make perinatal bereavement care counseling options and any perinatal bereavement device available to families following an intrauterine fetal demise, neonatal death, or stillbirth. The bill also directs the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish and administer a bereavement care initiative under which DSHS provides certain resources to qualifying hospitals to improve access to and quality of perinatal bereavement care in Texas and requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, in collaboration with the Perinatal Advisory Council, to develop and implement a program to recognize hospitals that provide perinatal bereavement care training to hospital personnel and to adopt criteria for awarding such recognition.

House Bill 39**House Author:** Lopez, Ray et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al.**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 39 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), when a qualifying veteran's death certificate is filed with the vital statistics unit in DSHS, to submit to the Texas Veterans Commission deidentified information on the veteran's age, race, sex, occupation, and, if the death was by suicide or homicide, manner of death. The bill provides for an annual report regarding the deidentified information to specified entities.

House Bill 40**House Author:** Landgraf et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 40 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Government Code to revise provisions relating to the business court and clarify the application of certain state laws governing the judiciary with respect to the business court. Among other provisions, the bill revises the jurisdiction of the business court as follows:

- sets the threshold for the amount in controversy for all applicable actions to fall within the court's jurisdiction at any amount that exceeds \$5 million, excluding certain costs;
- specifies that an action arising out of a business, commercial, or investment contract or transaction in which there is an agreement that the court has jurisdiction falls within the court's jurisdiction;
- includes within the court's jurisdiction an action arising out of or relating to the ownership, use, licensing, lease, installation, or performance of intellectual property and an action arising out of the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act;
- specifies that the civil jurisdiction the court has concurrent with district courts over certain actions includes actions in which a district court has exclusive jurisdiction;
- establishes that the court has civil jurisdiction concurrent with district courts in certain actions relating to arbitration if a claim included in the controversy in arbitration is subject to the court's jurisdiction; and
- establishes that the amount in controversy for jurisdictional purposes is the total amount of all joined parties' claims.

The bill also expands the definition of a "qualified transaction" for jurisdictional purposes and revises the claims over which the court does not have jurisdiction unless the claim falls within the court's supplemental jurisdiction. The bill requires the Texas Supreme Court by rule to establish procedures for the prompt, efficient, and final determination of business court jurisdiction on the filing of an action in the business court.

House Bill 40 provides for the appointment by the business court or a business court division of a receiver for the mineral interest or leasehold interest under a mineral lease owned by a nonresident or absent defendant in certain actions or for contingent interests in minerals or royalty interests owned by a nonresident or absent defendant, as applicable. The bill provides for a writ of injunction to be tried in a business court division, the appeal of an interlocutory order of the business court, and a business court judge's or clerk's authority to take a deposition on written questions of a witness and to issue certain writs. Furthermore, the bill provides for the filing of an initial application for an order under Civil Practice and Remedies Code provisions governing general arbitration in the business court and requires such an application to plead facts to establish venue in an applicable county.

With respect to proper venue for actions within the court's jurisdiction, House Bill 40 does the following:

- provides that a party's governing documents may establish venue in a county in a division of the court in certain actions; and
- establishes that an interlocutory appeal from the business court's determination in a suit with more than one plaintiff that a plaintiff did or did not independently establish proper venue or that a plaintiff who did not independently establish proper venue did or did not establish certain information must be taken to the Fifteenth Court of Appeals.

House Bill 40 continues the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, and Tenth Business Court Divisions and moves Montgomery County from the Second Business Court Division to the Eleventh Business Court Division.

House Bill 40 revises provisions relating to the selection of an administrative presiding judge for the business court and entitles the administrative presiding judge to an annual state base salary and an additional amount equal to the amount provided to a local administrative district judge for a number of district courts equal to the total number of business court judges. The bill entitles a business court judge to an annual state salary, in addition to the annual state base salary, and certain expenses incurred in the discharge of the judge's official duties.

House Bill 40 provides for the recusal of a business court judge who determines on their own motion they should not hear a case. The bill makes statutory provisions relating to judicial education requirements applicable to a business court judge but exempts a business court judge from appellate court judicial training requirements that are not germane to the jurisdiction of the business court and further exempts the business court from the application of statutory provisions relating to the appointment of attorneys ad litem, guardians ad litem, mediators, and guardians by certain courts. The bill provides for the assignment of an active judge or justice as a visiting judge of the business court and of an active judge of the business court as a visiting judge of certain other courts.

House Bill 40 changes the location in which each business court judge must maintain chambers and authorizes the chief justice of the supreme court to approve the location of a business court judge's chambers in a county other than a qualifying county. The bill provides for the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to contract for the use of facilities for a business court judge's chambers with a public or private party, county reimbursement from the state for accommodating the business court in the conduct of the court's proceedings in county facilities, and any licensed peace officer employed by the state or local governmental entity to attend the business court and provide security for business court judges.

House Bill 40 specifies the information that must be included in OCA's annual report to the legislature on the business court.

House Bill 40 establishes that a civil action commenced before September 1, 2024, that is within the jurisdiction of the business court may be transferred to and heard by the court on an agreed motion of a party and permission of the court under rules adopted by the supreme court for the purpose.

House Bill 42

House Author: Wilson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 42 amends the Education Code to increase from \$393.75 million to \$590,625,000 the amount of the annual constitutional appropriation from the higher education fund (HEF) and accordingly update the statutory schedule of annual allotments to eligible institutions of higher education from that appropriation. The bill authorizes each governing board of an entity participating in the distribution of HEF funds to use the funds to pay the principal and interest of bonds, notes, or credit agreements that were issued under statutory provisions relating to financing permanent improvements and the proceeds of which were spent for a purpose described in the Texas Constitution for the HEF.

House Bill 43**House Author:** Kitzman et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 43 amends the Agriculture Code to revise provisions of the Texas Agricultural Finance Act. Among other provisions, the bill revises the composition of the board of directors of the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA). The bill revises the eligible agricultural businesses under the act and removes the cap on the maximum aggregate amount of TAFA loans for a single eligible agricultural business. The bill requires the board to adopt rules to allow a TAFA loan or grant recipient to use a portion of the loan or grant to apply for other forms of financial assistance and to use the loan or grant in conjunction with financial assistance provided through another state or federal program.

House Bill 43 expands eligibility and increases the maximum amount of a loan or grant, as applicable, under the young farmer interest rate reduction program and the young farmer grant program, which are renamed as, respectively, the farmer interest rate reduction program and the agriculture grant program.

House Bill 43 establishes the pest and disease control and depredation program under which TAFA, on application, is to provide financial assistance to the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, or Texas A&M AgriLife Research to implement programs to control agriculture-related pests, diseases, or depredating animals.

House Bill 45**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Huffman**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 45 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Government Code, and Penal Code to set out provisions relating to the duty of the attorney general to represent the state in the prosecution of a trafficking of persons offense or a continuous trafficking of persons offense. The bill establishes that the attorney general has jurisdiction to prosecute and must represent the state in the prosecution of those offenses if specified conditions are met relating to the local prosecuting attorney not taking prosecutorial action to prosecute the offense.

House Bill 46**House Author:** King et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 46 amends the Health and Safety Code and Occupations Code to expand the Texas Compassionate-Use Program by authorizing a licensed dispensing organization to operate one or more satellite locations in addition to the organization's primary location to securely store low-THC cannabis for distribution, requiring the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to issue 15 licenses to dispensing organizations in Texas provided that DPS receives applications from a sufficient number of eligible applicants, requiring DPS to issue and renew licenses to dispensing organizations in a manner that ensures adequate access to low-THC cannabis for patients registered in the compassionate-use registry in each public health region, expanding the medical conditions for which a patient's diagnosis authorizes a physician to prescribe low-THC cannabis for compassionate use, and authorizing a physician to prescribe pulmonary inhalation of an aerosol or vapor as a means of administration of low-THC cannabis under certain circumstances.

House Bill 46, however, also sets out certain restrictions on dispensing and prescribing low-THC cannabis, including by expanding the individuals who must register with DPS with respect to a licensed dispensing organization, prohibiting a dispensing organization from dispensing low-THC cannabis in a package or container that contains more than a total of one gram of tetrahydrocannabinols or in a medical device for pulmonary inhalation that contains more than one gram of tetrahydrocannabinols, prohibiting a dispensing organization from dispensing a low-THC cannabis product that contains a cannabinoid that

is not a phytocannabinoid, and limiting prescription quantities. The bill additionally provides for the confidentiality of certain information within the compassionate-use registry.

House Bill 47

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Howard et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 47, an omnibus bill relating to sexual assault and other sexual offenses, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Local Government Code, Occupations Code, and Property Code. Among other provisions, the bill requires courts to consider the impact on adult sexual assault victims when a defendant seeks a continuance of their case, entitles sexual assault victims to certain rights with respect to continuing medical care following a forensic examination, and entitles those victims and victims of certain other sexual offenses to early termination of a lease. The bill also prohibits certain registered sex offenders from providing digitally prearranged rides or logging into a transportation digital network as a driver, requires sexual assault response training for certain health care contractors, requires licensed physicians and physician assistants whose practice includes treating patients in an emergency room setting to complete specified continuing medical education on forensic evidence collection, and expands the required contents of information forms provided to sexual assault survivors. Additionally, the bill requires county sexual assault response team reports to be provided to the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force and allows for noncompliance with related reporting requirements to be used in determining eligibility for certain state agency grant funds.

House Bill 48

Effective: 5-29-25

House Author: Darby et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 48 amends the Government Code to require the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create an organized oilfield theft prevention unit to be operated by DPS which may investigate and arrest individuals determined to have committed a theft of a petroleum product offense or, if the unlawfully appropriated property includes oil and gas equipment, a theft offense. The bill requires the unit, together with DPS, to do the following:

- develop and deploy to local law enforcement agencies specialized training, resources, and policing strategies tailored to investigating and preventing such offenses;
- conduct public outreach and awareness initiatives to educate industry professionals and communities regarding such offenses; and
- maintain a centralized database for tracking such offenses and related criminal enterprises.

House Bill 48, among other provisions, establishes that the unit has statewide jurisdiction but requires the unit to operate primarily within the designated region of DPS that is adjacent to the international border and contains the city of El Paso and also requires the unit's headquarters to be located in that region.

House Bill 49

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Darby et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 49 amends the Natural Resources Code to revise provisions relating to tort responsibility, and provisions relating to the rulemaking authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas, regarding the treatment and recycling for beneficial use of fluid oil and gas waste.

House Bill 75**House Author:** Smithee et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Huffman**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 75 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a magistrate, not later than 24 hours after the time the magistrate determines that no probable cause exists to believe that a person committed the offense for which the person was arrested, to enter in the record written findings to support that finding.

House Bill 100**House Author:** Leo Wilson et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Public Education**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 100 amends the Education Code to set out provisions that prohibit or otherwise restrict public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools from adopting, using, or purchasing instructional material included on the list of rejected instructional materials maintained by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The bill also requires the SBOE, not later than the 45th day before the date it intends to add an instructional material to that list, to add the material to a list of proposed rejected instructional materials and issue a proclamation requesting the revision of the applicable instructional material before the end of that 45-day period.

House Bill 101**House Author:** Guillen**Senate Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 101 amends the Government Code to create the Texas State Guard Professionalization Task Force. The bill sets out the composition of and requirements for the task force, including identifying existing and potential challenges and threats to the Texas State Guard's operations and making policy recommendations to the adjutant general and the governor. The bill provides for a report to the adjutant general and the governor. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2026.

House Bill 102**House Author:** Wilson et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Higher Education**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 102 amends the Education Code to require a public institution of higher education that provides early registration for courses or programs for any group of students to provide early registration for those courses or programs for students who are enrolled and in good standing in an ROTC program, are members in good standing in a corps of cadets, or are enrolled and in good standing in a maritime academy.

House Bill 103**House Author:** Troxclair et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 103 amends the Government Code to require the comptroller of public accounts to consult and coordinate with the Bond Review Board to develop and maintain a free online database of certain current and historical information regarding taxes imposed and bonds issued by each taxing unit in Texas and bond-related projects. The bill sets out provisions requiring a taxing unit to provide certain data and information to the comptroller for the purpose of maintaining the database and makes a taxing unit that does not provide the required information liable to the state for a civil penalty of \$1,000.

House Bill 107

House Author: Simmons et al.

Senate Sponsor: Miles et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 107 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish and maintain a sickle cell disease registry consisting of records of sickle cell disease cases that occur in Texas and any other information concerning such cases that the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission considers necessary and appropriate to assist with the cure or treatment of the disease. The bill provides for the manner by which DSHS may receive, record, and analyze data from health care facilities concerning sickle cell disease cases and may compile and publish statistical and other studies derived from that data, and the bill further provides for the confidentiality of information obtained for the registry.

House Bill 108

House Author: Plesa et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 108 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to require the judge in a trial of an offense against the person punishable as a third degree felony or any higher category of offense, other than a first degree felony, if at the guilt or innocence phase of the trial, the judge or the jury, whichever is the trier of fact, determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant used metal or body armor during the commission of the offense, to make an affirmative finding of fact and enter the affirmative finding in the judgment of the case. However, the bill prohibits the judge from making such an affirmative finding if the defendant is a peace officer, a member of the state military forces or U.S. armed forces, or a security officer.

House Bill 108 increases the punishment for an offense against the person to the punishment prescribed for the next highest category of offense if such an affirmative finding is made in the trial of the offense.

House Bill 109

House Author: Rose et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 109 amends the Health and Safety Code to remove the requirement that the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) use the Waco Center for Youth as a residential treatment facility for certain emotionally disturbed juveniles, including those who are under the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services, and to instead authorize DSHS to designate state facilities for that purpose. The bill authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission to award money appropriated by the legislature for the construction, expansion, or operation of certain inpatient mental health facilities as a one-time grant directly to an entity for that purpose.

House Bill 114

House Author: Cortez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 114 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to transfer to the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) the following mental health programs for veterans, including the powers, duties, functions, programs, and activities relating to those programs:

- mental health program for veterans developed by the Department of State Health Services;
- matching grant program for community mental health programs developed by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC); and

- veteran suicide prevention action plan developed by HHSC.

The bill repeals the requirement for TVC and HHSC to coordinate to administer the mental health program for veterans.

House Bill 116

House Author: Dutton et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 116 amends the Family Code to remove as grounds for a court to terminate a parent-child relationship in the child's best interest the court finding by clear and convincing evidence that the parent has failed to comply with the provisions of a court order that specifically established the actions necessary for the parent to obtain the return of the child who has been in the permanent or temporary managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services under certain conditions.

House Bill 117

House Author: Schoolcraft

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 117 amends the Education Code to establish the governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education and care for the purpose of addressing the governance and operational challenges of the early childhood education system in Texas. The bill provides for the task force's composition and for its powers and duties, which include aligning goals and metrics of the Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission and requiring those agencies to submit periodic progress reports and regularly refine statewide goals and strategic plans to ensure alignment with evolving early childhood education and care needs. The bill requires the task force to submit a report to the legislature regarding policy and budget recommendations. Implementation of a provision of this bill is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

House Bill 119

House Author: Gerdes et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 119 amends the Government Code to require a person to register as a lobbyist if the person communicates directly with one or more members of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action on behalf of a foreign adversary, a foreign adversary client, or a foreign adversary political party. The bill prohibits such a registrant from receiving or agreeing to receive direct or indirect compensation from an applicable foreign adversary, a foreign adversary client, or a foreign adversary political party. The bill provides for injunctive relief against a registrant who violates or is threatening to violate this prohibition, provides for civil penalties against a registrant who violates the prohibition, and caps such penalty at \$10,000 for each violation and the amount of any compensation the registrant received in violation of the prohibition.

House Bill 120

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 120 amends the Education Code to revise and set out provisions relating to college, career, and military readiness in public schools. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to post certain data relating to postsecondary outcomes on its website and, using that data, to create a quantifiable statewide goal for public school students to achieve career readiness;

- requires the college, career, and military readiness plan adopted by the board of trustees of a public school district to include specific annual goals for student completion while enrolled in high school of postsecondary credentials and annual goals for the outcomes of the district's annual graduates at one, three, and five years after graduation from high school;
- requires that a district's college, career, and military readiness plan be approved by majority vote of the board of trustees and revises requirements for reporting regarding such a plan;
- extends eligibility for enrollment at no cost in a dual credit course under the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program to certain high school graduates involved with the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program or the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program;
- requires the state plan for career and technology education (CTE) to include procedures designed to ensure that a course of study offered under a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program is considered a CTE program;
- requires a district or open-enrollment charter school, as part of the high school registration process and annually, to provide certain notice regarding military-related training programs to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in a JROTC program;
- with respect to subsidies for certification examination under the CTE program, increases from one to two the maximum number of subsidies that an eligible student may receive, makes a teacher's entitlement to a subsidy for passing a cybersecurity certification examination applicable more broadly to any CTE certification examination, and includes costs paid for associated fingerprinting or criminal history record information review among the examination costs that may be reimbursed;
- authorizes a district that has participated in the R-PEP program to continue to participate in the program regardless of the number of students in average daily attendance in the district for the current school year and caps at \$5 million the total amount of grants awarded for a school year to assist with the costs of planning, developing, establishing, or expanding R-PEP program partnerships;
- expands the information school counselors must provide to a high school student and their parent or guardian about postsecondary education and requires TEA to make available to school counselors a related online training annually; and
- provides the option for high school students in the spring of the 11th grade or during the 12th grade to select and take once, at state cost, a nationally recognized career readiness test that measures foundational workforce skills.

Additionally, the bill makes the following changes with respect to the foundation school program effective September 1, 2025:

- extends entitlement to the benefits of the foundation school program to certain high school graduates involved with the P-TECH or R-PEP program;
- authorizes a district's use of foundation school program funds for the purposes of educating a student who has graduated from high school but is enrolled in the district in a program through which the student may earn dual credit and provides district graduates with certain advising support during the first two years after graduation;
- increases to \$150 the additional CTE allotment provided for each student enrolled in a campus designated as a P-TECH school and also entitles a district to that additional allotment for each student who completes a course of study offered under the P-TECH program or the R-PEP program, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in the district that provides the course of study;
- classifies courses offered under a JROTC program as an approved CTE program for purposes of the CTE allotment;

- authorizes an applicable district to receive R-PEP allotment funding for up to 110 percent of the number of qualifying students for the school year immediately preceding the school year in which the district's enrollment first reached 1,600 or more;
- raises the annual cap on the total amount of state funding for R-PEP allotments and outcomes bonuses to \$20 million;
- raises the cap on the amount appropriated for new instructional facility allotments in a school year to \$150 million and includes a renovated portion of an instructional facility to be used for the first time to provide high-cost and undersubscribed CTE programs as a "new instructional facility" for purposes of such an allotment; and
- sets a cap on the total amount that may be used for reimbursement for certification examination subsidies.

House Bill 120 amends the Labor Code to require the enhanced wage filings by employers under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act to include certain employment information necessary for the Texas Workforce Commission to conduct a regional labor demand assessment. The bill also revises provisions relating to the inventory developed by the industry-based certification advisory council.

Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect June 20, 2025.

House Bill 121

House Author: King

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 121 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, and Local Government Code to set out and revise provisions relating to school safety and security. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for a good cause exception to the armed security officer requirements for public school districts to expire and be reevaluated for renewal annually;
- provides the option for a district that claims such an exception to alternatively provide as a security officer a district employee or contractor who, not later than the 90th day after the date on which they begin duties as a security officer, completes training in active shooter response, school safety and emergency management, crisis intervention, incident command, first aid administration, mental health, and qualifications relating to the carrying or use of a firearm;
- authorizes the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to employ inspectors only for the purposes of assisting TEA in monitoring school district safety and security requirements and coordinating with local, state, and federal law enforcement during an event requiring an emergency response by a district;
- revises provisions relating to a public school district's or public junior college district's multihazard emergency operations plan, including by requiring such a plan to address reunification, requiring the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) to provide notice of requirements it establishes for such plans to district superintendents and college presidents, and requiring a public school district's plan to include provisions for ensuring safety during extracurricular activities;
- provides for an annual report on school safety by TEA that includes the deidentified results of the vulnerability assessments and intruder detection audits conducted during the preceding year and recommendations and possible corrective actions for specific deficiencies in campus security identified at multiple districts and open-enrollment charter schools;
- repeals the requirement for the TxSSC to periodically provide a school safety and security progress report to the governor, the legislature, the State Board of Education, and TEA;
- requires a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team that is conducting a threat assessment of a student in a special education program to include at least one person specified by the bill who has specific knowledge of the student's disability and the disability's manifestations;

- requires a district or charter school to provide its emergency response map to each applicable emergency services district;
- changes the composition of TxSSC's board of directors by replacing one of the public members with an administrator of a public junior college;
- specifies that the frequency with which a district or charter school is required to provide resources on safe firearm storage to parents or guardians of enrolled students is at least three times each school year;
- provides for a good cause exception to a safety and security standard for school facilities to expire and be reevaluated for renewal every five years; and
- clarifies that the semiannual school safety meetings that certain county sheriffs are required to conduct must occur at least twice each calendar year and not less than three months apart.

House Bill 126

House Author: Tepper et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Effective: 6-5-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 126 amends the Education Code to remove the following prohibitions relating to the compensation and professional representation of prospective student athletes and student athletes participating in intercollegiate athletic programs at a general academic teaching institution or a private or independent institution of higher education:

- the prohibition against an institution providing or soliciting a prospective student athlete of an intercollegiate athletic program at the institution with compensation in relation to the athlete's name, image, or likeness (NIL);
- the prohibition against a student athlete who is participating in an intercollegiate athletic program at an institution entering into a contract for the use of the athlete's NIL if the compensation for that use is provided in exchange for accepting an offer of admission to attend the institution, provided by the institution, or provided in exchange for an act that occurs while the athlete is engaged in an official team activity; and
- the prohibition against an individual, corporate entity, or other organization entering into an NIL arrangement with a prospective student athlete prior to their enrollment in an institution or using inducements of future NIL compensation arrangement to recruit a prospective student athlete to any institution.

However, the bill prohibits an individual, corporate entity, or other organization from entering into an NIL arrangement with a prospective student athlete who is younger than 17 years of age or with an individual related to the athlete by consanguinity or affinity unless the athlete is enrolled at an institution of higher education.

House Bill 126 also authorizes an institution, a prospective student athlete, a student athlete participating in an intercollegiate athletic program, or any other individual or entity to perform, allow the performance of, or participate in an action authorized or required by an organization with authority over an intercollegiate athletic program or by a final court order related to such a group or organization, to the extent that state law regarding student athlete compensation and representation conflicts with a contract term, a rule, a regulation, a standard, or any other requirement of or court order applicable to such a group or organization. An institution's, individual's, or entity's performance or allowance of performance of or participation in an action so authorized subjects that institution, individual, or entity to any applicable rule, including an enforcement provision, adopted by the group or organization.

House Bill 127

House Author: Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 127 amends the Education Code to establish the Higher Education Research Security Council to promote secure academic research at postsecondary educational institutions while mitigating the risk of foreign espionage and interference. The bill sets out the council's composition, powers, and duties and provides for a biennial report on the status of research security at postsecondary educational institutions and associated recommendations.

House Bill 127 sets out prohibitions and requirements for specified public institutions of higher education, and student organizations at those institutions, with respect to gifts from and contracts with foreign adversaries or certain companies. The bill provides for reporting to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding foreign gift and contract disclosures and for the investigation of alleged violations of the bill's provisions relating to foreign gifts and contracts. The bill also prohibits applicable institutions from participating in an academic partnership with a foreign source of a foreign adversary, or an entity controlled by a foreign adversary, that does the following:

- constrains the institution's freedom of contract;
- allows the institution's curriculum or values to be directed, controlled, or influenced by the foreign adversary; or
- promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of Texas, Texas residents, or the United States.

The bill requires the council to establish best practices relating to an academic partnership with a foreign source of a foreign adversary and a process to certify compliance with those best practices.

House Bill 127 requires an applicable institution of higher education, before offering an applicant employment for a research or research-related support position or granting access to sensitive data, to screen the applicant if the applicant is a citizen of a foreign country and is not a permanent U.S. resident or has specified affiliations with a foreign adversary. The bill sets out documentation requirements for such an applicant and requires the chief administrative officer of an applicable institution to establish a research security office.

House Bill 127 requires an applicable institution of higher education to establish an international travel approval and monitoring program for employment-related foreign travel or activities by a faculty member, researcher, or research department staff member of the institution. The bill requires the council to conduct a thorough review of the use of education software owned or controlled by a foreign adversary or a company domiciled or headquartered in a foreign adversary and to publish a list of prohibited software. The bill prohibits an applicable institution from entering into or renewing a contract to provide education software included on the list.

House Bill 127 provides for the enforcement of the bill's provisions, including a prohibition against the spending of appropriated money until an institution provides certification of compliance with the bill's provisions, and for a periodic compliance audit conducted by the state auditor.

House Bill 127 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for a theft of trade secrets offense from a third degree felony to a second degree felony if it is shown on trial that the actor intended to benefit a foreign agent, foreign government, or foreign instrumentality.

House Bill 128

House Author: Orr et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 128 amends the Government Code to establish that it is the policy of the state to encourage sister-city agreements between governmental entities and countries that are allies of the United States and communities located in those countries. The bill prohibits a governmental entity from establishing, maintaining, or renewing a sister-city agreement with a country that is a foreign adversary or a community located in such a country and requires a governmental entity that is a party to a prohibited sister-city agreement to withdraw from the agreement not later than October 1, 2025, as applicable.

House Bill 130

House Author: Bonnen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 130, the Texas Genomic Act of 2025, amends the Health and Safety Code to ensure that a medical facility, research facility, company, or nonprofit organization that conducts research on or testing of genome sequencing or the human genome in Texas does not provide a foreign adversary access to the genetic information of Texas residents. The bill sets out provisions with respect to an applicable facility, company, or organization doing the following:

- using a genome sequencer or software produced on behalf of a foreign adversary, state-owned enterprise of a foreign adversary, company or organization domiciled within the borders of a foreign adversary, or a subsidiary or affiliate of such a company or organization;
- selling genomic sequencing data as part of a bankruptcy proceeding or reorganization; and
- storing genomic information.

Among other provisions, the bill provides for annual certification of compliance with the bill's provisions by an applicable entity, liability for a civil penalty for a violation of the bill's provisions, and a private cause of action by a Texas resident who is harmed by a violation of the bill's provisions.

House Bill 132

House Author: Lopez, Ray et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 132 amends the Government Code to provide for the confidentiality of information collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity for the purpose of preventing, detecting, responding to, or investigating a hostile act by a foreign adversary of the United States, including information relating to a security system used to protect public or private property from such a hostile act.

House Bill 135

House Author: Button et al.

Effective: 5-13-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 135 amends the Tax Code to exempt exotic animals and game animals from the sales and use tax.

House Bill 136**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 136 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure the provision of Medicaid reimbursement for lactation consultation services provided by lactation consultants certified by an HHSC-approved international or national certification program. The bill requires the executive commissioner of HHSC to establish a separate provider type for lactation consultants for purposes of Medicaid provider enrollment and reimbursement.

House Bill 138**House Author:** Dean et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Insurance**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 138 amends the Insurance Code to provide for the establishment of the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program within the Center for Health Care Data at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to prepare analyses of legislative documents that would impose new mandates on health benefit plan issuers or administrators in Texas. The bill authorizes the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, or chair or vice chair of the appropriate committee in either house of the legislature, regardless of whether the legislature is in session, to submit a request to the analysis program to prepare and develop an analysis of proposed legislation that imposes such a mandate. Among other provisions, the bill sets out requirements for conducting and reporting these analyses, imposes an annual fee on certain health benefit plan issuers to fund the analysis program, and provides for the issuance of special data calls to gather relevant administrative expense information.

House Bill 140**House Author:** Noble**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al.**Effective:** See below**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 140 abolishes the Family and Protective Services Council effective September 1, 2026, and amends the Human Resources Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to establish an advisory committee on child protective investigations to improve the accuracy and standardization of the application of investigative legal requirements and DFPS investigative policies and procedures during child abuse, neglect, and exploitation investigations relating to certain persons responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the topics on which the advisory committee must make recommendations to DFPS and requires DFPS to provide a random sample of closed child protective investigations for advisory committee review. The advisory committee is abolished on September 1, 2029.

House Bill 140 amends the Health and Safety Code and Government Code to make conforming changes. Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

House Bill 142**House Author:** Noble et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Perry**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 142 amends the Government Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the administration, authority, and duties of the office of inspector general (OIG) of the Health and Human Services Commission. Among other updates, the bill clarifies the process for the procurement of an expert witness on behalf of the OIG, provides for the disclosure by the OIG of certain information obtained in the course of conducting oversight activities, revises the prohibition against the OIG conducting a criminal history record information check of a health care professional for Medicaid participation eligibility, and updates the type of system for reporting suspected fraud in health and human services programs. The

bill also revises provisions relating to recovery audit contractors, including by clarifying the authority to recover overpayments, establishing restrictions on the authority to initiate a claim review or a recovery effort, and providing for an appeals process related to identified overpayments.

House Bill 143

House Author: King et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 143 amends the Natural Resources Code to expand provisions governing standards for the construction, operation, and maintenance of electrical power lines by requiring an operator to construct, operate, and maintain electrical power line poles in a manner that ensures the prevention and remediation of any readily observable deficiencies.

House Bill 143 requires a landowner or lessee who discovers a condition involving certain electrical equipment that does not meet those standards to provide written notice of the condition to the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC). The bill sets out procedures requiring the RRC to notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the operator if the RRC discovers a readily observable condition involving such equipment during certain inspections or on the receipt of such a written notice. The bill also provides for procedures to resolve the condition and authorizes RRC personnel to enter public or private property as necessary for purposes of conducting an applicable inspection.

House Bill 144

House Author: King

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 144 amends the Utilities Code to require each electric cooperative, electric utility, and municipally owned utility that distributes electric energy to the public to submit to the Public Utility Commission of Texas a plan for the management and inspection of distribution poles the cooperative or utility owns in the cooperative's or utility's distribution system. The bill provides for the content, submission, and review of the plan.

House Bill 145

House Author: King et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 145 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to require an electric utility, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative that owns a transmission or distribution facility in a wildfire risk area to file a wildfire mitigation plan to be approved, modified, or rejected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). The bill provides for an administrative penalty for the failure to implement such an approved plan and sets out provisions relating to the use of the plan as evidence in actions for damages caused by a wildfire ignited or propagated by a utility or cooperative facility, including an exemption from liability from those damages under certain conditions.

House Bill 145 includes wildfire losses that could not have been reasonably anticipated and included under an electric utility's operating and maintenance expenses among the specified types of potential liability or catastrophic property losses for which the utility may self-insure. Among other provisions, the bill provides for an electric utility's authority to self-insure all or part of certain potential damages for which the utility may be liable and expands the conditions under which the PUC must approve an otherwise qualifying self-insurance plan.

House Bill 148**House Author:** Turner et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 148 amends the Tax Code to establish training requirements for appraisal district board of directors members in counties with a population of 75,000 or more. The bill requires each candidate for an appointive or elective position on an appraisal district board of directors to sign a statement acknowledging the duties and existing statutory responsibilities of a member of an appraisal district board of directors.

House Bill 149**House Author:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al.**Effective:** 1-1-26**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 149, the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act, amends the Business & Commerce Code and Government Code to establish a regulatory framework for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill sets out provisions that do the following:

- establish mandatory disclosure requirements for certain users of AI systems, including governmental agencies and health care service providers;
- prohibit the development or deployment of an AI system to incite or encourage certain activities, gather certain biometric data in violation of an individual's rights, otherwise impair a person's constitutional rights, or unlawfully discriminate against a protected class;
- prohibit the use or deployment of an AI system to create a social scoring system;
- prohibit the development or distribution of an AI system to produce, assist or aid in producing, or distribute certain sexually explicit content or child pornography;
- create a civil penalty and grant the attorney general the authority to investigate, send notice, and bring an action against a person who violates the bill's provisions;
- provide for a regulatory sandbox program enabling a person to obtain legal protection and limited market access to test AI systems and require an annual report relating to the program; and
- create the Texas Artificial Intelligence Council to analyze opportunities for improvement, conduct training programs for state agencies and local governments, make recommendations to applicable agencies, and issue reports to the legislature regarding the use of AI systems, among other duties.

Additionally, the bill updates review and reporting requirements of the Sunset Advisory Commission and the Department of Information Resources regarding the use of AI systems by state agencies.

House Bill 150**House Author:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 150 amends the Education Code and Government Code to establish the Texas Cyber Command as a state agency charged with preventing and responding to cybersecurity incidents that affect governmental entities and critical infrastructure in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the structure, responsibilities, and powers of the command and designates duties of the command, including the following:

- developing best practices and standards for state agencies;
- developing and providing cybersecurity training for applicable employees of state agencies;
- establishing and administering a cybersecurity threat intelligence center;
- establishing a cybersecurity incident response unit; and
- establishing and administering a digital forensics laboratory.

House Bill 150 transfers certain statutory provisions currently applicable to the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to the bill's statutory framework, including replacing certain powers and

duties of the DIR chief information security officer with powers and duties of the chief of the Texas Cyber Command. Statutory provisions transferred under the bill include provisions relating to cybersecurity emergency funding, information sharing and analysis organizations, biennial cybersecurity reporting requirements, cybersecurity incident notifications, vulnerability reports, the state cybersecurity risk and incident plan, information security plans, data security plans, the state cybersecurity council, the Texas volunteer incident response team, regional security operations centers, and school cybersecurity. The bill also provides for the transfer of duties, staff, and property from DIR to the command.

House Bill 163

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Cortez et al.

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Blanco et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 163 amends the Health and Safety Code to make statutory provisions relating to the possession and administration of epinephrine by certain entities applicable to any entity in Texas, including a governmental entity, other than an entity that is required by another law to adopt and implement an epinephrine delivery system policy. The bill also replaces an applicable entity's authority to adopt a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors with the authority to adopt such a policy with respect to epinephrine delivery systems.

House Bill 166

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Capriglione

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 166 amends the Penal Code to establish that, for purposes of the offense of endangering a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual, it is presumed that a person placed the child or individual in imminent danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or mental impairment if either of the following occur:

- the person manufactured, possessed, or in any way introduced into the body of any person a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1-B under the Texas Controlled Substances Act in the presence of the child or individual; or
- the person's conduct related to the proximity or accessibility of such a controlled substance to the child or individual and an analysis of a specimen of the child's or individual's bodily substance indicates the presence of such a controlled substance in the body of the child or the individual.

House Bill 171

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Guillen

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 171 amends the Health and Safety Code to set 30 days as the minimum duration of an order for court-ordered treatment of a qualifying person with a chemical dependency and a renewal of such an order. The bill expands the grounds on which a treatment facility administrator may discharge a patient before the order for treatment expires to include a determination by an applicable physician that the patient no longer meets the criteria for court-ordered treatment.

House Bill 171 revises the requirement that a certificate of medical examination for chemical dependency include the examining physician's opinions as to whether the proposed patient is a person with a chemical dependency and whether certain conditions apply by requiring the opinion to instead state the following:

- that the proposed patient is a person with a chemical dependency; and
- that any of those conditions is a result of the chemical dependency.

House Bill 198**House Author:** Bumgarner et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al.**Effective:** 6-1-26**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 198, the Wade Cannon Act, amends the Local Government Code to require a political subdivision to offer to each firefighter employed by the political subdivision an annual occupational cancer screening that is free, confidential, and includes other specified health screenings beginning in the fifth year of the firefighter's employment, unless the political subdivision offers an annual occupational medical examination under a plan, submitted to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection no later than February 1 of each year, that is physician endorsed and is in substantial compliance with standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association.

House Bill 201**House Author:** Perez, Mary Ann**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 201 amends the Occupations Code to broaden the scope of the financial crimes intelligence center to include activities to address motor fuel theft. The bill also authorizes the center, on request of a law enforcement or other governmental agency, to provide assistance to that agency regarding any matter within the center's expertise.

House Bill 206**House Author:** Craddick**Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Energy Resources**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 206 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a county from requiring a cash bond as a condition of approval for the construction of a pipeline in the county's boundaries.

House Bill 210**House Author:** Guillen et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Adam**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Education**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 210 amends the Education Code to create a Class C misdemeanor offense for a vendor that bids on or receives a contract from a public school district or an open-enrollment charter school if any individual serving on the board of trustees or governing body of the district or charter school meets any of the following criteria:

- has a substantial interest in the vendor or a subcontractor hired by a vendor;
- is related in the second degree by consanguinity or affinity to an individual who has a substantial interest in the vendor; or
- has received or has been promised a gift or in-kind services with a value of more than \$250.

The bill specifies the circumstances under which an individual is considered to have a substantial interest in a vendor and provides for increased penalties for subsequent convictions of the offense or if the vendor directly or indirectly through a third party compensated the individual serving on the board of trustees or governing body with money, gifts, or in-kind services as consideration for the district or charter school entering into a contract with the vendor.

House Bill 216

House Author: Harris Davila et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 216 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a health care provider that issues an itemized bill to a patient electronically through a patient portal on the provider's website to determine, if feasible, whether the patient has an active patient profile on the portal and, if the provider determines that the patient does not have an active patient portal or is unable to make that determination, to provide a physical copy of the itemized bill by another means chosen by the patient. The bill also limits the period during which a patient is entitled to obtain an itemized bill on request, exempts a health care provider who in good faith mails a hard copy of an itemized bill from certain disciplinary action, and repeals requirements applicable only to hospitals relating to an itemized statement of billed services.

House Bill 223

House Author: Capriglione et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 223 amends the Local Government Code to subject a procurement for services intended to influence state or federal lawmakers on behalf of a municipality to applicable competitive bidding or competitive proposal requirements established under state law.

House Bill 227

House Author: Vasut et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 227 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 521 in Brazoria County as the Clarence "BB" Sasser Medal of Honor Highway.

House Bill 229

House Author: Troxclair et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 229 amends the Code Construction Act, Government Code, to define the following terms for purposes of the act: "boy," "father," "female," "girl," "male," "man," "mother," "sex," and "woman."

House Bill 229 requires a governmental entity that collects vital statistics information that identifies the sex of an individual for the purpose of complying with antidiscrimination laws or for the purpose of gathering public health, crime, economic, or other data to identify each individual as either male or female.

House Bill 247

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 247 amends the Tax Code to entitle a person to a property tax exemption of the amount of appraised value of real property owned by the person that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure. The bill takes effect January 1, 2026, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 34.

House Bill 252

House Author: Walle et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 252 amends the Government Code to authorize certain state agencies to elect to pay employment compensation twice a month to an employee who holds a position classified under classification salary Schedule A in the General Appropriations Act.

House Bill 272

House Author: Perez, Mary Ann

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 272 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize the prosecution of a fraudulent use or possession of credit or debit card information offense in any county in which the offense was committed or in the county of residence for any person whose credit card or debit card information was unlawfully obtained, possessed, transferred, or used by the defendant. The bill establishes that the state's attorney is not required to prove that the defendant committed the act with intent to defraud any particular person and that it is sufficient to prove that the offense was, in its nature, calculated to injure or defraud any of the sovereignties, bodies corporate or politic, officers or persons, named in the definition of the offense.

House Bill 285

House Author: Ordaz et al.

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 285 amends the Penal Code to include criminal negligence as a state of mind with which committing conduct constituting cruelty to nonlivestock animals qualifies as such an offense. The bill establishes as a defense to prosecution for alleged criminal negligence that the conduct occurred during the actual discharge of the actor's duties while employed as a state-licensed veterinarian or as a person assisting the veterinarian.

House Bill 300

House Author: Wilson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 300 amends the Education Code to revise provisions governing the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program as follows:

- increases the amount of a scholarship under the program, subject to sufficient appropriations, from \$15,000 to the greater of \$30,000 or an amount equal to the average cost of attendance at a public institution of higher education in Texas;
- extends scholarship eligibility to additional categories of students;
- makes the appointment of scholarship recipients and alternates by the governor, lieutenant governor, state senators, and state representatives mandatory instead of discretionary;
- sets a deadline by which a state senator or state representative must make their respective appointments and provides a mechanism for filling a vacancy in the event the deadline is not met;
- provides for a student to be exempted from the repayment of a scholarship if the student is unable to meet the obligations of the scholarship agreement solely as a result of an extraordinary circumstance outside their control;
- requires reinstatement of a student's scholarship in the event of the student's erroneous removal from the program;

- prohibits a person from receiving a scholarship for more than four academic years and removes certain existing scholarship limitations; and
- provides for the designation of a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board employee to serve as a scholarship coordinator for scholarships awarded under the program and sets out the duties of the coordinator.

House Bill 303

House Author: Vasut et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 303 amends the Local Government Code to authorize qualifying Type A or Type B general-law municipalities to change to a Type C general-law municipality regardless of population size.

House Bill 305

House Author: Hayes

Senate Sponsor: Cook et al.

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 305 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish that, in a jurisdiction subject to the requirement for criminal proceedings in a case in which a criminal defendant has been restored to competency to resume not later than the 14th day after the date the court determines that the defendant's competency has been restored, a pretrial hearing on any evidentiary or procedural issue that must be resolved for the proceedings to proceed to trial or for another resolution must be conducted not later than the 14th day after such date.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 305 laudably seeks to promote the timely resolution of criminal cases following a defendant's restoration to competency but does so by imposing a rigid procedural mandate that could create legal problems. Requiring that counsel raise within 14 days 'any' evidentiary or procedural issue necessary for the case to proceed to trial could result in forfeiture or waiver of numerous issues by either side. It may prove impossible to wrangle the entire universe of trial-related issues in this artificially compressed timeline. I therefore disapprove of this bill because it would inadvertently transform a provision obligating courts to resume proceedings into a rule with new pitfalls that could harm both the state and the defense. I look forward to working with the bill authors to develop a more careful approach in the future."

House Bill 322

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 322 amends the Education Code to authorize grants awarded under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program from the JET fund to pay costs for the acquisition, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of technology solutions necessary to support new career and technical education programs at public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges, and public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

House Bill 331

House Author: Patterson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

Effective: 5-24-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 331 amends the Government Code provision establishing the presumption that, for purposes of claims for benefits or compensation for certain diseases or illnesses, a firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician who suffers an acute myocardial infarction or stroke resulting in disability or death as a result of certain stressful or strenuous physical activities has suffered the disability

or death during the course and scope of their employment. Accordingly, the bill does the following with respect to the applicability of that presumption:

- extends applicability to all stressful or strenuous physical activities;
- makes the presumption applicable to situations that involve stressful or strenuous physical activities involving law enforcement activity; and
- removes the limitation on the applicability of the presumption to an infarction or stroke that occurs only while the person engages in the applicable activity and makes the presumption applicable instead to an infarction or stroke that occurs not later than eight hours after the end of a shift in which the person was engaging in the applicable activity.

House Bill 334

Effective: 5-26-25

House Author: Ordaz et al.

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Blanco et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 334 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county, by commissioners court order, to establish a county employee family leave pool program that allows an employee of the county to voluntarily transfer to the pool the employee's earned sick or vacation leave time for use as family leave by county employees who have exhausted their own eligible compensatory, discretionary, sick, and vacation leave because of the following:

- the birth of a child;
- the placement of a foster child or adoption of a child under 18 years of age;
- the placement of any person 18 years of age or older requiring guardianship;
- a serious illness to an immediate family member or the employee, including a pandemic-related illness;
- an extenuating circumstance created by an ongoing pandemic, including providing essential care to a family member; or
- a previous donation of time to the pool.

The bill sets out additional provisions regarding the administration of the pool, contributions of time to the pool, the withdrawal and use of time from the pool, and limitations on withdrawals and further provides that the estate of a deceased county employee is not entitled to payment for unused time withdrawn by the employee from the family leave pool.

House Bill 346

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Harris Davila et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Senate Committee: Economic Development

Current law caps the amount of the fee that the secretary of state may set and collect for expedited commercial and business record searches or filings. House Bill 346 amends the Government Code to remove those caps and to instead authorize the secretary of state to prescribe the amount of each of those fees, among other provisions. Additionally, the bill provides for the repeal of certain Tax Code provisions, as effective September 1, 2026, relating to the exemption from the franchise tax and certain filing fees for veteran-owned businesses.

House Bill 353

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Patterson

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 353 amends the Penal Code to create the Class A misdemeanor offense of trespass on or near school or day-care center property for a person who enters or remains on such property or on public property, including a street, highway, alley, public park, or sidewalk, located within 250 feet of such property under the following circumstances:

- the person does not have a reason or relationship for entering or remaining on the property that involves custody of or responsibility for a student enrolled at the school or day-care center or written permission from an authorized representative of the school or day-care center; and
- the person receives a reasonable request to depart by an administrator, educator, or security personnel officer employed by the school or day-care center and fails to depart.

If conduct constituting this offense also constitutes another Penal Code offense, the actor may be prosecuted for either offense or both offenses.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Keeping Texas children safe is one of the most sacred responsibilities of our government. The adult lurking along the playground fence seeking to lure a child away should be kept at bay. But this law does not target him.

"Instead, this bill would make a criminal of anyone merely present near a school or day-care center—even absent an unlawful or threatening act. In fact, the bill sweeps more broadly than that. The criminal prohibition applies to 'any grounds or buildings on which an activity sponsored by the school or day-care center is being conducted' and any 'public property located within 250 feet.'

"The problem? Schools sponsor activities on the Capitol Grounds—and in other places—daily. By the bill's plain terms, the tourist inspecting the Heroes of the Alamo Monument, an Austin resident listening to an orchestra performance in the rotunda, and the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House arriving for work—all of them must obtain written consent or court criminal liability. That is surely not what legislators intended. But it is what they wrote down.

"I look forward to working with the author to draft a more tailored approach to protecting Texas children—without criminalizing ordinary conduct in public spaces. Until then, Texas law already contains a criminal trespass offense that allows school officials and law enforcement to remove individuals who do not belong on school grounds or who pose a risk to student safety."

House Bill 367

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Rosenthal et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 367 amends the Education Code to require a public school district to adopt a form to be used by a student or their parent or guardian in providing the certification from a licensed physician needed to excuse the student from attending school for an absence resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment. The bill revises the required content of the certification and prohibits the district from requiring the student or their parent or guardian to provide more documentation or information than is required by the form.

House Bill 388

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Harris Davila

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 388 amends the Insurance Code to provide for the establishment of a uniform coordination of benefits questionnaire by the commissioner of insurance and the required use of that questionnaire by health benefit plan issuers in Texas.

House Bill 413

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Jones, Jolanda et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 413 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to prohibit the detention of a defendant charged with a Class B misdemeanor or higher category of offense in jail pending trial for a cumulative period that exceeds the maximum term of confinement that may be imposed on conviction of that offense when considering the maximum credit toward the defendant's sentence to which the defendant would be entitled to earn as a result of the defendant's conduct while confined in the county jail of the county

in which the offense occurred. The bill excludes from the prohibition a defendant who is being evaluated for competency or subject to an order of commitment issued after the defendant is found incompetent to stand trial.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 413 is a common-sense reform that ensures pre-trial detention does not become a form of punishment and will save taxpayers money. However, the bill fails to specify that the method of release must provide sufficient sureties to ensure public safety and appearance at trial. The protection of liberty must be balanced with clarity, accountability, and public safety. This bill fails to strike that balance and lacks critical safeguards against abuse. I look forward to considering these reforms in the future, with certain clarifications."

House Bill 426

House Author: Bernal et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 426 amends the Health and Safety Code and Human Resources Code to provide for Medicaid reimbursement and CHIP coverage for the full cost of a cranial remolding orthosis for a child who has a qualifying diagnosis and who is a Medicaid recipient or CHIP enrollee, as applicable.

House Bill 431

House Author: Cortez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 431 amends the Property Code to clarify that the term "solar energy device" includes a solar roof tile for purposes of the regulation of solar energy devices by a property owners' association.

House Bill 449

House Author: González, Mary et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 449 amends the Penal Code to replace the unlawful production or distribution of sexually explicit deep fake videos with the unlawful production or distribution of sexually explicit deep fake media, as defined by the bill, as the conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The increased prevalence of sexually explicit deep fake media is alarming. However, the author of this bill requested it be vetoed because other, more comprehensive approaches to this issue were passed this session and signed into law, like Senate Bill No. 441."

House Bill 451

House Author: Thompson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 451 amends the Family Code and Human Resources Code to provide for a screening of certain children who enter the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services or who are under a juvenile probation department's jurisdiction regarding the risk of commercial sexual exploitation. The screening must use a validated, evidence-informed tool selected by the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit within the governor's criminal justice division.

House Bill 467

House Author: Bell, Keith

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 5-24-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 467 amends the law to establish the procedures for the dissolution of the Cedar Creek Hospital District and the subsequent disposition of district money.

House Bill 493

House Author: Shaheen et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: State Affairs

Current law makes a person ineligible to serve as a poll watcher if the person has been finally convicted of an offense in connection with conduct directly attributable to an election. House Bill 493 amends the Election Code to instead make a person ineligible to serve as a poll watcher if the person has been finally convicted of a felony in connection with such conduct or of any first or second degree felony offense.

House Bill 500

House Author: Bonnen
Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: See below
House Committee: Appropriations
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 500 makes supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and gives direction and transfer and other adjustment authority with respect to the General Appropriations Act and supplemental appropriations act adopted by the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session.

House Bill 500 reduces appropriations from the general revenue fund by roughly \$277 million and makes supplemental appropriations for the 2024-2025 state fiscal biennium totaling approximately \$18.1 billion, of which \$13.259 billion is from the general revenue fund; \$380 million is from federal funds; \$57 million is from general revenue dedicated accounts; and \$989 million is from various other sources. In addition, the bill appropriates slightly more than \$3.41 billion in unexpended and unobligated balances remaining from various appropriations made by the 87th and 88th Texas Legislatures.

As part of the appropriations outlined above, House Bill 500 appropriates over \$2.5 billion to the Texas Water Development Board to be used for water infrastructure and supply projects and over \$124 million to the Texas A&M Forest Service for the purpose of responding to natural disasters. Moreover, the bill sets the sum-certain appropriation to the Foundation School Program for state fiscal year 2025 at \$30,924,285,550.

Except for Section 1.14(a)(2), which does not take effect due to the governor's line-item veto, House Bill 500 takes effect June 22, 2025.

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 1.14(a)(2): *"Increasing our physical and cyber security is a priority for Texas. However, this funding is duplicative of other state initiatives including the Texas Cyber Command and would create an additional SCIF where others are currently operational. The Legislature can reconsider this item next session if the federal partner expresses direct support for such a project."*

House Bill 517

House Author: Harris Davila et al.
Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 517 amends the Property Code to prohibit a property owners' association from fining a property owner for a violation of an applicable restrictive covenant that requires the owner to plant or install grass or turf or maintain green vegetation or turf or prohibits discolored or brown vegetation or turf on the property during the following periods:

- when the owner's property is subject to a residential watering restriction under which discolored or brown vegetation or turf could reasonably result; and
- before the 60th day after the date such a restriction is lifted.

House Bill 519**House Author:** González, Mary et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 519 amends the Health and Safety Code to expand the scope of statutory provisions that establish labeling requirements for small honey production operations but that exempt those operations from regulation as a food service establishment and prohibit their regulation by local governmental authorities by making those provisions applicable instead to all honey production operations, as defined by the bill. The bill removes the requirement that the label for an operation's honey or honeycomb include certain information. The bill establishes that an operation that extracts honey from honeycomb is harvesting a raw agricultural commodity and that an operation that bottles extracted honey and packages cut honeycomb is packaging a raw agricultural commodity without necessitating any additional manufacturing or processing.

House Bill 521**House Author:** Guillen et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Paxton**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Elections**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 521 amends the Election Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the offenses of electioneering and electioneering and loitering near a polling place to include engaging in the prohibited conduct within 20 feet of a parking space designated for curbside voting for voters who are physically unable to enter a polling place. The bill requires such a voter to complete a form indicating such inability and requesting to vote outside the polling place and prohibits an election officer who delivers a ballot to such a voter from providing assistance in marking the ballot. The bill also revises documentation and reporting procedures for a person providing transportation assistance to seven or more voters during a voting period and creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for such a person who fails to complete the required form.

House Bill 541**House Author:** Shaheen**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 541 amends the Occupations Code to expand the scope of statutory provisions relating to direct primary care, which is a model under which a physician provides primary medical care services to a patient in exchange for a direct fee, to apply more broadly to direct patient care, which means any health care service provided by a physician or health care practitioner to a patient in exchange for such a fee.

House Bill 549**House Author:** Vasut et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Public Education**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 549 amends the Education Code to require each public school district to make available at each district campus at least one airway clearance device appropriate for use on the majority of students enrolled at the campus, but only if the district may obtain such a device for the respective campus through donation of the device in the original packaging or purchase or lease of the device using money appropriated or donated to the district for that purpose. The bill sets out provisions relating to the implementation of the requirement, including requirements regarding the storage and usage of the device.

House Bill 549 additionally authorizes the board of trustees of a district or governing body of an open-enrollment charter school or private school to contract with a vendor for medication for respiratory distress and related equipment and training.

House Bill 551

House Author: Swanson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 551 amends the Election Code to require the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) to ensure a campaign finance report includes a space to indicate whether the address of an individual listed as having received a political expenditure is a residence address. The bill provides for the removal of certain residence address information from a report before the TEC may make the report available on the Internet.

House Bill 554

House Author: Leo Wilson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 5-26-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 554 amends the Occupations Code and Local Government Code to authorize the sale of fireworks to the public for the Juneteenth holiday in a county during the period beginning June 14 and ending at midnight on June 19 on approval by the county commissioners court.

House Bill 581

House Author: González, Mary et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 581 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to require a commercial entity that operates a website with a publicly accessible tool for creating artificial sexual material harmful to minors or otherwise makes publicly available an application for creating sexual material harmful to minors to use reasonable age verification methods in order to verify an individual attempting to access the tool is 18 years of age or older. The bill prohibits a commercial entity or a third party that performs the requisite age verification from retaining any of an individual's identifying information. The bill further requires a commercial entity that operates a website with a publicly accessible tool for creating artificial sexual material harmful to minors or otherwise makes publicly available an application for creating artificial sexual material harmful to minors to ensure that an individual used as a source for the material is 18 years of age or older and has consented to the use of their face and body as a source for the material. The bill extends to these provisions the applicability of the civil penalty scale for a violation of statutory provisions relating to the publication of material harmful to minors and reasonable age verification methods.

House Bill 581 exempts from its requirements a commercial entity that takes affirmative steps to limit the creation of artificial sexual material harmful to minors through certain technological tools and that includes a prohibition against the generation of artificial sexual material harmful to minors in the entity's terms and conditions or use policies that must be acknowledged before a user is granted access.

House Bill 581 prohibits an Internet service provider, or its affiliates or subsidiaries, a search engine, or a cloud service provider from being held to have violated provisions governing liability related to sexual material harmful to minors solely for providing access or connection to or from a website or other information or content on the Internet or on a facility, system, or network not under that provider's control to the extent the provider or search engine is not responsible for the creation of the content that constitutes artificial sexual material harmful to minors.

House Bill 609

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 609 amends the Water Code to require a general permit for aquaculture issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to allow a cultivated oyster mariculture permit holder to discharge

into waters of the state waste related to the cleaning of a structure used to grow oysters for cultivated oyster mariculture in accordance with the bill's provisions.

House Bill 621

House Author: Patterson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 621 amends the Property Code to prohibit a property owners' association (POA) from adopting or enforcing a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting a property owner or resident from inviting governmental officials and candidates for public office to address or meet with POA members, residents, or their invitees in applicable common areas of the POA.

House Bill 630

House Author: Vasut et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 630 amends the Water Safety Act, Parks and Wildlife Code, to exempt from the act's provisions relating to certificates of title for vessels and outboard motors an outboard motor that is at least 40 years of age with a capacity of not more than 25 horsepower.

House Bill 640

House Author: Bumgarner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Elections

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Senate Committee: State Affairs

Current law requires each county clerk, city secretary, or secretary of the governing body of a political subdivision other than a county or city to keep that officer's office open for election duties on regular business days during a prescribed election period. House Bill 640 amends the Election Code to specify that "regular business day" means a day on which the main business office of the county, city, or other political subdivision is regularly open for business.

House Bill 647

House Author: Patterson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 647 amends the Transportation Code to provide for a process by which a driver's license holder who is otherwise required to wear corrective lenses for vision may receive a license without such a restriction if the license holder submits a fee and a written statement from a licensed physician or optometrist verifying that the license holder's vision has been surgically corrected and the license holder no longer requires corrective lenses.

House Bill 654

House Author: Leo Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 654, the Asp-Morgan Act, amends the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983, Parks and Wildlife Code, to provide for the dismissal of a criminal charge related to the illegal hunting of certain mule deer or white-tailed deer based on the certain inside or outside spread measurement of the deer's antlers on the defendant's completion of a hunter education course.

House Bill 668

House Author: Bell, Cecil et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 668 amends the Government Code to establish a one-year grace period after the expiration date of a handgun license during which the license holder may still renew the license.

House Bill 677

House Author: DeAyala et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Elections

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 677 amends the Election Code to prohibit a county elections administrator from holding another office or position appointed by an elected official.

House Bill 685

House Author: Bell, Cecil

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 685 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality from establishing a rate for water or sewer utility service applicable only to entities that qualify for a sales or property tax exemption that is higher than a rate established for entities that receive comparable utility service.

House Bill 694

House Author: Gervin-Hawkins et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Sponsor: Cook et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 694 amends the Family Code to revise requirements for the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) in providing notice concerning certain events related to children in DFPS managing conservatorship. Among other provisions, the bill requires that any notification currently required to be provided to the child's parent also be provided to the parent's attorney, if the parent is represented by an attorney, requires DFPS to make a reasonable effort to provide notice not later than 24 hours after a change in the child's placement, and changes the deadline for DFPS to provide notice of a significant event affecting a child.

House Bill 700

House Author: McQueeney

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 700 amends the Finance Code to provide for the regulation of commercial sales-based financing. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- establishes disclosure requirements for a provider who extends a specific offer of commercial sales-based financing of less than \$1 million to a recipient in Texas and for a provider who requires a recipient, as a condition of obtaining commercial sales-based financing, to pay off the outstanding balance of an existing commercial sales-based financing;
- requires such a provider to obtain the recipient's signature on the required disclosures before finalizing the application for the commercial sales-based financing transaction;
- requires a person to register with the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner before engaging in business as a provider or broker of commercial sales-based financing for compensation in Texas;
- establishes that a commercial sales-based financing contract that contains a confession of judgment provision or any similar provision is void and unenforceable;

- prohibits a provider or broker of commercial sales-based financing from establishing a mechanism for automatically debiting a recipient's deposit account unless the provider or broker holds a validly perfected security interest in the recipient's account with a first priority against the claims of all other persons;
- creates a civil penalty for a violation of the bill's provisions;
- establishes that the bill applies to a provider or broker who offers, obtains, or provides commercial sales-based financing services over the Internet to or for a recipient of Texas, regardless of whether the provider or broker maintains a physical presence in Texas, but provides for certain exemptions; and
- requires the Finance Commission of Texas to adopt rules that identify and prohibit unlawful, unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices by providers or brokers related to a commercial sales-based financing transaction.

House Bill 705**House Author:** Wilson**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** Vetoed**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 705 amends the Occupations Code to enact and enter into the cosmetology licensure compact to facilitate the interstate practice and regulation of cosmetology with the goals of improving public access to, and the safety of, cosmetology services and reducing unnecessary burdens related to cosmetology licensure. The bill sets out the compact's provisions and designates the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as the compact administrator for Texas.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Enacting and enforcing laws are not just things that sovereign governments do; it is the very embodiment of sovereign power. *Sovereign Power*, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (12th ed.). The 'power to create and enforce a legal code' is the most easily identified example of a State's sovereign interest. *Alfred L. Snapp & Son, Inc. v. Puerto Rico*, 458 U.S. 592, 601 (1982). House Bill No. 705 would cede Texas's sovereign power by subjecting it to a Cosmetology Licensure Compact comprised of other States. Under this proposal, Texas could 'enact and enforce laws' only if they are 'not inconsistent with' the Compact. The Compact Commission, meanwhile, could pass rules that 'shall have the force of law' in Texas, even though its Executive Committee might not include a Texan.

"While I appreciate that the bill's authors added language that attempts to protect state sovereignty, there is no guarantee that the Compact Commission will respect that language, or that it will refrain from making changes in the future that hurt Texans. That, of course, is the problem with giving away Texas sovereignty to others today—no one knows what they will do tomorrow. This cession of state power is also unnecessary. Out-of-state cosmetology licensees may already seek reciprocal licensing here. This session, the Legislature made it even easier for many practitioners by granting provisional licenses in Senate Bill No. 1818. If more changes are needed to better align Texas practice with national standards, there is a way to do that without surrendering state power: Pick and choose which rules to put in state law.

"Texans welcome good ideas, no matter where they come from. But in our republican form of government, Texas lawmakers must adopt the rules that will bind Texans. We should not ask some other sovereign—or a conglomerate of them—to do the lawmaking for us."

House Bill 713**House Author:** Howard et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Cook et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 713 amends the Health and Safety Code to exempt a health care provider, including a nurse, from the requirement to report certain conduct related to the provider's profession if the provider learns of the conduct during the review of information relevant to a case selected for review by the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.

House Bill 718

House Author: Bell, Cecil
Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Higher Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 718 amends the Education Code to prohibit a public institution of higher education from entering into a contract to partner with a private entity to construct a student housing facility if the entity has a pending action or lien against the entity or entity's property relating to a claim for nonpayment of a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor. This prohibition does not apply to a claim for nonpayment if the entity has provided a payment bond to cover the claim or contests in good faith the validity or accuracy of the claim.

House Bill 721

House Author: Leo Wilson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Insurance
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 721 amends the Insurance Code to make statutory provisions requiring health care cost disclosures by health benefit plan issuers and administrators inapplicable to a regional or local health care program that contracts with health care providers to provide health care services directly to the employees of participating small employers and the employees' dependents.

House Bill 742

House Author: Thompson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 742 amends the Health and Safety Code to require certain first responders to successfully complete a training course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission on identifying, assisting, and reporting victims of human trafficking. The bill, among other provisions, requires an emergency department of a hospital and a freestanding emergency medical care facility to display a human trafficking sign in the form prescribed by the attorney general and prohibits a hospital or a freestanding emergency medical care facility from disciplining, retaliating against, or otherwise discriminating against an employee who in good faith reports a suspected act of human trafficking to any appropriate authority.

House Bill 754

House Author: Thompson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 754 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a medical assistant to successfully complete a training course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission on identifying, assisting, and reporting victims of human trafficking. The bill prohibits a facility, including a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, public health clinic, birthing center, outpatient clinic, and community health center, from disciplining, retaliating against, or otherwise discriminating against a facility employee who in good faith reports a suspected act of human trafficking to an appropriate authority. The bill also requires an applicable facility to display a human trafficking sign in the form prescribed by the attorney general.

House Bill 762

House Author: Leach et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 762 amends the Local Government Code to require a political subdivision that is not a public or teaching hospital, with respect to a contract or employment agreement entered into by the subdivision

that contains a provision for severance pay, to set a specified limit on the amount of severance pay that is paid from public money to an employee or independent contractor and to prohibit the provision of severance pay to an employee or independent contractor who is terminated for misconduct. In addition, the bill requires such a political subdivision to post each severance agreement in a prominent place on its website.

House Bill 762, with respect to an action brought against a political subdivision by an employee or independent contractor arising from the termination of the person's employment or contract, prohibits a court from issuing a writ of execution or mandamus in connection with a judgment in the action if the judgment does not comply with the bill's limitations on severance pay.

House Bill 766

Effective: 9-1-2025

House Author: Cortez et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 766 amends the Election Code to require an application for a place on the ballot as a candidate for precinct chair to include certain contact information. The contact information is confidential and exempt from state public information law.

House Bill 767

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Bell, Cecil

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 767 amends the Transportation Code to designate the portion of State Highway 249 in Montgomery County as the Paul P. Mendes Memorial Parkway, in addition to any other designation.

House Bill 783

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Lalani et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 783 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to make a person liable to another person injured by the person's online impersonation if the person knowingly and with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten the injured person used the online impersonation to create a false identity and the online impersonation is, to a reasonable person, virtually indistinguishable from an actual person. The bill exempts from its provisions a law enforcement agency or agency employee acting under certain circumstances and an online impersonation the purpose of which is satire or parody. The bill provides for the award of certain damages and costs for a prevailing claimant or party in an action relating to liability for online impersonation and provides for certain injunctive relief to restrain and prevent the online impersonation of a claimant.

House Bill 791

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Cortez

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 791 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates that include the words "With Loyal Hearts" and the logo of Central Catholic High School.

House Bill 793

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Thompson et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 793 amends the Family Code regarding the confidentiality of certain personal information of an applicant for or a person protected by a protective order as follows:

- replaces the authorization for a court, on the applicant's request, to render an order relating to the applicant's residence information with a requirement for the court to do so;
- replaces the authorization for a court, on the request of the person protected by a protective order or a member of the family or household of the person, to exclude certain information from the protective order with a requirement for the court to do so and specifies that the member of the family or household who may make the request is an adult; and
- requires a court, in the hearing on a protective order application, to inform each protected person or adult member of the family or household of such a person who is present at the hearing of the protected person's right, on request, to have the information excluded from the protective order and to specifically ask the person if they wish the court to do so.

House Bill 793 requires a court, on the request of a person protected by a protective order, to keep confidential the address or telephone number for which a notification of change of address or telephone number has been filed with the court, and, on granting the request, to order the clerk to maintain a confidential record of and exclude from the notification the information used by the court or a law enforcement agency for purposes of entering the requisite information into the statewide law enforcement information system.

House Bill 824

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Jones, Jolanda et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 824 amends the Education Code to require the State Board of Education (SBOE), in adopting the state curriculum standards for the government component of the social studies curriculum for high school students, to adopt standards to develop each student's civic knowledge. The bill sets out certain civics instruction topics that the SBOE must include.

House Bill 851

Effective: 1-1-26

House Author: Schofield

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 851 amends the Tax Code to require an appraisal district's chief appraiser, for each public school district in the appraisal district, to determine and report the number of residence homesteads of certain property owners receiving property tax benefits to the comptroller of public accounts. The bill requires the comptroller, not later than November 1 of each tax year, to report to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature the total number of such residence homesteads as determined by the comptroller under the bill's provisions.

House Bill 879

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Frank et al.

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 879 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Medical Board, the Texas Physician Assistant Board, and the Texas Board of Nursing to issue an applicable license to an eligible applicant who is licensed in good standing as a physician, physician assistant, or nurse, respectively, in another state and who:

- is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who retired from or otherwise left military service not more than one year before the application date for the license;
- was, at the time of retiring from or leaving military service, serving on active duty and authorized as a physician, physician assistant, or nurse, as applicable, to treat persons enlisted in the armed forces or veterans; and
- has passed the applicable jurisprudence examination.

House Bill 908**House Author:** Spiller et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al.**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 908 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a law enforcement agency, on receiving a report of a missing child and regardless of the jurisdiction in which the child went missing, to enter the applicable information relating to the report into the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) immediately, but not later than two hours after the agency receives the report, and to inform the person who filed the report that the information will be entered into NCMEC.

House Bill 912**House Author:** Moody**Effective:** 9-1-26**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Blanco**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 912 amends the Utilities Code to specify that existing statutory provisions related to compensation for distributed renewable generation owners that choose interconnection through a single meter apply unless the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) approves an alternative method for the compensation of such an owner for electricity generated by distributed renewable generation or a qualifying facility. The bill sets out additional requirements regarding a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis that must be met before the PUC may approve such a compensation method.

House Bill 913**House Author:** Frank**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Sponsor:** Hagenbuch**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 913 amends the Health and Safety Code to account for changes to the state hospital system by including references to the Vernon State Hospital, the Wichita Falls State Hospital, the Panhandle State Hospital, and the Lubbock Psychiatric Center and by removing references to the North Texas State Hospital. The bill requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to require each state hospital to employ a superintendent.

House Bill 923**House Author:** Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Sponsor:** Blanco**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 923 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to increase the number of members of the Texas Medical Disclosure Panel from nine to 13 by increasing the number of members licensed to practice medicine in Texas from six to seven and by adding three members representing the public. The bill prohibits the panel from taking any action requiring a vote of the panel unless a majority of the members appointed to serve on the panel as members licensed to practice medicine are in attendance at the meeting when the vote is taken. The bill establishes that the panel is not authorized to take any action that changes the scope of practice authority of any physician or health care provider.

House Bill 1022**House Author:** Morales, Eddie et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Higher Education**Senate Sponsor:** Blanco et al.**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 1022 amends the Education Code to expand the course levels that may be offered at Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College by removing the specification that the college is an upper-level educational center.

House Bill 1024

House Author: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1024 amends the Government Code to require a law enforcement agency to execute a warrant that is directed to the agency and issued for the return of a releasee in the super-intensive supervision program based on a violation of a condition of parole or mandatory supervision related to the electronic monitoring of the releasee.

House Bill 1041

House Author: Turner et al.

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1041 amends the Insurance Code to establish that a person providing care to an individual with a disability, including an intellectual disability, at an applicable state supported living center, assisted living facility, intermediate care facility, or group home does not directly or indirectly have an insurable interest in the individual's life for purposes of a qualifying life insurance policy unless the person is the individual's relative who is related to the insured within the third degree by consanguinity or affinity.

House Bill 1052

House Author: Bhojani et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1052 amends the Insurance Code to require a health benefit plan to provide coverage for a covered health care service or procedure delivered as a telemedicine medical service, teledentistry dental service, or telehealth service with an originating site or distant site located outside of Texas on the same basis and to the same extent that the plan provides coverage for the service or procedure delivered in that manner with an originating site and distant site located in Texas if the individual who receives the service resides primarily in Texas and the health professional who provides the service is licensed or otherwise authorized to provide the service in Texas and has a physical office in Texas.

House Bill 1056

House Author: Dorazio et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 1056 amends the Government Code to recognize gold and silver specie as legal tender in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill prohibits a person from being required to offer or accept gold and silver specie or gold and silver currency as legal tender for the payment of a debt, for deposit, or for any other purpose. These bill provisions take effect September 1, 2026.

House Bill 1056 authorizes the comptroller of public accounts to establish or authorize one or more electronic systems that enable a depositor or vendor to make and receive payments using a currency backed by gold and silver bullion held in the Texas Bullion Depository. The bill also authorizes the comptroller to contract with one or more vendors to implement the bill's provisions and requires the comptroller to adopt rules as necessary or convenient to implement and administer the bill's provisions. Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect May 1, 2027.

House Bill 1089**House Author:** Paul et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado**Effective:** 5-24-25**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 1089 amends the Natural Resources Code to establish the gulf coast protection account as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund to be administered by the General Land Office and to be used to pay for certain expenditures.

House Bill 1094**House Author:** Lambert et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial
Services**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1094 amends the Finance Code and Insurance Code to set out provisions relating to transportation protection agreements, which are agreements to pay for the transportation of a deceased human body from the place of death to a licensed holding facility or licensed crematory, if the place of death is more than 75 miles from the location of the licensed facility that will provide the funeral services. The bill specifies that, for purposes of statutory provisions governing prepaid funeral services, the terms "prepaid funeral benefits" and "funeral service" or "service" do not include a transportation protection agreement or a service provided under such an agreement, respectively. Additionally, the bill establishes that a transportation protection agreement sold by a seller does not constitute the business of insurance in Texas and is otherwise exempt from the requirements of the Insurance Code.

House Bill 1105**House Author:** Cole et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Eckhardt et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Higher Education**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 1105 amends the Education Code to provide for a tuition and laboratory fee exemption for a student of a public institution of higher education who is enrolled in one or more courses offered as part of an emergency medical services curriculum and is employed as a paramedic by a political subdivision of the state.

House Bill 1106**House Author:** Shaheen et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hall et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1106 amends the Family Code to establish that the terms "abuse" and "neglect," for purposes of statutory provisions governing investigations of reports of child abuse or neglect, do not include the refusal by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare to affirm a child's expressed sexual orientation or a child's perception of the child's gender, regardless of whether the child's name has been legally changed.

House Bill 1109**House Author:** VanDeaver et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hall et al.**Effective:** 7-1-25**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 1109 amends the Tax Code to exempt gasoline and diesel fuel sold to a county in Texas for the county's exclusive use from the applicable motor fuel tax. The bill authorizes the holder of an applicable license to take a credit on a return for the period in which a sale occurred for which the license holder paid tax on the purchase of gasoline or diesel fuel and subsequently resold the motor fuel without collecting the applicable tax to a county in Texas for the county's exclusive use. The bill entitles a county

exempt from the gasoline tax or diesel fuel tax to a refund of any such tax paid and authorizes the county to file a refund claim with the comptroller of public accounts for that amount.

House Bill 1130

Effective: 5-29-25

House Author: Isaac et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Campbell

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1130 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a person engaged in the business of owning or operating a cavern area from liability to any person for a cavern activity participant injury or damages arising out of a cavern activity participant injury if, at the time of the injury, a prescribed warning was posted in accordance with the bill's provisions. Such a limitation of liability is in addition to other limitations of liability. The bill expressly does not limit liability for an injury intentionally caused by a person engaged in such a business or proximately caused by the following:

- such a person's negligence with regard to the safety of the cavern area or cavern activity participant;
- a potentially dangerous condition at the cavern area of which such a person knew or reasonably should have known; or
- such a person's failure to train or improper training of an employee actively involved in the cavern area or a cavern activity.

House Bill 1151

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Hull et al.

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1151 amends the Family Code to establish that, for purposes of a court's order to terminate the parent-child relationship, evidence of a parent refusing to administer psychotropic medication to the child, refusing to consent to psychiatric or psychological treatment of the child, or choosing an alternative health care treatment or therapy for the child does not constitute clear and convincing evidence unless the action presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child or results in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child. The bill prohibits the Department of Family and Protective Services from taking possession of the child based on evidence of any such action by a parent and establishes that such an action by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare does not constitute neglect.

House Bill 1178

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Cunningham et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Sponsor: Campbell

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 1178 amends the Education Code to require the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to create a temporary certificate for educators certified by other states and to immediately issue such a certificate to a person who applies for permanent certification and meets specified eligibility requirements. Accordingly, the bill repeals existing Education Code provisions that authorize the issuance of temporary certificates to certain educators certified by another state. The bill sets out provisions relating to the SBEC's authority to rescind a temporary certificate and the expiration of such a certificate. A temporary certificate may not be reissued or renewed.

House Bill 1188

House Author: Manuel et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 5-29-25
House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 1188 amends the Education Code to require a public school district, at the first individualized education program (IEP) committee meeting during which a student's IEP is developed, to provide the parent or legal guardian of a student who has an intellectual disability or a developmental delay with information about services and public benefits provided by the local intellectual and developmental disability authority. The bill requires the Texas Education Agency, in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission, to develop informational materials that include such information and make those materials available for use by districts.

House Bill 1193

House Author: Manuel et al.
Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 1193 amends the Family Code and Health and Safety Code to require a declaration of informal marriage form to contain a printed box for either named party to the declaration to check indicating a preference to keep identifying information on the form confidential. If a party to a declaration of informal marriage has checked the box on the declaration, the bill prohibits the following actions:

- the county clerk from publicly publishing the personally identifying information of either party, other than the names of the parties, or releasing a copy of the declaration that includes such identifying information to anyone other than a party named on the declaration or the party's legal representative; and
- the vital statistics unit in the Department of State Health Services from furnishing any personally identifying information on record relating to the marriage, other than the names of the parties to the marriage, to anyone other than a party to the marriage or the party's legal representative.

House Bill 1211

House Author: Lujan et al.
Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Higher Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

Previous law conditioned eligibility for the higher education tuition and fee exemption for certain students who were under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services on the student enrolling in a public institution of higher education as an undergraduate student or in a dual credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit not later than the student's 25th birthday. House Bill 1211 amends the Education Code to extend that enrollment deadline to not later than the student's 27th birthday.

House Bill 1234

House Author: Guillen et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1234 amends the Government Code to prohibit the Department of Public Safety (DPS) from denying an application for the issuance of an original or renewal handgun license based on a recommendation for such denial by a medical advisory board panel regarding the applicant's inability to exercise sound judgment with respect to the proper use and storage of a handgun, unless DPS first provides the applicant with a written notice regarding the denial and the opportunity to provide additional written materials to supplement or clarify the application. The bill establishes a procedure for the review of those materials and the license application, as applicable.

House Bill 1237

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 1237 amends the Water Code to extend the time frame in which a person whose occupational license or registration issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has expired may renew the license or registration.

House Bill 1238

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 1238 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to authorize the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to satisfy the inspection requirements for a proposed Class I injection well by accepting an inspection report prepared by a licensed engineer or geoscientist in accordance with the bill.

House Bill 1240

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Effective: 9-1-26

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 1240 amends certain provisions of the Education Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Transportation Code, and Water Code to applicably incorporate a Government Code definition of the "Texas-Mexico border region," as revised by the bill, that specifies the counties comprising that region. Those amended provisions relate to the following matters:

- the requirement for a state agency serving the border region to make a strategic operation plan;
- research on border region environmental issues by entities using state research or technology funds that is encouraged by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;
- the requirement for family practice residency training pilot programs that provide services to economically depressed or rural medically underserved areas to be located in the border region;
- the interagency work group on border issues;
- the task force of border health officials established by the Department of State Health Services;
- the requirement for the Texas Transportation Commission, in enhancing existing sources of revenue and creating alternate sources of revenue, to increase private investment in the transportation infrastructure in the border region; and
- the Border Activity Tracker maintained and updated by the Texas Water Development Board that contains information about certain projects in the border region.

The revised Government Code definition specifies that the border region includes the counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar, Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Nueces, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, San Patricio, Starr, Sutton, Terrell, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata, and Zavala.

House Bill 1242

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1242 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 281 in Brooks County as the Ernesto Soliz Cantu Memorial Highway.

House Bill 1244

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1244 amends the Tax Code to establish that the ownership of qualified open-space land appraised as agricultural land in the preceding tax year is not considered to have changed for purposes of eligibility for appraisal in subsequent years without a new application if after the ownership of the land is transferred from the former owner to the new owner:

- the new owner uses the land in materially the same way as the former owner used the land during the preceding tax year; and
- the use is overseen or conducted by the same individuals who oversaw or conducted that use during the preceding tax year.

House Bill 1244 requires the chief appraiser to accept and approve or deny an application for appraisal of qualified open-space land after the filing deadline under certain conditions.

House Bill 1261

House Author: Cunningham

Senate Sponsor: Flores et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1261 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide for the notice requirement relating to the disposition of unclaimed or abandoned personal property seized by a peace officer to be satisfied by placing a one-time notice on the website and social networking website of the applicable law enforcement agency.

House Bill 1275

House Author: González, Mary

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1275 amends the Health and Safety Code to make the prohibition against the Department of State Health Services issuing a permit to sell milk for a producer dairy located in an area infected with or at a high risk for bovine tuberculosis applicable only with respect to a producer dairy farm permit issued for a bovine producer dairy farm.

House Bill 1306

House Author: Landgraf et al.

Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1306 amends the Government Code and Labor Code to extend certain benefits currently available to public safety employees and first responders to justices of the peace, county medical examiners and employees of a county medical examiner's office, and death investigators employed by a county's office of death investigator; to make the survivors of such death investigation professionals who died as a result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty eligible for financial assistance under applicable state law; to provide for the prioritization of a death investigation professional's claim for medical benefits; and to entitle a death investigation professional to review of a medical dispute in the manner provided under state law for judicial review of a contested case.

House Bill 1314

House Author: Hickland et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1314 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions governing the billing policies of an ambulatory surgical center, birthing center, hospital, or freestanding emergency medical care facility. Among other provisions, the bill revises the requirement for such a facility to provide an estimate of the facility's charges for any elective inpatient admission or nonemergency outpatient surgical procedure or other service on request and before the scheduling of the admission, procedure, or service and requires a facility to include in the estimate information regarding the manner in which an eligible consumer may dispute final billed charges that exceed the amount specified in the estimate by \$400 or more. The bill also prohibits an applicable facility that violates provisions governing its billing policies from taking or facilitating the taking of any third-party collection action against a consumer, reporting the consumer to a credit bureau, or pursuing an action against the consumer.

House Bill 1318

House Author: Guillen
Senate Sponsor: Flores

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1318 amends the Water Code to revise provisions relating to the compensation to be provided to a retail public utility by a municipality that is granted single certification to provide water or sewer service to an incorporated or annexed area served by the utility.

House Bill 1327

House Author: Harless et al.
Senate Sponsor: Miles

Effective: 5-28-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1327 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of the authority of the Harris County Hospital District to administer and operate a health care provider participation program, and the expiration of provisions governing the program, from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

House Bill 1392

House Author: Bucy et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 1-1-26
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1392 amends the Tax Code to establish that the payment of property taxes is considered timely if the last day to pay the taxes is on a day on which the tax collector's office is closed and the taxes are paid on the next regular business day.

House Bill 1393

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: See below
House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1393 amends the Government Code to require the State of Texas to observe daylight saving time (DST) year-round in the entirety of Texas, irrespective of time zone, and to require the standard time in Texas to be referred to as Texas Time. The bill takes effect on September 1, 2025, only if the U.S. Congress enacts legislation that becomes law authorizing the State of Texas to observe DST year-round.

House Bill 1397**House Author:** Harris et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 1397 amends the Government Code to make the State Preservation Board responsible for the care and custody of the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence and for the care, custody, safety, and preservation of the victory or death letter, which is the letter written by Lieutenant Colonel William B. Travis dated February 24, 1836, and signed "Victory or Death." The bill, among other provisions, provides for the display of the Texas Constitution and the Texas Declaration of Independence at the Capitol Complex and for the display of the victory or death letter at the Alamo complex.

House Bill 1399**House Author:** Harris et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Nichols et al.**Effective:** See below**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1399 amends the Tax Code to entitle the owner of tangible personal property consisting of animal feed that is exempted from sales and use taxes and held by the owner for sale at retail to an exemption from property taxation of the tangible personal property's appraised value. The bill takes effect January 1, 2026, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 99.

House Bill 1403**House Author:** Harris et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1403 amends the Human Resources Code to prohibit the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), and a child-placing agency that contracts with DFPS from requiring an agency foster home to disclose the specific types of firearms that are present in the home or to notify the child-placing agency if there is any change in the types of firearms that are present in the home. The bill also prohibits those entities from using any information it has or obtains relating to the types of firearms that are present in an agency foster home for any purpose other than determining whether there are firearms present in the home, provides for a civil penalty for a violation of that prohibition, and provides for the confidentiality of such information.

House Bill 1422**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1422 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Penal Code to revise provisions relating to the rights of sexual assault victims and to the prosecution, punishment, and collateral consequences of certain sex offenses. Among other provisions, the bill entitles a person authorized to consent to the release of evidence in an evidence collection kit to limit the scope of their consent to only permit the performance of forensic DNA testing by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) on biological evidence contained in the kit. The bill requires DPS to develop procedures for the testing of evidence collected during a forensic medical examination for a sexual assault that was not reported to a law enforcement agency.

House Bill 1422 creates the first degree felony offense of continuous sexual abuse for a person who commits two or more acts of sexual abuse against two or more victims for 30 days or longer. The bill provides for the prosecution of the offense, establishes an affirmative defense and penalty enhancements, and makes an offender subject to registration as a sex offender and ineligible for certain forms of release. The bill also revises provisions relating to sentences for certain sexual assault offenses arising out of the same criminal episode and strengthens penalties for aggravated sexual assault, criminal solicitation of a minor, voyeurism, and sexual coercion.

House Bill 1443

House Author: Schatzline et al.

Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1443 amends the Penal Code to create the following offenses:

- a state jail felony for a person who knowingly possesses a child-like sex doll;
- a third degree felony for a person who knowingly possesses, with the intent to promote, such a doll; and
- a second degree felony for a person who knowingly promotes such a doll.

The bill establishes that a person who possesses two or more child-like sex dolls is presumed to possess the dolls with the intent to promote the dolls and establishes as an affirmative defense to prosecution for these offenses that the actor possesses or promotes the child-like sex doll for a bona fide law enforcement purpose.

House Bill 1445

House Author: Hernandez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Campbell

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1445 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to include the designee of the director of a managed assigned counsel program among the individuals authorized to approve payments requested as a reasonable attorney's fee submitted by counsel appointed to provide representation and services to indigent individuals in criminal and juvenile proceedings. Accordingly, the bill requires the designee who disapproves a requested amount of payment to make written findings stating the amount of payment that the designee approves and each reason for approving an amount different from the requested amount.

House Bill 1458

House Author: Metcalf et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 1458 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, and Occupations Code to authorize the board of trustees of a public school district to authorize the chief of police of the school district police department to appoint reserve police officers for the district who may be called into service at any time that the chief considers it necessary to have additional officers to preserve the peace and enforce the law. The bill sets out provisions relating to such reserve police officers, including provisions that restrict a reserve police officer who does not hold a permanent peace officer license to acting as a peace officer only during the actual discharge of official duties and only if the officer has fulfilled certain training requirements. The bill also expands the list of individuals eligible to serve as an armed security officer at a district campus to include reserve deputy sheriffs and reserve police officers who hold a permanent peace officer license and honorably retired peace officers who have kept their peace officer commission in active status and fulfilled applicable training and proficiency requirements.

House Bill 1465

House Author: Hickland et al.

Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1465 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to expand the locations in which an invasive visual recording of a person constitutes the applicable offense to include any place in which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. The bill requires an individual convicted or adjudicated of such an offense to register under the sex offender registration program.

House Bill 1481**House Author:** Fairly et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Creighton et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Public Education**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 1481 amends the Education Code to require the board of trustees of a public school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to adopt, implement, and ensure the district or school complies with a written policy prohibiting a student from using a personal communication device while on school property during the school day. However, the bill requires the board or governing body, in adopting the mandatory policy, to authorize the use of such a device for purposes relating to an individualized education program, a Section 504 plan, or a similar program or plan; a student with a documented need based on a directive from a qualified physician; or compliance with a health or safety requirement imposed by law or as part of the district's or charter school's safety protocols. A district or school may comply by prohibiting a student from bringing a device on school property or by designating a method for the storage of a device while the student is on school property during the school day. Among other provisions, the bill requires the establishment of disciplinary measures for a student's violation and authorizes confiscation of a device, which may be disposed of after providing the student's parent 90 days' prior written notice.

House Bill 1500**House Author:** Bell, Keith et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1500 amends the Government Code to continue the Department of Information Resources (DIR) under the Texas Sunset Act until September 1, 2037, remove the statutory provision setting the expiration of the Information Resources Management Act, and implement certain recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission. The bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- revises the composition of the DIR governing board and updates board member training;
- requires DIR to develop and implement a certification course and related trainings on the procurement of information resources technologies;
- requires the comptroller of public accounts, in coordination with DIR, to develop an electronic advertising system to post state assistance opportunities on the electronic state business daily;
- updates the structure and governance of DIR advisory committees and provides for the creation of new advisory committees;
- requires DIR to establish a pilot program to provide assistance in the procurement of information resources technologies by certain governmental entities;
- updates certain technological reporting requirements for DIR and other state agencies;
- expands the applicability of the requirement for certain governmental employees to complete annual cybersecurity trainings;
- provides for an information security assessment and a penetration test, completed at least biennially by each state agency; and
- updates statutory provisions relating to the use of telecommunication systems by state agencies.

House Bill 1506**House Author:** Ashby et al.**Senate Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1506 amends the Government Code to revise statutory provisions establishing procedures for the issuance of a handgun license to retired judicial officers to include a retired judge of a constitutional county court or statutory county court who served at least 48 months in such a court.

House Bill 1520

House Author: Kitzman
Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1520 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise and update the governing provisions of the Angelina and Neches River Authority, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill requires the authority's board of directors to employ a general manager and decreases from six years to four years the length of a director's term.

House Bill 1522

House Author: Gerdes et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1522 amends the Government Code to revise the three-day posting requirement for notice of a meeting of a governmental body under state open meetings law and to require the notice posted for a meeting at which a governmental body will discuss or adopt a budget to include a physical copy of the proposed budget and a specified taxpayer impact statement, with certain exceptions.

House Bill 1532

House Author: Cunningham et al.
Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 6-20-25
House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1532 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District, the territory of which is coextensive with Harris County.

House Bill 1533

House Author: Button et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1533 amends the Tax Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the system for appraising property for property tax purposes. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- if the comptroller of public accounts contracts with a service provider to assist with training programs for members of an appraisal review board (ARB), requires at least one trainer of such a program to be a taxpayer representative who resides in Texas, among other eligibility requirements;
- requires an appraisal district established in a county with a population of 120,000 or more to maintain a website and requires the chief appraiser of such an appraisal district to post on the district's website the district's completed appraisal records;
- revises provisions relating to remote appearance at taxpayer protest hearings; and
- requires an ARB that dismisses a taxpayer protest on jurisdictional grounds to notify the property owner in writing of its decision and state in the notification the grounds for its determination.

House Bill 1535

House Author: Kitzman
Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1535 amends the law to revise and update the governing provisions of the Trinity River Authority of Texas, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill requires the authority's board of directors to appoint a general manager and decreases from six years to four years the length of a director's term.

House Bill 1545**House Author:** Bell, Keith et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1545, the biennial sunset scheduling bill, amends the Finance Code, Government Code, Human Resources Code, Occupations Code, and Special District Local Laws Code to change the review cycle for certain state agencies and other entities under the Texas Sunset Act. Additionally, the bill removes the State Soil and Water Conservation Board from the sunset review process.

House Bill 1545 requires the Sunset Advisory Commission to conduct a review of the Texas Funeral Service Commission for the 90th Legislature, which must be limited in scope to assessing the administration of functions and duties regarding the regulation of willd body programs, non-transplant anatomical donation organizations, and anatomical facilities.

House Bill 1562**House Author:** Hernandez**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1562 amends the Occupations Code to include in the required contents of a permit held by a student enrolled in a massage school in Texas a photograph of the student's face.

House Bill 1584**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1584 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to require an electric utility to maintain a list of priority facilities in the utility's retail service area that includes the name, type, and address of each priority facility. Among other provisions, the bill requires an electric utility to provide that list to the Texas Division of Emergency Management on a declaration of a natural disaster or other emergency by the governor affecting the utility's service area.

House Bill 1586**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1586 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to the affidavit form developed by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for use by a person claiming an exemption from a required immunization based on reasons of conscience by requiring DSHS to post the form online in a printable format, removing a requirement for the form to contain a seal or other security device, and establishing that a person may not be required to provide any information to obtain a blank affidavit form. The bill also revises provisions relating to the maintenance of records by DSHS with respect to the affidavit form, including by removing the requirement for DSHS to maintain and report to the legislature a record of the total number of affidavit forms sent out each year.

House Bill 1592**House Author:** Plesa et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1592 amends the Education Code to require the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal Health Commission, and the Parks and Wildlife Department, to develop and implement a statewide Internet-based alert system for notifications related to wildlife and plant pests, diseases, and quarantines.

House Bill 1593

House Author: Campos et al.
Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1593 requires the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to establish an advisory committee to study the need to implement suicide prevention and peer support programs in Texas fire departments. The advisory committee is required to prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature, not later than September 1, 2026, a report that provides an overview of suicide prevention and peer support groups in fire departments, addresses possible licensing requirements and any confidentiality concerns, and provides recommendations regarding the development and implementation of such groups and other programs in fire departments.

House Bill 1606

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1606 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to require certain entities to periodically provide to their retail customers information about the procedure to request vegetation management near a transmission or distribution line.

House Bill 1610

House Author: Leach et al.
Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 4-1-27

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 1610, a continuation of the legislature's ongoing statutory revision program, provides for the nonsubstantive revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, including conforming amendments to other enacted codes. The bill nonsubstantively revises laws governing the following:

- the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of family violence;
- trades, businesses, and occupations injurious to public health;
- death inquests; and
- fire inquests.

House Bill 1612

House Author: Frank
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1612 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a licensed public or private hospital, not including an ambulatory surgical center, to accept directly from an uninsured patient at the patient's request full payment for a health care service provided by the hospital. The bill for or other final accounting of the service provided must notify the patient of the ability to make such a request, and the request must be made not later than the 60th day after the date on which the patient receives the bill or other final accounting. The bill caps the amounts that a hospital may charge patients in accepting those payments and establishes that the bill does not preclude a patient from receiving charity care from a hospital that the patient would otherwise qualify for or be entitled to.

House Bill 1615

House Author: Leach et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 4-1-27

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 1615, a continuation of the legislature's ongoing statutory revision program, nonsubstantively codifies a number of session law special districts into the Special District Local Laws Code. The codified districts include one navigation district, two river authorities, one water district, and one watershed district.

House Bill 1620

House Author: Leach et al.
Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 1620, a continuation of the legislature's ongoing statutory revision program, makes certain nonsubstantive additions to, revisions of, and corrections in enacted codes; provides for the nonsubstantive codification or disposition of various laws omitted from enacted codes; and conforms codifications enacted by the 88th Legislature to other acts of that legislature.

House Bill 1629

House Author: Landgraf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1629 amends the Occupations Code to extend from 100 miles to 150 miles the distance from the Texas-Mexico border within which a retail fireworks permit holder may sell fireworks to the public during the Cinco de Mayo holiday fireworks season in a county in which the commissioners court has approved the sale of fireworks during that period.

House Bill 1633

House Author: Gerdes
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1633 amends the Water Code to require a groundwater conservation district, before granting or denying a well permit or permit amendment, to consider whether the proposed use of water unreasonably affects wells that are registered with the district and exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit.

House Bill 1639

House Author: Patterson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Alvarado et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1639 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in collaboration with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, to conduct a study on the increased incidence of cancer in female firefighters in Texas and requires DSHS, not later than September 1, 2026, to submit to the legislature a written report containing the results of the study and related recommendations.

House Bill 1661

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1661 amends the Election Code to create a Class A misdemeanor offense for an authority responsible for procuring election supplies who intentionally fails to provide an election precinct with the required number of ballots or intentionally fails to promptly supplement the distributed ballots requested by a polling place. The bill increases the penalties for the following offenses:

- intentionally failing to timely distribute or deliver election supplies;
- intentionally obstructing the distribution of election supplies; and
- unlawfully revealing election information before polls close.

House Bill 1661 exempts a county that participates in the countywide polling place program from the prohibition against the number of ballots provided to an election precinct for an election exceeding the total number of registered voters in the precinct.

House Bill 1672

House Author: Ashby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

Effective: 5-24-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1672 amends the Transportation Code to subject the revocation, suspension, or probation placement of a motor carrier registration due to an unsatisfactory safety rating or multiple safety or road violations to the same appeal process as certain Texas Department of Motor Vehicles actions with respect to a motor carrier registration.

House Bill 1689

House Author: Gerdes

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1689 amends the Water Code to condition a groundwater conservation district's use of funds obtained from certain export fee increases to maintain the operability of wells significantly affected by groundwater development that are located in another groundwater conservation district on the district entering into an interlocal contract with the other district authorizing the funds to be used for that purpose.

House Bill 1690

House Author: Gerdes

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1690 amends the Water Code to require a groundwater conservation district to adopt rules requiring that certain notice be given for an application for a permit for the transfer of groundwater out of the district.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "In a session focused on securing water resources, House Bill No. 1690 sends the opposite message. This bill would increase the regulatory hurdles to convey water resources. And it would do so needlessly. State law already authorizes groundwater conservation districts to adopt rules necessary to manage groundwater resources, including rules for public notice and hearings on groundwater permits. TEX. WATER CODE §§ 36.101, 36.114. This bill, however, would *require* a groundwater district to adopt rules requiring that notice be given about all groundwater transfers outside of the district. The management of groundwater resources varies across the State. House Bill No. 1690 creates a one-size-fits-all approach, which may not be appropriate for all areas."

House Bill 1700

House Author: Fairly et al.

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1700 amends the Occupations Code to require each agency with regulatory authority over a health professional providing a telemedicine medical service, teledentistry dental service, or telehealth service to adopt rules necessary to standardize formats for and retention of records related to a patient's consent to treatment, data collection, and data sharing.

House Bill 1708

House Author: Landgraf

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1708 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 302 in Ector County as the Trooper Kevin Ramirez Vasquez Memorial Highway.

House Bill 1729

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1729 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to make a person having previously served two or more full terms as a Port Freeport commissioner ineligible for election as a commissioner.

House Bill 1732

House Author: Hernandez et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1732 reenacts and amends provisions of the Occupations Code to provide for the ineligibility of a person for a license as a massage establishment, massage school, massage therapist, or massage therapy instructor if the person has been convicted of, entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or received deferred adjudication for sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, or indecent assault. The bill also includes those offenses among the offenses that constitute grounds for mandatory revocation of a license as a massage therapist or massage therapy instructor if the license holder is convicted of, enters a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or receives deferred adjudication for such an offense.

House Bill 1734

House Author: Orr et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 1734 amends the Family Code to revise the requirement for a court clerk, following the transfer of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, to send certain files to the receiving court by removing as a transferred file a copy of the original papers filed in the transferring court and requiring the clerk to send instead a copy of the pleadings in the proceeding and any other document specifically requested by a party.

House Bill 1778

House Author: Thompson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1778 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Penal Code, and Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to human trafficking, prostitution, and child pornography and to the prosecution of sexual or assaultive offenses and of a failure to stop or report those offenses.

With respect to provisions relating to human trafficking, House Bill 1778 does the following:

- includes promotion of prostitution offenses among the offenses for which a district court or county court at law must report the number of cases filed as a component of the court's official monthly report submitted to the Office of Court Administration (OCA);
- includes an OCA representative appointed by the chief administrative officer of OCA among the members of the human trafficking prevention coordinating council;
- requires the office of attorney general to establish a statewide human trafficking data repository to collect, organize, and analyze human trafficking information reported to the office in a manner that enables the office, in collaboration with the coordinating council, to do the following:
 - evaluate the efficacy of state-funded initiatives that aim to reduce the occurrence of human trafficking in Texas;
 - make recommendations to appropriate entities regarding the implementation of rules, regulations, or policies which may better allow each entity to combat human trafficking,

- apprehend and prosecute persons suspected of committing criminal offenses involving human trafficking, and provide necessary services to victims; and
- make recommendations to improve the efficacy of the human trafficking prevention task force;
- requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules requiring a license holder to complete continuing education on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking; and
- clarifies that the conduct constituting trafficking of persons involving a trafficked child or disabled individual is an offense regardless of whether the person knows the age of the child or whether the person knows the victim is disabled.

Among other provisions relating to prostitution, the bill creates the first degree felony offense of continuous promotion of prostitution.

With respect to provisions relating to child pornography, House Bill 1778 does the following:

- clarifies the circumstances under which the penalties for possession of child pornography, based on the number of visual depictions, the employer of the actor, or receipt of certain state funds by the actor, apply;
- increases the penalty for such an offense from a third degree felony to a first degree felony if the person possesses visual material of conduct constituting an offense of child sexual assault; and
- increases from a second degree felony to a first degree felony the penalty for promotion of child pornography and sets the minimum term of confinement for such an offense at 15 years if the person promotes or possesses with intent to promote visual material that contains 50 or more visual pornographic depictions of a child or visual material of conduct constituting an offense of child sexual assault.

With respect to the prosecution of sexual or assaultive offenses and of a failure to stop or report those offenses, House Bill 1778 does the following:

- establishes that there is no statute of limitations for the felony offenses of failure to stop or report sexual or assaultive offenses against a child and continuous promotion of prostitution;
- expands the applicability of provisions governing hearsay statements of abuse victims by including persons with a disability and raising the age of a child abuse victim to younger than 18 years of age;
- requires the trial court to admit more than one hearsay statement if each statement meets the applicable statutory requirements and describes different conduct by the defendant; and
- expands the admissibility of extraneous offense evidence by removing restrictions that limit such admissibility to offenses or acts committed against a child under 17 years of age or a person younger than 18 years of age, as applicable.

House Bill 1828

House Author: Orr et al.

Senate Sponsor: Flores

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1828 amends the Government Code to require the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to allow a TDCJ correctional officer to voluntarily transfer up to eight hours of compensatory time or annual leave per year earned by the officer to a legislative leave pool and to entitle such an officer to use time contributed to the leave pool for legislative leave on behalf of an applicable association that is related to the officer's employment with TDCJ.

House Bill 1851

House Author: Morales, Eddie et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 1851 amends the Government Code to authorize the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) to transfer surplus motor vehicles and other law enforcement equipment of the Department of Public Safety to a public school district located in an economically disadvantaged area at a price or for other consideration agreed to by TFC and the district if TFC determines that the state's efforts to secure Texas' international border and combat transnational crime will sufficiently benefit from the donation. The bill restricts a district's use of the surplus property to the performance of law enforcement duties by peace officers, school resource officers, or security personnel.

House Bill 1866

House Author: Lujan et al.

Effective: 6-20-25
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Bill 1866 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to grant a commissioned law enforcement officer of the National Park Service, within the boundaries of a national park or national recreation area, the power to execute any arrest warrant or search warrant issued under state law and the powers granted to a peace officer under Texas Mental Health Code provisions relating to emergency detention and court-ordered mental health services.

House Bill 1868

House Author: Leo Wilson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25
House Committee: Higher Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 1868 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study to assess the feasibility and the fiscal and policy implications of decreasing the number of semester credit hours or the equivalent for a sequence of dual credit or dual enrollment courses that apply toward academic or workforce program requirements at the postsecondary level for purposes of performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program from 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent to nine semester credit hours or the equivalent. The bill sets out requirements for conducting the study and for submission of a report on the study to the legislature.

House Bill 1871

House Author: Dyson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1871 amends the Penal Code to increase the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for attempted capital murder of a peace officer acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty who the actor knows is a peace officer from 5 years, as provided generally for first degree felonies, to 25 years.

House Bill 1871 amends the Government Code to make an inmate serving a sentence for such a criminal attempt ineligible for release on parole and prohibits the release to mandatory supervision of such an inmate or an inmate who has been previously convicted of such a criminal attempt.

House Bill 1875

House Author: Lopez, Janie et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Flores et al.

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 1875 requires the General Land Office (GLO), in coordination with the Texas Veterans Commission, to study obstacles Texas veterans face in accessing a burial plot in a veterans cemetery in Texas and opportunities to address the operational needs of veterans cemeteries in Texas. The bill requires the GLO, not later than April 1, 2026, to submit to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and chairs of appropriate house and senate committees a written report summarizing the results of the study and providing recommendations.

House Bill 1893

House Author: Cook et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 1893 amends the Government Code and the Motor Vehicle Records Disclosure Act, Transportation Code, to provide for the disclosure under state public information law of a motor vehicle license plate number captured in a video recording obtained or maintained by a law enforcement agency.

House Bill 1894

House Author: Metcalf

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 1894 amends the Government Code to designate November as Veterans Month to celebrate, honor, and memorialize the achievements and sacrifices of military veterans.

House Bill 1899

House Author: Longoria et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1899 amends the Occupations Code to lower from 21 to 18 the minimum age of a person issued a pyrotechnic operator's license or a public fireworks display permit.

House Bill 1902

House Author: Cook et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1902 amends the Penal Code to create the state jail felony offense of jugging for a person who, with the intent to commit theft of another person's money, knowingly travels from a commercial business or financial institution on the same path or route as another person without substantially deviating from that path or route and is in possession of two or more criminal instruments. The bill enhances the penalty for the offense to the following:

- a third degree felony if the actor commits burglary of a vehicle during the commission of the offense; and
- a first degree felony if the actor commits robbery during the commission of the offense.

House Bill 1916**House Author:** Cook et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 1916 amends the Family Code to establish that a court that rendered a final decree of divorce or annulment or another final order dividing property after the legal dissolution of a marriage retains continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to render an order to divide property not divided or awarded to a spouse in the final decree.

House Bill 1922**House Author:** Dean et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1922 amends the Government Code to establish that, for purposes of state law governing certain construction liability claims by a governmental entity against a contractor, subcontractor, supplier, or design professional, a cause of action accrues on the date the governmental entity's report to the applicable contractors detailing the basis for the claim is postmarked by USPS. The bill establishes that the date of the accrual of a cause of an action for all other purposes is unaffected by the bill.

House Bill 1950**House Author:** Capriglione**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock**Effective:** 5-29-25**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 1950 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Local Government Code to establish the consolidated municipal court building security and technology fund as a fund in the municipal court treasury of a municipality with a population of less than 100,000 to be administered by or under the direction of the governing body of the applicable municipality. The bill sets out authorized uses of the fund, including, among other things, the purchase and maintenance of technological enhancements for a municipal court or municipal court of record. The county or municipal treasurer must allocate not less than 35 percent or 28.5714 percent of the court costs received from the convictions of nonjailable misdemeanor offenses, as appropriate, to the fund.

House Bill 1960**House Author:** Lopez, Janie et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Adam**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1960 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 345 in the municipal limits of San Benito as the Lieutenant Milton Resendez Memorial Highway.

House Bill 1965**House Author:** Garcia, Josey et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 1965 requires the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission, to conduct a study to evaluate strategies to improve and expand mental health services provided through TVC's Military Veteran Peer Network. The bill provides for a report to the legislature containing the findings of the study and related recommendations. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2027.

House Bill 1973

House Author: Cook et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 1973 amends the Family Code to require a petitioner in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to additionally submit to the court a certified copy of the child's birth certificate if available to the petitioner. If a certified copy is not available to the petitioner, the court at any time during the pendency of the suit may request another party to whom a certified copy of the child's birth certificate is available to submit a copy to the court. However, if a certified copy is not available to any party or if the copy does not name both of the child's parents, the court may request from any party at any time during the pendency of the suit alternative proof of the identity of the child's parents. The bill requires the court to seal or otherwise keep confidential any certificate or other proof submitted under these provisions.

House Bill 1973 exempts the child support division of the Office of the Attorney General (Title IV-D agency) from being required to submit proof of the identity of the child's parents to the court under these provisions.

House Bill 1991

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Gutierrez

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1991 amends the Government Code to require a municipality to publish the terms and conditions of operating, maintenance, replacement, or improvement charges for municipal utility services on the municipal utility system's and the municipality's websites. The municipality must update the websites to reflect a change to the terms and conditions of the charges not later than the 30th day after adopting the change.

House Bill 2000

House Author: Ashby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2000, Audrii's Law, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require an individual convicted or adjudicated of the offense of child grooming to register under the sex offender registration program.

House Bill 2001

House Author: Meyer et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2001 amends the Penal Code to impose a new penalty structure for the offense of misuse of official information ranging from a third degree felony to a first degree felony based on any net pecuniary gain to the person committing the offense. The bill increases the penalty for the offense in which a public servant coerces another into suppressing or failing to report certain information to a law enforcement agency from a Class C misdemeanor to a third degree felony.

House Bill 2003

House Author: Harris et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2003 amends the Transportation Code to require an entity that proposes a project for a high-speed rail that transports passengers and is reasonably expected to reach speeds of at least 110 miles per hour to submit certain information to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) each year that the project is included in the Texas Rail Plan. The bill requires TxDOT to make the submitted information available to the public on its website.

House Bill 2011**House Author:** Bell, Cecil**Senate Sponsor:** Paxton et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2011 amends the Property Code to expand the conditions under which a person from whom a real property interest is acquired by an entity through eminent domain for a public use, or that person's heirs, successors, or assigns, is entitled to repurchase the property to include the entity that acquired the property through eminent domain, or the entity that acquired through eminent domain a fee simple interest in the property, having an obligation to pay property taxes on the acquired property, having received a tax bill from the taxing authority for the property taxes on the acquired property, and having failed to pay any property taxes on the acquired property before the third anniversary of the date on which the unpaid taxes became due. The bill sets out provisions relating to the repurchase entitlement under the conditions added by the bill.

House Bill 2012**House Author:** Bell, Cecil et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Creighton**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2012 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Montgomery County Commissioners Court to regulate roadside or parking lot vendors and solicitors in the county's unincorporated area.

House Bill 2014**House Author:** Kerwin et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2014 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to establish that the board of directors of the Somervell County Hospital District consists of seven elected directors who serve staggered four-year terms and to require that a directors' election for the applicable number of directors be held on the May uniform election date of the appropriate years.

House Bill 2017**House Author:** Gerdes et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hagenbuch**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Corrections**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2017, Grayson's Law, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Penal Code to enhance the penalty for intoxication manslaughter to a first degree felony if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person has previously been convicted of certain intoxication-related offenses and at the time of the commission of the instant offense was in violation of statutory provisions relating to illegal entry into Texas. The bill makes a defendant charged with or convicted of such conduct ineligible for community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision. The bill makes an inmate serving a sentence for that conduct ineligible for release on parole until their actual calendar time served, without consideration of good conduct time, equals 10 years, and prohibits their release to mandatory supervision unless that 10 year criterion is met and they are otherwise eligible for release under applicable state law.

House Bill 2018**House Author:** Ashby et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Adam**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2018 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to restrict the eligible agricultural conservation easements under the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program to those that are designed to maintain the land's agricultural or timber use.

House Bill 2025

House Author: Tepper

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2025 amends the Property Code, including the Uniform Condominium Act, to remove the requirements for a plat, replat, or amended plat or replat of a subdivision of real property or of a condominium that is filed for record in a county clerk's office after September 1 of a year to have attached to it a tax receipt issued by the collector for each taxing unit with jurisdiction of the property indicating that the taxes imposed by the taxing unit for the current year have been paid or, if the taxes for the current year have not been calculated, a statement from the collector for the taxing unit indicating that the taxes to be imposed by that taxing unit for the current year have not been calculated.

House Bill 2026

House Author: Frank

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-2025

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2026 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 25 in Archer County as the U.S. Army Gary C. and U.S.M.C. Gary S. Johnston Memorial Highway.

House Bill 2027

House Author: Vasut et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 2027 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Brazoria County Commissioners Court to execute tax abatement agreements with certain property owners in the Port Freeport district.

House Bill 2029

House Author: Noble

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2029 repeals the Transportation Code provision establishing that a travel trailer that is not exempt from vehicle safety inspection requirements on the basis of gross weight meets the applicable safety inspection requirements if the owner submits to an applicable entity an affidavit stating that the owner has inspected the trailer during the general one-year inspection period and that the trailer is in proper and safe condition and complies with the applicable vehicle inspection rules and requirements.

House Bill 2035

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2035 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a chemical dependency treatment facility that refuses to admit a minor for voluntary treatment and rehabilitation to provide to the minor's parent, managing conservator, or guardian requesting the minor's admission to the facility written notice of the parent's, managing conservator's, or guardian's right to seek voluntary treatment and rehabilitation of the minor at another facility.

House Bill 2037**House Author:** Darby et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2037 amends the Property Code to remove the requirement in current law that a company, contractor, or repairman making repairs to a rental unit under a residential tenancy or a manufactured home tenancy pursuant to a tenant's notice of intent to repair be listed in the yellow or business pages of the telephone directory or in the classified advertising section of an applicable newspaper and to replace it with a requirement that such a company, contractor, or repairman be independent. However, if the rental unit is located in a municipality requiring the company, contractor, or repairman to be licensed, the person or entity performing the repair must be licensed in accordance with the municipality's requirements.

House Bill 2037, among other provisions, establishes that a managing agent, leasing agent, or resident manager is the agent of the landlord for purposes of notice and other communications required or permitted by state law relating to security deposits for residential tenancies and manufactured home tenancies and authorizes such notices and communications to be sent by email if the tenant and the landlord or landlord's agent have previously communicated by email.

House Bill 2038**House Author:** Oliverson et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Sponsor:** Sparks**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2038, the Decreasing Occupational Certification Timelines, Obstacles, and Regulations (DOCTOR) Act, amends the Occupations Code to provide for the issuance of a provisional license to practice medicine to qualifying foreign medical license holders with offers of employment and a limited license to practice medicine to qualifying physician graduates. Among other provisions, the bill limits the medical settings in which such an initial provisional license holder may practice and limits the areas in which the holder of a provisional license renewed under the bill may practice to a rural community or medically underserved area or health professional shortage area that has a current shortage of physicians. With respect to physician graduates issued a limited license, the bill sets out provisions relating to a supervising practice agreement that the physician graduate must enter into with an eligible sponsoring physician and relating to the limits on the physician graduate's scope of practice. Furthermore, the bill limits the areas in which a physician graduate with a limited license may provide medical services to a county with a population of less than 100,000.

House Bill 2038 amends the Insurance Code to authorize an insured to select a physician graduate with a limited license to provide the services scheduled in the health insurance policy that are within the scope of the physician graduate's license.

House Bill 2061**House Author:** Holt et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Creighton**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2061 amends the Transportation Code to designate the structure on State Highway 242 that passes over Interstate Highway 69 in Montgomery County as the Lance Corporal Armando Hernandez Memorial Bridge.

House Bill 2067

House Author: Paul et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2067 amends the Insurance Code to revise existing notice requirements for insurers regarding the declination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of certain types of insurance policies. Among other provisions, the bill requires that insurers provide policyholders and applicants for insurance with a written statement explaining the reasons for the declination of a completed and submitted policy application or the cancellation or nonrenewal of an existing policy. For declination of a completed and submitted application for a commercial line of insurance, notice must be delivered to the applicant's agent, and the agent must disclose the declination to the applicant and make the notice available for the applicant to review. The bill authorizes an insurer to deliver notice or a written statement of a declination, cancellation, or nonrenewal electronically.

House Bill 2067 also requires an insurer to provide to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) at least once each quarter a written report summarizing the insurer's reasons for declination, cancellation, or nonrenewal provided to applicants for insurance or policyholders. The bill requires TDI to post an aggregated summary of the reports on the TDI website.

House Bill 2071

House Author: Hull et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2071 amends the Family Code to establish requirements relating to health care specialty consultations in certain child abuse or neglect investigations and assessments. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Department of Family and Protective Services to provide all medical records and documentation used during such an investigation to the applicable parent, guardian, or attorney before the case is referred and, for a case in which a blind peer review process was used to resolve certain disagreement among physicians, the information used to resolve the case. The bill also prohibits physicians and practitioners who were involved in reviewing a child's case from providing specialty consultation or forensic assessment services in the case, as applicable.

House Bill 2073

House Author: Hull

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2073 amends the Penal Code to enhance from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony the penalty for violating certain court orders or conditions of bond in cases involving family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking, or trafficking if the defendant engages in applicable conduct constituting the violation while possessing a deadly weapon. The bill enhances from a third degree felony to a second degree felony the penalty for a repeated violation of certain court orders or conditions of bond in such cases if it is shown on the trial of the offense that at least one time the person engaged in conduct that was punishable as the enhanced offense under the bill's provisions.

House Bill 2078

House Author: Gerdes et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2078 amends the Water Code to require a groundwater conservation district to include in its management plan an explanation in plain language of how the district is monitoring and tracking the achievement of its desired future conditions and how the district has performed in achieving those conditions

over the preceding five-year joint planning period. With respect to joint planning in a management area, the bill requires district representatives to adopt desired future conditions for each approximately 50-year planning period identified by the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board for the preparation of state and regional water plans and to identify interim values for such conditions for time periods not to exceed 10 years solely to assist the districts in monitoring interim progress in achieving the conditions adopted for the approximately 50-year planning period. The bill requires a desired future conditions explanatory report for a management area to include the following:

- an explanation in plain language of why a desired future condition adopted for an aquifer was changed if the condition is different from the condition adopted for the aquifer over the preceding five-year joint planning period; and
- a summary of how each district is performing in achieving the desired future conditions.

House Bill 2080

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Gerdes et al.

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2080 amends the Water Code to set out provisions relating to the review panel for a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) inquiry into a groundwater conservation district stemming from an affected person's petition. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- establishes that the review panel is an advisory body to the TCEQ and not a governmental body under state open meetings law or state public information law, although the records and documents of the review panel's proceedings are public information;
- authorizes the TCEQ or the review panel to submit a written request to the Texas Water Development Board's executive administrator for assistance on a technical issue related to a petition; and
- requires the TCEQ's office of public interest counsel, on request from a review panel member, to provide legal advice and assistance to the review panel.

House Bill 2081

Effective: 5-26-25

House Author: Bucy et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2081 amends the Education Code to establish the building better futures program, under which money may be awarded to eligible public, private, and independent institutions of higher education for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in an inclusive and age-appropriate environment. The bill sets out provisions regarding the program's implementation, including eligibility requirements for institutions of higher education and students to participate in the program.

House Bill 2128

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Spiller et al.

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch et al.

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2128 provides for a study and related report by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service on rural firefighting and technical rescue service capabilities.

House Bill 2143

House Author: Metcalf et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2143 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1097 in Montgomery County as the Army Specialist Joey Lenz Memorial Highway, in addition to any other designation.

House Bill 2187

House Author: Howard et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2187 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services to provide hospital nurse staffing reports to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and to require a hospital's chief nursing officer to attest to the accuracy of such reports. Additionally, the bill prohibits retaliation against a nurse who provides information to a nurse staffing committee or reports violations of provisions relating to nurse staffing or prohibited mandatory nurse overtime to hospital management or to HHSC. The bill provides for the enforcement of those provisions and the establishment of a complaint resolution process by HHSC.

House Bill 2193

House Author: Guillen et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 2193 requires the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to conduct a study to determine specified information regarding the provision of veterans benefits in Texas, including the costs to implement a statewide service delivery system. The bill requires TVC, not later than June 1, 2026, to submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature a report on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

House Bill 2198

House Author: Bell, Keith

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Hall

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2198 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 34 in Kaufman County as the Officer Jacob Candanoza Memorial Highway.

House Bill 2213

House Author: Johnson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2213 amends the Insurance Code to revise the composition of the board of directors of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) by making the following changes:

- requiring the three members who are representatives of the insurance industry to be Texas residents and replacing the requirement that they actively write and renew windstorm and hail insurance in the first tier coastal counties with the requirement that they actively write or sell such insurance in those counties;
- changing from one to at least one the number of members appointed on the basis of residency in the first tier coastal counties who must be a licensed property and casualty agent and requiring that such a member actively offer or sell TWIA policies; and

- replacing the requirement for three members to reside in an area of Texas located more than 100 miles from the Texas coastline with a requirement for three members to reside in an area of Texas located outside a catastrophe area.

House Bill 2217**House Author:** Wharton et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Hagenbuch et al.**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2217 amends the Government Code to require the governor's criminal justice division to establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to a law enforcement agency to purchase and install qualifying motor vehicles with bullet-resistant windshields, side windows, rear windows, and door panels. The bill sets out eligibility criteria and procedures relating to the program and authorizes the criminal justice division to use any available money to implement the program.

House Bill 2221**House Author:** Hull**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Insurance**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2221 amends Insurance Code provisions regulating certain trade practices related to life insurance, annuity contracts, and accident and health coverage by reorganizing existing provisions regarding prohibited rebates, inducements, discrimination, and distinctions and setting out new provisions that do the following with respect to loss-control or value-added products or services, as defined by the bill:

- establish that such a product or service is not considered to constitute a prohibited rebate, inducement, distinction, or discrimination;
- require the cost to an insurer, health maintenance organization (HMO), or agent for such a product or service provided to a consumer to be reasonable in comparison to the consumer's premiums or coverage for the class of the consumer's policy or contract;
- require that the consumer be provided with contact information to assist the consumer with questions regarding the product or service;
- require an insurer, HMO, or agent to base the availability of the product or service on documented objective criteria, offer the product or service in a manner that is not unfairly discriminatory, and maintain the documented criteria and produce it on request by the Texas Department of Insurance; and
- prohibit an insurer, HMO, or agent from using or implementing a tracking device to track or gather data of an individual as part of the product or service without prior disclosure to the individual and the individual's consent to the use or implementation of the device.

Additionally, the bill authorizes an insurer, HMO, or agent, subject to certain conditions prescribed by the bill, to offer or provide noncash gifts, items, or services to or charitable donations on behalf of a consumer in connection with the marketing, sale, purchase, or retention of policies or contracts of insurance, annuity, or health care plan coverage and to conduct raffles or drawings to the extent permitted by state law. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, an insurer, HMO, or agent may not offer or provide insurance, annuity, or health care plan coverage as an inducement to the purchase of another policy or contract or otherwise use "free," "no cost," or words of similar meaning in an advertisement.

House Bill 2240

House Author: Dutton

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2240 amends the Family Code to establish that a decree of divorce or annulment is void if the court rendering the decree lacked jurisdiction at the time the decree was rendered. The bill authorizes a putative spouse to file a suit to declare a decree of divorce or annulment void for such a lack of jurisdiction.

House Bill 2240 provides an exception to the statutory provision validating a later marriage on the dissolution of an existing marriage for parties who have lived together as husband and wife and represented themselves to others as being married for a putative spouse who meets the following conditions:

- did not know that the later marriage was entered into when the other party had an existing marriage;
- has not lived together with the other party as spouses or represented himself or herself as married since the date the putative spouse knew the later marriage was entered into when the other party had an existing marriage; and
- files a suit to declare the later marriage void not later than a specified date.

If a putative spouse files a suit to declare the later marriage void not later than a specified date, a respondent spouse who is serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed forces, a member of the Texas military forces, or in active service outside of the United States as a foreign officer employed by the U.S. Department of State may file an answer on or before the 90th day after the date the respondent spouse is served.

House Bill 2243

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2243 amends the Education Code to establish the Texas Commission on Teacher Job Satisfaction and Retention to develop and make recommendations for improving teacher job satisfaction and retention. The bill provides for the commission's composition and operation and requires the commission to prepare and deliver a report of recommended statutory changes to the governor and the legislature.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 2243 rightly seeks to address the issue of teacher satisfaction and retention and to build upon the valuable work of the Teacher Vacancy Task Force that I convened in 2022. However, the bill would allow a newly-created Commission to hire staff and legal counsel and procure goods and consulting services without adhering to competitive bidding rules or the Professional Services Procurement Act—both important safeguards for the use of taxpayer dollars.

"To complicate matters, the bill would allow the Commission to do all this work in the executive branch while made up of members of the legislative branch. Our Constitution creates a government of 'three distinct departments' with no overlap, except where expressly authorized. TEX. CONST. art. II, § 1. All executive power is vested in an Executive Department comprised of six officers. *Id.* art. IV, §§ 1, 16, 21, 22; *id.* art. III, § 49; *id.* art. XIV, § 1. As 'Chief Executive Officer,' the Governor may oversee other officers of the Executive Department, *Day Land & Cattle Co. v. State*, 4 S.W. 865, 867 (Tex. 1887), and must exercise the residuary of executive power not lodged with them, *Collins v. Yellen*, 594 U.S. 220, 250–256 (2021). That includes the duty to superintend the exercise of executive power by those who act as agents with delegated authority. *Abbott v. Harris County*, 672 S.W.3d 1, 18 (Tex. 2023).

"It is unconstitutional for a different branch, by appointment or otherwise, to superintend the exercise of executive power. TEX. CONST. art. II, § 1; *cf. id.* art. IV, § 12. The 'notion that the Constitution allows one branch to install non-officer employees in another branch would come as a surprise to many.' *Donziger v. United States*, 143 S. Ct. 868, 870 (2023) (Gorsuch, J., dissenting from denial of certiorari). It is also unconstitutional for an inferior executive to superintend agents of the *Chief* Executive. TEX. CONST. art. IV, § 1.

"The stated purpose of this bill can be achieved without expending additional state funding, removing important contracting requirements, or transgressing the Texas Constitution's separation of powers. I will work with the author and sponsor to convene a task force this interim to streamline teachers' responsibilities and to repeal unnecessary administrative burdens."

House Bill 2253

House Author: Bhojani et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2253 amends the Election Code to authorize an authority that ordered an election to authorize the issuance of bonds to cancel the election not later than the 74th day before election day if the governor issues a disaster declaration regarding a disaster threatening the authority's residents and the authority's governing body determines by majority vote that canceling the election is necessary due to damage to the authority's election system or to avoid harm to voters or election workers.

House Bill 2254

House Author: Hull et al.

Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2254 amends the Insurance Code to authorize a preferred provider benefit plan or an exclusive provider benefit plan to provide or arrange for primary health care services with a primary care physician or primary care physician group through a contract for compensation under a fee-for-service arrangement, a risk-sharing arrangement, certain types of capitation arrangements, or any combination of these arrangements. The bill sets out provisions relating to such contract arrangements, including a prohibition on discrimination against a physician or physician group that elects not to participate, requirements for the content of the contract, and a prohibition against the contract creating a disincentive to the provision of medically necessary health care services or interfering with the physician's independent medical judgment on which services are medically appropriate or medically necessary.

House Bill 2259

House Author: DeAyala et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2259 amends the Election Code to require the secretary of state to prescribe instructions to be printed for the officially prescribed application form for an early voting ballot. The bill sets out certain printing requirements regarding font, size, and language.

House Bill 2273

House Author: Bonnen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2273 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the county judge of Galveston County to delegate the judge's ability to sign orders or other official documents associated with the county judge's office to another county officer or a county employee.

House Bill 2282

House Author: Lopez, Janie et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2282 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to increase from \$50 to \$75 the amount of the reimbursement fee that a defendant convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor must pay to defray the cost of specified services provided in the case by a peace officer for executing or processing an issued arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine.

House Bill 2286

House Author: Craddick

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2286 amends the Occupations Code to postpone from September 1, 2027, to September 1, 2037, the date on or after which a person who holds a certificate of registration as an interior designer that was issued without examination may no longer renew the certificate unless the person has passed the registration examination adopted by the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners.

House Bill 2293

House Author: Vasut

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2293 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to establish that the directors of the Sweeny Hospital District are elected at large by place.

House Bill 2294

House Author: Thompson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2294 amends the Workforce Investment Act, Government Code, to authorize each local workforce development board to reimburse a child-care provider participating in the Texas Rising Star Program at the board's maximum reimbursement rate for the provider's program rating level, regardless of the provider's published rate, only if paying the higher reimbursement rate does not reduce the Texas Workforce Commission's target performance measure for the average number of children served daily in the workforce development area served by the board.

House Bill 2306

House Author: Villalobos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2306 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to make an inmate serving a sentence for any of the following offenses ineligible for release on parole:

- trafficking a child or disabled individual with the intent that the trafficked child or disabled individual engage in forced labor or services;
- receiving a benefit from participating in a venture that involves such trafficking activity;
- trafficking a child or disabled individual and by any means causing the trafficked child or disabled individual to engage in or become the victim of certain sexual offenses; or
- receiving a benefit from participating in a venture that involves such trafficking activity causing the child or individual to engage in or become the victim of certain sexual offenses or engaging in sexual conduct with such a trafficked child or disabled individual.

House Bill 2310

House Author: Ordaz et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2310 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Education Agency, in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission, to develop and implement a strategic plan to improve early learning and educational opportunities for young children

with disabilities or developmental delays. The bill sets out requirements for the development and content of the plan and provides for the plan to be updated every four years.

House Bill 2313

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Tepper

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 2313 amends the Tax Code to include the City of Lubbock among the municipalities authorized to designate a project financing zone for a qualified project, to use revenue from the municipal hotel occupancy tax to fund the project, and to pledge eligible revenue for the payment of certain project obligations. The bill grants the City of Corpus Christi flexibility with regard to the location of a project finance zone to include additional land and exclude area otherwise covered by water.

House Bill 2340

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Metcalf

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2340 amends the Family Code to include training related to the care of a child with an intellectual disability or developmental disability among the minimum qualifications for child custody evaluators and to prohibit a court from admitting into evidence a child custody evaluation report regarding a child who has an intellectual or developmental disability made by an evaluator who has not satisfied that training requirement. The bill also includes records from any governmental entity related to any person residing in a residence subject to such an evaluation among the evaluation-related records that are excepted from disclosure.

House Bill 2348

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Capriglione

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2348 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize a court, on the motion of either party in a criminal action, to order the state's attorney to take a deposition of an elderly or disabled person who is the alleged victim of or witness to an offense by video recording. The bill requires the person operating the video recording device to be available to testify regarding the authenticity of the video recording and the taking of the deposition in order for the video recording to be admissible.

House Bill 2348 revises the provision conditioning the reading of a witness deposition taken in a criminal action on an oath being made that a qualifying circumstance applies by specifying that this oath requirement applies to the reading or publication of a written or recorded deposition taken under state law governing witness depositions, depositions of elderly or disabled persons, or depositions of Medicaid or Medicare recipients or caregivers.

House Bill 2350

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Dutton et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2350 amends the Family Code to revise and clarify provisions relating to standing in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship by, among other changes, extending standing to relatives within the fourth degree by consanguinity, revising criteria for standing for foster parents and other caregivers, and revising the circumstances under which certain persons may intervene in a pending suit.

House Bill 2355

House Author: Fairly

Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2355 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to exempt a report released to the attorney general by a law enforcement agency relating to a crime victim's compensation application for the purpose of the attorney general determining award qualifications from the following:

- disclosure under state public information law, except if the applicable compensation is awarded for a pecuniary loss or health care services; and
- disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for release, except as provided by the existing exceptions to the prohibition against the attorney general releasing or disclosing certain records under statutory provisions relating to crime victims' compensation.

House Bill 2358

House Author: Noble

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2358 repeals Health and Safety Code and Human Resources Code provisions that do the following:

- with respect to assisted living facilities, require surveyors, facility supervisors, and other appropriate staff to complete annual training regarding aging in place, retaliation, and other issues determined by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC);
- with respect to the ICF-IID program, require HHSC to at least annually sponsor a conference on the program and authorize HHSC to provide program information by other means, including publications; and
- with respect to certain long-term care facilities, require the basic training program for surveyors to include the observation of an unrelated facility's operations.

House Bill 2402

House Author: Rose et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2402 amends the Human Resources Code to establish that the fee, charge, or rate for the payment of Medicaid benefits, other than for a professional service, excludes any fee, charge, or rate offered as part of a monthly fee-based membership discount program.

House Bill 2407

House Author: Capriglione

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2407 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise provisions increasing the punishment for fraudulently using identifying information during the commission or attempted commission of the offense of failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements or for a subsequent commission or attempted commission of that offense to the punishment for the next highest degree of felony so that the offense itself is increased to the next highest category of offense.

House Bill 2415

House Author: Cole et al.

Senate Sponsor: Eckhardt

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2415 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 969 in Travis County as the Senior Police Officer Lewis "Andy" Traylor Memorial Highway, in addition to any other designation.

House Bill 2421

House Author: Howard et al.
Senate Sponsor: Eckhardt

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2421 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to postpone the dissolution of the Save Historic Mundy District from May 31, 2025, to May 31, 2027.

House Bill 2434

House Author: Plesa et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 2434 amends the Government Code to authorize a member of the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) who became a member before September 1, 2015, to establish service credit in the employee class for each month of any 90-day waiting period in which the member performed service, regardless of whether the member made a contribution during the 90-day waiting period for which the member establishes service credit. If a member purchases such service credit for a month that occurred before the member's most recent date of hiring, ERS must consider the member's date of hiring to be the first day of the month of the earliest month for which that service credit is purchased. The bill requires ERS to compute the amount of the deposit required for establishing the service credit in a manner that does not result in an actuarial loss to ERS.

House Bill 2440

House Author: Curry et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Environmental Regulation
Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 2440 amends the Transportation Code to prohibit the following:

- a state agency from doing the following:
 - prohibiting or otherwise restricting the sale or use of a motor vehicle based on the vehicle's energy source; or
 - prohibiting a person from owning a motor vehicle that is powered by an engine; and
- the state's air quality state implementation plan from including a provision that restricts a person's ability to purchase any motor vehicle.

House Bill 2457

House Author: Meyer et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2457 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 287 in Wilbarger County as the Molly Mullens Mile, in addition to any other designation.

House Bill 2464

House Author: Hefner
Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 6-12-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2464 amends the Local Government Code to provide certain limitations on the authority of a municipality to regulate a home-based business that is classified by the bill as a "no-impact home-based business."

House Bill 2467

House Author: VanDeaver

Senate Sponsor: Hall

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2467 directs the classification officer in the state auditor's office to classify a peace officer commissioned by the state fire marshal as a Schedule C position under the state position classification plan and amends the Government Code to require the commissioner of insurance to ensure that such an officer is compensated accordingly. The bill also makes such an officer eligible for hazardous duty pay and special injury leave.

House Bill 2468

House Author: Harris et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2468 amends the Property Code provision that entitles a purchaser to terminate a contract of purchase and sale of real property if the seller fails to provide the requisite public improvement district location notice. Accordingly, the bill specifies that, as follows:

- the right to terminate such a contract is an entitlement to terminate the contract for any reason;
- the purchaser may not terminate the contract later than the seventh day after the date the purchaser receives the notice; and
- a purchaser may terminate the contract only if the municipality or county filed a copy of the service plan for the applicable district in accordance with the Public Improvement District Assessment Act with the county clerk before the date the contract was entered into.

House Bill 2488

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2488 amends the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Labor Code, to authorize the division of workers' compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance to conduct a contested case hearing by videoconference on a determination by the division that good cause exists for conducting the hearing in that manner or on the mutual agreement of the parties.

House Bill 2492

House Author: Bowers et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2492 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to replace the authorization for the head of a law enforcement agency arresting or holding a person without a warrant in the prevention of family violence to hold the person for a maximum four-hour period after bond has been posted if there is probable cause to believe the violence will continue if the person is immediately released with a requirement for that agency head to hold such a person under those circumstances for a period of four hours after bond has been posted.

House Bill 2495

House Author: Dutton et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2495 amends the Education Code and Family Code to include the right to designate the school a child will attend and to enroll the child in the school, subject to any eligibility or admissions

requirements, among the rights of a parent of the child or the sole managing conservator of the child in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, unless limited by court order or certain statutory provisions. Accordingly, the bill provides for the transfer of that right to a minor whose disabilities are removed for general purposes, unless otherwise provided by federal law.

House Bill 2508

House Author: Turner et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2508 amends the Tax Code to entitle the surviving spouse of a veteran of the U.S. armed services who died as a result of a service-connected condition or disease, regardless of the veteran's disability rating at the time of the veteran's death, to an exemption from property taxation of the total appraised value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead. The bill takes effect January 1, 2026, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 133.

House Bill 2510

House Author: Turner et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2510 amends the Health and Safety Code to create Class A misdemeanor offenses for a person who provides personal assistance services to a resident of an assisted living facility without holding a home and community support services agency license as required under state law and for a person who operates an assisted living facility without holding a license issued under the Assisted Living Facility Licensing Act. The bill enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of those respective offenses.

House Bill 2512

House Author: Geren

Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2512 amends the Local Government Code to do the following with respect to provisions that provide for the release of an area by election from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ):

- restrict the residents who may request an election to those residents who reside in the area subject to release;
- require a municipality that receives a petition for an election to provide notice of the petition to the residents and landowners of the area subject to the petition; and
- require a landowner in an area that is to be released from a municipality's ETJ to be provided the opportunity to have the landowner's property remain within the ETJ.

House Bill 2512 exempts certain areas located in Fort Worth's ETJ from provisions that provide for the release of an area from a municipality's ETJ by petition or election.

House Bill 2513

House Author: Tepper et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 2513 amends the Government Code to establish that a 24-hour or 48-hour work shift constitutes one workday for purposes of calculating the payment amount for a paid leave of absence for a person classified as fire protection personnel who is an officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision and who is a member of the Texas military forces, a reserve component of the armed forces, or a member of a state or federally authorized urban search and rescue team.

House Bill 2516

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2516, the Chris Larkin ALS Act, amends the Insurance Code to require an entity that offers coverage under a Medicare supplement benefit plan to individuals 65 years of age or older to offer the same coverage to individuals younger than 65 years of age who are eligible for and enrolled in Medicare by reason of end stage renal disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The bill establishes restrictions on the premium rates that may be charged for a Medicare supplement benefit plan offered under that requirement and sets out provisions regarding the enrollment period for eligible individuals.

House Bill 2517

House Author: Barry et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2517 amends the Insurance Code to exempt the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and the Texas FAIR Plan Association from the property and casualty insurance premium tax and the fire and allied lines insurance maintenance tax.

House Bill 2518

House Author: Barry et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2518 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit the use of premium financing arrangements for Texas Windstorm Insurance Association policies.

House Bill 2520

House Author: Johnson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2520 amends the Government Code to designate a board of managers appointed by the commissioner of education as a governmental body subject to state open meetings law and to require a meeting notice provided by a governmental body under that law to include a meeting agenda containing the subjects to be considered in the open and closed portions of the meeting. The bill also subjects certain deliberations concerning operational issues that generally impact a class or group of employees to the law.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 2520 is framed as subjecting a TEA-appointed board of managers to the Open Meetings Act. But that is already the law. Boards of managers are directed to 'exercise the powers and duties of a school district's board of trustees.' TEX. EDUC. CODE § 39A.004. And one duty of a school district's board of trustees is to comply with the Open Meetings Act. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.001(3) (E). If a board of managers is not doing its duty, the answer is not to duplicate laws already on the books."

House Bill 2522

House Author: Dean

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2522 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to require an applicant for an original or renewal dealer general distinguishing number (GDN) for 75 or more locations to submit a complete set of fingerprints to obtain the GDN.

House Bill 2523

House Author: Lopez, Janie et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2523 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 48 in Cameron County as the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway, in addition to any other designation.

House Bill 2524

House Author: Cook et al.
Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2524 amends the Family Code to specify that a court, as applicable, may award or order or require payment of reasonable and necessary attorney's fees, court costs, and expenses in a proceeding under provisions relating to the marriage relationship, a child in relation to the family, protective orders and family violence, and a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

House Bill 2524 authorizes a court, in a proceeding relating to the termination, modification, or enforcement of a spousal maintenance order, to award reasonable and necessary attorney's fees, court costs, and expenses incurred by a party to the divorce or annulment. The bill authorizes the court to order the fees, costs, expenses, and any postjudgment interest, as applicable, in a proceeding under provisions relating to the marriage relationship, protective orders, and a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to be paid directly to the attorney, who may enforce the order in the attorney's own name by any means available for the enforcement of a judgment for debt.

House Bill 2525

House Author: Darby et al.
Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 1-1-26
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2525 amends the Tax Code to provide a property tax exemption for certain property owned or used by a charitable organization that provides charitable housing and services to persons who are at least 62 years of age in an amount that is not less than four percent of the charitable organization's net resident revenue.

House Bill 2529

House Author: Dean et al.
Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 2529 amends the Government Code to change the amount of the annual salary supplement from the state to which an eligible county judge is entitled from an amount equal to 18 percent of the state base salary paid to a district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act to an amount equal to 18 percent of the annual salary paid to a district judge with comparable years of service as the county judge as set by the act.

House Bill 2530

House Author: Cook
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2530 amends the Family Code to establish provisions relating to the appointment of an amicus attorney in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, revise and set out additional powers and duties of such an attorney, and establish provisions relating to the required disclosure of conflicts of interest and bias by such an attorney and to the qualifications, removal, limitations on powers, standard of care, and immunity of such an attorney.

House Bill 2559

House Author: Patterson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2559 amends the Local Government Code to revise the procedure for the imposition, and to revise the certain expiration, of a municipal moratorium on property development, including both the removal of an automatic temporary moratorium and the requirement that an ordinance imposing a moratorium receive the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of all members of a municipality's governing body on final reading in order to take effect.

House Bill 2560

House Author: Shofner et al.
Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2560 amends the Transportation Code to create the Adopt-a-County Road program. The bill authorizes the commissioners court of a county to enter into a partnership agreement with a person under which the person provides funds to repair and maintain a section of a county road and the county installs signs as public recognition of that funding.

House Bill 2563

House Author: Ashby et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Insurance
Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 2563 amends the Insurance Code to establish the temporary certified and insured prescribed burn manager (CIPBM) self-insurance pool, which is administered by the Texas A&M Forest Service and provides coverage indemnifying a participating CIPBM for liability arising from a prescribed burn. Among other provisions, the bill establishes training and data reporting requirements for participating CIPBMs and provides for the pool to be funded through legislative appropriations capped at \$25 million, fees collected from participants, cost-sharing requirements, and interest.

House Bill 2564

House Author: Wilson

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs
Senate Committee: Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

House Bill 2564 amends the Government Code to remove the provision establishing a defense economic adjustment assistance panel to evaluate defense economic adjustment assistance grant applications. The bill instead requires that the members of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission evaluate such grant applications.

House Bill 2593

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2593 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for indecent assault from a Class A misdemeanor to a second degree felony if the victim is a disabled individual or an elderly individual.

House Bill 2594

House Author: Metcalf
Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2594 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize the prosecution of an offense involving theft of intangible personal property in the county in which the victim resides, the county in

which the defendant is apprehended, or the county to which the defendant is extradited. The bill also authorizes the prosecution of the offense of engaging in organized criminal activity involving such theft or a felony offense involving fraud in such counties.

House Bill 2596

House Author: Metcalf
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2596 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to extend the authorization for a victim of certain sexual, stalking, or trafficking offenses to file an application for a protective order without regard to the relationship between the applicant and the alleged offender to a victim of first or second degree felony burglary of a habitation. Accordingly, the bill includes such burglary conduct among the conduct that triggers a court's issuance of a temporary ex parte order for the protection of the applicant or the applicant's family or household member under certain conditions or a protective order under certain conditions.

House Bill 2598

House Author: Button et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2598 amends the Education Code, Government Code, and Occupations Code to replace references to a "licensed specialist in school psychology" with references to a "school psychologist."

House Bill 2607

House Author: Wharton
Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2607 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to change the terms of the members of the board of hospital managers of the Walker County Hospital District to staggered four-year terms and to clarify the district's leasing authority.

House Bill 2637

House Author: DeAyala
Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2637 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to revise the practice and procedures for summoning prospective grand and petit jurors and the disqualifications and exemptions from grand jury and petit jury service. With respect to disqualifications from grand jury service, the bill does the following:

- changes the requirement for the district clerk to prepare a list of persons disqualified in the preceding month based on certain factors to a requirement to prepare separate lists of persons disqualified in the preceding month based on each factor respectively and revises the required recipients of those lists;
- requires the district clerk to maintain a list of the name and address of each person who is disqualified from grand jury service based on a conviction of misdemeanor theft or a felony; and
- permanently disqualifies such a convicted person from grand jury service.

With respect to exemptions from grand jury service, the bill does the following:

- changes the age range in which an elderly person may be exempted from older than 70 years of age to 75 years of age or older;
- conditions the exemption for a person who is responsible for the care of a child on the child being without adequate supervision if the person serves on the jury; and

- provides for a permanent exemption on the ground that a person is 75 years of age or older and for the district clerk to maintain a register of such permanently exempted persons and to prepare a list of such persons or persons who rescinded the permanent exemption.

With respect to the jury wheel for petit jurors, the bill does the following:

- requires that the list furnished for purposes of reconstituting the jury wheel show citizens of the county who, in addition to holding a valid form of identification, are not disqualified from jury service due to their residency status;
- removes the prohibition against the placement of certain names in the jury wheel with respect to the lists of persons disqualified from jury service based on citizenship, residency, or a conviction of misdemeanor theft or a felony; and
- removes a district clerk's discretion to remove from the jury wheel the jury wheel card for a person whose name appears on the list of persons disqualified from jury service based on a conviction of misdemeanor theft or a felony by requiring the district clerk to do so.

With respect to exemptions from petit jury service, the bill does the following:

- lowers the age at which a person is eligible to establish an exemption or claim a permanent exemption on the grounds of age from over 75 years of age to 75 years of age or older;
- revises the procedures for establishing such a permanent exemption; and
- provides for the district clerk to exempt a person with a physical or mental impairment or with an inability to comprehend or communicate in the English language that makes it impossible or very difficult for the person to serve on the jury.

House Bill 2637 also requires the clerk of the court, on the third business day of each month, to prepare a list of the name and address of each person on the list of convicted persons disqualified for petit jury service based on a felony conviction and send a copy of the list to the voter registrar for the county.

House Bill 2655

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Oliverson et al.

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2655 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a community-based nonprofit organization to establish or participate in a regional health care program for employees of small employers without the participation of the county commissioners court if the program is a premium assistance program not offering health care services or health care benefits. The bill provides for a participating nonprofit organization to operate and directly govern such a program and subjects such a program to the program objectives established under state law for other regional or local health programs but with respect to serving individuals in a county in which a participating nonprofit organization operates.

House Bill 2663

Effective: 5-29-25

House Author: Darby et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Sponsor: Birdwell et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 2663 amends the Natural Resources Code to require a well operator's written affirmation that is part of an application for a deadline extension for plugging an inactive well to include, if the operator does not own the surface of the land on which the well is located and the well has been inactive for at least 10 years as of the date of renewal of the operator's organization report, a statement that the operator has removed all equipment associated with providing electric service to the well's production site, except for equipment owned by an electric utility. The bill requires the Railroad Commission of Texas to impose an administrative penalty on a person who provides an affirmation but fails to terminate electric service to the well's production site or remove all equipment and materials in accordance with the affirmation.

House Bill 2674

House Author: Cook et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2674 amends the Education Code to prohibit the Texas Education Agency, the State Board of Education, or any state-funded educational institution from adopting a rule or policy that regulates an educational program of a home school.

House Bill 2686

House Author: Dean

Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2686 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a distinguishing license plate for a frac tank that does not expire or require an annual registration insignia to be valid.

House Bill 2688

House Author: Harless et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 2688 amends the Revised Statutes to revise provisions relating to the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund. The bill makes the following changes regarding a member hired or rehired as a firefighter on or after July 1, 2017:

- entitles such a member to receive a service pension when they attain 20 years of service, rather than when they attain the rule of 70 as under previous law;
- removes a prohibition against such a member electing to participate in the deferred retirement option plan (DROP); and
- makes such a member who terminates active service for any reason other than death with at least 10 years of participation, but less than 20 years of participation, eligible to receive a monthly deferred pension benefit beginning at age 50.

Additionally, the bill extends the authorized period for DROP participation from 13 years to 15 years and repeals provisions relating to appeals of benefit decisions.

House Bill 2688 also revises provisions relating to the Houston Police Officers' Pension System. The bill changes the normal retirement age for a member hired or rehired on or after October 9, 2004, from the age at which the member attains the rule of 70 to the age at which the member attains 20 years of service or the age at which a member first attains both the age of at least 60 and at least 10 years of service. The bill extends eligibility to elect to participate in DROP to any active member who attains the normal retirement age, regardless of the member's hiring date.

House Bill 2692

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 5-29-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2692 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to codify the San Antonio River Authority's enabling legislation.

House Bill 2694

House Author: Vasut

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2694 amends the law to revise provisions relating to the election, terms, and vacancies of commissioners of the Brazoria Drainage District No. 4.

House Bill 2697

House Author: Anchía et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2697 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a surety to notify the state's attorney with jurisdiction in the case of a defendant charged with a felony offense under the Penal Code of the surety's intention to surrender the principal before filing an affidavit of that intention with the court or magistrate before which the prosecution is pending, provided the surety satisfies the requirements for filing the affidavit.

House Bill 2703

House Author: Raymond et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall et al.

Effective: 5-28-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 2703 amends the Government Code to designate July as American Patriotism Month to celebrate the United States of America and honor the values and principles on which it was founded and to make certain recognitions.

House Bill 2712

House Author: Darby

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2712 amends the Water Code to require a regulatory authority to fix rates for water and sewer services for a Class A, B, C, or D utility based on a test year the utility selects that, among other things, includes historic, future, or combined historic and future data. Among other provisions, the bill requires a regulatory authority to allow inclusion in a utility's rate base of facilities projected to be in service through the end of the test year.

House Bill 2713

House Author: Darby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

Current law requires the governing body of a municipality with a population of less than 950,000 that has operated under the municipal civil service system for firefighters and police officers for at least one year to order an election for the repeal of the system on receipt of a valid petition requesting the election. House Bill 2713 amends the Local Government Code to lower the population threshold at which this requirement applies from less than 950,000 to less than 50,000.

House Bill 2715

House Author: Curry et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2715 amends the Local Government Code to remove the requirement that a petition for removal of a county officer from office other than a prosecuting attorney be addressed to the district

judge of the court in which it is filed. The bill replaces the requirement that a petition for removal of a prosecuting attorney from office be addressed to the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region in which the petition is filed with a requirement that an applicable petition for removal of a county officer from office be addressed to such a presiding judge.

House Bill 2715 repeals statutory provisions that provide for the representation of the state by a county or district attorney in proceedings for the removal of certain county officers from office by petition and trial.

House Bill 2723

Effective: 1-1-26

House Author: Cunningham et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: West

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2723 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district in which a cemetery property is located to grant a cemetery property tax exemption if a person does not apply for the exemption, the owner of the property is not identifiable, and the chief appraiser knows or should know based on a reasonable inspection of the property that the property is used exclusively for human burial.

House Bill 2730

Effective: 5-24-25

House Author: Darby et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2730 amends the Tax Code to prohibit an appraisal district's chief appraiser from requiring a person allowed a residence homestead property tax exemption to file a new application or confirm the person's current qualification for the exemption unless the chief appraiser believes the person no longer qualifies for the exemption, has attempted to determine whether the person still qualifies, and delivers a related written notice to the person.

House Bill 2731

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Muñoz

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2731 amends the Transportation Code, with respect to the border counties authorized under current law to regulate roadside and parking lot vendors and solicitors in the unincorporated areas of the county, to authorize the commissioners courts of Cameron, El Paso, and Webb Counties to also regulate such vendors and solicitors. The bill also removes the provision limiting such regulation to public highways and roads with a speed limit of 40 miles per hour or faster.

House Bill 2733

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Canales

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2733 amends the Penal Code to include a direct message on a social media platform or another electronic communication among the means through which the following conduct constitutes a barratry and solicitation of professional employment offense:

- soliciting employment with intent to obtain an economic benefit, committed by any person; or
- providing or knowingly permitting to be provided certain solicitations to an individual who has not sought the employment, legal representation, advice, or care of certain licensed, certified, or registered persons, committed by that person.

House Bill 2742

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Paxton

Effective: 1-1-26
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2742 amends the Tax Code to require a person, with respect to a taxing unit that has adopted the split-payment option for the payment of property taxes and mails its tax bills after November 30, to pay the first one-half of the taxing unit's taxes before the first day of the next month following the first full calendar month following the date the tax bills are mailed.

House Bill 2756

House Author: Thompson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Corrections
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2756, the Jovian Motley Act, amends the Government Code to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), for the purpose of facilitating interaction with inmates, to provide TDCJ correctional officers and TDCJ employees responsible for the direct supervision of correctional officers training on de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques and behavioral health. The bill requires the training to be included in TDCJ's preservice training for correctional officers and completed annually by applicable TDCJ employees.

House Bill 2757

House Author: Frank
Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 6-20-25
House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2757 amends the Education Code to authorize the board of trustees of a public school district to adopt a policy to allow a person whose parent or guardian is an active-duty member of a foreign military force stationed in Texas to establish the person's age for purposes of determining eligibility for school admission by demonstrating that the person will turn the required age during the school year for which the person is seeking admission.

House Bill 2760

House Author: Villalobos
Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development
Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 2760 amends the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, Labor Code, to specify that the court of competent jurisdiction in which a party aggrieved by a final Texas Workforce Commission decision in a benefits dispute claim may bring an action to obtain judicial review of the decision is a county court at law or a district court.

House Bill 2761

House Author: Johnson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2761 amends the Penal Code to establish that it is not a defense to prosecution that a trafficked child or disabled individual lacks the culpable mental state to engage in the act of prostitution or did not complete the act of prostitution for the following offenses:

- compelling prostitution of a child or disabled individual; or
- trafficking or continuous trafficking of a child or disabled individual involving trafficking, receiving a benefit from participating in a venture involving that trafficking, or engaging in sexual conduct with the trafficked child or disabled individual in which the actor is alleged to have caused the trafficked child or disabled individual to engage in or become the victim of prostitution.

House Bill 2763**House Author:** Guillen et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 5-24-25**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2763 amends the Transportation Code to designate the building in which the office of the area engineer for Starr County is located on January 1, 2025, as the Eduardo "Eddie" Gracia, Jr., P.E., Area Engineer and Maintenance Facility and to provide for facility markers and highway signage, subject to a grant or donation of private funds.

House Bill 2765**House Author:** Guillen**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 2765 amends the Agriculture Code to expand the entities and projects eligible for financial assistance under the Rural Economic Development and Investment Program. The bill revises provisions governing the Texas Economic Development Fund, including providing for certain separate caps on loans and grants from the fund and authorizing the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules for the repayment of a loan or grant.

House Bill 2768**House Author:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Adam et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 2768 amends the Information Resources Management Act, Government Code, to authorize a state agency to enter into an agreement with a public junior college district or a public technical institute to offer a program leading to a state information technology apprenticeship credential to address shortages in the state information resources workforce. The bill sets out provisions regarding such a program.

House Bill 2775**House Author:** Landgraf**Senate Sponsor:** Sparks**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2775 amends the Transportation Code to increase the membership of the I-27 Advisory Committee from 23 to 26 by adding qualifying members from Ector County, Schleicher County, and Odessa.

House Bill 2788**House Author:** Button et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 2788 amends the Labor Code to establish that any information that may reveal the methods or means by which the Texas Workforce Commission prevents, investigates, or evaluates fraud in its administration of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act is not public information for purposes of state public information law and is excepted from the public availability requirement of that law.

House Bill 2789**House Author:** Frank et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al.**Effective:** See below**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2789 amends the Human Resources Code to revise provisions relating to the regulation of child welfare, including licensure, community-based care contractors, family homes, and child-care facilities. Among other provisions, the bill provides an exemption for single source continuum contractors

from licensure as a child-placing agency, removes the tuberculosis testing requirement for children in certain state-regulated facilities, repeals the requirement for day cares to maintain certain screening records for children, and revises liability insurance coverage requirements for certain entities that provide child-care services. The bill also extends the duration of an initial license for certain state-regulated facilities, simplifies the posting requirement for "No Trespassing" notices for general residential operations operating as residential treatment centers, and revises the qualifications for a child-care administrator's license and a child-placing agency administrator's license. The bill takes effect September 1, 2025, except for the provisions relating to liability insurance coverage, which take effect January 1, 2026.

House Bill 2791

House Author: Button et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 2791 amends the Labor Code to authorize the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to enter into contracts for goods and services related to TWC's provision of vocational rehabilitation services as necessary to perform any of TWC's powers or duties relating to such services. The bill authorizes TWC to acquire vocational rehabilitation goods or services by any procurement method approved by TWC that provides the best value to TWC. The bill requires TWC to consider all relevant factors in determining the best value, including certain specified factors.

House Bill 2791 authorizes TWC to adopt rules and procedures for the acquisition of vocational rehabilitation goods and services, including rules that allow TWC to purchase the services through an open-enrollment contracting method if TWC determines that the best interests of the state are served by enrolling multiple vendors. If TWC does not receive any responsive bids on an open market solicitation for goods or services for the vocational rehabilitation program in a specific area of Texas, TWC may negotiate with and award the contract to any qualified vendor who meets the requirements of the original solicitation at a price consistent with the current market value of the goods or services and for a term not to exceed five years.

House Bill 2802

House Author: Bucy et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 2802 amends Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes to revise and set out provisions relating to the administration of, contributions to, and benefits under the Austin Firefighters Retirement Fund.

House Bill 2809

House Author: Rose et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2809 amends the Family Code to change the deadline by which the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) must provide to the legislature and make available electronically to the public its annual report of child protection statistics and to require DFPS to include in the report the number of children who attempted suicide while in DFPS managing conservatorship in the preceding year. The bill also classifies a suicide attempt as a significant change in medical condition that triggers requirements for DFPS to provide notice to certain individuals with respect to a child in DFPS managing conservatorship.

House Bill 2818**House Author:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2818 amends the Information Resources Management Act, Government Code, to require the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to establish an artificial intelligence (AI) division within DIR. Among other provisions, the bill requires the division to assist state agencies and other entities that use DIR's services in the implementation of generative AI technology for projects to modernize or replace legacy systems and for other projects appropriate for the use of generative AI technology as determined by DIR. The bill requires DIR to coordinate division activities under the bill's provisions and the activities under any other law relating to AI systems to ensure efficient system implementation and to streamline the use of DIR resources.

House Bill 2820**House Author:** Louderback**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Adam**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2820 amends the Occupations Code to increase the maximum amount of operating capital a licensed authorized charitable bingo organization or a unit of such an organization may retain in its bingo account for a single organization or for each member of a unit.

House Bill 2842**House Author:** Zwiener et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Perry**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 2842 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to provide for the control by lethal means of white-tailed deer in certain areas.

House Bill 2844**House Author:** Landgraf et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst**Effective:** See below**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2844 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the licensing, regulation, and inspection of mobile food vending operations by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The bill sets out general provisions, including provisions providing for the bill's preemption of a local authority's power and, effective September 1, 2025, for the authority of the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions regarding mobile food vendors.

House Bill 2844 requires a person to obtain a mobile food vendor license from DSHS to operate as a mobile food vendor in Texas and sets out provisions regarding the application for and issuance and renewal of such a license, including certain health inspection requirements for an applicant's food vending vehicles. The bill requires DSHS to develop a guide on the mobile food vendor licensing procedures and to establish and maintain a mobile food vendor database. With respect to mobile food vendor operations, the bill sets out provisions regarding compliance with state and local law, food vending vehicle driver requirements, operational standards, and food safety.

House Bill 2844 requires the executive commissioner by rule to establish certain classifications of mobile food vendors for purposes of conducting health inspections and provides for the authority of DSHS or a local authority to investigate a mobile food vendor on reasonable suspicion the vendor is violating the law or on receipt of a health or safety complaint. Subsequently, the bill provides for the enforcement by DSHS of the bill's provisions regarding mobile food vendor operations, including by providing for license denial, suspension, or revocation and for an administrative penalty.

House Bill 2844 also includes provisions setting out certain small-scale food business permit exemptions and repeals the provision that provides for a required permit for the operation of a mobile food service establishment issued by Dallas, Harris, or Tarrant County.

Except as otherwise provided, House Bill 2844 takes effect July 1, 2026.

House Bill 2851

House Author: Howard et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2851 amends the Education Code to require a service or organization that provides consolidated application services for applications to medical schools or dental schools to include applications for nursing schools in Texas. The bill requires the Texas Health Education Service at The University of Texas System Administration to establish an advisory board to develop recommendations for compliance with that requirement and a related implementation plan that must be published online.

House Bill 2853

House Author: Perez, Vincent et al.

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2853 amends the Education Code to remove the statutory caps on student union building fees for The University of Texas at El Paso and to specify that the purpose of such a fee includes demolition of the existing student union building. The bill also updates the threshold amount of an increase in such a fee that triggers a requirement for the increase to be approved in a student election.

House Bill 2854

House Author: Anchía et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2854, the Pokuaa-Flowers Act, amends the Government Code to require a parole panel, with respect to a releasee who is serving a sentence for an offense or conduct that renders the releasee ineligible for judge-ordered community supervision and who is required to submit to electronic monitoring as a condition of release on parole or to mandatory supervision, to prohibit the releasee from visiting a general hospital for a purpose other than to receive medical treatment unless the parole officer supervising the releasee approves the releasee's request to visit the hospital prior to the visit.

House Bill 2854 requires the Department of State Health Services to establish and maintain an electronic database for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) that contains the contact information for the chief law enforcement officer of each general hospital in Texas or the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the location of the hospital, as applicable. A parole officer who approves a hospital visit by the releasee must promptly notify the appropriate chief law enforcement officer or local law enforcement agency, using the information in the database, of the date and time of the releasee's intended visit. The bill provides for certain exemptions for a general hospital and TDCJ from liability for damages resulting from a visit by a releasee under the bill's provisions.

House Bill 2856

House Author: Howard et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2856 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study on the feasibility of developing regional portals to assist in reserving clinical rotations at health care facilities for students enrolled in public institutions of higher education who require clinical training. The bill sets out requirements for the study and a written report of the study's findings and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

House Bill 2884**House Author:** Landgraf**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst**Effective:** 5-28-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2884 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to require a claimant in a civil action regarding the activities of a defense contractor, regardless of whether the contractor is a party, to disclose the following as part of initial disclosures required under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure:

- whether the claimant or the claimant's attorney has received, directly or indirectly, funding or financial support from any individual, entity, or government affiliated with a foreign nation subject to sanctions or an embargo under the federal Arms Export Control Act; and
- the identity of all such sources of funding or financial support.

The bill establishes that such a claimant has a continuing obligation to supplement those disclosures during the pendency of the action with information on such receipt of money or identification of sources that occur after the initial disclosures are made. The bill requires a claimant to make an initial or supplemental disclosure not later than the 10th day after the date the claimant or the claimant's attorney receives the money or identifies a source of funding or financial support, as applicable.

House Bill 2884 prohibits the delay, exclusion, or withholding of a required disclosure for any reason. The bill prohibits a court from granting a motion by a claimant to limit the disclosure of proprietary or confidential information related to money or sources of funding or financial support required to be disclosed under the bill's provisions. The bill authorizes the court, if a claimant fails to comply with the bill's provisions, to stay the proceeding until the required disclosure is made or dismiss the action with prejudice on a finding of wilful noncompliance, in addition to any other sanctions the court is permitted to impose under law.

House Bill 2885**House Author:** Gerdes**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2885 amends the Election Code to provide for the calling of local alcoholic beverage option elections by the governing bodies of Bastrop County, municipalities located in that county, and the Cities of Dallas and Garland.

House Bill 2890**House Author:** Patterson et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al.**Effective:** 5-28-25**House Committee:** Energy Resources**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 2890 amends the Government Code to authorize the governor to develop and execute, on behalf of the state, an interstate compact for the liquefied natural gas industry among states that border the Gulf of America that provides for joint action among compacting states on matters that include sharing information, resources, and services to protect and grow, and to improve coordination to increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of, such industry along the gulf coast.

House Bill 2894**House Author:** Hickland et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 2894 amends the Local Government Code to entitle certain municipalities and Lampasas County to a disabled veteran assistance payment for a fiscal year if the amount of lost property tax revenue due to the granting of property tax relief to disabled veterans for that fiscal year is equal to or greater than 10 percent of the local government's general fund revenue for that fiscal year.

House Bill 2898

House Author: Frank

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 2898 amends the Transportation Code to revise certain notice requirements regarding meteorological evaluation towers and to require the Texas Department of Transportation to provide a copy of a notice to erect such a tower to certain federally owned or operated radar installations or military aviation training facilities in Texas and to certain county judges. The bill revises the applicable definition of "meteorological evaluation tower" by increasing the maximum diameter of a qualifying structure's base.

House Bill 2960

House Author: Hayes et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2960 amends the Business & Commerce Code and Civil Practice and Remedies Code to change the voidable nature of a provision contained in a construction contract concerning real property located in Texas or an agreement collateral to or affecting the contract that subjects the contract or agreement or any conflict arising under the contract or agreement to another state's law, litigation in the courts of another state, or arbitration in another state to being void as against public policy. The bill requires an action arising out of such a contract, to the extent that a venue provision in the contract is void under the bill's provisions, to be brought only in Texas in the county in which the property that is the subject of the litigation is located, unless the parties stipulate to another venue after the dispute arises.

House Bill 2963

House Author: Capriglione et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall et al.

Effective: 9-1-26

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2963 amends the Business & Commerce Code, with respect to digital electronic equipment sold to a consumer in Texas that has a wholesale price of at least \$50 and parts for that equipment sold or used in Texas, to require the original equipment manufacturer of the equipment or part to make documentation, replacement parts, and tools, or their equivalents, that are required for the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the digital electronic equipment available on fair and reasonable terms, in a specified timeframe, to the following recipients:

- any independent repair provider; or
- an owner of digital electronic equipment manufactured by or on behalf of, sold by, or supplied by the original equipment manufacturer.

The documentation, replacement parts, and tools may be made available directly by an original equipment manufacturer or through an authorized repair provider or a third-party provider or by certain authorized repair providers to any independent repair provider or owner. The bill provides alternative relief options an original equipment manufacturer may provide to the original purchaser instead of making documentation, replacement parts, or tools available under the bill's provisions.

Among other provisions, House Bill 2963 does the following:

- expressly states the equipment and manufacturers to which the bill's provisions do not apply;
- sets out specified actions that the bill does not require or prohibit an original equipment manufacturer from taking, as applicable;
- establishes certain exemptions from liability for an original equipment manufacturer or authorized repair provider;
- grants the attorney general exclusive authority to enforce the bill's provisions;

- prohibits the attorney general from bringing an action against a person if, within the 30-day period, the person cures the violation and provides the attorney general a written statement with specified content;
- establishes that a provision in a contract that purports to waive, avoid, restrict, or limit the original equipment manufacturer's obligation to comply with the bill's provisions is void and unenforceable;
- establishes that a violation of the bill's provisions following the cure period is a deceptive trade practice and is actionable under the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act; and
- prohibits the bill's provisions from being construed to create, provide a basis for, or be subject to a private right of action for a violation of the bill's provisions or any other law.

House Bill 2970**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Author:** Paul et al.**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 2970 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to prohibit the implementation of an applicable Gulf Coast Protection District project from disrupting navigation safety or two-way traffic in a manner that violates a rule adopted by the board of pilot commissioners for the ports of Harris County under the Houston Pilots Licensing and Regulatory Act. The bill requires the governor to appoint the presiding officer of the district's board of directors from among the district's directors.

House Bill 3000**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Author:** King et al.**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al.**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3000 amends the Local Government Code to require the comptroller of public accounts to establish and administer the rural ambulance service grant program to support the state purpose of ensuring adequate ground ambulance services by providing financial assistance to qualified rural ambulance service providers in counties with a population of 68,750 or less.

House Bill 3005**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Author:** Gervin-Hawkins et al.**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development**Senate Sponsor:** Campbell**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3005 amends the Government Code to establish that, for purposes of payment for goods and services under state and local government contracts, a bona fide dispute with respect to a contract for the construction of a public work does not include an audit of the public work project that continues for more than 60 days after the date of the substantial completion of the project.

House Bill 3010**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Author:** Ashby et al.**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Nichols et al.**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3010 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Division of Emergency Management to establish and administer a rural infrastructure disaster recovery program to provide grants to rural communities located in a disaster area for the purpose of rebuilding and repairing critical infrastructure damaged by a disaster. The bill establishes the infrastructure disaster recovery account as an account in the general revenue fund for purposes of the grant program and sets out criteria for grant eligibility and requirements for the grant application process.

House Bill 3012

House Author: Walle

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3012 amends the Education Code to remove the requirement for a driving safety course provider to charge each student a minimum \$3 fee for course materials and for supervising and administering the course.

House Bill 3016

House Author: Lujan et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3016 amends the Business & Commerce Code to authorize a rental company that rents private passenger vehicles to the public to void a damage waiver for a rental vehicle if the vehicle is stolen and the renter fails to return the vehicle's ignition key, file a report with law enforcement not later than 24 hours after discovering the theft, and cooperate with the rental company and any law enforcement agency or other authority investigating the stolen vehicle.

House Bill 3033

House Author: Craddick et al.

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3033 amends the Government Code and Transportation Code to require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and administer a grant program for nonprofit organizations that provide support to DPS employees, including support for family members of DPS employees who have been killed or injured in the line of duty and memorial signs for those employees. The bill creates, for purposes of the grant program, the nonprofit organizations supporting employees of DPS account as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and provides for authorized contributions to the grant program by applicants for certain driver's licenses and personal identification certificates.

House Bill 3041

House Author: Paul et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3041 amends the Education Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the enrollment of students with a nontraditional secondary education at public institutions of higher education.

With respect to automatic admission to The University of Texas at Austin, House Bill 3041 prescribes alternative criteria for determining which qualified applicants who completed a nontraditional secondary education must be offered admission pursuant to the 75 percent enrollment capacity threshold. The bill requires the university to offer admission to those applicants whose score on a standardized test on a college entrance examination meets or exceeds a benchmark test score set by the university in accordance with the criteria provided by the bill.

House Bill 3041 changes the method by which a public institution of higher education that sorts applicants by high school graduating class rank in its undergraduate admission review process includes in that sorting process applicants who have successfully completed a nontraditional secondary education that does not include a high school graduating class ranking. Under previous law, the institution was required to place any such applicant at the average high school graduating class rank of the institution's undergraduate applicants who have equivalent standardized testing scores as the applicant. The bill

requires the institution instead to calculate for each class rank of other applicants to the institution the median score on each college entrance examination the institution considers in admissions and assign to the applicant the highest class rank for which the applicant's score on such an examination is at least equal to the median score for that class rank. The bill requires an applicable institution to post median examination score information from the preceding admissions cycle on the institution's website.

House Bill 3041 requires a public institution of higher education, in admitting or enrolling high school students in a dual credit course, to apply the same criteria and conditions to each student wishing to enroll in the course without regard to whether the student attends a public school or a private or parochial school, including a home school. The bill also provides for the eligibility of students who present evidence of successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education for a grant under the Toward EXcellence, Access, & Success (TEXAS) grant program and for a scholarship awarded to students graduating in the top 10 percent of a high school class. The bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to post on its website a copy of the TEXAS grant program rules and certain information regarding financial assistance funded from designated tuition.

House Bill 3053

House Author: Virdell et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hall et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3053 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality or county from adopting or enforcing a measure in which the municipality or county organizes, sponsors, or participates in a program that purchases or offers to purchase firearms with the intent to remove firearms from circulation, reduce the number of firearms owned by civilians, or allow individuals to sell firearms without fear of criminal prosecution.

House Bill 3057

House Author: Landgraf

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3057 amends the Insurance Code to require a health benefit plan that provides coverage for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy to provide coverage for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy that is medically necessary and administered by a health care provider that is qualified as a certified health care facility in accordance with the procedure for the chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy product license approved by the FDA and participating in the health benefit plan's network with respect to any other service.

House Bill 3062

House Author: Guerra et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3062 amends the Education Code to require each public institution of higher education to provide research-based instruction related to fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness to entering undergraduate students as soon as practicable during the students' first semester or term at the institution. The bill sets out the topics that the instruction must include and authorizes the instruction to be provided online and by specified types of entities.

House Bill 3071

House Author: Geren

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 3071 amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to cancel a permit issued for a municipal solid waste landfill facility if the facility has not accepted waste for a period of 25 consecutive years and is located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Cities of Houston in Harris County, Dallas in Dallas County, or Fort Worth in Tarrant County.

House Bill 3073

House Author: Howard et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3073, the Summer Willis Act, amends the Penal Code to revise the circumstances under which a sexual assault is considered to be without the consent of the other person for purposes of the conduct constituting the offense as follows:

- removes as a circumstance that the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by administering any substance without the other person's knowledge; and
- adds as a circumstance that the actor knows that the other person is intoxicated or impaired by any substance to the extent that the other person is incapable of consenting.

House Bill 3088

House Author: Orr et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 3088 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to authorize the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), for purposes of meeting TPWD's business needs and increasing revenue potential, to procure goods and services related to items for resale by TPWD by any method approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission, provided the method provides the best value to TPWD.

House Bill 3092

House Author: Gerdes et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3092 amends the Utilities Code to increase from three to five the maximum number of miles in length of a transmission line that connects an electric utility's existing transmission facilities to a load-serving substation or metering point for which the utility is not required to amend its certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct.

House Bill 3093

House Author: Villalobos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Effective: 5-24-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3093 amends the Tax Code to revise provisions relating to the calculation of certain property tax rates of a taxing unit for a year in which a property owner provides notice that the owner intends to appeal an order of an appraisal review board (ARB) determining a protest by the owner regarding the appraisal of the owner's property. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires certain owners of high-value property in certain taxing units, or associated business entities of such owners, that intend to file an appeal of an ARB protest determination that is part of anticipated substantial litigation to provide to the appropriate taxing unit officers or

employees specified information regarding the amount of uncontested taxable value of property and a written statement providing that the property owner or entity intends to pay the tax due on the amount of uncontested taxable value; and

- establishes that the current total value of an applicable taxing unit for purposes of property tax assessment excludes the portion of the aggregate taxable value of all of the property located in the taxing unit that is included as part of anticipated substantial litigation that consists of contested taxable value.

House Bill 3096

House Author: Cunningham

Senate Sponsor: Hall

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 3096 amends the Government Code to designate March 17 as Profound Autism Awareness Day to raise awareness about profound autism.

House Bill 3104

House Author: McLaughlin

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 3104 amends the Government Code to remove the authority of the judge of the 341st District Court to appoint a bailiff and repeals the authorization for the judge of the 406th District Court to appoint a bailiff.

House Bill 3112

House Author: Tepper et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3112 amends the Government Code to establish exceptions to state open meetings law and state public information law for government information related to certain cybersecurity measures. The bill provides for limited disclosure of that confidential information to comply with applicable state or federal law or a court order.

House Bill 3114

House Author: Geren

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3114 amends the Government Code to remove certain corridors from the definition of "Capitol view corridor" under statutory provisions relating to the preservation of the view of the State Capitol. The bill raises the cap on the height of the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium for purposes of those provisions and exempts the north end of the stadium from the height cap.

House Bill 3120

House Author: Kitzman et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3120 amends the Government Code and Local Government Code to require the owner or operator of a residential immigrant or refugee child detention facility to enter into a memorandum of understanding that requires the facility to do the following:

- report illness at the facility to the appropriate local health authority;
- provide a description of the facility's methods for preventing illness, an emergency evacuation plan, and quarterly compliance and safety inspection reports; and
- provide monthly facility occupancy records and a quarterly summary of certain incident reports.

The bill provides for the duty of a facility owner or operator to conduct criminal history background checks on facility personnel if the facility receives certain state funding and sets out provisions entitling such an owner or operator to obtain certain criminal history record information that may be used only to evaluate an applicant for employment with, or a current or former employee of, the facility.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 3120 is a well-intentioned effort to make child detention facilities, and the communities around them, safer. To that end, the bill would direct facility owners to seek a Memorandum of Understanding with a local government that includes plans for reporting and preventing illness, conducting quarterly inspections, safely evacuating residents, and reporting periodically on occupancy and facility incidents. This all seems like good policy. If a fire breaks out, firefighters should know how many people they need to search for inside.

"But these sorts of arrangements should be things of the past. While making the border more secure than ever before, President Trump has also reduced the trafficking of unaccompanied minors. Perhaps that is why the Department of Justice last month filed a motion in federal district court seeking to dissolve a 1997 settlement agreement governing child detention facilities. Given all this change, now is not the right time to adjust the rules governing such facilities. I look forward to revisiting this issue with a clearer picture of available options in the future."

House Bill 3126

House Author: Darby et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3126 amends the Insurance Code to authorize an entity that discontinued participation in TRS-ActiveCare effective on September 1, 2022, to elect to return to that program before the expiration of the five-year exclusion period if the entity provides written notice by a specified deadline of the entity's election to participate in the program effective beginning September 1, 2026, and complies with any other requirements for program participation. The bill requires the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to impose a risk stabilization fee on the entity's premiums for the plan year beginning September 1, 2026, and authorizes TRS to impose additional requirements, conditions, and deadlines with which the entity must comply. An entity that elects to return early may not elect to discontinue participation until September 1, 2031.

House Bill 3133

House Author: Bhojani et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3133 amends the Business & Commerce Code to expand the scope of the easily accessible complaint system a social media platform, under current law, must provide for submitting and tracking complaints to include complaints regarding explicit deep fake material. The bill requires a social media platform to provide notice on the platform of the complaint system and applicable complaint procedures. The bill requires a social media platform that receives notice of explicit deep fake material on the platform to take the following actions:

- immediately confirm to the user that the social media platform is aware of the material;
- remove the content reported by the user and any known content that is a copy of or identical to the reported content as explicit deep fake material; and
- provide a written notice to the user updating the user on the status of the reported content not later than the seventh day after the date the user submitted the report.

House Bill 3133, among other provisions, establishes that a social media platform is not required to provide a user with notice or an opportunity to appeal the removal of content if the platform removed the content due to a complaint that the content was explicit deep fake material. If a social media platform

determines that the reported content is not explicit deep fake material, the platform may restore the material. If the platform determines that the reported content is explicit deep fake material, the platform must implement measures to ensure the same material is not posted on the platform again.

House Bill 3133 also makes a violation of applicable state law regarding social media platforms, including a violation of the bill's provisions, a deceptive trade practice under the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.

House Bill 3135

House Author: Smithee et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3135 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to design and issue without a fee specialty license plates for retired firefighters.

House Bill 3146

House Author: Bumgarner

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 3146 amends the Agriculture Code, Human Resources Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, and Transportation Code by repealing provisions that require the commissioner of agriculture, the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the commissioner of insurance, the commissioner of workers' compensation, and the Department of Public Safety to enter into memoranda of understanding with the chief administrative law judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) relating to the conducting of hearings by SOAH.

House Bill 3151

House Author: Hull et al.

Senate Sponsor: Cook et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3151 amends the Government Code to make a federally qualified health center that has a current contract with a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) and a health care provider for such a center eligible for expedited credentialing and payment by the MCO for Medicaid reimbursement.

House Bill 3153

House Author: Kerwin et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3153 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), a county, and a municipality to ensure each applicable facility the respective governmental entity regulates or operates reviews state criminal history record information and conducts an employment verification for certain persons who may be placed in direct contact with a child receiving services at the facility. The following are the applicable facilities:

- a residential treatment facility or group home licensed or otherwise regulated by HHSC;
- a juvenile detention facility regulated by TJJD; and
- a shelter operated by or under the authority of a county or municipality that provides temporary living accommodations for individuals who are homeless.

Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- prohibits a facility from offering a person an employment, volunteer, or independent contractor position, and requires the facility to terminate the person's position, if, based on a criminal history record information review, an employment verification, or a background and criminal

history check of that person, the facility discovers the person engaged in physical or sexual abuse of a child constituting certain offenses; and

- requires a facility to provide training to each employee, volunteer, or independent contractor who may be placed in direct contact with a child which must include, among other things, recognition of the signs of physical and sexual abuse and reporting requirements for suspected physical and sexual abuse.

House Bill 3159

House Author: Darby

Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3159 amends the Tax Code to exempt hydrocarbons produced from certain qualifying restimulation wells from oil and gas production taxes. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the eligibility for the exemption, the duration of the exemption, and the application and approval process.

House Bill 3161

House Author: Villalobos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3161 amends the Government Code to give a municipality participating in the Texas Municipal Retirement System the option to adopt an eight percent employee contribution rate as an alternative to the current rate options of five, six, or seven percent.

House Bill 3180

House Author: Dutton

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 3180 amends the Family Code to update the list of information of which a party to a civil action may request disclosure during the applicable discovery period by replacing the reference to any discoverable witness settlement described by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure with a reference to any discoverable witness statement described by those rules.

House Bill 3181

House Author: Dutton

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3181 amends the Family Code to set out provisions relating to the enforcement of a court order regarding the possession of or access to a child on a finding that a person is in contempt of court for denying or failing or refusing to obey such an order.

House Bill 3181 establishes that a finding by a court in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship that a conservator is in contempt of court for such denial and has previously been found in contempt of court at least three times for failure to comply with the terms of such an order constitutes a material and substantial change of circumstances sufficient to justify a modification of an existing order or portion of a decree that provides for the appointment of a conservator or that sets the terms and conditions of conservatorship or for the possession of or access to the child.

House Bill 3181 prohibits a court from placing a respondent in a motion for enforcement of an order in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship on community supervision and suspending commitment if the court finds that the respondent is in contempt of court for such failure or refusal and has previously been found in contempt of court at least three times for such an action. The bill further prohibits a court from waiving the statutory requirement that a respondent in such an enforcement motion pay attorney's

fees and costs under certain conditions if the court finds that the respondent has previously been found in contempt of court at least three times for such a denial.

House Bill 3181 replaces the authorization for a court in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to order additional periods of possession of or access to a child to compensate for such denial with a requirement for the court to do so, unless a party shows good cause why the order should not be rendered. The bill requires additional periods of possession of or access to the child ordered by the court to be, in total, twice the duration of the periods of possession and access that were denied if the court finds that the person denying possession or access has previously been found in contempt of court at least three times for such an action.

House Bill 3185

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Metcalf et al.

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3185 amends the Government Code to authorize a prosecuting attorney to issue and cause to be served an administrative subpoena that requires the production of certain records or other documentation relevant to an investigation of a cybercrime if there is reasonable cause to believe that the Internet or electronic service account provided through an electronic communication service or remote computing service has been used in the commission of a cybercrime. The bill sets out certain requirements and authorizations relating to the contents of such a subpoena and prohibits an applicable service from disclosing specified information unless required by court order or warrant. The bill provides for the destruction or return of records or documentation if a criminal case or proceeding does not result from the production of the records or documentation within a reasonable period.

House Bill 3204

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Metcalf et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3204 amends the Education Code to update outdated provisions relating to the Josey School of Vocational Education at Sam Houston State University. Among other changes, the bill renames the school as the Polytechnic College, establishes that the college provides education designed to lead to career and technical education certificates, requires the college to be funded in the same manner as a public state college, and makes the college eligible to participate in the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program and the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education Program.

House Bill 3211

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Dean et al.

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3211 amends the Insurance Code to require a vision care plan issuer to include on its website a method for a licensed optometrist or therapeutic optometrist to submit an application for inclusion as a participating provider in the plan. The bill restricts the type of information that the application may require an applicant to provide and requires the application to impose the same application requirements on each optometrist and therapeutic optometrist. The bill sets deadlines by which a vision care plan issuer must take certain actions with respect to the application review process. A vision care plan issuer may only consider information included in an optometrist's or therapeutic optometrist's credentialing application in making a credentialing determination and must impose the same credentialing requirements on each applicant.

House Bill 3211 requires a vision care plan issuer to allow an optometrist or therapeutic optometrist to be a participating provider to the full extent of the optometrist's or therapeutic optometrist's license on all of the issuer's vision care plans that have enrollees located in Texas and on all of the issuer's vision panels.

The bill prohibits a vision care plan issuer from excluding an optometrist or a therapeutic optometrist as a participating provider in the plan because of the aggregate number of optometrists or therapeutic optometrists on a vision panel or the time, distance, and appointment availability for a patient to access a participating practitioner.

House Bill 3211 requires a contract between a managed care plan and an optometrist or therapeutic optometrist to include electronic access to a fee schedule that includes and individually identifies each medical or vision care product or service covered under the plan and to use the standardized codes, names, and definitions as provided by the bill to describe all reimbursable medical or vision care products or services covered under the plan.

House Bill 3211 prohibits a vision care plan from excluding an optometrist or a therapeutic optometrist as a participating practitioner in the plan if the optometrist or therapeutic optometrist satisfies the vision plan's credentialing requirements and agrees to the vision plan's contractual terms. The bill requires a vision care plan to describe all medical or vision care products or services covered under the plan using only the standardized codes, names, and definitions published in the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System.

House Bill 3214

House Author: Richardson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3214 amends the Plumbing License Law, Occupations Code, to decrease from four to two the minimum number of years for which an otherwise eligible person must have worked as a journeyman plumber to be licensed as a master plumber.

House Bill 3228

House Author: Lambert et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3228 amends the Utilities Code to require a wind power facility agreement or solar power facility agreement to provide that the grantee under the agreement is responsible for the following:

- collecting and reusing or recycling, or shipping for reuse or recycling, all components of the facility practicably capable of being reused or recycled in accordance with any other applicable laws or regulations; and
- appropriately disposing of all components of the wind power facility or solar power facility not practicably capable of being reused or recycled.

House Bill 3228, among other provisions, expands the obligations for which a wind power facility agreement or solar power facility agreement is required to provide that a grantee must obtain and deliver to a landowner evidence of financial assurance. The bill includes the cost of recycling or disposing of all the components of the facilities among the estimated costs to which the minimum amount of the requisite financial assurance must be equal.

House Bill 3229

House Author: Lambert et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3229 amends the Health and Safety Code and Water Code to require the owner of an applicable renewable energy component recycling facility to submit an annual report to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that includes the following:

- an inventory of all components of a wind turbine generator, solar energy device, or battery energy storage system accepted by the facility for recycling that have not yet been recycled;
- an estimated timeline for recycling or disposing of the components; and

- a cost estimate for recycling or disposing of the components prepared by an independent, third-party professional engineer.

The bill also requires the owner to have financial assurance in an amount equal to 100 percent of the estimated cost.

House Bill 3233

House Author: Harris

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3233 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a pharmacy benefit manager from storing or processing patient data for a Texas resident in a location outside of the United States or its territories.

House Bill 3234

House Author: Cortez

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

Current law prohibits a political subdivision from regulating construction and renovation of structures owned by Harris County and that are located within the boundaries of another political subdivision. House Bill 3234 amends the Local Government Code to extend the prohibition to include such structures owned by Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, or Collin Counties.

House Bill 3248

House Author: Cortez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Flores

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3248 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Local Government Code to authorize the board of directors of a defense base development authority to employ and commission peace officers for the authority to prevent or abate the commission of offenses relating to port functions, facilities, and operations under state or local law. The bill provides for the jurisdiction of such a peace officer and for the authority of such an officer to arrest an offender without a warrant for certain offenses.

House Bill 3250

House Author: Darby

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez

Effective: See below

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3250 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to the regulation of real estate appraisers and appraisal management companies. The bill authorizes the establishment of a stipend program by the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board (TALCB) for real estate appraiser trainees, others seeking an appraiser license or certificate, and certified appraisers who serve as supervisory appraisers. Additionally, the bill requires changes to an appraiser's business contact information to be reported to TALCB, revises the qualifications of the designated controlling person of a real estate appraisal management company, and requires administrative penalties collected for violations of the Texas Appraisal Management Company Registration and Regulation Act to be remitted to the comptroller of public accounts for deposit in the general revenue fund. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

House Bill 3254

House Author: Leo Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3254 amends the Insurance Code to extend eligibility to participate in the state employees group benefits program to members of the State Board of Education who are not otherwise eligible under existing law and those members' dependents. The bill prohibits such a participant from receiving a state contribution for premiums.

House Bill 3260

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 3260 amends the Labor Code to authorize the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) by rule to distribute payments constituting a partial reimbursement to an eligible person as milestones for on-the-job training and employment are met by Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program participants, in accordance with the grant terms. Among other provisions, the bill requires TWC to adopt rules establishing the following for the purposes of administering and enforcing the program:

- which occupations are recognized by TWC as an apprenticeable occupation for the program and the criteria for that determination;
- a process for and the criteria by which TWC may certify a training program as an industry-recognized apprenticeship program;
- performance metrics for industry-recognized apprenticeship program participants trained or employed by a grant recipient using grant money;
- timelines for performance metric data reporting by grant recipients; and
- a schedule by which TWC annually must make aggregated performance metric data reported by grant recipients publicly available on TWC's website.

House Bill 3284

House Author: Frank et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3284 creates the Texas Commission on Marriage and Family to study and develop strategies for promoting strong marriages and healthy families and to make recommendations to the legislature to advance the goal of creating an environment in Texas that is favorable for marriage and raising children. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the duties of the commission and requires the commission to submit a report to the governor and the legislature not later than November 1, 2026. The commission is abolished and the bill's provisions expire December 31, 2026.

House Bill 3307

House Author: Noble

Effective: 9-1-26

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3307 amends the Tax Code to authorize, for the purpose of renewing a person's agreement with the comptroller of public accounts to serve as an arbitrator in an appeal through binding arbitration of an appraisal review board's order determining a taxpayer protest, the person to complete at least eight hours of continuing education during the preceding two years in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution procedures that is approved for continuing legal education as an alternative to completing that continuing education requirement through education that is offered by a university, college, real estate trade association, or legal association.

House Bill 3333

House Author: Morales, Eddie
Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Environmental Regulation
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 3333 amends the Water Code to prohibit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, except as provided by the bill, from issuing a new permit authorizing the direct discharge from a domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facility of any waste, effluent, or pollutants into a classified segment or an unclassified water body in Val Verde County that drains into a classified segment. The bill defines "classified segment" as certain portions of Devils River and "unclassified water body" as a water body other than a classified segment.

House Bill 3348

House Author: Patterson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 6-20-25
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3348 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for a county health care provider participation program in Burnet, Denton, and Collin Counties.

House Bill 3370

House Author: Ashby
Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

Effective: 1-1-26
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3370 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district to accept and approve or deny an application for special appraisal as qualified timber land after the deadline for filing the application has passed under certain conditions.

House Bill 3372

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Effective: 6-22-25
House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3372 amends the Education Code to prohibit a school district administrator from receiving any financial benefit for the performance of personal services for the following entities:

- any business entity that conducts or solicits business with the district that employs the administrator;
- an education business that provides services regarding the curriculum or administration of any public school district; or
- another district, open-enrollment charter school, or regional education service center.

However, the bill establishes an exception that allows for an administrator, other than a member of a board of managers, superintendent, or assistant superintendent, to receive a financial benefit under a written contract that is approved by their employing district's board of trustees under certain conditions. An administrator who violates the bill's provisions is liable for a civil penalty.

House Bill 3376

House Author: Capriglione
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 3376 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Supreme Court, in adopting rules for the process by which the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC) performs training for individuals seeking appointment as guardian, to require that not later than the sixth month after the date a guardian is appointed and at least once a year, the guardian completes a one-hour training course that is made available for free to guardians by the JBCC online through the JBCC website and is provided to educate guardians on Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and related disorders. This requirement applies only to the appointment of a guardian of the person or the estate, or both, of a ward who is 60 years of

age or older or is younger than 60 years of age if the ward has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a related disorder and is subject to the supreme court's identification of circumstances under which a court may waive guardian training requirements.

House Bill 3376 requires the supreme court, in adopting rules for the process by which the JBCC performs training for individuals seeking appointment as guardian, to ensure that a probate court is required to ensure a guardian's timely completion of the training required under the bill's provisions, unless the training is waived by the probate court.

House Bill 3388

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Paul et al.

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3388 amends the Insurance Code to require an insurer, during an application for a commercial group property insurance policy, to provide to each applicant a written disclosure of whether the policy has a shared aggregate limit and, if applicable, the amount of the limit. The bill requires an insurer that issues, delivers, or renews a commercial group property insurance policy to deliver to each member covered by the policy a copy of the certificate of insurance and a copy of the policy by a certain deadline and authorizes such a policy to contain casualty and liability coverage that is incidental to the property risk covered under the policy. Additionally, the bill subjects eligible surplus lines insurers to statutes relating to commercial group property insurance, with certain exceptions, and clarifies certain diligent effort and reporting requirements for surplus lines agents with respect to that type of insurance.

House Bill 3388 authorizes an insurer to provide a personal lines property and casualty insurance policy on a group basis to a group of 10 or more certificate holders who have a preexisting relationship to each other through a common trade, an association, an affiliation, or any other relationship that is separate and distinct from any group insurance arrangement of the group under certain conditions. The bill sets out provisions governing such a policy, including provisions regarding rate and form filings, incidental liability coverage, surplus lines requirements, delivery to covered members of a copy of the certificate of insurance and a copy of the policy, and a group enroller exemption from insurance agent licensing requirements.

House Bill 3421

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Hayes

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 3421 amends the Estates Code and Government Code to clarify provisions relating to decedents' estates and revise procedures relating to probate proceedings, probated wills, and the administration of certain estates. See also [Senate Bill 1448](#), which contains all of the provisions of this bill.

House Bill 3424

Effective: 1-1-26

House Author: Capriglione

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3424 amends the Tax Code to revise provisions governing the prepayment of property taxes imposed on certain dealers' heavy equipment inventory. Among other provisions, the bill changes from monthly to quarterly the frequency with which an owner or dealer is required to take certain actions and revises the required content of a dealer's heavy equipment inventory tax statement form.

House Bill 3425

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Capriglione et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3425 amends the Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the offense of obstruction or retaliation to include the disclosure through an electronic communication of the residence

address or telephone number of an individual the actor knows is a public servant or a member of a public servant's family or household with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the individual's family or household in retaliation for or on account of the service or status of the individual as a public servant. The bill also expands the conduct that constitutes the offense of unlawful disclosure of the residence address or telephone number of an individual to include the disclosure through an electronic communication of the residence address or telephone number of an individual with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the individual's family or household.

House Bill 3441

House Author: Luther et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3441 amends the Health and Safety Code to make a vaccine manufacturer liable to an individual for advertising a vaccine in Texas that causes harm or injury to the individual. The bill authorizes an individual to bring an action under the bill's provisions not later than the third anniversary of the date the cause of action accrues and requires a court to award a claimant who prevails in the action actual damages and court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing the action.

House Bill 3463

House Author: Walle et al.

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3463 amends the Penal Code to include email and text message among the methods by which the requisite notice demanding payment may be sent to an actor for purposes of certain conduct constituting theft of service. Accordingly, the bill provides for notice demanding payment to be sent by such methods using the applicable contact information shown on the rental agreement or service agreement, the records of the person whose service was secured, or the check or similar sight order securing performance of service or the related bank or drawee records.

House Bill 3464

House Author: Meza et al.

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3464 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for the following offenses from a third degree felony to a second degree felony if the actor is employed by a correctional facility:

- providing, or possessing with the intent to provide, an alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, or dangerous drug to a person in the custody of the correctional facility, except on the prescription of a practitioner;
- taking an alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, or dangerous drug into the correctional facility; and
- taking a controlled substance or dangerous drug on property owned, used, or controlled by the correctional facility.

The bill further enhances the penalty to a first degree felony punishable by imprisonment for life or a term of not more than 99 years or less than 15 years and a fine capped at \$250,000 if the ingestion, inhalation, injection, or other administration of the controlled substance or dangerous drug causes the death of a person in the custody of the correctional facility.

House Bill 3474

House Author: Lambert et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3474 amends the Government Code to revise provisions requiring certain public retirement systems to conduct an evaluation of the system's investment practices and performance every three or six years depending on asset size. The bill removes statutory deadlines for the evaluation process and provides instead for the evaluation to be conducted in accordance with a schedule of deadlines prescribed by the State Pension Review Board. The bill also makes certain changes to the criteria for determining whether a system is subject to evaluation and, if it is, the frequency of the evaluations, including by specifying that a system subject to an evaluation requirement remains subject to that same requirement unless both the total assets and the total pension liability of the system decrease to an amount that is below the applicable threshold. The bill clarifies when the next evaluation must be completed if the total pension liability of a system conducting evaluations every six years passes the threshold for more frequent evaluations during a fiscal year.

House Bill 3479

House Author: Morgan et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 3479 amends the Agriculture Code to replace the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's Carrizo cane eradication program with a Rio Grande vegetative management program.

House Bill 3486

House Author: Hunter et al.

Effective: 10-1-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3486 amends the Tax Code to provide for a sales and use tax deduction for restaurant owners that purchase, prepare, and serve Texas farm-raised oysters.

House Bill 3487

House Author: Hunter et al.

Effective: 10-1-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3487 amends the Tax Code to provide for a sales and use tax deduction for restaurant owners who participate in a qualified oyster shell recycling program.

House Bill 3505

House Author: Harris

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3505 amends the Health and Safety Code to continue the authority of the Northeast Health Care Provider Participation District to administer a health care provider participation program in Henderson County, Lamar County, and the Hopkins County Hospital District.

House Bill 3510

House Author: Wharton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3510 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 6 in Brazos County as the Sergeant Mark Butler Memorial Highway.

House Bill 3512

House Author: Capriglione et al.
Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3512 amends the Government Code and Education Code to require the Department of Information Resources (DIR) annually to certify artificial intelligence (AI) training programs for state and local government employees, update standards for the maintenance of certification by those programs, and publish the list of certified programs on the DIR website. The bill sets out program requirements for an AI training program to be certified by DIR and, among other provisions, includes AI training among training that certain state, local, and public school district officials and employees are required to complete.

House Bill 3513

House Author: Fairly
Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3513 amends the Human Resources Code to revise provisions relating to the composition, duties, and personnel of the Moore County Juvenile Board by including the judge of the County Court at Law of Moore County among the board members, by changing the number of members required to be appointed to the board by the county commissioners court, by changing the terms of service for appointed board members, and by removing the board's exemption from provisions relating to the general duties of a juvenile board and the personnel that may be employed by the chief juvenile probation officer.

House Bill 3516

House Author: Dyson
Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Energy Resources
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3516 amends the Government Code to except specified working papers and electronic communications of a technical examiner or administrative law judge at the Railroad Commission of Texas from the public availability requirement of state public information law.

House Bill 3526

House Author: Capriglione et al.
Senate Sponsor: West et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3526 amends the Government Code to set out the following requirements for the Bond Review Board and local governments regarding fiscal transparency for local bonds:

- a requirement for the board to develop and maintain on its website a publicly accessible and searchable database that provides, in a table format that is easy to read and understand, information on each bond proposed or issued by a local government;
- requirements for a local government to report certain information regarding a local bond election to the board both before and after the election is held and for the board to publish a report on the results of the election on its website;
- a requirement for a local government with voter-approved but unissued bonds to submit an annual report to the board regarding the amount of voter-approved but unissued bonds authorized by the local government during the most recent fiscal year; and
- a requirement for the board to prepare and submit to applicable standing committees of the legislature a biennial report on the repayment status of each voter-approved bond issued by a local government.

The bill prescribes the information required to be included in the database and reports.

House Bill 3546

House Author: Martinez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3546 amends the Education Code to authorize the board of trustees of an independent school district (ISD), not later than December 31, 2030, to adopt a resolution changing the length of the terms of its trustees until the date the November election is canvassed. The resolution must provide for staggered terms of either three or four years and specify the manner of transition.

House Bill 3546 amends the Election Code to make the authority of certain ISDs to change the date on which they hold their general election for officers to the November uniform election date applicable to any ISD.

House Bill 3556

House Author: Vasut et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 3556 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to provide for the Parks and Wildlife Department to provide recommendations to minimize the impact on migratory birds of a structure taller than 575 feet that is proposed to be constructed in certain counties.

House Bill 3560

House Author: Pierson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3560 amends the Health and Safety Code to subject applicable mental hospitals and other mental health facilities licensed by the Department of State Health Services to statutory provisions relating to employee misconduct and the employee misconduct registry. The bill requires an application for a license for such a mental hospital or mental health facility to contain the name and address of the person responsible for the hospital's or facility's daily operations.

House Bill 3575

House Author: Noble et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

Current law requires a candidate for a county office, a precinct office, or a district office other than a district office filled by voters of more than one county to file their campaign treasurer appointments with the county clerk. House Bill 3575 amends the Election Code to include a candidate for an elected position on an appraisal district board of directors in a county with a population of 75,000 or more among the candidates required to file the appointment with the county clerk. However, the bill requires all such candidates to instead file the appointment with the county elections administrator if the county has the position.

House Bill 3575 amends the Tax Code to change the person with whom an application for a place on the ballot for an elective position on an appraisal district board of directors must be filed from the county judge to the county clerk, or, for counties having the position, the county elections administrator.

House Bill 3594

House Author: Lujan et al.

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez

Effective: 10-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3594 amends Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes to revise provisions relating to the Fire and Police Retiree Health Care Fund of San Antonio. Among other changes, the bill does the following:

- exempts fund assets from attachment, execution, alienation, and forced sale and establishes that a judgment lien or abstract of judgment may not be filed or perfected against the fund on fund assets;
- with respect to the monthly contributions required to be made by a retiree who does not have the requisite amount of service for benefits on retirement, or their surviving spouse if applicable:
 - changes from years to months the unit of measurement used in determining the retiree's amount of service;
 - removes the requirement for the fund to deduct such a contribution from the monthly benefit payment and instead makes it the responsibility of the retiree or surviving spouse to make the contribution on or before the last day of the month, with interest required for late payments; and
 - authorizes the retiree or surviving spouse to elect to pay a lump-sum payment instead of the monthly contributions;
- revises the procedures for establishing credit for service not established during the period a fund member was in active service with any U.S. uniformed service;
- provides the option for a member who takes unpaid leave as provided by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to elect to establish credit for the leave by making voluntary member contributions to the fund for the entire period the member is on leave;
- provides the option for a retiree who is formally married to another member and is the first of the couple to retire for fund purposes to elect to conditionally waive eligibility for health and medical benefits under the fund and stop contributions;
- authorizes the fund's board of trustees to modify the retiree health plan to allow a surviving spouse of a deceased retiree to remain eligible for coverage after remarriage, regardless of any increase in the fund's total actuarial unfunded liability;
- authorizes the board to require the payment of a premium for coverage of dependent children under the retiree health plan;
- authorizes any person entitled to receive health and medical benefits provided by the fund to unconditionally waive their rights to receive those benefits; and
- establishes that health and medical benefits provided by the fund do not constitute divisible marital property.

House Bill 3595**House Author:** Barry et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Perry**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3595 amends the Assisted Living Facility Licensing Act, Health and Safety Code, to require an assisted living facility to adopt and implement an emergency preparedness and contingency operations plan that requires the facility to provide certain accommodations in the event of a power outage. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission to establish construction and licensure standards for assisted living facilities for which a permit is issued to begin construction after September 1, 2026.

House Bill 3597**House Author:** Hickland**Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3597 amends the Human Resources Code to raise from 300,000 to 500,000 the county population threshold below which certain public notice and hearing requirements apply to an applicant for a license or certificate for the operation or the expansion of the capacity of a general residential operation, a cottage home operation, or a continuum-of-care residential operation that is located in such a county.

House Bill 3611

House Author: Curry et al.
Senate Sponsor: Miles

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3611 amends the Transportation Code to make a person whose commercial advertisement is placed on a sign on the right-of-way of a public road that is not otherwise authorized by law liable for the same civil penalty applicable to a person who places or commissions the placement of a sign on such a right-of-way. The bill establishes a penalty scale for a violation and conditions liability for the penalty for a person's first violation on written notice by the applicable political subdivision and failure to remove the sign.

House Bill 3619

House Author: Dean
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Energy Resources
Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 3619 amends the Natural Resources Code to do the following with respect to statutory provisions relating to abandoned wells:

- require the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), if it plugs or replugs a well and unless the owner of the surface estate of the tract of land declines to have the surface restored, to restore the surface of the tract of land on which the well is located by contouring the surface to the topography that existed before the plugging or replugging operations began in a manner intended to promote the natural revegetation of the tract and in accordance with applicable RRC rules;
- prohibit a person authorized to enter land, except as necessary to prevent injury to the public health, from taking an action that would prevent the owner of the surface estate of the land from accessing the land; and
- grant the owner of the surface estate of the tract of land on which a well is located immunity from civil liability for any damages that may occur as a result of applicable acts done or omitted to be done by the RRC, an RRC employee or agent, or any other person authorized to enter the land.

House Bill 3623

House Author: McQueeney
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3623 amends the Government Code to remove the use of telegraph from the methods by which the comptroller of public accounts and each state agency making an open market purchase is required to solicit bids.

House Bill 3627

House Author: Tepper et al.
Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3627 amends the Education Code to authorize the chair of the State Board of Education (SBOE) to employ personnel to assist the SBOE in performing its duties. The bill sets out provisions relating to the implementation of that authority, including a requirement for the Texas Education Agency to provide administrative support to the SBOE as necessary to carry out the bill's purposes.

House Bill 3629

House Author: Noble et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 3629 amends the Education Code to make a person required to register as a sex offender ineligible to serve as a trustee of an independent school district.

House Bill 3642**House Author:** Hefner**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3642 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 183 in Eastland County as the Deputy Sheriff David Bosecker Memorial Highway, a portion of U.S. Highway 79 in Freestone and Leon Counties as the Cecil and Dorothy Bell Memorial Highway, and a portion of State Highway 315 in Panola County as the Hamby-Webb Memorial Highway.

House Bill 3642 requires the Texas Transportation Commission by rule to develop motorcyclist safety messages that may be used under the memorial sign program for motorcyclists. The bill requires the Texas Department of Transportation to erect and maintain highway signs guiding road users to the Koreatown District in Dallas and to the Chinatown District in Richardson from certain routes.

House Bill 3680**House Author:** Gámez et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Adam**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3680 amends the Local Government Code to set out a subchapter relating to subdivision platting requirements in Cameron County that mirrors, with some differences, a statutory subchapter relating to subdivision platting requirements in a county near an international border. The bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- prohibits the county from requiring the owner of a tract of land located outside the limits of a municipality who divides the tract into two or more parts to have a plat of the subdivision prepared if the lots are sold to adjoining landowners and the lots are added to the adjoining parcel of land owned by the purchasers; and
- authorizes the county to grant an exception to the plat requirements of the bill's subchapter for an individual lot under certain conditions.

House Bill 3680 amends the Water Code to establish that the Texas Water Development Board's model rules relating to minimum standards for safe and sanitary water supply and sewer services in residential areas of political subdivisions do not supersede an exception to a platting requirement prescribed by the bill's subchapter. The bill provides for a certain exemption from the model rules' requirements for certain subdivisions in the county.

House Bill 3680 amends the Property Code and Tax Code to make conforming changes.

House Bill 3686**House Author:** Harless**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 3686 amends the Government Code to require the identification card issued to an honorably retired peace officer or a qualified retired law enforcement officer who holds a weapons proficiency certificate to include the position or rank held by the respective officer at the time of the officer's retirement.

House Bill 3687**House Author:** Harless**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3687 amends the Health and Safety Code and Local Government Code to standardize the certification requirements for certain fire marshals and related officers, inspectors, and investigators in a

county with a population of 100,000 or more or for an emergency services district wholly located in such a county. Accordingly, the bill does the following:

- requires a fire marshal to hold the following certifications issued by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP):
 - head of a prevention-only fire department certification not later than 12 months after the date the marshal is initially appointed;
 - a fire marshal basic certification not later than 24 months after the date the marshal is initially appointed; and
 - a fire protection personnel certification not later than 12 months after the date the marshal is initially appointed;
- requires the fire marshal and any related officer, inspector, and investigator, if acting as a peace officer, to hold a permanent peace officer license;
- requires the fire marshal or the marshal's employees to hold certifications required for fire inspection by TCFP, if acting under fire marshal authority to conduct or supervise arson investigations or fire inspections; and
- requires a fire marshal who is initially appointed before the bill's effective date to receive the following notwithstanding the bill's other provisions:
 - head of a suppression fire department certification, head of a prevention-only fire department certification, and a fire protection personnel certification, issued by TCFP not later than 12 months after the bill's effective date;
 - a fire marshal basic certification issued by TCFP not later than 24 months after the bill's effective date; and
 - if acting as a peace officer, a permanent peace officer license.

House Bill 3689

House Author: Hunter et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3689 amends the Insurance Code and Government Code to replace the existing method of funding excess losses and operating expenses of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), which provides for the use of three classes of public securities and member assessments after TWIA reserves and the catastrophe reserve trust fund are depleted, with a new method under which TWIA must pay excess losses and operating expenses from the following sources, in order:

- TWIA reserves and amounts in the catastrophe reserve trust fund;
- state-funded financing arrangements of not more than \$1 billion; and
- member assessments not to exceed \$1 billion for the respective catastrophe year.

The bill maintains the authorization for a TWIA member to purchase reinsurance to cover an assessment for which the member would otherwise be liable. The new funding method applies only to excess losses and operating expenses incurred after December 31, 2025, but the bill authorizes TWIA to pay excess losses and operating expenses incurred before January 1, 2026, using state-funded financing arrangements as an alternative to public securities. Effective September 1, 2027, the bill repeals provisions governing the existing funding method and the public securities program.

House Bill 3689 authorizes TWIA to enter into a financing arrangement with the state before a catastrophic event, for not more than \$500 million, and after a catastrophic event that depletes the catastrophe reserve fund, for not more than \$1 billion, and requires the comptroller of public accounts to invest certain economic stabilization fund (ESF) balances to provide such an arrangement, provided that ESF balances are above the sufficient balance at the time of investment. The bill caps at \$1 billion the amount of the ESF balance that may be invested for this purpose per catastrophe year and caps at \$2 billion the aggregate amount of outstanding pre-event and post-event financing. The bill sets out

provisions governing such an arrangement and investment, including provisions relating to a request by TWIA to enter into an arrangement, deposit and use of arrangement proceeds, repayment of arrangement obligations, the arrangement's interest rate and maturity, and the comptroller's management of the investment portfolio.

House Bill 3689 provides for the authority of the commissioner of insurance, in consultation with TWIA's board of directors and the comptroller, to order a catastrophe surcharge to be assessed by insurers on all policyholders of applicable property insurance policies for the purpose of repaying an obligation to the state under a catastrophe financing arrangement and associated administrative expenses. The bill sets out provisions governing such a surcharge, including provisions relating to the amount of the surcharge, the deposit of the surcharge proceeds, and a required disclosure of the surcharge in the documents attached to an applicable insurance policy. The bill requires the commissioner to provide an annual report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives that includes the amount available in the catastrophe reserve trust fund and information regarding the current financial condition of TWIA.

House Bill 3689 reduces TWIA's minimum total available loss funding to an amount not less than the probable maximum loss for a catastrophe year with a probability of one in 50, rather than a probability of one in 100 as in previous law. The bill authorizes the commissioner to adopt a method or approve TWIA's method of determining the probability of one in 50 for TWIA risks and requires the commissioner to provide any adopted or approved method to TWIA on or before February 1 of each year.

House Bill 3689 authorizes TWIA to include the amounts held in the catastrophe reserve trust fund as an admitted asset in the financial statements of TWIA. The bill authorizes the comptroller and TWIA's board of directors to recommend investments to protect the trust fund and create investment income.

Except as otherwise provided, House Bill 3689 takes effect September 1, 2025.

House Bill 3697

House Author: Cortez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3697 amends the Election Code to require the officially prescribed application form for a mail-in ballot to be printed in black text. The bill changes the form's minimum type size from six-point type to 10-point type.

House Bill 3698

House Author: Vo

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 3698 amends the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, Labor Code, to include, as a circumstance under which participation in reemployment services is required as a condition of eligibility to receive unemployment benefits, a determination by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), regardless of the results of that individual's assessment by TWC to determine if the individual is likely to exhaust eligibility for regular benefits and to need those services to obtain new employment, that the individual's participation is in furtherance of the following goals, unless there is reasonable cause for the individual's failure to participate in those reemployment services:

- reducing the duration of unemployment compensation through improved employment outcomes;
- strengthening the integrity of the unemployment compensation program;
- promoting alignment with the vision of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;
- establishing TWC's reemployment services and eligibility assessment program as an entry point to other workforce system partner programs; and
- demonstrating the effectiveness of reemployment services.

House Bill 3699

House Author: Vo

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

Senate Committee: Economic Development

Under current law, the terms "last work" and "person for whom the claimant last worked" when used in connection with an initial claim for unemployment compensation benefits refer to either the employer, as defined by the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, or another state's unemployment law, for whom the claimant last worked or to the last person for whom the claimant actually worked if the claimant worked for that person for at least 30 hours during a week. House Bill 3699 amends the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, Labor Code, to remove from that meaning the last person for whom the claimant actually worked and provides that, when used in connection with an initial claim for unemployment compensation benefits, the terms mean an employer as defined under the act for whom the claimant last worked, unless otherwise provided by state or federal law.

House Bill 3700

House Author: Vo et al.

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 3700 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop the following with respect to applicable TWC programs:

- procedures to prevent, detect, and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse in those programs;
- systems to detect fraud, waste, and abuse in those programs; and
- methods for a person to report to TWC fraud, waste, or abuse in the delivery of those programs.

The bill provides for a report regarding fraud, waste, and abuse under the bill's provisions.

House Bill 3711

House Author: Capriglione et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3711 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to require a law enforcement agency that submits to the office of a district or county attorney a report stating there is probable cause to believe a person has committed a criminal offense under state open meetings law to simultaneously submit that report to the open records division of the attorney general's office. The bill authorizes an applicable attorney representing the state in a prosecution of an open meetings offense to request the assistance of the open records division in an investigation of the offense and, if the attorney decides to not prosecute or to terminate the investigation, requires the attorney to publish online notice of the attorney's decision and the attorney's reasoning for that decision. The bill provides for the authority of the open records division to assist in such an investigation on request.

House Bill 3732

House Author: Martinez

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3732 amends the Government Code to authorize a fire department to request an extension from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) to comply with TCFP's minimum standards for fire protection personnel. The bill requires TCFP to grant such a request if the fire department provides evidence TCFP finds sufficient to justify the extension. These provisions expire September 1, 2027.

House Bill 3745**House Author:** Manuel et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Appropriations**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3745 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise the authorization for the attorney general to make an emergency award of compensation under the Crime Victims' Compensation Act by clarifying that the emergency award is made for anticipated pecuniary losses. The bill exempts from certain limitations on emergency awards an application for compensation made by a claimant in relation to a deceased victim and arising from criminally injurious conduct that resulted in a proclaimed state of emergency.

House Bill 3749**House Author:** Orr et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Campbell**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3749, Jenifer's Law, amends the Occupations Code to authorize a physician to delegate the act of prescribing or ordering elective intravenous (IV) therapy to a physician assistant acting under adequate physician supervision or an advanced practice registered nurse acting under such supervision. Additionally, the bill authorizes a physician to delegate the act of administering elective IV therapy to a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a registered nurse, all of whom must be acting under adequate physician supervision.

House Bill 3751**House Author:** Ashby**Senate Sponsor:** Nichols**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3751 requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), not later than November 30, 2025, to transfer the real property, as described by the bill, consisting of the site of the TxDOT maintenance barn and offices in Tyler County to the Department of Public Safety.

House Bill 3783**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 3783 amends the Family Code to change the nature of the training that a mental health professional must possess, if determined by the court to be relevant to the type of counseling needed, to qualify to give counseling to a party subject to court-ordered counseling in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship wherein the parties are found to have a history of conflict in resolving an issue of conservatorship or possession of or access to a child from training in domestic violence to training in the dynamics of family violence.

House Bill 3783 requires the court, in determining whether to order a party to participate in such counseling, to consider evidence of family violence or sexual abuse. The bill prohibits the court, if credible evidence of such violence or abuse is presented, from ordering counseling in which a victim of the violence or abuse participates in counseling sessions together with the perpetrator of the violence or abuse or ordering a party who is a victim of the violence or abuse to pay any of the cost of the counseling. The bill also prohibits a court from ordering a party to participate in counseling in which the person conducting the counseling requires certain reunification therapy practices.

House Bill 3788

House Author: Spiller et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3788 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the board of directors of a municipal hospital authority that no longer owns or operates a hospital to use the authority's available assets to promote public health and general welfare initiatives that the board determines will benefit the residents served by the authority. Such initiatives are to include owning, operating, or funding an administrative office, a fitness or physical health center, or a medical training or education facility. The bill authorizes the authority to issue revenue bonds and other notes to undertake any such initiative and further clarifies the purposes for which an authority, regardless of whether it owns or operated a hospital, may issue revenue bonds and invest authority funds. The bill, among other provisions, also sets out provisions relating to the appointment and terms of office of a municipal hospital authority's board of directors.

House Bill 3800

House Author: Orr et al.

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 3800 requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish a temporary advisory board to develop a resource guide that facilitates collaborations among health care providers and institutions of higher education in more effectively identifying and addressing local health care workforce needs, including training, workforce shortages, and challenging workloads. The bill requires TWC, not later than November 1, 2026, to prepare and submit the resource guide to the legislature.

House Bill 3801

House Author: Orr et al.

Senate Sponsor: Cook et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3801 abolishes the statewide health coordinating council and the nursing advisory committee of that council, repeals provisions providing for a state health plan developed by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and that council, and amends the Health and Safety Code to establish instead the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council to study and develop a strategic approach for ensuring a thriving health care system and health professions workforce in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill requires the council to biennially prepare a health professions strategic plan using information the council compiles from applicable state agencies, establish a work group to examine the health professions and health care education programs that provide a gateway into a variety of health professions, and establish a nursing advisory committee to assist the council with its duties.

House Bill 3801 amends the Education Code to replace the statewide health coordinating council with DSHS as one of the entities that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must consult in identifying programs that have a critical shortage in the number of health care profession license holders needed in Texas for purposes of certain grant programs.

House Bill 3801 additionally requires the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies to establish a workgroup to assess the feasibility of better aligning the certification and career pathways of nurse aides, medication aides, personal care technicians, and persons trained in nursing during service in the U.S. armed forces into the nursing profession.

House Bill 3803

House Author: Lambert

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3803 amends the Health and Safety Code to establish that the following information is confidential:

- information relating to the financial condition of a perpetual care cemetery or fund that the Banking Department of Texas obtains directly or indirectly, other than a published statement; and
- a department file or record relating to the financial condition of such a cemetery or fund.

However, the bill authorizes the department to disclose that information to an agency, department, or instrumentality of this state, another state, or the United States if the banking commissioner of Texas determines disclosure is in the best interest of the public and necessary or proper to enforce state or federal laws.

House Bill 3804

House Author: Lambert

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3804 amends the Finance Code to revise the conditions under which an acquisition of voting securities by a controlling person of a state bank is exempt from change of control requirements. The bill also makes applicable to all types of dividends the prohibition against a bank paying cash dividends to its shareholders during a period of supervision without the prior approval of the banking commissioner or the supervisor or as otherwise permitted or restricted by the order of supervision.

House Bill 3805

House Author: Lambert

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3805 amends the Finance Code to establish certain grounds on which the banking commissioner of Texas may remove or prohibit a current or former key individual or employee of a money services licensee from office or employment in or prohibit a control person or other person participating in the affairs of a money services licensee from further participation in the affairs of a money services licensee or any other entity chartered, registered, permitted, or licensed by the commissioner. The bill sets out procedures for the issuance of the removal or prohibition order and authorizes a person who is subject to such an order to apply to the commissioner to be released from the order after the expiration of 10 years from the date of issuance, regardless of the order's stated duration or date of issuance.

House Bill 3806

House Author: Lambert

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

Current law prohibits a state trust company under supervision from engaging in certain activities without the prior approval of the banking commissioner or supervisor or as otherwise permitted or restricted by the order of supervision. House Bill 3806 expands that prohibition to include any other activity determined by the commissioner to threaten the safety and soundness of the state trust company. The bill also makes the restriction on the payment of cash dividends by such a state trust company applicable to any type of dividend.

House Bill 3809

House Author: Darby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3809 amends the Utilities Code to set out provisions regarding the removal of battery energy storage facilities. The bill requires a lease agreement between a grantee and a landowner that authorizes the grantee to operate a battery energy storage facility on the leased property to provide that the grantee is responsible for removing the facility from the landowner's property and that the grantee must safely clear, clean, and remove certain facility components and equipment and ensure that related holes or cavities are filled. The bill sets out additional requirements for such an agreement, including the responsibility for the recycling or disposal of facility components and for financial assurance.

House Bill 3810

House Author: Alders

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: See below

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3810 dissolves the Rose City Municipal Utility District on the 60th day after the bill's effective date. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect June 20, 2025.

House Bill 3812

House Author: Bonnen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3812 amends the Insurance Code to revise provisions that establish a process through which a physician or provider can earn an exemption from preauthorization requirements for a particular health care service by attaining at least a 90 percent preauthorization request approval rate for that service in the most recent evaluation period. The bill does the following:

- extends the evaluation period from six months to one year;
- includes as a criteria for earning the exemption that the physician or provider has provided the service at least five times during the evaluation period;
- requires a health maintenance organization (HMO) or insurer, in conducting an evaluation for the exemption, to include all preauthorization requests submitted by the physician or provider to the HMO or insurer, or its affiliate, considering all health insurance policies and health benefit plans issued or administered by the HMO or insurer, or its affiliate, regardless of whether the preauthorization request was made in connection with a health insurance policy or health benefit plan that is subject to the exemption process;
- changes the period during which an HMO or insurer may rescind an exemption to January of a year beginning on or after the first anniversary of the last day of the most recent evaluation period for the exemption;
- requires an HMO or insurer, if fewer than five claims are available for an evaluation in connection with an exemption recission, to review all the claims submitted by the physician or provider during the most recent evaluation period for the service;
- clarifies that the right to a review of an adverse determination regarding a preauthorization exemption includes an HMO's or insurer's determination to deny an exemption to the physician or provider; and
- replaces the prohibition against an HMO or insurer conducting a retrospective review of a health care service subject to an exemption with a prohibition against an HMO or insurer conducting a utilization review or requiring another review similar to preauthorization of such a service regardless of whether the exemption is rescinded after the provision of the service, subject to the same exceptions as the existing prohibition.

The bill prohibits a physician who reviews an exemption recission determination or who directs a utilization review from holding a limited license to practice administrative medicine. The bill requires each HMO and insurer to submit to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) an annual written report containing specified data regarding preauthorization exemptions.

House Bill 3815

House Author: Orr et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3815 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates for a person who is an active or former member of a United States Army Ranger unit or a graduate of the United States Army Ranger School and for a person who is an active or former member of the United States Army 75th Ranger Regiment. The bill also provides for the emblems on those specialty license plates to be included on request on specialty license plates issued to veterans with disabilities.

House Bill 3824

House Author: King et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3824 amends the Utilities Code to establish battery energy storage facility safety provisions with respect to fire safety standards and emergency operations plans.

House Bill 3833

House Author: Lambert et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3833 amends the Finance Code to revise the Money Services Modernization Act, which regulates money services businesses. The bill updates outdated references and makes certain changes with respect to the following:

- the requirement for certain individuals affiliated with a money services licensee or applicant to submit fingerprints and information regarding personal history and experience to the banking commissioner;
- eligibility for a streamlined acquisition of control;
- the manner of preparation of the annual financial statement filed by a currency exchange licensee;
- security requirements for a money services licensee or applicant; and
- permissible investments by a money transmission licensee.

House Bill 3848

House Author: Hernandez

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3848 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to permit inspection reports, other documents, and fees regarding elevators, escalators, and related equipment to be filed in a manner prescribed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), including electronically. For the purpose of determining the timeliness of an applicable building or facility owner's filing of an inspection report and filing fees for the inspection of an elevator, escalator, or related equipment, the bill includes the date of a TDLR-compliant electronic submission of such materials among the dates of which the earliest is considered the filing date.

House Bill 3866

House Author: Landgraf
Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Environmental Regulation
Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 3866 amends the Water Code to prohibit a person from installing or operating an intermediate bulk container recycling facility within 2,000 feet of a private residence and to require the registration of such a facility with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Implementation of the bill by the TCEQ is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

House Bill 3909

House Author: Hickland et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3909 amends the Election Code to change the area of a polling place within which use of a wireless communication device is prohibited from within 100 feet of a voting station to within a room in which voting is taking place. The bill requires the secretary of state to require a presiding judge to post a notice that states that prohibition outside any room in which voting is taking place.

House Bill 3923

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3923 amends the Position Classification Act, Government Code, to require the classification officer in the State Auditor's Office to take certain actions relating to increasing state employment opportunities for individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree.

House Bill 3928

House Author: Thompson
Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3928 amends the Occupations Code to give the operator of a vehicle storage facility the option of providing notice to the registered owner and the primary lienholder of a vehicle towed to the facility on a publicly available website maintained by a third party approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as an alternative to providing the notice by publication in an applicable newspaper.

House Bill 3940

House Author: Johnson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Human Services
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3940 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission to annually provide certain written notice to each managed care organization and health care provider regarding the use of Medicaid identification numbers with respect to newborn children.

House Bill 3940 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to the resource pamphlet and resource guide provided to parents of newborn children to provide for the provision of certain information, including certain written notice, relating to Medicaid benefits for children.

House Bill 3963

House Author: Capriglione et al.
Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3963 amends the Education Code to require the early childhood interagency work group to initiate the development of an early childhood integrated data system for the purpose of facilitating

the sharing of data from early childhood programs across state agencies to inform policy related to such programs at the state level and to guide improvements to those programs to provide better outcomes for children and families. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- sets out the duties of the lead agency, which is the Texas Education Agency (TEA), with respect to the system;
- provides for a memorandum of understanding between TEA and each cooperating entity regarding the sharing of data for system purposes, with the cooperating entities being the Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, the Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission; and
- establishes annual reporting requirements for TEA regarding progress in the system's development, establishment, and operation.

Implementation of a provision of this bill by an applicable entity is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

House Bill 3966

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Morales, Christina et al.

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3966 amends the Business & Commerce Code to require an owner or operator of a commercial passenger bus service, at least 90 calendar days before the date the service begins operating a new terminal, to provide notice of the proposed terminal to the community in which the terminal is to be located. The bill sets out requirements regarding such a notice and exempts from the notice requirement an owner or operator intending to temporarily operate a new terminal in response to an unforeseen emergency.

House Bill 3986

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Muñoz

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3986 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 83 in the municipal limits of Mission as the Corporal Speedy Espericueta Memorial Highway.

House Bill 4042

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Morales, Eddie

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 4042 amends the Utilities Code to remove the specification that gas is natural gas with respect to the following:

- gas distribution pipelines, gas master metered pipelines, gas distribution systems, and gas master metered systems whose operators may be subject to annual pipeline safety and regulatory fees; and
- a distribution gas pipeline facility subject to statutory provisions relating to the installation, removal, and replacement of certain pipelines and statutory provisions relating to pipeline incident reporting and records.

House Bill 4044

Effective: See below

House Author: Meyer et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4044 amends the Tax Code to establish that costs and expenses incurred by a public institution of higher education or university system are considered eligible costs and expenses for purposes

of the tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of certified historic structures. Effective January 1, 2035, the bill removes such institutions and systems from the revised provision. Except for that removal, the bill takes effect January 1, 2026.

House Bill 4063

House Author: Ordaz et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4063 amends the Property Code to set out requirements for filing a memorandum of contract concerning residential property that is not signed by the property owner, including a requirement to notify the owner of the filing, and establishing procedures through which an owner may file an affidavit for the release of the memorandum.

House Bill 4070

House Author: Johnson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4070 amends the Health and Safety Code to set out requirements for a person who sells an orthodontic device or provides a service related to the design or manufacture of an orthodontic device to patients in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill requires such a person to either be a dentist who has provided applicable services to the patient or has received confirmation from a dentist who has provided those services to the patient. The bill also prohibits a person from selling an orthodontic device or providing a service related to the design or manufacture of such a device unless the patient has received certain examinations, a review of diagnostic imaging, a prescription for an orthodontic device, counsel regarding available treatment options and associated risks, and a review of the patient's medical and dental health histories.

House Bill 4076

House Author: Leach et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4076 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a health care provider from taking or refusing to take certain action with respect to an individual's eligibility for or receipt of an organ transplant or related services solely on the basis of the individual's vaccination status. The bill authorizes a health care provider to consider an individual's vaccination status when making a treatment recommendation or decision solely to the extent that a physician, following an individualized evaluation of the potential transplant recipient, determines the vaccination status is medically significant to the organ transplant. Among other provisions, the bill provides for certain protections for a health care provider who complies with the bill's provisions.

House Bill 4081

House Author: Vasut et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4081 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish procedures for sealing court documents alleged to contain trade secrets in an action under the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act, including for filing documents a party knows another person alleges to contain the person's trade secret and for unsealing any document in such an action. The bill establishes the trial court retains continuing jurisdiction to seal or unseal a document and provides for the appeal of an order granting or denying a motion to unseal a document.

House Bill 4099**House Author:** Harris Davila et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4099 amends the Occupations Code to change the period during which a licensed physical therapist who meets certain criteria provided under state law may treat a patient without a referral from not more than 10 consecutive business days to not more than 30 consecutive calendar days. The bill repeals a provision that authorizes certain physical therapists who possess a doctoral degree in physical therapy to treat a patient without a referral for up to 15 consecutive business days.

House Bill 4112**House Author:** Landgraf**Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Environmental Regulation**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 4112 amends the Texas Radiation Control Act, Health and Safety Code, to revise the prohibition against the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issuing a general construction permit, approving a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, or issuing a permit under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program for the construction or operation of certain facilities relating to high-level radioactive waste. The bill also revises the exception to the prohibition.

House Bill 4129**House Author:** Davis, Aicha et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Paxton**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4129 amends the Family Code to require a contract with a single source continuum contractor for the provision of community-based care services in a catchment area to include provisions that require the Department of Family and Protective Services to implement formal measures to ensure the contractor is delivering high-quality service.

House Bill 4134**House Author:** Lujan**Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4134 amends the Finance Code to authorize the holder of a motor vehicle retail installment contract or the holder's agent to collect a fee for processing a retail buyer's electronic payment under the contract only if:

- the fee is reasonably related to the expense incurred by the holder or holder's agent in processing the electronic payment;
- the fee does not exceed the lesser of \$10 or five percent of the amount of the payment;
- the holder or holder's agent allows the buyer to make a payment by a method other than an electronic payment that does not incur a fee and does not establish electronic payment as the expected form of payment; and
- before the buyer agrees to make an electronic payment, the holder or holder's agent informs the buyer of the amount of the fee, that the buyer may make a payment by an alternative method that does not incur a fee, and that the holder or holder's agent may not establish electronic payment as the expected form of payment.

House Bill 4144

House Author: Turner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4144 amends the Government Code to require an applicable political subdivision to provide to a firefighter or peace officer who retires from a fire department or law enforcement agency with at least 50 firefighters or peace officers, respectively, a critical-illness supplemental income benefit or comparable health benefit plan coverage if the firefighter or peace officer is diagnosed with certain cancers, acute myocardial infarction, or stroke not later than the third anniversary of the date the firefighter or peace officer retires. Among other provisions, the bill establishes the value of the supplemental income benefit as the lesser of the firefighter's or peace officer's final yearly salary or \$100,000 and authorizes providing such a benefit in a lump sum payment or equal payments over three consecutive months.

House Bill 4145

House Author: Dyson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4145 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to authorize a health care service provider that provides services to a patient that are related to a personal injury claim for which the patient is represented by an attorney, unless otherwise directed by the patient or other responsible person, to satisfy the statutory requirement to provide the bill for the services to the patient or other responsible person not later than the first day of the 11th month after the date the services are provided by submitting the bill to the patient's attorney in accordance with that deadline.

House Bill 4157

House Author: Bonnen

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4157 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish that a reciprocal waiver of claims between parties engaged in space flight activities under the Federal Aviation Regulations is effective and enforceable in Texas, including a waiver by a contractor, subcontractor, or customer of any party participating in a space flight activity. The bill removes from the definition of "space flight participant" the specification that such an individual is not crew and removes the condition that an agreement required to be signed by a space flight participant before participating in any space flight activity also be signed by a competent witness to be considered effective and enforceable.

House Bill 4158

House Author: Louderback

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 4158 repeals the Special District Local Laws Code provision that prohibits a director of the Texana Groundwater Conservation District from receiving compensation for service as a director but authorizes director reimbursement for actual expenses of attending meetings at the rate in effect for Jackson County employees.

House Bill 4163

House Author: Guillen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 4163 amends the Agriculture Code to prohibit a city from imposing a governmental requirement that directly or indirectly requires the owner or lessee of an agricultural operation to mow, bale, shred, or hoe material on the right-of-way of a public road that is adjacent to the operation.

House Bill 4170

House Author: Hayes

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 4170 amends the Property Code to require an action brought under statutory provisions relating to private transfer fees for interests in real property, other than an action brought by the attorney general, to be brought in the county in which the real property is located.

House Bill 4187

House Author: Metcalf

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 4187 amends the Government Code to revise provisions that govern the Texas Historical Commission. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- authorizes the commission's executive director to negotiate with and award a contract for goods or services to a qualified vendor under certain conditions;
- establishes that an official Texas historical marker is state property and grants the commission jurisdiction over, and makes the commission responsible for, the preservation, maintenance, and repair of such markers;
- sets out provisions relating to affiliated nonprofit organizations;
- revises the list of historic sites under commission jurisdiction;
- requires the commission to approve historical themes and interpretive storylines for each historic site based on a framework that portrays a cohesive story of Texas as seen through its historic sites; and
- establishes the Washington-on-the-Brazos Historical Foundation as a nonprofit historical association to support the operations of the following:
 - the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site;
 - the Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site;
 - the Barrington Living History Farm State Historic Site; and
 - the Star of the Republic Museum State Historic Site.

House Bill 4202

House Author: Swanson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4202 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to include among the evidence that an officer may accept as satisfactory evidence of the identity of a person acknowledging a written instrument the oath of a credible witness who provides the officer with a current identification card or other document issued by the federal government or any state government that contains the photograph and signature of the witness.

House Bill 4205

House Author: Harless

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4205 amends the Local Government Code to require the Harris County Commissioners Court, when increasing the compensation or employment benefits for a class of police officers, to do so by the same amount for all police officers that are within that class. The bill requires the commissioners court to provide funding to each county law enforcement agency, office, or department necessary to provide compensation parity and prohibits the commissioners court from reducing the budget of such an agency,

office, or department as a result of increasing compensation or employment benefits in the required manner.

House Bill 4205 also establishes that the Fire and Police Employee Relations Act preempts all contrary local ordinances, executive orders, legislation, or rules adopted by a county commissioners court and provides that a full-time paid employee who is certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and who regularly serves in a professional law enforcement capacity in the police department of a political subdivision, in the office of a district attorney as an investigator, or in the office of the county fire marshal is considered to be a police officer under that act.

House Bill 4211

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Noble et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4211 amends the Texas Timeshare Act, Property Code, to require an agreement for the purchase of an interest in a managing entity to disclose certain information to the purchaser and to prohibit any agreement or rules governing the residential arrangement or the ownership interest in the entity from requiring that a dispute concerning the arrangement or interest be brought before a tribunal other than a court established under state or federal law. Among other provisions, the bill prohibits a managing entity from taking an action with respect to a real property interest in the entity in a manner that would be a violation of the Texas Fair Housing Act.

House Bill 4211 amends the Texas Fair Housing Act to establish that the religious organization, private club, and appraisal exemption under that act does not apply to the sale, rental, or occupancy of certain dwellings owned by certain entities.

House Bill 4214

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Curry

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4214 amends the Government Code to require each governmental body annually to notify the attorney general of the current mailing address and email address designated by the governmental body for receiving written requests for public information. The bill requires the attorney general to create and maintain a publicly accessible database of those addresses.

House Bill 4215

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Hunter

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4215 amends the Occupations Code to provide for the regulation and operation of delivery network companies. The bill incorporates provisions regulating delivery network companies into the statutory framework established for transportation network companies, which includes permit requirements and provisions establishing the nature of those companies and the confidentiality of company and customer information. The bill requires delivery network companies to implement an intoxicating substance policy, vet delivery drivers before allowing access to the company's digital network, and adopt a nondiscrimination policy. The bill also sets out the conditions under which a delivery driver is considered an independent contractor and not a delivery network company employee.

House Bill 4219

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Capriglione

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4219 amends the Government Code to set out requirements for a governmental body's response to a request for public information when it has no information responsive to the request or

determines the requested information is subject to a previous determination that permits or requires the requested information to be withheld. The bill also establishes a complaint process for a requestor of public information when a governmental body fails to respond to the requestor and provides for certain corrective measures if the attorney general determines the governmental body failed to comply with applicable requirements in connection with the request.

House Bill 4224

House Author: Hull et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4224 amends the Health and Safety Code, for purposes of statutory provisions governing access to and use of protected health information with respect to medical records privacy, to require an applicable covered entity to prominently post on the entity's website and at any entity facility detailed instructions for a consumer to request the consumer's health care records from the entity, contact the disciplinary or licensing authority for the entity, and file a consumer complaint.

House Bill 4226

House Author: Morales Shaw et al.

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4226 amends the Tax Code to exempt the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle used by a nonprofit food bank or by a provider of housing and related services to certain homeless individuals from taxes on the sale, use, or rental of the motor vehicle.

House Bill 4230

House Author: Metcalf et al.

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 4230 amends the Natural Resources Code to provide for the establishment of a hike and bike trail network, to be known as the Bicentennial Trail, to connect the Alamo to the State Capitol, and to include hike and bike trail connections to Barton Springs, San Marcos Springs, Comal Springs, and San Antonio Springs, for the purposes of promoting outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and the historical and cultural heritage of the state.

House Bill 4236

House Author: Martinez Fischer et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 4236 creates a study group to hold a single public meeting to examine the use and effect of the public school district property value study conducted by the comptroller of public accounts in the annual distribution of state financial aid for public education and to develop recommendations on alternative methods for verifying that valuations of complex properties are determined appropriately and included in the comptroller's study.

House Bill 4238

House Author: Meyer et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4238 amends the Finance Code to prohibit a creditor, debt collector, or third-party debt collector that receives from a consumer a court order declaring the consumer a victim of identity theft from attempting to collect a consumer debt or a portion of consumer debt that is a result of the identity

theft described by the order. The bill requires the creditor or collector to cease efforts to collect the disputed debt or disputed portion of the debt from the victim not later than the seventh business day after receiving the notice and send to each person who previously received a report relating to that debt from the creditor or collector notice that the debt is disputed and not collectible from the victim. The bill prohibits the creditor or collector from selling the debt or transferring it for consideration, except to collect the debt from the alleged perpetrator of identity theft or from a responsible person other than the victim. The creditor or collector may enforce a security interest under applicable state law if the disputed debt or disputed portion of the debt is secured by tangible personal property, but they may not collect or seek to collect any deficiency from the victim.

House Bill 4238 further establishes that a creditor, debt collector, or third-party debt collector has standing to bring and may bring an action to exercise any right, seek any remedy, or use any lawful means to collect a consumer debt or a portion of consumer debt that is disputed under the bill from an alleged perpetrator of identity theft who by means of identity theft obtained, used, or possessed the money, goods, services, or property of the consumer who is a victim of the alleged perpetrator's identity theft.

House Bill 4263

House Author: Cook
Senate Sponsor: Perry

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4263 amends the Human Resources Code to replace the requirement for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to establish procedures and practices governing disciplinary actions within TJJD, including a procedure allowing a TJJD employee to elect to participate in an independent dismissal mediation if the employee is recommended for dismissal, with a requirement for TJJD to establish procedures and practices governing grievances challenging disciplinary termination of employment.

House Bill 4263 revises the criteria relating to the membership of a panel for reviewing and determining whether a child who has completed the child's minimum length of stay should be discharged from the custody of TJJD, be released under supervision, or remain in TJJD custody for an additional period of time.

House Bill 4264

House Author: Hefner

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4264 amends the Government Code to authorize the governor's criminal justice division to establish a grant program for the public purpose of fostering the professional development of peace officers employed in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill requires the criminal justice division to award program grants in an amount equal to \$6,500 for each award and restricts a law enforcement agency's use of grant money to increasing the compensation of the applicable employee.

House Bill 4281

House Author: McQueeney et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4281 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to make a person who engages in fraudulent crowdfunding by collecting donations on behalf of a donee with the intent to keep the donations instead of giving the donations to the donee on whose behalf the donations were made liable to the donee or the donee's estate. The bill requires a court to award 125 percent of the amount of donations the defendant collected on behalf of the donee and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees to a claimant who prevails in such an action. The bill establishes that nothing in its provisions prevents a claimant from pursuing a claim for exemplary damages for the defendant's fraudulent crowdfunding.

House Bill 4285

House Author: McQueeney et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4285 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to authorize a passenger transportation permit holder to store alcoholic beverages at a location within five miles of any airport regularly served by the permittee in the same county as the airport.

House Bill 4310

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4310 amends the Government Code to authorize a member of the governing board of a nongovernmental entity or governmental body, other than a legislative agency, to inspect or duplicate public information maintained by the entity. With respect to the request of such information, the bill requires the information to be provided to the requesting member promptly and without charge, establishes that information subject to attorney-client privilege is not subject to disclosure, and provides for the following:

- a determination by the attorney general regarding the confidentiality of requested public information;
- the redaction of public information that is confidential; and
- a confidentiality agreement relating to such public information.

The bill authorizes a member of a governing board who makes a public information request under the bill's provisions, if the entity fails or refuses to comply with an applicable requirement, to file a motion, petition, or other appropriate pleading for a writ of mandamus to compel the entity to comply.

House Bill 4325

House Author: Moody et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 4325 amends the Government Code to increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000 the amount of the civil penalty to be recovered from each person who engaged in certain conduct constituting barratry in a civil action filed by a person who was solicited but did not enter into a contract as a result of that conduct and prevails in the action.

House Bill 4341

House Author: McLaughlin
Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 4341 amends the Government Code to require certain critical infrastructure facilities to provide to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and appropriate public safety agencies an accurate emergency response map of the facility and an opportunity to tour the facility using that map to verify the map's accuracy. Among other provisions, the bill requires TDEM to establish and administer a grant program to provide mapping services for applicable critical infrastructure facilities to develop the required emergency response maps and establishes the critical infrastructure emergency response map fund to administer the grant program.

House Bill 4344

House Author: Hernandez
Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4344 amends the Government Code to include a current employee of, or a person who contracts or may contract to provide goods or services for, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)

among the individuals for which the PUC is entitled to obtain criminal history record information. The bill also entitles the PUC to obtain applicable information through the FBI and from any other criminal justice agency in Texas and removes the discretion of the PUC to destroy criminal history record information after the information is used for its authorized purpose.

House Bill 4350

House Author: Capriglione et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4350 amends the Property Code to require a county clerk or a provider with which the county commissioners court contracts to provide an applicable online database for real property records to omit or redact certain personal information of a peace officer and of a special investigator from a real property record instrument in the publicly available online database if the clerk receives a written request from the person to do so. Moreover, a county clerk or provider who omits or redacts information from an instrument must display on the website of the online database in which the instrument is available to the public a clear and conspicuous statement that:

- in accordance with state law, information has been redacted from certain instruments in the database; and
- the online database does not constitute the official repository of real property records and may not reflect the complete or unaltered contents of those records as maintained in the official real property records.

House Bill 4361

House Author: Ward Johnson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 4361 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with administrators, faculty, staff, and students at public institutions of higher education, to adopt rules regarding standardized procedures for timely issuing emergency notifications in accordance with the federal Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act.

House Bill 4370

House Author: Metcalf et al.

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4370 amends the Local Government Code and Water Code to provide for the following special districts to authorize a project related to geothermal water conveyance systems:

- a public improvement district;
- a municipal management district;
- a water control and improvement district;
- a fresh water supply district; and
- a municipal utility district.

House Bill 4377

House Author: Villalobos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4377 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and any testing laboratory used by DFPS to promptly destroy any genetic material and delete any genetic information obtained from an individual for the purpose of a genetic test after the purpose for which the sample was obtained is accomplished. However, the bill requires DFPS to retain the results of a genetic test and provides for the confidentiality of those results.

House Bill 4384**House Author:** Darby**Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Energy Resources**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 4384 amends the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to provide for a gas utility to defer for future recovery as a regulatory asset post in-service carrying costs, as well as depreciation and property taxes associated with an unrecovered gross plant.

House Bill 4386**House Author:** Wharton**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Insurance**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4386 amends the Insurance Code to set out procedures for processing an exchange of an annuity contract. The bill requires the replacing insurer to provide the existing insurer an exchange request notice containing specified information and sets a deadline by which the existing insurer must send to the contract owner a letter regarding the right to receive information regarding the existing policy or contract values. The bill requires the existing insurer to transfer the contract value of the existing annuity to the replacing insurer not later than the 30th business day after the date the existing insurer receives the notice with all required information, with certain exceptions, and provides for payment of penalty interest if a required transfer payment is not completed within the applicable period.

House Bill 4386 also sets out procedures for processing a request for the surrender of an annuity contract. The bill requires the contract owner to submit a surrender request to the insurer in the form and manner required by the insurer and requires an insurer that issues an annuity contract to make available to the contract owner the form and manner in which the contract owner may submit such a request. The bill requires the insurer to transfer the current cash surrender value of the annuity contract to the contract owner not later than the 30th business day after the date the insurer receives the request with all required information, with certain exceptions, and provides for payment of penalty interest if a required payment of a cash surrender value is not completed within the applicable period.

House Bill 4395**House Author:** Turner et al.**Senate Sponsor:** West**Effective:** 1-1-26**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4395 amends the Government Code to require electronic submission of public securities and related records of proceedings or credit agreements that an issuer is required to submit to the attorney general for approval and any amendment to such a document that has been approved or registered. The bill also requires electronic delivery of the documents that the attorney general is required to deliver to the comptroller of public accounts regarding an approved public security.

House Bill 4396**House Author:** King**Senate Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 4396 amends the Government Code to make the American Performance Horseman and the American Rodeo eligible for funding under the major events reimbursement program.

House Bill 4413

House Author: Paul et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 4413 amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by rule to identify third-party certification systems for mass balance attribution that may be used for the purposes of renewable chemicals.

House Bill 4426

House Author: Darby

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Bill 4426 amends the Natural Resources Code to make a permit for a commercial surface disposal facility valid for a maximum term of 10 years and to establish that the permit carries with it the right to apply for successive renewal on expiration for areas within the existing permit's boundaries. The bill authorizes the Railroad Commission of Texas to consider an applicant's certain compliance history in determining the proper term of a new, amended, or renewal permit.

House Bill 4429

House Author: McQueeney et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 4429 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 281 in Blanco and Burnet Counties as the Muckleroy Family Memorial Highway.

House Bill 4449

House Author: Smithee

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4449 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to establish that an area annexed to the City of Canyon assumes the city's wet or dry status.

House Bill 4454

House Author: Vo

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4454 amends the Health and Safety Code and Occupations Code to establish the task force on patient solicitation to study and make recommendations on preventing conduct that violates the Treatment Facilities Marketing Practices Act or Occupations Code provisions prohibiting the solicitation of patients by health professionals and to improve enforcement of that act and those provisions. Among other provisions, the bill sets out and revises provisions of that act relating to its legislative purpose, prohibited conduct, and penalty amounts. With respect to those Occupations Code provisions, the bill expands the conduct that constitutes the offenses of soliciting patients, failure to disclose regarding the solicitation of a patient, and solicitation of patients regarding the healing arts.

House Bill 4463

House Author: VanDeaver

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4463 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to provide for the authority of brewer's and nonresident brewer's license holders to contract for manufacturing services and the use of manufacturing facilities and of nonresident brewers to transport malt beverages into Texas from multiple out-of-state locations without needing a separate license for each location. The bill also conditions a nonresident

brewer's license holder's authority to solicit, accept, or fill malt beverage orders from a brewer's or distributor's license holder on the nonresident license holder being the primary American source of supply for the brand of malt beverages ordered.

House Bill 4464

House Author: González, Mary et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4464 amends the Labor Code to establish that, for purposes of workers' compensation insurance coverage for certain government employees under applicable state law, service with Texas Task Force 1, an intrastate fire mutual aid system team, or a regional incident management team, as applicable, by an employee is considered to be in the course and scope of the employee's regular employment and is included in such coverage. This provision applies only to an employee, as specified by the bill, who is a member of Texas Task Force 1 or a member of an intrastate fire mutual aid system team or a regional incident management team and is activated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) or is injured during training that is sponsored or sanctioned by TDEM or Texas Task Force 1.

Among other provisions, House Bill 4464 amends the Education Code to do the following with respect to statutory provisions governing workers' compensation insurance coverage for Texas Task Force 1 members, intrastate fire mutual aid system teams, and regional incident management teams:

- revise the definition of "local government employee member" as a member employed by an applicable local government by specifying that the member be an employee to whom statutory provisions governing workers' compensation insurance coverage for employees of a political subdivision apply;
- establish that service with Texas Task Force 1, an intrastate fire mutual aid system team, or a regional incident management team, as applicable, by a local government employee member who is activated is considered to be service that is in the course and scope of the employee's regular employment with the political subdivision for such coverage entitlement purposes; and
- repeal provisions that include a participating nongovernment member in the workers' compensation insurance coverage provided under applicable state law for state employees in the same manner as such an employee during any period in which Texas Task Force 1, an intrastate fire mutual aid system team, or a regional incident management team is activated by TDEM, or during any training session sponsored or sanctioned by TDEM or Texas Task Force 1, as applicable.

House Bill 4466

House Author: Hickland et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4466 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk, on request of a county or a child welfare board appointed by a county commissioners court, to issue a certified copy of a birth record to the county or board free of charge if the request is related to a child protection suit filed by a governmental entity.

House Bill 4486

House Author: Bonnen

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4486 appropriates money for the payment of certain itemized claims and judgments plus any interest against the State of Texas from the general revenue fund, the state highway fund, the federal disaster fund, the coronavirus relief fund, the Economic Stabilization Fund, the sales tax guaranty trust

account, and the suspense account established by the comptroller of public accounts and the attorney general in the general revenue fund.

House Bill 4488

Effective: See below

House Author: Bonnen

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4488, the biennial funds consolidation bill, abolishes all funds and accounts created or re-created and all dedications or rededications of revenue collected by a state agency for a particular purpose by an Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, except those specifically exempted from abolishment under the bill's provisions. The bill creates and re-creates certain accounts and funds and requires revenue that otherwise would be deposited to the credit of a special account or fund to instead be deposited to the credit of the undedicated portion of the general revenue fund unless the fund, account, or dedication is exempted under the bill's provisions.

Effective September 1, 2025, House Bill 4488 amends the Government Code and Transportation Code to postpone the expiration date of statutory provisions governing the use of dedicated revenue in treasury funds and revise the deadline by which the comptroller of public accounts is required to eliminate all dedicated accounts for specialty license plates.

Except as otherwise provided, House Bill 4488 takes effect June 20, 2025.

House Bill 4490

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Smithee et al.

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4490 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish that information relating to the next of kin of a decedent is excepted from required public disclosure in accordance with state public information law but is subject to disclosure under subpoena or authority of other law.

House Bill 4506

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Bonnen

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4506 amends the Local Government Code to provide for the electronic delivery by a municipality of a municipal zoning notice by requiring a municipality that intends to deliver such notice electronically to establish an online portal on the municipality's website through which a notice recipient may elect to receive, and may manage preferences for receiving, notice electronically.

House Bill 4520

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Martinez

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 4520 amends the Transportation Code to decrease from 10 to 5 the percent of the total cost of an airport project that must be provided by sources other than the state before the Texas Transportation Commission approves a loan or grant to a state agency or governmental entity for the airport if the airport is located in an economically disadvantaged county. The bill also repeals a provision making statutory provisions establishing the Texas Department of Transportation as an agent of the state and of a political subdivision for purposes of actions relating to federal funds inapplicable to a reliever airport.

House Bill 4529**House Author:** Hefner**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4529 amends the Human Resources Code to exempt from state licensing requirements for the operation of a child-care facility or child-placing agency a child-care facility located on a federal military base or other federal property that maintains a certificate to operate issued by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and a military family child-care provider that maintains a DOD-issued certificate to operate.

House Bill 4530**House Author:** Romero et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**Effective:** Vetoed**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 4530 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code and Water Code to revise provisions relating to the Texas Water Trust and the Texas Water Bank, including requiring that the dedication of any groundwater rights placed in trust be reviewed and approved by the Texas Water Development Board.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The Texas Water Development Board serves a vital purpose in overseeing our State's future water supply, including managing the Texas Water Trust to support environmental needs interconnected with surface water. House Bill No. 4530 would allow private individuals to dedicate their groundwater to the Trust. But it fails to explain *how* groundwater percolating below the surface of the Earth is to be transferred to a surface water trust focused on instream flows, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and bay and estuary inflows. It also fails to explain how to accurately measure the amount of groundwater added to the Trust. While I support individual liberty—including the liberty to alienate private property rights—this bill does not consider the means necessary to achieve its goal. Therefore, I disapprove of this bill."

House Bill 4535**House Author:** McQueeney et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4535 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a health care provider, before administering a COVID-19 vaccination, to obtain written informed consent from the individual receiving the vaccination or, for an individual who is a minor or who lacks the mental capacity to provide informed consent, from the individual's parent, guardian, or conservator, as applicable. The bill provides for the development of a standardized information sheet regarding the COVID-19 vaccination and requires such informed consent to include an acknowledgment that the individual providing consent received the information sheet.

House Bill 4559**House Author:** Olcott**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4559 repeals a defunct Government Code chapter relating to membership dues.

House Bill 4623**House Author:** Little et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Paxton et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 4623 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to make an independent school district or open-enrollment charter school that is grossly negligent or reckless, or engages in intentional misconduct, in hiring, supervising, or employing a professional school employee liable for an act or omission that is

committed by the employee against a student enrolled in the district or charter school that is one of the following:

- sexual misconduct; or
- failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

In such an action against a district or charter school, the professional school employee who committed the act or omission on which the claim is based must be named as a defendant. The bill requires a claimant who prevails in an action to be awarded actual damages in a maximum amount of \$500,000 for each claimant and entitles a party who prevails in an action to court costs and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees. The remedies authorized by the bill's provisions are in addition to any other legal remedies.

House Bill 4623 waives a district's or charter school's governmental immunity to suit and from liability to the extent of liability created by the bill's provisions and prohibits a professional school employee from asserting official immunity in an action brought under the bill.

House Bill 4630

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Kitzman

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 4630 amends the Water Code to establish that, other than certain provisions, statutory water rights provisions relating to artesian wells apply only to an artesian well drilled outside the boundaries of a groundwater conservation district, subsidence district, or other conservation and reclamation district with the authority to regulate the drilling, spacing, or production of water wells. The bill repeals certain record and reporting requirements relating to artesian wells.

House Bill 4638

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Bonnen

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4638 amends the Government Code to increase the membership of the governor-appointed board that governs the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative, establish staggered terms of service for board members, and provide for the method of filling board vacancies. The bill also changes the frequency with which the board must prepare and submit a business plan on certain initiative matters and includes among the required topics of the business plan providing recommendations on best practices and cost savings related to the provision of pharmacy benefits using program utilization. The bill postpones the expiration of provisions governing the initiative from September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2027.

House Bill 4643

Effective: 6-20-25

House Author: Dorazio

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

Previous law entitled the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), an agency operating part of Medicaid, and HHSC's Office of Inspector General to obtain criminal history record information relating to a provider under Medicaid or a person applying to enroll as such a provider. House Bill 4643 expands that entitlement to include any agency operating any part of a public benefits program, including Medicaid, and clarifies the information that HHSC or the office may obtain.

House Bill 4655

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Hull

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4655 amends the Family Code to revise the instruction that must be provided by the financial literacy education program that is part of the experiential life-skills training for foster children

transitioning to independent living. The bill requires the Department of Family and Protective Services to ensure that the transition plan for each youth 16 years of age or older includes information about securing or transferring governmental assistance the youth may qualify for.

House Bill 4666

House Author: Manuel et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4666 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to reduce the frequency of submission of certain reports by the Health and Human Services Commission to the legislature and the governor.

House Bill 4668

House Author: King et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4668 amends the Utilities Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to retain any consultant, accountant, auditor, engineer, or attorney the PUC considers necessary to represent the PUC in certain proceedings before a regional transmission organization or before a court reviewing proceedings of such an organization. The bill includes specific kinds of assistance for which such a person may be retained and provides for the payment and recovery of certain costs related to such a proceeding.

House Bill 4668 requires the PUC to seek approval from the attorney general before retaining such a consultant, accountant, auditor, or engineer and establishes that the PUC is precluded from engaging any individual required to register as a lobbyist.

House Bill 4687

House Author: Gervin-Hawkins et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 4687 amends the Education Code to establish that a member of the governing body of a charter school campus or program is immune from liability and suit to the same extent as a public school district trustee. The bill additionally establishes that, in matters related to the operation of an adult high school charter school program, an entity eligible for a charter to operate such a program is immune from liability and suit to the same extent as a public school district. Furthermore, the entity's employees and volunteers are immune from liability and suit to the same extent as district employees and volunteers, and a member of the entity's governing body is immune from liability and suit to the same extent as a district trustee.

House Bill 4690

House Author: Gerdes

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4690 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) to set by rule the minimum quality standards for motor fuel sold or offered for sale in Texas to the most recently adopted or amended petroleum standards on the date of the sale by ASTM International. Accordingly, the bill repeals provisions that previously established minimum motor fuel quality and testing standards. Among other provisions, the bill establishes certain exceptions to the motor fuel quality standards and requires TCLR to set by rule specifications and tolerances for motor fuel metering devices to be the same as the most recently adopted or amended standards recommended by the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the time the device is used.

House Bill 4738

House Author: Geren

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4738 amends the Finance Code to remove authorizations for a specified portion of each administrative fee for non-real property consumer loans and secondary mortgage consumer loans to be deposited with the comptroller of public accounts for use in carrying out the responsibilities of the Finance Commission of Texas relating to a financial services study.

House Bill 4739

House Author: Geren

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4739 repeals a Finance Code provision that requires a portion of certain retail charge agreement delinquency fees to be remitted to the comptroller of public accounts and appropriated for the purpose of financing research and financial education and counseling services facilitated by the consumer credit commissioner.

House Bill 4743

House Author: Bonnen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4743 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Department of State Health Services to issue one license for a hospital and a mobile stroke unit of the hospital if the mobile stroke unit is accredited by a health care accreditation organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

House Bill 4748

House Author: Curry

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4748 amends the Government Code to authorize the comptroller of public accounts or a state agency to use a multiple award purchasing procedure to award a contract to more than one vendor for the purchase of similar goods or services as necessary to ensure adequate delivery, service, or product compatibility. The bill sets out requirements relating to such a procedure, including required disclosure of intent, the awarding of contracts, and ordering.

House Bill 4749

House Author: Landgraf

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4749 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to expand the petit jury wheel and pool from which grand jurors are selected in counties with a population of less than 1,000 by providing for certain exceptions from standard jury qualifications and impaneling requirements. The bill also authorizes summons for jury service in such a county to be conducted by the clerk, the sheriff, or a bailiff, or an assistant or deputy bailiff, in charge of the central jury room and the general panel of the county.

House Bill 4751**House Author:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4751 amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Quantum Initiative as a program in the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) for the purposes of establishing and advancing the state's position as a leader in the quantum industry and accelerating the integration of quantum computing, networking, and sensing technology into the state economy. The bill requires TEDTO to hire a director for the initiative, establishes a governor-appointed advisory committee for the initiative, and describes the duties of the advisory committee. The bill provides for an annual strategic plan, developed by TEDTO, for the promotion of the quantum economy in Texas and for a biennial report outlining specified information, including certain activities of the initiative and research and funding opportunities.

House Bill 4751 creates the Quantum University and Business Innovation for Texas Fund within the general revenue fund to pay for staffing costs of the Texas Quantum Initiative and to award grants to state entities and business entities. Implementation of a provision of this bill before September 1, 2029, by a state agency is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

House Bill 4753**House Author:** Gates et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4753 amends the Local Government Code to require a municipality to issue a document to the owner of a building verifying that the municipality has issued an original certificate of occupancy for the building if the owner requests the document and the municipality has a record of the original certificate's issuance. The bill prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing a measure that requires a building owner issued such a document for the building to obtain or display the building's original certificate of occupancy. The bill requires a municipality to allow a building owner to display a document verifying issuance of an original certificate of occupancy in lieu of that original certificate.

House Bill 4765**House Author:** Phelan**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4765 amends the Occupations Code to update statutory provisions relating to the regulation of code enforcement officers and code enforcement officers in training.

House Bill 4783**House Author:** VanDeaver**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4783 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to prepare and submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a biennial report evaluating the distribution of opioid antagonists in Texas to reverse and prevent opioid overdoses. The bill sets out the required report contents and requires HHSC, in preparing the report, to coordinate and consult with each state agency and institution of higher education that receives funding or other resources for the distribution of opioid antagonists.

House Bill 4795

House Author: Noble et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4795 amends the Family Code to include the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) among the entities whose request triggers the requirement for the vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services to do the following:

- identify the court that last had continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a child in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship and give the docket number of the suit; or
- state that the child has not been the subject of a suit.

The bill removes the requirement that such a request by an applicable entity be in writing and requires the vital statistics unit to establish an electronic process through which DFPS may request such information. The bill requires the vital statistics unit to establish an electronic process through which DFPS may request a certificate of the results of a search of the paternity registry and specifies that the required signature on such a certificate may be digitized or written.

House Bill 4804

House Author: Hefner

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 4804 amends the Transportation Code to make statutory provisions relating to the automatic revocation of a personal identification certificate or a driver's license of a person who is required to register as a sex offender but fails to apply for renewal of the certificate or license applicable also with respect to the terrorist offender registration program. The bill repeals certain provisions relating to the effective date of a disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle and notice, hearing, and appeal procedures applicable to such a disqualification.

House Bill 4809

House Author: Meyer

Senate Sponsor: West

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4809 amends the Tax Code to entitle a property owner to protest before the appraisal review board a determination of the following:

- the appraised value of a structure or archeological site that qualifies for an exemption as a historic or archeological site;
- the appraised value of the land necessary to access the structure or site; and
- the allocation of the appraised value between the structure or site and the land.

House Bill 4809 authorizes a property owner, for purposes of a structure or archeological site and land subject to a historic or archeological site property tax exemption, to protest the appraised value of the structure or archeological site and the appraised value of the land separately. The bill authorizes the property owner to protest the allocation of appraised value between the structure or archeological site and the land.

House Bill 4848

House Author: Harris Davila et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 4848 amends the Education Code to require the system administration of each university system to ensure that one or more institutions of higher education in the system offer competency-based baccalaureate degree programs in each field of study in high demand, as determined by the Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The bill caps the total cost of such a degree program to an enrolled student at an amount equal to one-half of the average cost of attendance at a public institution of higher education, which is also determined by the THECB, and provides for the annual adjustment of that cap to account for inflation.

House Bill 4850

House Author: Button et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 4850 amends the Government Code to make a variety of changes to certain programs within the office of the governor and the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO). With respect to the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium, the bill requires TEDTO to develop a strategic plan for the promotion of the semiconductor economy in Texas and makes the following additional changes:

- revises the consortium's purpose and revises the terms and duties of executive committee members;
- clarifies TEDTO's duties to hire or otherwise provide staff and necessary facilities;
- repeals the authorization for the executive director to enter into agreements with the office of the governor for staff support services and requires the executive director to direct assigned staff instead; and
- revises provisions regarding the preparation of the consortium's biennial report.

With respect to other programs, the bill does the following:

- eliminates the governor's broadband development council;
- changes the threshold for what constitutes a "Made in Texas" product;
- adds another member to the aerospace and aviation advisory committee; and
- removes the use of a statewide toll-free telephone service by the Texas Business and Community Economic Development Clearinghouse as a means of providing information and assistance.

House Bill 4885

House Author: Moody

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4885 amends the Family Code to expand the entities to whom confidential facility records and information concerning a child may be disclosed under the juvenile justice code and that may inspect or copy confidential records of a juvenile probation department, prosecuting attorney, juvenile court, or clerk of court relating to a child who is a party to a proceeding under that code to include a managed assigned counsel program responsible for appointing an attorney to represent the child in a juvenile delinquency proceeding to determine indigence or fulfill the program's duties in appointing and overseeing appointed counsel once a request for appointed counsel is made.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "I veto this bill."

House Bill 4894

House Author: Flores

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4894 amends the Special District Local Laws Code and session law to change the Creedmoor Municipal Utility District's boundaries.

House Bill 4903

House Author: Harris Davila et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Sponsor: Birdwell et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4903 amends the Human Resources Code to establish the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative to foster collaboration, coordinate policies, and review and recommend actions to streamline regulations between the participating agencies that govern child care in Texas, including the Texas Workforce Commission, the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Texas Education Agency. The bill also establishes the Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative Commission to lead the initiative and provides for commission membership, commission meetings, and interagency staffing. The bill requires the commission to do the following:

- coordinate participating agency initiatives that impact the cost, quality, or accessibility of child care;
- consider and start interagency initiatives to expand access to quality, affordable child care; and
- review and recommend actions to streamline existing or proposed regulations, rules, policies, or any other participating agency actions that impact the child-care industry.

The chair of the commission may initiate an independent review by the commission of any existing or proposed regulation, rule, policy, or other participating agency action that may impact the cost, quality, or accessibility of child care.

House Bill 4904

House Author: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4904 amends the Transportation Code to exempt an owner of property on which instruction on motorcycle operation and safety by an instructor or an instructor training course takes place from liability for any act or omission that occurs during the instruction or course, excluding a cause of action arising from an act or omission constituting gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

House Bill 4945

House Author: Ashby et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4945 amends the Government Code to require the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to conduct a study on the feasibility of offering alternative service retirement benefits to members who are Texas A&M Forest Service wildland firefighters and are employed in positions related to wildland firefighting. The bill provides for the study to assess the costs and impacts of two new tiers of benefits, to be named Hazardous Duty and Hazardous Duty-Administrative Support, and prescribes retirement eligibility criteria for those tiers. The bill also prescribes the standard service retirement annuity amount for those tiers, which includes a supplemental benefit for certain members, and requires TRS to make certain determinations relating to the proposed alternative benefits in coordination with the forest service. The bill requires TRS to prepare and submit a report to the legislature that contains the findings of the study and the determinations and requires the Legislative Budget Board and State Pensions Review Board to assist TRS in conducting the study and provide TRS with any information needed to complete the report.

House Bill 4995**House Author:** Wilson**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 4995 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Government Code, and Penal Code to require the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety to establish minimum standards for an initial training course and annual continuing education course that a tactical medical professional who is a handgun license holder may complete to receive a certification of completion. The bill sets out requirements for such a training course and provides for a defense to prosecution for specified offenses for a tactical medical professional who holds an unexpired certificate of completion for such a course at the time of engaging in the applicable conduct. The bill provides for certain limitation of governmental liability regarding the discharge of a handgun by a tactical medical professional who is licensed to carry a handgun.

House Bill 4996**House Author:** Dyson et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development**Senate Sponsor:** Flores**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 4996 amends the Penal Code to increase the penalty for refusal to execute the release of a fraudulent lien or claim from a Class A misdemeanor to a third degree felony if the owner of the real or personal property subject to the fraudulent lien or claim is a person the actor knows is a public servant.

House Bill 5033**House Author:** Bell, Keith et al.**Effective:** See below**House Committee:** Environmental Regulation**Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al.**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources

House Bill 5033 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to establish that, contingent on certain federal action, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Department of Public Safety are not required to implement or enforce applicable statutory provisions or requirements relating to vehicle emissions inspections. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

House Bill 5057**House Author:** Landgraf**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Environmental Regulation**Senate Sponsor:** Nichols**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5057 amends the Comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Management, Resource Recovery, and Conservation Act, Health and Safety Code, to require a public agency that enters into an exclusive contract for municipal solid waste management services to give notice containing a summary of the purpose of the contract and a description of the change made by the contract.

House Bill 5061**House Author:** Leach et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 5061, the Texas Integrity in State Contracting and Privacy Protection Act, amends the Government Code to prohibit a contractor or subcontractor of a state agency or a vendor responding to a contract solicitation from directly or indirectly doing the following:

- engaging in surveillance targeting a legislator or employee who supports the legislature, such a person's family member, a state agency employee, or an individual making a complaint or raising concerns regarding state agency operations or contracting;

- engaging in certain conduct intended to influence, silence, or retaliate against an applicable individual; or
- using private or confidential information to manipulate or influence a state contracting decision or proceeding.

The bill requires the State Auditor's Office (SAO) to oversee and enforce the bill's provisions and provides for a process to submit a complaint regarding a violation of those prohibitions, investigation of such a complaint by the SAO, and a penalty and liability structure for such a violation. The bill requires the SAO to notify the comptroller of public accounts of each final determination regarding a violation and requires the comptroller to distribute information regarding the determination to state agencies to ensure that the agency does not award a prohibited contract. The bill provides for an annual report that includes information on the complaints, investigations, and penalties recorded under the bill's provisions.

House Bill 5061 sets out provisions prohibiting retaliation against employees and whistleblowers, including provisions that do the following:

- establish that an employee or other person with knowledge of a violation of the bill's provisions has a cause of action against an employer or entity who disciplines, discriminates against, or retaliates against the person for reporting a violation or for initiating or cooperating in any investigation or proceeding relating to a state contract;
- authorize the petitioner to recover certain damages and costs and entitle the petitioner to injunctive relief, as applicable; and
- establish a deadline to bring suit or provide notice of intent to sue, the petitioner's burden of proof, and the role of the SAO in providing legal assistance to a petitioner.

House Bill 5081

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Leach

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 5081 amends the Government Code to prohibit a person from knowingly disseminating or from publicly posting or displaying on a publicly accessible website certain personal identifying information of specified at-risk individuals in the judicial system or an immediate family member of such an individual if the individual or the Office of Court Administration (OCA) submits to the person a written request under the bill's provisions. The bill requires a person, after receiving such a written request, to take specified actions to remove the personal identifying information. The bill requires OCA's judicial security division to develop a process by which a judge can file a written request with OCA's director to notify a person, on the judge's behalf, of a written request submitted by the judge to remove personal identifying information posted or displayed by the person on a publicly accessible website. Implementation of that requirement by OCA is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose. The bill prohibits a person, after receiving a request, from transferring the personal identifying information to any other person through any medium, with certain exceptions.

House Bill 5081 provides for a person to bring an action in a court seeking injunctive or declaratory relief for a violation of the bill's provisions. The bill creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for a person who does the following:

- intentionally posts certain personal identifying information of an at-risk individual or an immediate family member on a publicly accessible website without first obtaining consent and if the information is posted with intent to cause or threaten to cause harm to or harassment of the individual or the individual's immediate family member and, under the circumstances, harm to or harassment of the individual or family member is a probable consequence of the posting of the information; or

- as a person who is not a data broker, does not remove from a publicly accessible website controlled by the person certain personal identifying information identified in a written request submitted under the bill's provisions within 10 business days of receiving the request.

The bill enhances the penalty to a Class A misdemeanor if the offense results in the bodily injury of the individual whose information was posted on the website or an immediate family member.

House Bill 5084

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Gerdes et al.

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Sponsor: Gutierrez et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5084 amends the Occupations Code to provide for the sale of fireworks on and before the Lunar New Year holiday.

House Bill 5092

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Tepper

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5092 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise provisions governing the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority. Among other changes, the bill does the following:

- includes as purposes of the authority research related to national security and critical infrastructure conducted on the property formerly known as Reese Air Force Base and facilitation of the establishment of an applied research site in cooperation and collaboration with Texas Tech University (TTU);
- revises the composition of the authority's board of directors;
- removes the specification that the authority exercises its powers on approval by and in coordination with the governor;
- grants the authority the power to enter into interagency agreements with TTU as necessary to facilitate and support TTU research and development activities on base property or to facilitate the transfer of portions of the base property to TTU to further a purpose of the authority; and
- revises provisions relating to the dissolution of the authority.

The bill also amends the Education Code to establish that a facility transferred to TTU from the authority is not required to be included in a facilities inventory audit and is not subject to the facilities inventory rules of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board until the facility is placed in service and assigned an educational and general function by TTU.

House Bill 5093

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Bhojani et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Sponsor: Birdwell

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 5093 amends the Government Code to establish that state public information law provisions making a license application or certain personally identifying information of an applicant for a license, an individual who holds a license, or an individual who previously held a license issued by certain governmental bodies that is maintained by the governmental body confidential and excepting the information from the public-availability requirement do not prohibit the secretary of state from disclosing the home address, home telephone number, or email address of a notary public appointed under applicable state law.

House Bill 5115

Effective: 9-1-25

House Author: Shaheen et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 5115 amends the Election Code to revise the conduct and penalties for election fraud.

House Bill 5129

House Author: Noble et al.

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 5129, the Right to Privacy Act, amends the Government Code to prohibit a state agency from disseminating, without written consent, personal identifying information submitted to the agency for the purpose of obtaining certain occupational licenses, except as required or permitted by federal or state law or for a law enforcement-related purpose.

House Bill 5149

House Author: Villalobos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 5149 amends the Family Code to prohibit the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) from collecting or using a DNA sample from a child in the managing conservatorship of DFPS for any purpose without the written consent of an adult having actual care, control, and possession of the child as the child's primary caregiver or a court order.

House Bill 5154

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 5154 amends the Education Code to revise provisions governing the Joint Admission Medical Program and the Joint Admission Medical Program Council as follows:

- expands and revises the purposes of the program;
- prescribes the duties of the council's chair;
- requires the council to establish clear policies to ensure effective communication among council members;
- establishes notice requirements for council meetings;
- requires the council to pursue opportunities to increase scholarship money allocated to participating students to at least 30 percent of the total amount appropriated for purposes of the program without impeding the implementation of other program functions and goals and to ensure that participating students are aware of available counseling and relief services;
- expands the required content of the biennial report on the program; and
- requires the council to develop and maintain an online feedback portal for the program and to review complaints or recommendations submitted by participating students through the portal on a regular basis.

House Bill 5155

House Author: Rose et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 5155 amends the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to continue implementing the maternal opioid misuse model of care to the extent that money is available for that purpose and authorizes money in the opioid abatement account to be appropriated to HHSC for that purpose. Implementation of a provision of this bill by HHSC is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose, and the bill expires September 1, 2029.

House Bill 5180**House Author:** Wilson**Senate Sponsor:** Creighton**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Higher Education**Senate Committee:** Education K-16

House Bill 5180 amends the Education Code to require two diplomas to be issued to a student who is enrolled at a public institution of higher education when the institution changes its name or merges with or is acquired by another postsecondary educational institution and who graduates from the institution within six years of the name change, merger, or acquisition. One of the diplomas must be in the same style, design, or format designating the original name of the institution on the date the student initially enrolled, and the other must designate the name of the institution after the name change, merger, or acquisition. The bill prohibits an institution from charging a student an additional fee to receive such a diploma.

House Bill 5195**House Author:** Capriglione**Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Economic Development

House Bill 5195 amends the Government Code to require each state agency to assess its website and online service portals to identify areas for improvement in user accessibility, navigation, and digital service efficiency. The bill authorizes the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to establish a working group to facilitate information sharing and support consistency across agencies and requires DIR to do the following:

- provide guidance and technical assistance for use by state agencies in standardizing agency modernization planning efforts;
- develop and disseminate best practices for user-centered design, digital accessibility, and service integration; and
- submit a report to the legislature detailing the status of the digital modernization planning efforts and identifying common priorities and challenges.

The bill requires each state agency, in coordination with DIR and the Legislative Budget Board, to review biennially the implementation of the agency's digital modernization efforts and to submit the findings of the review to DIR. The bill requires DIR to submit a report on the findings to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house.

House Bill 5196**House Author:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 5196 amends the Government Code to revise the authorization for telework for employees of a state agency in the executive or judicial branch and to require an annual written agreement between an employee and the agency authorizing telework. The bill also requires such an agency that authorizes telework to develop a plan that addresses the agency's telework policies and procedures and to publish that plan on the agency's publicly accessible website.

House Bill 5238**House Author:** Lopez, Ray et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 5238 amends the Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the offense of disrupting a meeting or procession to include intentionally obstructing or interfering with an event by electronic disturbance, including hacking, of any virtual component of the event.

House Bill 5246

House Author: Bonnen

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 5246 amends the Government Code to revise provisions relating to the administration, powers, and duties of the Texas Space Commission, the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC), the aerospace and aviation office within the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, and other applicable entities and institutions regarding aerospace, aviation, and space exploration initiatives and activities. The bill does the following with respect to the Texas Space Commission:

- revises the purposes of the commission;
- revises the composition, powers, and duties of the commission's board of directors;
- provides for the authority of the commission to secure access to capacity on or through an orbital, suborbital, or extraterrestrial transport or habitation system;
- authorizes the commission's board to conduct a closed meeting for matters under board consideration relating to certain sensitive grant applications or certain defense, military, and aerospace issues; and
- provides for a biennial update to the commission's strategic plan for the promotion of space and aeronautics in Texas.

House Bill 5246 also sets out provisions relating to the authorized use of grants under the space exploration and aeronautics research fund. The bill repeals provisions governing the spaceport trust fund and provides for the fund's dissolution. The bill revises certain provisions relating to TARSEC, including its composition, general duties, and purposes as an advisory committee to the commission's board, and revises the composition of the aerospace and aviation advisory committee.

House Bill 5247

House Author: Geren

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 5247 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to provide for an alternative capital recovery process applicable only to an electric utility, other than a river authority, that operates solely inside ERCOT and was identified by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) as responsible for constructing transmission as part of the reliability plan for the Permian Basin approved by the PUC under applicable state law.

House Bill 5308

House Author: Cortez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Campbell

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 5308 amends the Government Code to grant the adjutant general all powers necessary for procurement related to construction of Texas military forces facilities and real property and all associated property and equipment.

House Bill 5320

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5320 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to replace the Starr County Drainage District and the Starr County Groundwater Conservation District with the Starr County Drainage and Groundwater Conservation District.

House Bill 5323**House Author:** King et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 5323 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to create the Texas Energy Waste Advisory Committee to make recommendations for coordinating and improving state agency and interagency programs that reduce energy waste, increase energy efficiency, and enhance demand response programs in order to increase reliability of electric service in the ERCOT power region. To improve that reliability, the committee must solicit information from and make recommendations to certain state agencies and organizations regarding state programs that have the potential to reduce demand for electricity in the ERCOT wholesale market during high risk hours identified by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

House Bill 5331**House Author:** Dean**Senate Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 6-20-25**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 5331 amends the Information Resources Management Act, Government Code, to clarify that contract language in a cybersecurity insurance contract or other contract for goods or services prohibiting or restricting a state agency's or local government's compliance with applicable security incident notification requirements or otherwise circumventing those requirements is void and unenforceable.

House Bill 5342**House Author:** Landgraf et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 5342 amends the Government Code to establish the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury to be administered by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The bill establishes the trust fund's contents, the authorized uses of money deposited in the trust fund, and the trust fund's objective. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the management of the trust fund's assets by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and requires HHSC, in collaboration with the Commission on State Emergency Communications and any other appropriate state agency, to conduct a study on the implementation of funding mechanisms to support the operation of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

House Bill 5394**House Author:** Rose**Senate Sponsor:** West**Effective:** 9-1-25**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 5394 amends the Family Code to prohibit a single source continuum contractor or a child-placing agency from subjecting a relative or designated caregiver to any requirement other than as provided by law or by Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) or Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) rule. The bill also prohibits such a contractor or child-placing agency from adopting any policies or procedures related to a relative or designated caregiver other than as authorized by law or DFPS or HHSC rule.

House Bill 5424**House Author:** Bonnen et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al.**Effective:** 9-1-26**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs**Senate Committee:** Local Government

Current law prohibits a fire department from compensating, reimbursing, or providing benefits to a person the department has designated as a volunteer or other auxiliary fire fighter to the extent that the

person would be considered fully paid fire protection personnel. House Bill 5424 amends the Government Code to remove that prohibition and to instead limit a fire department's compensation, reimbursement, or provision of benefits in a calendar year to an individual designated as such to 20 percent of the highest total compensation paid to full-time fire protection personnel by the applicable county.

House Bill 5435

House Author: Bell, Keith

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 5435 amends the Government Code to exempt a lease between a public institution of higher education and another person regarding public property from the requirement for certain leases regarding public property to contain a term requiring notice of commencement to be provided to a governmental entity at least 90 days before the date the construction, alteration, or repair of any improvement to the leased property begins.

House Bill 5436

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 5436 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a used automotive parts recycler to purchase a motor vehicle without obtaining a title to the vehicle under certain conditions. The bill requires such a recycler to do the following:

- compile certain information in the manner prescribed by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV);
- submit to TxDMV and to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System information necessary to satisfy applicable federal requirements; and
- verify whether the vehicle is subject to any recorded security interest or lien and, if applicable, provide notice to the county assessor-collector of the purchase.

The bill sets out requirements for a county assessor-collector regarding such a vehicle purchased by a recycler, including notifying the lienholder and the last registered vehicle owner. The bill also sets out provisions relating to a vehicle purchased under the bill's provisions that has been reported stolen, including required notification by TxDMV and exemption from liability.

House Bill 5436 creates a Class C misdemeanor offense for a person who knowingly violates the bill's provisions, fails to obtain or falsifies, as applicable, certain information required to be reported or compiled under the bill, or sells a vehicle that is the subject of a security interest or lien other than a security interest or lien described by the bill's provisions. The bill provides for penalty enhancements for a previous conviction for such an offense and restricts the use of money generated from penalties collected for offenses under the bill's provisions to enforcement, investigation, prosecution, and training activities related to motor vehicle related offenses.

House Bill 5437

House Author: Kitzman

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5437 validates and confirms the creation of the Austin County Municipal Utility District No. 1 and all related acts and proceedings, with certain exceptions.

House Bill 5509

House Author: Bumgarner et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5509 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the governing body of a municipality to suspend or revoke a certificate of occupancy for a hotel if, as follows:

- a law enforcement officer provides an affidavit of probable cause swearing that criminal human trafficking activity is occurring in the hotel;
- a court with criminal jurisdiction in the county in which the hotel is located issues an order stating the court's finding of probable cause that human trafficking activity is occurring at the hotel; and
- the municipality follows the procedures that are consistent with the suspension or revocation of a certificate of occupancy for any other type of business or use of land within the municipality.

House Bill 5515

House Author: Buckley

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 5515 amends the Education Code to prohibit a publisher or manufacturer of instructional materials from including in the price of instructional material a freight and shipping cost that exceeds the actual cost of delivering the instructional material or that includes a handling or similar charge that is not directly related to the shipment of physical copies of the instructional material.

House Bill 5534

House Author: Wilson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5534 amends the Government Code and Local Government Code to authorize the agenda for a meeting of the commissioners court and a notice for a meeting of a county governmental body to be posted by electronic display.

House Bill 5560

House Author: Harris et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 5560 amends the Water Code to increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the daily cap on the civil penalty amount that the board of directors of a groundwater conservation district may set for a violation of a district rule. The bill sets out factors a court is required to consider in determining the amount of such a penalty, provides for certain penalty deferral, and provides for certain recovery of a civil penalty by a water and sewer utility.

House Bill 5616

House Author: Howard et al.

Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Bill 5616 amends the Government Code to provide for the Texas Presidential Library Promotion Program, which is to be established and administered by the Texas Historical Commission to do the following:

- recognize that the presidential libraries in Texas are vital historical and educational resources that attract visitors from across the country and contribute to the state's cultural and economic landscape; and
- provide funding and support to the presidential libraries, promote tourism, and educate the public on the contributions of the presidents from Texas.

House Bill 5624

House Author: Buckley et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 5624 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt an individual or an entity engaged in the business of owning, operating, or leasing a motorized off-road vehicle area or sponsoring, sanctioning, endorsing, or officiating a motorized off-road vehicle activity from liability to any person for a motorized off-road vehicle activity participant injury if, at the time of the injury, a prescribed warning was posted in accordance with the bill's provisions. The bill's provisions expressly do not limit liability for an injury caused by certain negligence, intentional misconduct, or failure to train or improper training by a motorized off-road vehicle entity or a potentially dangerous condition at the area. The bill establishes that the doctrine of attractive nuisance does not apply to a claim made by a person for an injury that occurred in a motorized off-road vehicle area.

House Bill 5629

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 5629 amends the Occupations Code to revise certain provisions relating to alternative occupational licensing for military service members, military veterans, and military spouses, including prohibiting an applicable state agency from adopting rules requiring residency documentation for such an applicant. The bill also revises certain provisions relating to the recognition of out-of-state licenses of military service members and military spouses, including provisions that do the following:

- require certain information to be included in the license application to the applicable state agency;
- require the agency to notify an applicant regarding recognition of the out-of-state license; and
- remove the limitation on the period of time during which a military spouse may engage in a business or occupation with an out-of-state license.

Among other provisions, the bill establishes the conditions under which a person is considered to be in good standing with another state's licensing authority and provides for the publication and maintenance of records of complaints made against an applicable licensed military service member, military veteran, or military spouse.

House Bill 5646

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Hall et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 5646 amends the Education Code to entitle a person enrolled at a public institution of higher education to pay tuition and fees at the rates provided for Texas residents if the person is enrolled and in good standing in an ROTC program, enrolled in a corps of cadets, or enrolled in a corps of midshipmen. However, the bill clarifies that such a person is not considered a Texas resident for purposes of a financial aid program offered by the state.

House Bill 5646 also requires a senior military college or other general academic teaching institution that maintains a corps of cadets as a fraternal organization beyond training through an ROTC program, in making an admissions decision, to consider an applicant's intent to enlist in a branch of the U.S. armed forces or enroll in the corps of cadets.

House Bill 5650

House Author: Flores

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5650 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Travis County Municipal Utility District No. 40.

House Bill 5651

House Author: Metcalf

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5651 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Water Control and Improvement District No. 7.

House Bill 5652

House Author: Metcalf

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5652 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 258.

House Bill 5654

House Author: Metcalf

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 1-1-26

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5654 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 263.

House Bill 5655

House Author: Gates

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 5655 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District No. 13.

House Bill 5656

House Author: Lalani

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5656 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 263.

House Bill 5658

House Author: Patterson

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5658 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Craver Ranch Municipal Management District No. 1.

House Bill 5659

House Author: Dean et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 6-22-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 5659 amends the law to set out procedural requirements applicable to interbasin transfers of water involving the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District.

House Bill 5661

House Author: Gates

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5661 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 286.

House Bill 5662

House Author: Gates

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5662 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to grant the Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District No. 12 the power to undertake certain road projects.

House Bill 5664

House Author: Hefner

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5664 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise provisions relating to the operation of the Wood County Central Hospital District of Wood County, Texas as follows:

- provides for a certain increase in the number of district directors elected at large;
- reduces the frequency with which the district's books and records are required to be independently audited;
- restricts the investment of district funds to funds or securities specified by the Public Funds Investment Act; and
- provides for the district's depository to be one or more banks inside or outside of the district.

House Bill 5665

House Author: Kitzman

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5665 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 70.

House Bill 5666

House Author: Oliverson

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5666 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fenske Road Municipal Utility District of Harris County.

House Bill 5667

House Author: Olcott
Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 5667 amends the Human Resources Code to replace the provision designating the judge of the 43rd Judicial District as the chairman of the juvenile board of Parker County with a provision requiring the board to elect one of its members as chairman.

House Bill 5668

House Author: Spiller
Senate Sponsor: Parker

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5668 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Far North Fort Worth Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Tarrant and Wise Counties to define areas or designate certain property of the district and impose taxes and issue bonds in the defined area or designated property to pay for improvements, facilities, or services that primarily benefit that area or property and do not generally and directly benefit the district as a whole.

House Bill 5670

House Author: Holt
Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5670 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 259.

House Bill 5671

House Author: Kerwin
Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5671 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to director eligibility and bond authority for the Johnson County Special Utility District and repeals provisions that limit the district's powers.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "This session I signed laws that secure water resources for generations of Texans to come so that our great State can continue to thrive. As with any government investment, we must make sure it is properly managed with sufficient oversight. House Bill No. 5671 does the opposite. This bill removes TCEQ approval of water and wastewater construction projects that the Johnson County Special Utility District funds with bond debt. It is fiscally inefficient for the District to increase local government debt to build infrastructure without any input from TCEQ, which is charged with ensuring those investments, once constructed, meet legal drinking water and wastewater standards. For these reasons, I disapprove of this bill."

House Bill 5672

House Author: Zwiener
Senate Sponsor: Campbell

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5672 amends the law to expand the territory of the Driftwood Conservation District.

House Bill 5674

House Author: Wilson
Senate Sponsor: Flores

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5674 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the River Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Williamson County.

House Bill 5677

House Author: Cole

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5677 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Pura Vida Municipal Management District No. 1.

House Bill 5679

House Author: Geren

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5679 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Hills of Walnut Creek Municipal Utility District of Parker County.

House Bill 5680

House Author: Holt

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5680 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Bayou Belle Municipal Management District No. 1 in Liberty County.

House Bill 5682

House Author: Richardson

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5682 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Colmena Ranch Municipal Management District No. 1 in Collin County.

House Bill 5686

House Author: Metcalf

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5686 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Montgomery County Management District No. 3.

House Bill 5688

House Author: Lopez, Janie

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5688 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the San Benito Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Cameron County.

House Bill 5693

House Author: Manuel

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5693 amends the law to require the Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 to hold an election on the uniform election date in November of each odd-numbered year to elect the appropriate number of district commissioners.

House Bill 5695

House Author: Gerdes

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5695 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Sayers Ranch Municipal Utility District in Bastrop County.

House Bill 5696

House Author: Cook

Senate Sponsor: Birdwell

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5696 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create The Reserve Municipal Management District in the City of Mansfield.

House Bill 5698

House Author: Bell, Cecil

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: 6-20-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5698 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to rename the Harris-Montgomery Counties Management District as the Southeast Regional Management District and to revise procedures for appointing persons to serve on a succeeding board of directors for the district.

House Bill 5699

House Author: Schofield

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Effective: 9-1-25

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5699 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the exclusion, by contract, of property from the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 405.

House Joint Resolution 1

House Author: Meyer et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

For Election: 11-4-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Joint Resolution 1 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to increase the value of income-producing tangible personal property subject to exemption from property taxation to \$125,000 of the market value of the property.

House Joint Resolution 2

House Author: Geren et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

For Election: 11-4-25

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

House Joint Resolution 2 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to prohibit the legislature from doing the following:

- imposing a state tax on the property of a deceased individual's estate because of the death of the individual, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax;
- imposing a state tax that was not in effect on January 1, 2025, on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust to another individual, family, estate, or trust, including a tax on a generation-skipping transfer; or
- increasing the rate or expanding the applicability of such a state tax that was in effect on January 1, 2025, beyond the rate or applicability of the tax that was in effect on that date.

House Joint Resolution 4

House Author: Meyer et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

For Election: 11-4-25
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Finance

House Joint Resolution 4 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to prohibit the legislature from enacting a law that imposes an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on a securities transaction conducted by a registered securities market operator.

House Joint Resolution 7

House Author: Harris et al.
Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

For Election: 11-4-25
House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Finance

House Joint Resolution 7 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to provide for, in each state fiscal year from September 1, 2027, until August 31, 2047, the deposit to the credit of the Texas Water Fund of the first \$1 billion of the net revenue derived from state sales and use taxes that exceeds the first \$46.5 billion of that revenue coming into the treasury in that fiscal year. The resolution provides for the certain appropriation by the legislature of such deposits.

House Joint Resolution 34

House Author: Guillen
Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

For Election: 11-4-25
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Joint Resolution 34 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to authorize the legislature by general law to exempt from property taxation the amount of the market value of real property that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure.

House Joint Resolution 98

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Birdwell et al.

Effective: 5-12-25
House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Joint Resolution 98 applies to the U.S. Congress to call a convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal officials and members of Congress.

House Joint Resolution 99

House Author: Harris et al.
Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

For Election: 11-4-25
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Joint Resolution 99 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to authorize the legislature by general law to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail. The legislature by general law may provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

House Joint Resolution 133

House Author: Turner et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

For Election: 11-4-25
House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Joint Resolution 133 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to authorize the legislature by general law to entitle the surviving spouse of a veteran of the U.S. armed services who died as a result of a service-connected condition or disease to a property tax exemption of all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead.

Senate Bill 1**Senate Author:** Huffman et al.**House Sponsor:** Bonnen**Effective:** See below**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Appropriations

Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, as passed by the legislature, appropriated approximately \$338 billion for the 2026-2027 state fiscal biennium. However, following the regular session, the governor exercised his line-item veto authority to veto Section 17.30 of Article IX of the bill, which appropriated \$60 million from the general revenue fund in fiscal year 2027 to administer the implementation of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program for that fiscal year. The governor also vetoed the following provisions of Article IX:

- Section 18.30, a contingency rider for House Bill 5333, which did not pass;
- Section 18.37, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 16, which did not pass;
- Section 18.44, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 249, which did not pass;
- Section 18.58, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 1361, which did not pass;
- Section 18.60, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 1413, which did not pass; and
- Section 18.77, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 2487, which did not pass.

As a result of the line-item vetoes, roughly \$337.9 billion of the amount originally appropriated ultimately became law as part of the biennial state budget, of which \$175 billion is for state fiscal year 2026 and \$162 billion is for state fiscal year 2027. These amounts include all funding sources except interagency contracts. (Figures and percentages may not add up due to rounding.)

Of the total amount appropriated, more than \$157.2 billion, or roughly 46.5 percent, is derived from general revenue, both dedicated and undedicated. Another \$100.9 billion, or 29.9 percent, represents federal funding, while the remaining \$79.8 billion, or 23.6 percent, comes from other funds. The \$337.9 billion budgetary total for the 2026-2027 biennium represents an increase of roughly 5.5 percent compared to the budget approved for the 2024-2025 biennium.

Legislative appropriations for major governmental functions and services for the 2026-2027 biennium compared with appropriations for the 2024-2025 biennium are as follows, listed by budgetary article:

- Article I - General Government receives \$11.5 billion, an increase of 5.58 percent;
- Article II - Health and Human Services receives \$105.6 billion, an increase of 3.33 percent;
- Article III - Agencies of Education receives \$126.3 billion, an increase of 27.03 percent;
- Article IV - The Judiciary receives \$1.23 billion, an increase of 1.37 percent;
- Article V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice receives \$19.8 billion, an increase of 4.59 percent;
- Article VI - Natural Resources receives \$7.9 billion, a decrease of 7.78 percent;
- Article VII - Business and Economic Development receives \$48.5 billion, an increase of 5.68 percent;
- Article VIII - Regulatory receives \$6.7 billion, an increase of 625.53 percent, which includes \$5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund;
- Article IX - General Provisions receives \$10 billion, a decrease of 69.43 percent; and
- Article X - The Legislature receives \$540.3 million, an increase of 10.31 percent.

As part of these appropriations, the bill provides for \$51 billion to be used for the purpose of maintaining and providing new property tax cuts. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$8.5 billion to be used for the implementation of House Bill 2, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, which would increase state public education funding, including extra money for teacher pay raises and safety requirements.

Except for Sections 17.30, 18.30, 18.37, 18.44, 18.58, 18.60, and 18.77 of Article IX, which do not take effect due to the governor's vetoes, Senate Bill 1 takes effect September 1, 2025.

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 17.30 of Article IX: *"As the contingency portions of this rider detail, there is significant uncertainty regarding federal matching rates for this and other similar programs. Once there is more clarity about the long-term fiscal ramifications for creating such a program, the Legislature can reconsider funding this item."*

Governor's Reason for Veto of Sections 18.30, 18.37, 18.44, 18.58, 18.60, and 18.77 of Article IX: *"This veto deletes a contingency rider for legislation that did not pass."*

Senate Bill 2

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Buckley et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 2 amends the Education Code, Government Code, and Health and Safety Code to establish an education savings account program that provides funding for approved education-related expenses of participating children. Among other provisions governing the program's operation, the bill does the following:

- makes the comptroller of public accounts responsible for establishing and administering the program and provides for the selection of not more than five certified educational assistance organizations to support the program's administration;
- sets out provisions relating to biennial legislative appropriations for the program and caps the amount spent for the program at \$1 billion for the 2026-2027 state fiscal biennium;
- makes a child eligible to participate in the program if the child's parent establishes that the child is a citizen or national of the United States or was lawfully admitted into the United States and is eligible to attend a public school district or open-enrollment charter school or enroll in a district's or charter school's prekindergarten program;
- authorizes the parent of an eligible child to apply to the program and, in the event there are more acceptable applications than available positions due to insufficient funding, provides for applicants to be approved by lottery in the order of priority specified by the bill, which is based in part on household income;
- sets a cap on the total amount of money spent each year for purposes of participation in the program by children who are members of a household with a total annual income that is at or above 500 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;
- requires a participating parent to agree to certain conditions to receive funding under the program;
- provides for a process by which the comptroller preapproves education service providers and vendors of educational products for participation in the program;
- sets out grounds for suspension and removal of a preapproved provider or vendor;
- specifies the education-related expenses for which a participating parent may request that program money be spent and the manner of disbursement of program funds;
- sets the amount to be transferred to a participating child's account each school year at 85 percent of the estimated statewide average amount of state and local funding per student in average daily attendance for the most recent school year for which that information is available, but provides for certain additional amounts for a child with a disability and caps the amount for a home-schooled student at \$2,000 for a school year;
- provides for a district to conduct a full individual and initial evaluation of a child who is not enrolled in a district or charter school on request of the child's parent and, if applicable, develop an individualized education program for the child for purposes of establishing the child's eligibility to participate in the program as a child with a disability;
- provides for the effects of a child ceasing to participate in the program during a school year due to the child's enrollment in a public school;
- requires the provision of notice which states that a private school is not subject to federal and state laws regarding the provision of educational services to a child with a disability in the same manner as a district or charter school and provides information regarding rights to which such a child is entitled if attending a district or charter school;
- establishes audit requirements for the program;
- prohibits an education service provider or vendor of educational products from charging a participating child an amount greater than the standard amount charged for that service or product by the provider or vendor or in any manner rebating, refunding, or crediting to or sharing

with a program participant, or any person on behalf of a participant, any program money paid or owed by the participant to the provider or vendor;

- provides for an annual program report and for the collection and reporting of demographic information regarding participating children; and
- establishes the right of program participants, eligible children, education service providers, and vendors of educational products to intervene in any civil action challenging the constitutionality of the program.

Senate Bill 3

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: King

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 3 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise statutory provisions regulating the manufacture, distribution, and sale of consumable hemp products and to prohibit a consumable hemp product that contains any amount of a cannabinoid other than cannabidiol or cannabigerol from being sold at retail or otherwise introduced into commerce in Texas.

Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- prohibits a consumable hemp product manufacturer license holder from manufacturing such a prohibited consumable hemp product and provides for an initial \$10,000 licensing fee and additional license renewal requirements;
- revises testing requirements of consumable hemp products by requiring certain existing testing methods to be applied to all applicable products and by providing for the reporting of certain test results;
- provides for an annual \$20,000 registration fee for each location at which consumable hemp products are sold and conditions the sale of those products on consenting to physical inspections of the premises and other compliance measures;
- sets out requirements regarding consumable hemp product registration and creates a criminal offense for a person who distributes, delivers, sells, purchases, possesses, or uses an unregistered consumable hemp product;
- prohibits the sale of consumable hemp products that contain any artificial or synthetic cannabinoids or that contain or are mixed with alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, kratom, kava, or mushrooms;
- revises and subsequently expands the packaging and labeling requirements for consumable hemp products;
- creates felony and misdemeanor offenses relating to the manufacture, delivery, distribution, packaging, marketing, sale, and possession of consumable hemp products, including the sale of products near schools or to minors;
- provides for administrative enforcement by the Department of State Health Services of statutory provisions relating to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of consumable hemp products; and
- makes those statutory provisions inapplicable to cannabis regulated under the Texas Compassionate-Use Act and to certain hemp research.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texans on each side of the Senate Bill 3 debate raise serious concerns. But one thing is clear—to ensure the highest level of safety for minors, as well as for adults, who obtain a product more dangerous than what they expected, Texas must strongly regulate hemp, and it must do so *immediately*.

"Senate Bill 3 is well-intentioned. But it would never go into effect because of valid constitutional challenges. Litigation challenging the bill has already been filed, and the legal defects in the bill are undeniable. If I were to allow Senate Bill 3 to become law, its enforcement would be enjoined for years, leaving existing abuses unaddressed. Texas cannot afford to wait.

"This conclusion is not speculative. The only other State to attempt a ban like Senate Bill 3 is Arkansas. In 2023, Arkansas enacted Senate Bill 358, which (like this bill) would have criminalized hemp products that

Congress expressly legalized in the 2018 Farm Bill. That federal law converted hemp and hemp products from contraband to lawful commodities. The Arkansas law was challenged, and a federal court swiftly halted it in its entirety, finding it was likely preempted by federal statutes and that its criminal provisions were likely unconstitutionally vague. *See Bio Gen, LLC v. Sanders*, 690 F. Supp. 3d 927, 941 (E.D. Ark. 2023). The result in Arkansas? Their law has sat dormant, meaningless, having no effect for nearly *two years* while further legal proceedings play out. That result must be avoided in Texas.

"As a former Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General of Texas, I know that Senate Bill 3 is vulnerable to the same legal attacks. At worst, Senate Bill 3 would be permanently invalidated by the courts; at best, its implementation would be delayed for years as the case winds its way through the legal system. We can do better.

"What is the legal problem with Senate Bill 3? As passed, it would prohibit *anyone* from manufacturing, distributing, or possessing consumable hemp products that contain 'any amount of a cannabinoid other than' CBD or CBG—regardless of whether those products fall under the federally-mandated THC threshold. It therefore criminalizes what Congress expressly legalized and puts federal and state law on a collision course: Today, federal law promises Texas farmers that they may grow hemp without fear of criminal liability. But under Senate Bill 3, the seeds used to grow those plants are 'consumable products'—currently available in stores—and they naturally contain cannabinoids. What's a Texas farmer to do? Trust the federal government's promise, or fear criminal liability from the State?

"Senate Bill 3 not only invites potential criminal entrapment for Texas farmers. It would also make felons of other innocent Texans, like pharmacists stocking health supplements, veterans treating PTSD, and parents caring for epileptic children with FDA-approved medications. Possessing 'any amount'—even *trace* amounts—of THC results in criminal penalties, despite federal law saying 'No State ... shall prohibit' the transportation of hemp products.

"In addition to the preemption issues that doomed the Arkansas law, Senate Bill 3 could also be an unconstitutional taking of private property. There are many bad actors who have abused the authority granted to them by both the federal government and the State of Texas. But there are also many Texans conducting business responsibly, who invested millions of dollars planting fields or opening up retail stores in reliance on laws making hemp a lawful product to 'be sold at retail or otherwise introduced into commerce.' TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 443.152(a). While States may restrict the use of dangerous contraband, it is a different thing entirely to change the rules in the middle of the game, thereby interfering with 'distinct investment-backed expectations' in property. *Penn Cent. Transp. Co. v. City of New York*, 438 U.S. 104, 124 (1978).

"Proponents of Senate Bill 3 have acknowledged this likelihood of litigation but may not have fully processed the consequences. Just two days ago, a group of plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in Travis County District Court arguing that Senate Bill 3 is preempted by federal law and would be an unconstitutional taking in violation of both the federal and state Constitutions. They assert that the bill will 'turn farmers, business owners, and consumers into criminals, despite the protections for hemp products conferred by federal law.' *See* Original Pet., *CBD Pros USA v. Texas*, No. ____ (___ Dist. Ct., Travis County, Tex., filed June 20, 2025). They are right.

"Allowing Senate Bill 3 to become law—knowing that it faces a lengthy battle that will render it dead on arrival in court—would hinder rather than help us solve the public safety issues this bill seeks to contain. The problem THC poses for our communities is real. Earlier this year, a 15-year-old in Houston took a large amount of hemp gummies. When he suffered a 'bad reaction,' he called 911, then shot his mother and his sister repeatedly. Just this month, two teens distributed hemp products at a graduation party in Prosper. The celebration ended early when seven high school students had to be rushed to a hospital.

"How did we get here?

"In 2019, after the federal government passed the Farm Bill, legislators passed House Bill 1325, fixating on the *cannabis sativa* plant. Any plant variant with more than 0.3% THC by dry weight was deemed (illegal) marijuana; any variant with less was deemed (legal) hemp available to anyone, regardless of age. As it turned out, the smaller amount of THC in hemp could be multiplied and modified to make products stronger and more addictive than marijuana. Bad actors did what bad actors do—they took advantage. They engineered products with dangerously high concentrations. And they marketed lollipops and other products designed to mimic candies popular with kids. The current market is dangerously under-regulated, and children are

paying the price. If Senate Bill 3 is swiftly enjoined by a court, our children will be no safer than if no law was passed, and the problems will only grow.

"That is why I am vetoing Senate Bill 3 and calling a Special Legislative Session in July to craft a law that does as much as possible to corral the problems while also being structured so that it can go into effect this year.

"Texas must enact a regulatory framework that protects public safety, aligns with federal law, has a fully funded enforcement structure, and can take effect without delay. Legislators could consider a structure similar to the way alcohol is regulated, with strict enforcement by an agency like the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. A sample of potential regulations could include some of the following:

- Selling or providing a THC product to a minor must be punishable as a crime;
- Sales must be prohibited near schools, churches, parks, playgrounds, and other areas frequented by children;
- Packaging must be child-resistant, tamper-evident, and resealable;
- Products must not be made, packaged, or marketed in a manner attractive to children;
- Any store selling these products must have a permit and restrict access to anyone under the age of 21, with strict penalties for any retailer that fails to comply;
- Products containing THC may not contain other psychoactive substances (*e.g.*, alcohol, tobacco, kratom);
- Testing must be required at every phase of production and manufacturing, including for both plants and derivative consumable products;
- Manufacturing and processing facilities must be subject to permitting and food safety rules;
- Permit and registration fees must suffice to support robust enforcement and testing by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, in partnership with other state agencies;
- An operator's permit and warning/danger signs must be posted at any store selling these products;
- Sales must be limited to the hours between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., and prohibited on Sundays;
- The amount of THC permissible in each product must be restricted and an individual may make only a limited number of purchases in a given period of time;
- Labels must include a surgeon general-style warning, a clear disclosure of all ingredients, including the THC content, and a scannable barcode or QR code linking to test results;
- Fraudulently creating or displaying manifests or lab results must be punishable as felony offenses;
- Public consumption, consumption on the premises of any store that sells these products, and possession of an open container in a vehicle must be punishable as crimes;
- The Attorney General, district attorneys, and county attorneys must have authority to pursue violations under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act;
- Local governments must have the option to prohibit or limit stores selling these products;
- Excise taxes must be assessed on these products to fund oversight and enforcement; and
- Additional funding must be provided to ensure law enforcement have sufficient resources to vigorously enforce restrictions.

"This list, of course, is not exhaustive. But it may provide items to consider in a regulatory system that is strict, fair, and legally sustainable.

"Passing a law is not the same thing as actually solving a problem. Texas needs a bill that is enforceable and will make our communities safer *today*, rather than years from now. Next month, the Legislature will have the opportunity to address this serious issue. I look forward to working with them to ensure that we get it right."

Senate Bill 4

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Meyer et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 4 amends the Education Code and Tax Code to increase the amount of the general school district residence homestead property tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 and to provide for the

protection of public school districts against certain losses in local revenue. Among other provisions, the bill also does the following:

- sets out and revises provisions relating to the calculation of school districts' maximum compressed tax rates and to additional state aid for certain districts impacted by compression;
- makes temporary adjustments to the recapture process for school districts with local revenue in excess of entitlement to account for the election that will be held on the bill's corresponding constitutional amendment and its effects on local revenue levels for the 2025-2026 school year if approved, including by providing for the delay of an election held by certain districts to approve an option to reduce local revenue levels; and
- sets out transitional tax year provisions.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect June 16, 2025.

Senate Bill 5

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Craddick et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 5 amends the Education Code, Government Code, and Health and Safety Code to establish the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) to drive innovation and research on dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders and to award grants, support research into prevention and treatment strategies, and foster collaboration between public and private entities. The bill establishes an oversight committee as the governing body of DPRIT and, among other provisions, does the following:

- establishes various institute committees, including a peer review committee composed of experts and patient advocates and a higher education advisory committee to advise on subjects involving research on dementia and related disorders;
- sets out procedures for awarding grants, including requirements for DPRIT to establish a peer review process to evaluate grants and for the oversight committee to establish standards regarding patent royalties and license revenues, preferences for Texas suppliers, and historically underutilized businesses;
- establishes the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund, provides for a transfer of \$3 billion to the fund, and requires DPRIT to annually commission an independent financial audit; and
- establishes reporting and compliance requirements for DPRIT, prescribes retention requirements with respect to grant records, and sets out conflict of interest provisions for committee members and DPRIT employees.

Senate Bill 5 takes effect December 1, 2025, but only if Senate Joint Resolution 3 is approved by the voters.

Senate Bill 6

Senate Author: King et al.

House Sponsor: King

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 6 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, and Water Code to set out provisions regarding the planning for, interconnection and operation of, and costs related to providing service for certain electrical loads and the generation of electric power by a water supply or sewer service corporation. The bill requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) by rule to establish standards for interconnecting large load customers in the ERCOT power region in a manner designed to support business development in Texas while minimizing the potential for stranded infrastructure costs and maintaining system reliability.

Senate Bill 6 sets out provisions providing for the co-location of large load customers with existing and generation resources. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a power generation company, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative to submit a notice to ERCOT before implementing certain net metering arrangements;
- authorizes the applicable entity that provides electric service at the location of the new net metering arrangement to object to the arrangement under certain conditions;
- requires ERCOT to study the system impacts of a proposed net metering arrangement and removal of generation for which ERCOT receives a notice;
- requires the PUC to approve, deny, or impose reasonable conditions on the proposed net metering arrangement as necessary to maintain system reliability; and
- requires those conditions to require an applicable generation resource to make a certain amount of dispatchable capacity available to the ERCOT power region after the arrangement's implementation at ERCOT's direction in advance of an anticipated emergency condition.

Senate Bill 6 requires the PUC to require ERCOT to do the following with respect to large load demand management, among other provisions:

- ensure that each electric cooperative, transmission and distribution utility, and municipally owned utility serving a transmission-voltage customer develops a protocol to allow the load to be curtailed during firm load shed; and
- develop a reliability service to competitively procure demand reductions from large load customers with a demand of at least 75 megawatts to be deployed in the event of an anticipated emergency condition.

Senate Bill 6 authorizes a nonprofit water supply or sewer service corporation operating under applicable state law to generate electric power for use in the corporation's operations, limited to powering certain equipment and infrastructure for specified purposes. The bill includes provisions authorizing a corporation operating solely as a wholesale water supplier or sewer service in a county with a population of less than 350,000 to generate excess electric power.

Senate Bill 6 requires the PUC to evaluate, among other matters, whether the existing methodology used to charge wholesale transmission costs to distribution providers under applicable state law continues to appropriately assign costs for transmission investment.

Senate Bill 7

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Harris

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 7 amends the Water Code to set out provisions relating to the oversight and financing of certain water infrastructure matters under the jurisdiction of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Among other provisions, including certain provisions contingent on voter approval of House Joint Resolution 7, the bill expands the authorized uses of the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, the Texas Water Fund, and the state participation account of the development fund. The bill establishes the Texas Water Fund Administrative Fund as a fund outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB for the payment of or reimbursement of the TWDB for the expenses incurred by the TWDB in administering the Texas Water Fund. The bill provides for a Texas Water Fund Advisory Committee. The bill increases the amount of financial assistance that may be provided to economically distressed areas for water supply and sewer service projects.

Senate Bill 7 also provides for water supply conveyance coordination by the TWDB, an interim study by the TWDB executive administrator regarding the incorporation of wastewater planning into the state water planning process, and the public availability of certain performance and accountability information.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, Senate Bill 7 takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 8

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Spiller et al.

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 8 amends the Government Code to require the sheriff of each county that operates a jail or contracts with a private vendor to operate a jail to request and enter into an immigration law enforcement agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or a similar federal program, that authorizes officers, employees, and, as applicable, contractors of the sheriff's department to enforce federal immigration law. A sheriff must comply with this requirement not later than December 1, 2026. The bill requires a sheriff who requested but did not enter into such a written agreement to make additional requests to enter into an agreement at least once annually after each request is made. The bill requires an agreement to include the scope, duration, and limitations of the authority to enforce federal immigration law and requires a sheriff who enters into such an agreement to allocate the necessary resources to ensure the proper implementation of the agreement.

Senate Bill 8 authorizes the attorney general to bring an action against a sheriff who fails to comply with the bill's provisions in a district court for appropriate equitable relief. The sheriff of a county that operates a jail or contracts with a private vendor to operate a jail who has not entered into an agreement under the bill's provisions must annually provide proof to the attorney general of the sheriff's attempt to enter into the agreement.

Senate Bill 8 requires the comptroller of public accounts to establish and administer a grant program to support the state purpose of assisting sheriffs participating in immigration law enforcement agreements under the bill's provisions. The comptroller must award a grant to a sheriff who has entered into an agreement and applies for the grant. The bill requires a sheriff who is awarded a grant to use the grant money to pay the costs associated with participating in the agreement that are not reimbursed by the federal government. The bill prohibits the commissioners court of the county the sheriff serves from reducing the appropriation to the sheriff's department in response to the sheriff receiving the grant.

Senate Bill 8 requires the comptroller to prepare and submit a biennial report on the sheriffs participating in agreements to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. The bill also requires the Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) to annually submit to the comptroller a copy of the monthly jail population reports TCJS receives from each county jail.

Senate Bill 9

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Smithee et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 9 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Human Resources Code to establish and revise provisions relating to the confinement or release of defendants before trial or sentencing and to the conditions of and procedures for setting bail and reviewing bail decisions. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the state's attorney to enter information relating to a defendant's compliance with conditions of a pretrial intervention program into the appropriate database of the statewide law enforcement information system;
- expands the criminal history information of each defendant included in the public safety report system and authorizes a magistrate to order, prepare, or consider such a report in setting bail for certain defendants;
- prohibits an applicable magistrate from releasing on bail a defendant who is charged with certain serious offenses or who is charged with a felony offense under certain circumstances;
- grants a district judge jurisdiction to modify a bail decision regarding a defendant charged with or arrested for a felony offense that was made by a magistrate of a court that does not have jurisdiction to try the offense;

- expands the conditions under which the release of a defendant on personal bond is prohibited;
- revises reporting requirements for charitable bail organizations and provides for the reporting of such an organization's violations;
- prohibits certain magistrates from reducing the amount or conditions of bond set by a district court judge, including the judge of a district court in another county;
- provides for the pre-sentencing confinement of defendants adjudged guilty after entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for certain felony offenses;
- entitles the state to appeal an order of a court in a criminal case if the order grants insufficient bail to a defendant who is charged with certain serious offenses or who is charged with a felony offense while released on bail for another felony offense;
- entitles a victim to the right to be informed concerning whether the defendant has fully complied with any conditions of the defendant's bail; and
- includes among the information that must be included in the notice for victims of family violence, stalking, harassment, or a terroristic threat information regarding providing information helpful in setting bail if the offender is arrested.

Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 10

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: King et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Noble et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 10 amends the Education Code to require a public elementary or secondary school to display in a conspicuous place in each classroom of the school a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments that meets the requirements listed by the bill. The bill requires a public elementary or secondary school in which each classroom does not include such a poster or framed copy to accept any offer of an eligible, privately donated poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments and display it. The bill provides for the attorney general's defense of a public elementary or secondary school in a cause of action relating to any claims arising out of a school's compliance with those requirements.

Senate Bill 11

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Spiller et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 11 amends the Education Code to authorize the board of trustees of a public school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school that is not operated by or affiliated with a religious organization to adopt, by record vote on a resolution, a policy requiring every campus of the district or charter school to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text on each school day. Among other provisions, the bill requires the policy to condition participation in the period on the submission of a signed consent form that includes, among other components, an express waiver of the right to bring a claim arising out of the adoption of the policy. The bill requires the policy to prohibit the provision of a prayer or reading of the Bible or other religious text over a public address system and sets out provisions authorizing an employee or parent or guardian of a student to revoke consent to participate.

Senate Bill 12

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Leach

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 12 amends the Education Code to revise and set out provisions relating to parental rights in public education, student clubs, and certain public school requirements and prohibitions regarding

instruction, social transitioning, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) duties. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a public school and its governing body and employees to implement and comply with each policy the school is required to adopt under law;
- prohibits a public school or state governmental entity from infringing on parental rights, with an exception for infringement necessary to further a compelling state interest;
- establishes reporting requirements for public school districts and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding district facility usage;
- prohibits a district from assigning DEI duties to any person, requires a district to prohibit a district employee, contractor, or volunteer from engaging in DEI duties at, for, or on behalf of the district, and sets out provisions relating to the discipline of an employee or contractor who violates these provisions;
- requires a district to submit certain board of trustee information to TEA annually;
- makes provisions regarding frivolous suits against a district or district officer also applicable to administrative proceedings;
- requires a district's board of trustees to adopt a policy prohibiting a district employee from assisting a student enrolled in the district with social transitioning, including by providing any information about social transitioning or providing guidelines intended to assist a person with social transitioning;
- codifies a parent's entitlement to choose the educational setting for their child, including public school, private school, or home school;
- expressly entitles a parent to access to written district records relating to library materials checked out by the parent's child;
- requires each district and open-enrollment charter school to post on its website home page a notice regarding a parent's entitlement to review teaching materials;
- requires each district to develop a parental engagement policy and a plan for parental engagement, to provide parents with certain information about parental rights and options, and to adopt a policy to make available on the district's website at the beginning of each semester an instructional plan or course syllabus for each class offered in the district for that semester;
- entitles a parent to notification not later than one school business day after the date a district employee first suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against the parent's child;
- sets out provisions regarding a parent's right to information regarding mental, emotional, and physical health and health-related services, including:
 - a requirement for TEA to adopt a procedure for districts to notify a student's parent regarding any change in services provided to or monitoring of the student related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being;
 - a prohibition against a district employee discouraging or prohibiting parental knowledge of or involvement in critical decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being;
 - a requirement for a district to provide a student's parent annual written notice of each health-related service offered at the district campus the student attends; and
 - a requirement for parental consent before administering a student well-being questionnaire or health screening form;
- requires a district employee or contractor to obtain parental consent for the following activities and sets out related procedures:
 - conducting a psychiatric examination or test or psychiatric treatment;

- disclosing a child's health or medical information to any person other than the child's parent or collecting, using, storing, or disclosing to any person other than the child's parent a child's biometric identifiers; and
- providing health care services or medication or conducting a medical procedure;
- requires a district's board of trustees to adopt a grievance policy and sets out provisions relating to such a policy, including provisions regarding the policy's content, the timelines for filing and appeal, actions the commissioner of education may take if a grievance is appealed, and annual grievance reports by districts and TEA;
- requires a district or charter school to adopt a policy and procedure for the appropriate discipline of an employee or contractor who intentionally or knowingly engages in or assigns to another person certain instructional acts prohibited by state law;
- requires parental consent before a student may be provided with human sexuality instruction;
- prohibits a district, charter school, or district or charter school employee from providing or allowing a third party to provide instruction, guidance, activities, or programming regarding sexual orientation or gender identity to students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12th grade;
- requires at least two opportunities for in-person conferences during each school year between a parent and their child's teachers;
- prohibits a district or charter school from authorizing or sponsoring a student club based on sexual orientation or gender identity and requires written parental consent before a student may participate in a student club;
- requires annual certification to TEA by superintendents of compliance with state laws that prohibit DEI duties and establish certain public school instructional requirements and prohibitions; and
- subjects a charter school to provisions regarding DEI duties, parental access to instructional materials and curricula, the adoption of a parental engagement policy, the establishment of a local school health advisory council and health education instruction, and parental rights to information regarding a student's mental, emotional, and physical health-related needs and related services.

Senate Bill 13**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Buckley et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 13 amends the Education Code to set out provisions relating to public school library standards, parental rights and access to public school library materials and catalogs, and the establishment of local school library advisory councils. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- entitles a parent to access any written records of a public school district relating to school library materials the parent's child obtains from a school library;
- requires the school library collection development policy adopted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to prohibit the possession, acquisition, and purchase of library material containing indecent content or profane content or library material that refers a person to a website containing any content that is prohibited under the school library standards, including by use of a link or QR code;
- requires a public school district or open-enrollment charter school to adopt procedures that provide for a parent of a child enrolled in the district or charter school to access the catalog of available library materials at each school library in the district or charter school and submit to the district or charter school a list of library materials that the parent's child may not be allowed to check out or otherwise access for use outside of the school library;
- requires each district and charter school that uses a learning management system or an online learning portal to provide, through the system or portal, to each parent of a child enrolled in the

- district or charter school a record of each time the parent's child checks out or otherwise uses outside the school library a library material;
- authorizes each district's board of trustees to establish a local school library advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in each school library catalog in the district and requires a district to do so if the parents of at least 10 percent of the students enrolled in the district or 50 or more parents of students enrolled in the district, whichever is fewer, present to the board a petition to establish such a council;
- requires a district's board of trustees to adopt a policy for the acquisition of library materials that, among other criteria, requires board approval for materials donated to or procured by a school library in the district; and
- establishes a process through which a parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student enrolled in a district, a person employed by the district, or a person residing in the district may submit a challenge or appeal regarding library materials.

Senate Bill 14

Senate Author: King et al.

House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 14, the Regulatory Reform and Efficiency Act, amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office within the governor's office for specified purposes, including the following:

- to identify and expand opportunities for implementing efficiencies in processes relating to state agency rules, regulatory review, and contested cases;
- to assist state agencies in identifying unnecessary and ineffective rules, the effect and cost of rules, and opportunities to repeal or amend such rules; and
- to coordinate with specified state agencies regarding the reduction of regulatory requirements and public access to certain information.

The bill prohibits the office from recommending the repeal of a rule the purpose of which is to inform members of the public about the rulemaking process or facilitate public participation in that process. The bill requires the office to publish a regulatory economic analysis manual containing best practices for preparing regulatory analysis documents and a regulatory reduction guide to assist each state agency in reducing rules and other regulatory requirements.

Senate Bill 14 authorizes the office to establish the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Advisory Panel to serve as an advisory panel to the governor's office and a rulemaking and regulatory efficiency forum to assist the office and the panel in accomplishing their respective purposes. The bill sets out provisions relating to the administrative support and composition of the advisory panel and establishes the purposes of the panel, including identifying and expanding opportunities for implementing efficiencies in the regulatory process and assisting the office and state agencies in identifying unnecessary and ineffective rules. The bill provides for a biennial report on activities undertaken by the office and any legislative recommendations to accomplish and further those activities. The bill also provides for the establishment of a website that allows a person to search for rules and related information. Implementation of the bill's provisions relating to regulatory and rulemaking efficiency and a related website is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for such purpose.

Senate Bill 14 revises content requirements for notice of a proposed rule. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the voidability of a rule that is not in substantial compliance with requirements for local employment impact statements or government growth impact statements and for a court's authority to remand the rule, or a portion of the rule, to the state agency in noncompliance with those requirements. The bill also establishes that a court is not required to give deference to a state agency's legal determination regarding the construction, validity, or applicability of the law or an agency rule and

requires a court reviewing an applicable contested case to review all questions of law de novo without giving such deference.

Senate Bill 15

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Gates

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 15 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality from adopting or enforcing a measure that requires a residential lot to be larger than 3,000 square feet, wider than 30 feet, or deeper than 75 feet or that requires, if regulating the density of dwelling units in a residential development, a ratio of dwelling units per acre that prevents a single-family home from being built on a residential lot that is at least 3,000 square feet. The bill prohibits a municipality, except as provided by the bill, from adopting or enforcing a measure that requires a small lot to have certain elements. The bill authorizes a person adversely affected or aggrieved by a municipality's violation of the bill's provisions or a housing organization to bring an action against the municipality or an officer or employee of the municipality in the officer's or employee's official capacity for applicable relief. The bill applies only to certain tracts of land located in certain municipalities.

Senate Bill 17

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 17 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Property Code to prohibit certain governmental entities, companies, organizations, and individuals connected to a designated country from purchasing or otherwise acquiring an interest in real property in Texas. The bill includes in the definition of "designated country" a country designated by the governor under the bill's provisions and a country named in at least one of the three most recent Annual Threat Assessments prepared by the U.S. Director of National Security. The bill provides for the investigation and enforcement of the bill's provisions by the attorney general. The bill creates a state jail felony offense for a person who meets certain conditions and intentionally or knowingly acquires an interest in real property in Texas in violation of the bill's prohibition and provides for the following:

- the referral for criminal prosecution by a district court of a matter relating to a property acquired in violation of the bill's prohibition;
- the divestiture of an individual's or entity's interest in such a property;
- the appointment of a receiver in an action brought by the attorney general under the bill's provisions; and
- a civil penalty for a violation of the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 20

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Flores et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Capriglione

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 20 amends the Penal Code to create the state jail felony offense of possession, promotion, or production of certain visual material appearing to depict a child for a person who does the following:

- knowingly possesses, accesses with intent to view, or promotes obscene visual material containing a depiction that appears to be of a child younger than 18 years of age engaging in certain patently offensive activities, regardless of whether the depiction is an image of an actual child, a cartoon or animation, or an image created using an artificial intelligence application or other computer software; or

- uses an image of an actual child younger than 18 years of age at the time the image was made with the intent to train an artificial intelligence model to produce visual material constituting child pornography.

The bill enhances the penalty for the offense, ranging from a third degree felony to a second degree felony, based on the number of previous convictions of the person for such an offense or for obscenity, possession or promotion of child pornography, electronic transmission of certain visual material depicting a minor, or possession or promotion of lewd visual material depicting a child. The bill expands the conduct constituting the offense of engaging in organized criminal activity to include any possession, promotion, or production of certain visual material appearing to depict a child offense with the intent to establish, maintain, or participate in a combination or in the profits of a combination or as a member of a criminal street gang or foreign terrorist organization.

Senate Bill 21

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 21, the Texas Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and Investment Act, amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Strategic Bitcoin Reserve as a special fund outside the state treasury to be managed and administered by the comptroller of public accounts. The bill sets out the composition of the reserve, which includes bitcoin and other cryptocurrency that maintain a specified minimum market capitalization and are purchased using money in the reserve, and authorizes the legislature to appropriate funds for deposit to the credit of the reserve. The bill authorizes money in the reserve to be invested with the state treasury pool but prohibits the comptroller from transferring money in the reserve to the state treasury unless authorized to do so by the legislature. The bill provides for the authority of the comptroller to take certain actions with respect to the reserve, including the following:

- contract with one or more third-party entities for the administration or management of the reserve;
- contract with a certified public accountant to perform an audit of the reserve;
- use derivatives, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the reserve;
- spend cryptocurrency or use the net proceeds from the sale of cryptocurrency to pay the reasonable costs associated with administering and managing the reserve; and
- as necessary for cash management, liquidate the reserve's assets and temporarily transfer money from the reserve to the state treasury.

The bill establishes the five-member, non-compensated Texas Strategic Bitcoin Reserve advisory committee to advise the comptroller regarding the administration and management of the reserve and provides for a biennial report that includes specified information relating to the reserve.

Senate Bill 22

Effective: See below

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Sponsor: Hunter et al.

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 22 amends the Government Code to revise provisions relating to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, with the revisions being effective until August 31, 2035. The bill makes specified types of projects ineligible for a program grant and establishes that the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office has broad authority to do the following:

- designate other types of projects as ineligible for a grant;
- elect not to take action on a grant application;
- deny a grant application; or
- award a grant.

Senate Bill 22 establishes the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Fund as a fund outside the state treasury to be held and invested by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, administered by the office, and used for the purposes of awarding program grants and paying the trust company's expenses of managing the fund's assets. The bill changes the minimum percentage of the production crew, actors, and extras for a moving image project who must be Texas residents in order for the project to qualify for a grant. The bill provides for grant amounts based on the type of moving image project and the project's total in-state spending. The bill removes the additional underutilized and economically distressed areas grant and provides for the following additional grants:

- a Texas heritage grant;
- a rural filming grant;
- a postproduction grant;
- a Texas veterans grant;
- a faith-based moving image project grant;
- a Texas historic site grant; and
- a workforce development grant.

Senate Bill 22 amends the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax Act, Tax Code, to require the comptroller of public accounts to biennially deposit to the fund's credit \$300 million of the proceeds from the collection of taxes imposed by the act.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 23

Effective: See below

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Meyer et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 23 amends the Education Code and Tax Code to increase the amount of the exemption from property taxation by a school district of the appraised value of an elderly or disabled individual's residence homestead from \$10,000 to \$60,000 and to provide for the protection of public school districts against certain losses in local revenue. Among other provisions, the bill also does the following:

- sets out provisions relating to the calculation of school districts' maximum compressed tax rates;
- makes temporary adjustments to the recapture process for school districts with local revenue in excess of entitlement to account for the election that will be held on the bill's corresponding constitutional amendment and its effects on local revenue levels for the 2025-2026 school year if approved, including by providing for the delay of an election held by certain districts to approve an option to reduce local revenue levels; and
- sets out transitional tax year provisions.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect June 16, 2025.

Senate Bill 24

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 24 amends the Education Code to require the State Board of Education (SBOE), in adopting the state curriculum standards for the social studies curriculum for each grade level from grade 4 through grade 12, to adopt standards that develop each student's understanding of communist regimes and ideologies and include age appropriate and developmentally appropriate instruction with information on the topics specified by the bill. The bill sets out additional requirements and authority for the SBOE relating to that adoption.

Senate Bill 25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Hull et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 25 amends the Education Code, Health and Safety Code, and Occupations Code to provide for health and nutrition standards that promote healthy living in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- establishes the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee to develop nutritional guidelines for Texas residents;
- applies daily physical education requirements for public school districts under current law to open-enrollment charter schools;
- prohibits school employees from restricting students' participation in recess or other physical activity as a penalty for a student's academic performance or behavior;
- provides for an elective high school course in nutrition and wellness at districts and charter schools and for nutrition education coursework at public institutions of higher education;
- conditions the eligibility of certain health-related institutions of higher education to receive money from applicable permanent funds on the institution developing and requiring the completion of nutrition curriculum requirements;
- requires a food manufacturer to ensure the inclusion of a warning label on food products the manufacturer offers for sale in Texas that discloses the use of ingredients specified by the bill if the FDA requires the ingredient to be named on a food label and the ingredient is used in a product intended for human consumption; and
- sets out continuing education requirements regarding nutrition and metabolic health for licensed physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and dietitians.

Senate Bill 29

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Meyer et al.

Effective: 5-14-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 29 amends the Business Organizations Code to revise statutory provisions relating to business activities of domestic entities, certain for-profit corporations, certain limited liability companies, and certain limited partnerships. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- expands the definition of "national securities exchange";
- provides for the managerial officials of a domestic entity to consider the laws and judicial decisions of other states and the practices observed by entities in other states;
- authorizes the governing documents of a domestic entity to require that one or more courts in Texas having jurisdiction must serve as the exclusive forum and venue for internal entity claims and to contain a waiver of the right to a jury trial;
- revises provisions relating to shareholder rights and restrictions regarding the examination of records, the amendment of a certificate of formation, the board of directors, and derivative proceedings of for-profit corporations and sets out provisions relating to a committee of independent and disinterested directors to review certain transactions and to presumptions concerning compliance by directors and officers with their duties regarding certain for-profit corporations;
- revises provisions relating to the company agreement, the payment of expenses incurred by a party in a derivative proceeding, and the right to examine records of limited liability companies and sets out provisions relating to presumptions concerning compliance by managerial officials with their duties regarding certain limited liability companies; and
- sets out provisions relating to the effect of partnership agreements, the payment of expenses incurred by a party in a derivative proceeding, and the right to examine records of limited

partnerships, the application of certain provisions to a partnership traded on a national securities exchange, and presumptions concerning compliance by managerial officials with their duties regarding domestic limited partnerships.

Senate Bill 31

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Geren et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 31, the Life of the Mother Act, amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Health and Safety Code, Occupations Code, and Vernon's Civil Statutes to clarify existing medical emergency exceptions to otherwise prohibited abortions based on a physician's reasonable medical judgment and to provide for the development of certain continuing legal and medical education courses regarding the state's abortion laws and medical emergency exceptions. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- authorizes a physician to address a pregnant woman's risk of death or substantial impairment of a major bodily function before the woman suffers any effects of the risk and further clarifies when a physician may act if a pregnant woman has a life-threatening physical condition that poses such a risk;
- establishes that reasonable medical judgment in providing medical treatment to a pregnant female includes removing an ectopic pregnancy and removing a dead, unborn child whose death was caused by spontaneous abortion;
- clarifies and provides uniformity among applicable statutes with respect to what constitutes an ectopic pregnancy and a medical emergency;
- sets out certain activities that do not constitute aiding or abetting under provisions relating to the detection of a fetal heartbeat;
- prohibits the Texas Medical Board from taking action against a physician regarding the performance of an abortion in response to a medical emergency; and
- provides for a comprehensive program of continuing legal education regarding the regulation of abortion in Texas for state-licensed attorneys and for one or more courses regarding the laws governing pregnancy-related medical emergencies for physicians licensed in Texas.

Senate Bill 33

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

House Sponsor: Noble et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Current law prohibits a governmental entity from entering into a taxpayer resource transaction with an abortion provider or affiliate and authorizes the attorney general to bring an action in the name of the state to enjoin a violation of that prohibition. Senate Bill 33 amends the Government Code to also prohibit a governmental entity from entering into a taxpayer resource transaction with an abortion assistance entity for the purpose of providing an abortion or abortion assistance and from entering into a taxpayer resource transaction or appropriating or spending money to provide logistical support to assist a woman with procuring an abortion or the services of an abortion provider. The bill replaces the authorization for the attorney general to bring the injunction with an authorization to bring an action against any party, other than the woman who may procure or procures an abortion, to the actual or proposed prohibited transaction, appropriation, or expenditure, as applicable, of a governmental entity that violates or is seeking to violate the aforementioned prohibitions.

Senate Bill 34

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

House Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 34 provides for a study by the Texas A&M Forest Service and West Texas A&M University to determine the status and condition of fuel loading in wildfire risk zones in Texas and the corresponding risk of wildfire to the residents, homes, businesses, and ecology of Texas.

Senate Bill 34 amends the Education Code to require the Texas A&M Forest Service to create and maintain a comprehensive database that shows in real time the statewide inventory of firefighting equipment available for use in responding to wildfires.

Senate Bill 34 amends the Government Code to allocate certain appropriations from the volunteer fire department assistance fund to volunteer fire departments located in areas at high risk for large wildfires.

Senate Bill 36

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Border Security

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 36 amends the Government Code to establish the Homeland Security Division in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to lead multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, and public-private efforts to enhance law enforcement initiatives and operations in support of homeland security objectives in Texas. The bill provides for the transfer of the management and operations of the Border Security Operations Center and the Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers to the Homeland Security Division.

Senate Bill 36, among other provisions, establishes the division's composition and duties relating to intelligence, planning, and coordination. The bill provides for the physical protection of critical infrastructure by the division, the proposal of related research priorities, and the establishment of work groups for the study of issues related to division duties or law enforcement initiatives or operations. The bill also provides for the collaboration of the Homeland Security Division with the Homeland Security Council and the governor's applicable special advisory committees.

Senate Bill 37

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 37 amends the Education Code to set out provisions relating to the governance of public institutions of higher education, including the following:

- a requirement for the governing board of each institution, at least once every five years, to conduct a comprehensive review of the institution's general education curriculum in the manner specified by the bill;
- provisions establishing that the final decision-making authority on matters regarding an institution's degree programs and curricula belongs to the institution but requiring the institution to make the decisions on those matters under the direction of the institution's governing board;
- a requirement for the president or chief executive officer (CEO) of an institution to adopt and implement a process for reviewing minor degree and certificate programs once every five years to identify programs with low enrollment that may require consolidation or elimination;
- an authorization for an institution's governing board to exclude from the comprehensive list of courses submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) courses that were not taught as an organized class or provided through individual instruction for the preceding two academic years;
- provisions establishing an advisory committee that is tasked with reviewing general education curriculum requirements of institutions and reporting its findings and recommendations to the

THECB, which must review that report and submit to the legislature recommendations for action necessary to implement the report's findings;

- a requirement for each governing board to approve or deny the hiring of an individual for the position of provost or deputy, associate, or assistant provost by each institution under the board's control and management;
- an authorization for an institution's governing board to overturn any hiring decision for the position of vice president or dean made by the administration of a campus under the board's control and management;
- provisions governing the structure and powers of a faculty council or senate;
- provisions regarding the principle of shared governance;
- a requirement for an institution's president or CEO to conduct annual evaluations of individuals who hold the positions of vice president, provost, dean, or a similar leadership position that oversees curriculum or student affairs and to report to the institution's governing board regarding any decision to remove an individual from such a position;
- provisions that subject the position of president to the same executive search committee requirements as the position of CEO and require an executive search committee's membership to include at least two members of the institution's governing board with at least one of those members serving as the chair; and
- restrictions on who may be involved in grievance, hiring, and discipline decision-making at an institution.

Senate Bill 37 requires the THECB to establish the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman to serve as an intermediary between the legislature and the public and institutions of higher education and requires the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to appoint a person to serve as ombudsman. The bill requires the office to receive, and if necessary, investigate complaints submitted by students, faculty, or institution staff members regarding an institution's failure to comply with specified statutes. The bill sets out procedures for the submission and resolution of complaints.

Senate Bill 37 expands the topics to be covered by the required training program for members of the governing boards of institutions of higher education and requires a member, on completion of the program, to provide a sworn statement affirming the member's understanding of their duties and responsibilities.

Senate Bill 38

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Button et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 38 amends the Property Code to set out and revise provisions regarding the eviction process in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- grants to all justice courts the jurisdiction to issue a writ of possession under any provisions governing eviction suits;
- requires a sworn petition to be filed with the court in order to initiate an eviction suit and requires an eviction suit to be brought in the justice precinct in which the real property is located;
- authorizes a court to adopt local rules, forms, or standing orders for eviction suits in accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure but prohibits the court from adopting local rules, forms, or standing orders for eviction suits with certain requirements or authorizations;
- requires a justice court in which a sworn petition required under the bill is filed to adjudicate the right to actual possession of the premises but prohibits the justice court from adjudicating title to the premises;
- authorizes a justice court to allow the parties in an eviction suit to appear at a court proceeding by available electronic means if the parties agree;

- provides for summary disposition without trial in an eviction suit alleging a forcible entry and detainer under certain conditions;
- provides for an appeal to the county court of a justice court's judgment in an eviction suit;
- requires the court in a residential eviction case in which there is no rental agreement to determine the rental pay period and the amount of rent to be paid by the tenant in each rental pay period; and
- establishes that only the legislature has the authority to modify or suspend procedures prescribed by provisions governing eviction suits but that this restriction expressly does not affect the authority of the Texas Supreme Court to modify or suspend certain provisions for the conduct of any court proceedings affected by a disaster.

Senate Bill 38 also provides for the manner in which written notice to vacate may be given to a tenant whose rights of possession are terminated based on nonpayment of rent before the filing of a forcible detainer suit. The bill revises provisions governing notice under a lease or applicable law that requires the landlord to give a tenant an opportunity to respond to a notice of proposed eviction.

Senate Bill 38 revises procedures applicable in an eviction suit to recover unpaid rent as follows:

- removes requirements by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure regarding citations;
- requires a sheriff or constable to make a diligent effort to serve a citation and petition by a specified deadline but also authorizes the landlord to provide for service by any other qualified law enforcement officer before such deadline;
- requires a court to hold the trial within a specified timeframe and prohibits the court from holding the trial on a date that is earlier than the fourth day after the date the tenant is served with the petition; and
- prohibits a court from postponing the date of the trial for more than seven days unless the parties agree to the postponement in writing.

Senate Bill 38 makes provisions relating to the payment of rent during the appeal of an eviction case based on nonpayment of rent applicable to the appeal of any eviction case and further revises those provisions as follows:

- requires the tenant during the appeal to pay rent for each rental pay period within certain dates;
- establishes that payment of such rent relieves the tenant of the obligation to pay rent only for the applicable rental pay period;
- provides for an applicable court to disburse rent into the court registry to the landlord on request; and
- makes the requirement for the justice court to immediately issue a writ of possession on request applicable to a county court and revises the conditions under which such a writ must immediately be issued by the applicable court.

The bill also makes the requirement for a sheriff or constable to execute such a writ applicable to any law enforcement officer. The bill authorizes parties in all eviction suits in justice court to represent themselves or be represented by their authorized agents, who need not be attorneys.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect January 1, 2026.

Senate Bill 40

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Smithee et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 40 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a political subdivision from spending public funds to pay a nonprofit organization that accepts and uses donations from the public to pay bail bonds. The bill also provides for appropriate injunctive relief and related attorney's fees and costs.

Senate Bill 53**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Flores**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 53 amends the Health and Safety Code to replace the authorization for notice required under the Texas Mental Health Code to be given by delivering a copy of the notice or document in person with an authorization for such notice to be given by personal delivery of a copy of the notice or document by a constable or sheriff of the county. The bill replaces the authorization for a person to initially file a paper permitted or required to be filed in a probate court or court having probate jurisdiction under the Texas Mental Health Code with the county clerk by the use of reproduced, photocopied, or electronically transmitted paper, contingent on the person filing the original signed copies of the paper with the clerk within a specified period, with the following provisions:

- an authorization to file such a paper with the county clerk by the use of reproduced, photocopied, or electronically transmitted paper copies of the original signed copies of the paper; and
- a requirement for a person who files such paper copies to maintain possession of the original signed copies of the paper and to make the original paper available for inspection by the parties or the court on request.

Senate Bill 57**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** González, Mary**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 57 amends the Education Code to require the commissioner of education to establish recommendations regarding accommodations for a student with an individualized education program (IEP) or a Section 504 plan during a mandatory school drill. The bill also replaces an existing requirement for the establishment of guidelines for multihazard emergency operations plan provisions for individuals with disabilities or impairments with a requirement for the commissioner to establish guidelines for the following:

- the documentation of accommodations for a student with an IEP or Section 504 plan in the provisions of a public school district's multihazard emergency operations plan to ensure the safety of students and district personnel with disabilities or impairments during a mandatory school drill or a disaster or emergency situation;
- required communications between campus administrators and staff regarding the accommodations; and
- required communications between campus administrators and the district's school safety and security committee regarding students or district personnel with disabilities or impairments for purposes of providing recommendations for updating the district's multihazard emergency operations plan.

Among other changes, the bill requires a district's school safety and security committee to meet as necessary to provide recommendations for updating the district's multihazard emergency operations plan to include recommended accommodations for a student with an IEP or Section 504 plan. The bill requires such a committee to include an administrator of special education in the district who is designated by the district's superintendent and requires the committee to meet in executive session when discussing information regarding a student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

Senate Bill 60**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Dean**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 60 amends the Education Code to authorize a public junior college library to donate library materials to any person or organization if the library materials have little or no monetary value and, as

determined by library staff, either duplicate library materials in the library's collection or are no longer appropriate for inclusion in the library's collection due to age, condition, or obsolete content.

Senate Bill 65

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Leo Wilson et al.

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 65 amends the Local Government Code to lower from 355,000 to 265,000 the minimum population threshold of a county whose commissioners court may adopt and enforce uniform rules on the hours of work for employees whose compensation is set or approved by the court.

Senate Bill 66

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Sponsor: Leach

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 66 requires the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to conduct a study on the legal and ethical implications of authorizing a supporter under a supported decision-making agreement to assist an adult with a disability with legal proceedings in which the adult is involved. The bill requires OCA, not later than December 1, 2026, to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of representatives.

Senate Bill 72

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Lujan

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 72 amends the Business & Commerce Code to lengthen from 30 days to 180 days the maximum duration of a private passenger vehicle rental from a private passenger vehicle rental company. Moreover, the bill requires such a company to issue to a renter a refund of any damage waiver charges charged or collected for a period that exceeds the number of calendar days the damage waiver is in effect if, as follows:

- the renter returns a rented motor vehicle before the anticipated return date; or
- the damage waiver is not in effect for the entire period of the rental agreement because the renter cancels the damage waiver before the anticipated return date and the rental company confirms that the rented motor vehicle was not damaged before the damage waiver's cancellation.

Senate Bill 75

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Hall et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Wilson

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 75 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to establish the Texas Grid Security Commission and to provide for the security commission's composition, administration, and operation. The bill requires certain security commission members to apply for a secret security clearance to be granted by the federal government and establishes that such a member who is granted an applicable security clearance is a member of the information security working group. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the working group's duties and for the confidentiality of certain information and meetings.

Senate Bill 75 sets out the security commission's duties, including conducting an evaluation of the resilience of the ERCOT electric grid, recommending certain resilience standards for micro-grids and for municipalities and critical infrastructure of the ERCOT electric grid, preparing a plan for hazard resilience, and preparing and delivering an annual critical infrastructure resilience report.

Senate Bill 75 requires the PUC and ERCOT to conduct, at least once every two years, simulated or tabletop exercises with providers of electric generation service and transmission and distribution service in the ERCOT power region to mitigate and prepare for a threat of an attack or an actual physical attack on a critical facility.

Senate Bill 127

Senate Author: Hall

House Sponsor: Money

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 127 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to extend the statute of limitations period for the failure of an applicable professional to report child abuse or neglect to the following:

- within four years from the date the offense was discovered for a state jail felony; and
- within three years from the date the offense was discovered for a Class A misdemeanor.

Senate Bill 140

Senate Author: Hall et al.

House Sponsor: Anchía et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 140 amends the Business & Commerce Code, with respect to certain definitions relating to the regulation of and private rights of action arising from certain solicitation-related communications, to define "telephone call" and to expand the definition of "telephone solicitation." Among other provisions, the bill establishes that a violation of the Texas Telemarketing Disclosure and Privacy Act or a violation of statutory provisions relating to telephone communications made for the purpose of solicitation is a false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice under the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.

Senate Bill 204

Senate Author: Paxton

House Sponsor: Leo Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 204 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to create and maintain a handbook that is publicly available on the TEA website and explains all rights of a parent regarding the education of the parent's child. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to require a member of an independent school district's board of trustees to complete training on those parental rights.

Senate Bill 207

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Leo Wilson

Effective: 5-30-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Current law requires a public school district to excuse a student from attending school for a temporary absence resulting from an appointment with health care professionals for the student or the student's child if the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment. Senate Bill 207 amends the Education Code to clarify that applicable appointments include those with mental health professionals.

Senate Bill 213

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Dean

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 213 amends the Insurance Code to establish that forced bundling of a personal automobile insurance policy and a residential property insurance policy is an unfair method of competition or an

unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. However, the bill prohibits a person from bringing a private action against an insurer or an agent or representative of an insurer for a method, act, or practice described by the bill. The bill provides exceptions for Texas Windstorm Insurance Association policies, National Flood Insurance Program policies, and personal umbrella insurance policies.

Senate Bill 217

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Dutton et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 217, the Historic Texas Freedmen's Cemetery Designation Act, amends the Government Code to require the Texas Historical Commission to establish the Historic Texas Freedmen's Cemetery Designation Program, under which a person may apply to the commission for the designation of a cemetery that contains the grave of at least one freed slave and meets other requirements determined by the commission. The program's purpose is to alert the public, as well as current and future owners of land adjacent to a designated cemetery, of the cemetery's existence and that the cemetery contains the graves of freed slaves.

Senate Bill 226

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Bernal

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 226 amends the Family Code to require a parental child safety placement agreement for a school-age child to include a letter provided by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) that contains the address of the child's residence during the placement and specified language indicating that the letter serves as proof of residence for purposes of school enrollment.

Senate Bill 226 amends the Education Code to authorize the parent or guardian of a child who is the subject of a parental child safety placement agreement to establish residency for purposes of school enrollment by providing to the applicable public school district a copy of that letter from DFPS.

Senate Bill 227

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Rose

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 227, the Charles Edward Barton Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit the state registrar from rejecting an application for a delayed registration for a birth based solely on the inclusion of supporting evidence that contains inconsistent or contradictory information if, based on the contents of the application as a whole, the state registrar determines by a preponderance of the evidence the applicant's identity and place of birth. Among other provisions, the bill sets out certain information the state registrar must consider and give weight to in making such a determination.

Senate Bill 231

Senate Author: King et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 231 amends the Utilities Code to require a facility leased and operated by a transmission and distribution utility (TDU) that provides temporary emergency electric energy to aid in restoring power during significant power outages to meet certain mobility and generation requirements. Among other provisions, the bill conditions the authority of a TDU to enter into such a lease on certain criteria and sets out the conditions under which the utility may enter into the lease without competitive bidding or prior approval by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Senate Bill 243

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Bernal et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 243 amends the Government Code to revise and set out provisions relating to the regulation of migrant labor housing facilities. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- changes the amount of the civil penalty for a violation of provisions governing migrant labor housing facilities or a rule adopted under those provisions from \$200 for each day that the violation occurs to a minimum of \$50 for each person occupying the facility in violation for each day that the violation occurs;
- extends the authority to bring an action to collect a civil penalty to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) and to a migrant agricultural worker under specified circumstances;
- requires TDHCA by rule to adopt a penalty schedule that increases the amount of the penalty assessed against a person who commits repeat violations;
- requires TDHCA to establish processes and procedures for:
 - submitting a complaint regarding a migrant labor housing facility to TDHCA;
 - determining whether a complaint is unfounded or does not violate applicable standards;
 - investigating, resolving, or dismissing a complaint; and
 - for the operator of the migrant labor housing facility that is the subject of the complaint, remedying the complaint or relocating occupants to another facility, as applicable;
- prohibits retaliation against a person for filing a complaint or providing in good faith information relating to a possible violation of provisions governing migrant labor housing;
- requires TDHCA to identify other state agencies that may interact with occupants of migrant housing facilities to assist TDHCA in identifying and locating unlicensed migrant labor housing facilities, and establishes that information provided to TDHCA for these purposes must be free of identifying information and is confidential and not subject to disclosure under state public information law; and
- requires TDHCA to conduct specified outreach and education activities to:
 - inform migrant agricultural workers and persons who own, establish, maintain, operate, procure, make arrangements for, or otherwise provide migrant labor housing facilities of their rights and remedies and the persons of their obligations, respectively, regarding such facilities; and
 - conduct research concerning the most common types of facilities in different regions of Texas and which regions of Texas most need additional or improved migrant labor housing facilities.

Senate Bill 250

Senate Author: Flores

House Sponsor: Hickland

Effective: 5-27-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 250 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a municipality that is annexing an area under specified statutory provisions to also annex with the initial area an additional area if the area is adjacent to a right-of-way of a railway line, spur, or other railroad property that is contiguous and runs parallel to the municipality's boundaries and is contiguous to the area being annexed and if each owner of the area agrees to the annexation by the municipality.

Senate Bill 251

Senate Author: Flores

House Sponsor: Buckley

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 251 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to provide for the creation of criminal law magistrates for Bell County, which have concurrent criminal jurisdiction with the justice of the peace courts of the county and must give preference to performing the duties of a magistrate provided under state law during the initial appearance of a defendant after arrest.

Senate Bill 260

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 260 amends the Education Code to change the amount of the school safety allotment to which a public school district is entitled by increasing from \$10 to \$20 the base amount for each student in average daily attendance and increasing from \$15,000 to \$33,540 the amount per campus.

Senate Bill 261

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Gerdes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 261 amends the Health and Safety Code to add temporary provisions set to expire September 1, 2027, that prohibit the offering for sale or selling of cell-cultured protein, as defined by the bill, for human consumption in Texas under the Texas Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act. The bill also replaces references to "cell-cultured product" with references to "cell-cultured protein" under those acts.

Senate Bill 262

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Button et al.

Effective: 8-1-26

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 262 amends the Occupations Code to establish alternative eligibility requirements to practice public accountancy with respect to education and work experience.

Senate Bill 263

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Button

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 263 amends the Tax Code to clarify that the principal business activity of broadcasting, for purposes of determining the cost of goods sold for an entity subject to the franchise tax with that principal business activity, is television or radio broadcasting.

Senate Bill 264

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Button

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 264 amends the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Labor Code, to prohibit the commissioner of insurance from issuing a certificate of approval to a proposed workers' compensation self-insurance group on or after September 1, 2025. However, the bill authorizes the commissioner to amend a certificate of approval issued to a workers' compensation self-insurance group before that date.

Senate Bill 264 requires the board of directors of the Texas self-insurance group guaranty fund, not later than December 1, 2025, to submit to the commissioner for approval a revised plan of operation to

wind down and dissolve the guaranty fund and the trust fund established for the emergency payment of the compensation liabilities of an insolvent group and the guaranty fund's administrative expenses. The bill sets out information that must be included in the plan and provides for approval of the plan by the commissioner, implementation of the approved plan by the board, and written notice from the board to the commissioner of the completion of the wind down. The bill requires the commissioner, after receiving such notices, to determine whether the guaranty fund has met its obligations under the approved revised plan and requires the commissioner, if the fund has met its obligations, to issue an order requiring the distribution of any remaining money in the guaranty fund and trust fund to qualified groups. On the 30th day after the date the commissioner issues such an order, the guaranty fund and the trust fund are dissolved and the board is abolished.

Senate Bill 266

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Craddick

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 266 amends the Tax Code to establish a process through which a person may bypass the redetermination process and sue the comptroller of public accounts to dispute the results of a managed audit authorized under statutory provisions relating to the sales and use tax or the gas production tax. The bill also revises provisions relating to certain tax and fee collection procedures.

Senate Bill 268

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Howard

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 268 amends the Occupations Code to require a state licensing entity that receives a complaint concerning a health care practitioner who holds a license issued by a different licensing entity to promptly forward a copy of the complaint to that licensing entity and to prohibit a licensing entity from taking disciplinary action based on a complaint against such a health care practitioner unless the licensing entity with which the practitioner holds a license refers the complaint back to the licensing entity that received the complaint for investigation and resolution. The bill also requires a state licensing entity that receives a complaint concerning a health care practitioner that credibly accuses the practitioner of conduct constituting an offense that resulted in death or serious bodily injury to a person to promptly forward a copy of the complaint to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "In its attempt to streamline responses to health care complaints, this bill would inadvertently raise hurdles to protecting public health and safety. Senate Bill No. 268 aims to ensure a health care complaint is handled by the right regulatory board. It would require a board to forward a complaint about a licensee to the board that issued that individual's license. That's good. But it would also prohibit the original board from taking any disciplinary action for portions of a complaint within its jurisdiction. The Medical Board, for example, should not be prohibited from issuing a cease-and-desist order for unlicensed medical practice simply because the specific practice at issue is also regulated by another board. I look forward to working with the author in the future to craft a solution that accounts for regulatory overlap and ensures no gaps in enforcement."

Senate Bill 269

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Frank et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 269 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a physician to report to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System or to the FDA through the MedWatch reporting program, as applicable, any serious adverse event the physician's patient suffers under the following circumstances:

- the physician diagnoses the patient with a condition related to the serious adverse event and knows the patient received, was administered, or used an applicable vaccination; and
- the patient suffers the serious adverse event before the first anniversary of the date the patient was vaccinated, was administered, or used the drug.

The bill applies only to a vaccine or drug that is experimental or investigational or that is authorized or approved for emergency use by the FDA and does not apply to a vaccine or drug that is administered or used as part of a clinical trial. The bill subjects a physician who violates its provisions to corrective or disciplinary action, as applicable.

Senate Bill 293

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 293 amends the Government Code to revise provisions relating to the discipline of judges by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC), the reporting of judicial transparency information, and judicial compensation and retirement benefits. With respect to the discipline of judges, the bill does the following:

- replaces the authorization for appellate courts to participate in oral argument through the use of teleconferencing technology with a requirement for such courts to do so from a courtroom or other facility provided by the state unless exigent circumstances require otherwise;
- sets out procedures under which the business court, district courts, and statutory county courts must hear or consider a motion for summary judgment by the 45th day after the response to the motion was filed and provide a written ruling on the motion by the 90th day after the motion was argued or considered, including procedures for the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to prepare an annual report on court compliance with those procedures;
- expands the conduct that constitutes wilful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge's duties for purposes of Texas Constitution provisions authorizing the discipline of a judge;
- provides for the submission of additional documentation to support a complaint after the complaint is filed with the SCJC;
- establishes a seven-year statute of limitations with respect to complaints filed with the SCJC but provides for certain exceptions to the statute of limitations;
- authorizes the SCJC to impose administrative sanctions, including an administrative penalty, against a person who knowingly files a false complaint with the SCJC and establishes that an SCJC order imposing such sanctions is a public record;
- revises the process by which the SCJC finalizes an investigation report and takes action on recommendations in that report;
- replaces the provision giving the SCJC, once notified by any law enforcement agency investigating an action for which a complaint has been filed with the SCJC, the discretion to continue an investigation that would not jeopardize a law enforcement investigation with a provision that instead requires the SCJC to continue such an investigation and authorizes the SCJC to issue a censure or sanction based on the complaint;
- revises procedures relating to preliminary investigations conducted by the SCJC regarding the circumstances surrounding an allegation or appearance of misconduct or disability of a judge;
- revises the process by which the SCJC may order a judge to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified physician or psychologist;
- revises the provision entitling a judge who receives from the SCJC a sanction or censure issued by the SCJC under the discretionary authority granted to the SCJC by the Texas Constitution or any

other type of sanction to a review of the SCJC's decision by a special court of review appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;

- requires the SCJC, if it issues a public reprimand of a judge based on the judge's persistent or wilful violation of the rules established by the Code of Criminal Procedure for setting the amount of bail and any conditions of bail, to send notice of the reprimand to specified entities; and
- further requires the SCJC to recommend that a judge be suspended from office based on the judge's persistent and wilful violation of such rules regarding bail and includes such a violation as a cause for removal from office by address on the grounds of incompetency.

The bill also requires OCA to establish a judicial directory that contains the contact information for each judge in Texas and to provide the SCJC with access to the directory for the purpose of providing a written notice to a judge under provisions relating to the SCJC.

With respect to the reporting of judicial transparency information, Senate Bill 293 sets out requirements for each district court judge to submit certain information relating to the performance of the judge's duties, for the presiding judge of each administrative judicial region to submit that information to OCA, and for OCA to prepare and submit an annual report to certain entities.

With respect to judicial compensation and retirement benefits, Senate Bill 293 does the following:

- increases the annual state base salary to which a district court judge or a business court judge is entitled as set by the General Appropriations Act from at least \$140,000 to at least \$175,000;
- revises the compensation to which the chief justice or presiding judge of an appellate court is entitled by entitling such a chief justice or presiding judge to the annual state base salary that applies to other justices or judges of the applicable court and additional compensation from the state in the amount equal to seven percent of that base salary;
- revises the annual state base salary to which a local administrative district judge is entitled by entitling a district court judge who serves as a local administrative district judge to the annual state base salary applicable to a district court judge and an additional annual amount ranging from three to seven percent of that base salary, depending on the number of district courts in the county in which the judge serves;
- sets the base amount used in the calculation of the standard service retirement annuity for a member of the elected class of the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS), excluding a district or criminal district attorney whose effective date of retirement is on or after September 1, 2019, at \$175,000;
- requires the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC), beginning August 31, 2030, and every fifth anniversary of that date, to consider an equitable increase in the dollar amount on which the standard service retirement annuity for such a member is based and to increase the dollar amount as the TEC considers appropriate;
- changes the base amount on which the accumulated account balance for cash balance benefits under ERS is calculated for a member of the legislature to the dollar amount on which the standard service retirement annuity for a member of the elected class of ERS, excluding certain district attorneys, is based, subject to the TEC adjustment;
- provides for the applicability of increases in the annual state base salary to the service retirement annuity computed under the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan One (JRS-1) for a retiree or beneficiary who retired before September 1, 2025;
- changes the provisions applicable to the manner by which a Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan Two (JRS-2) retiree who resumes service as a judicial officer, other than by assignment as a visiting judge in an administrative judicial region and inapplicable to a retiree receiving a cash balance annuity, receives service credit in JRS-2 for the resumed service and by which such a retiree's annuity is recomputed on the person's subsequent retirement from the resumed service;
- requires such a JRS-2 retiree to resume making member contributions at the rate of 9.5 percent of the retiree's state compensation; and

- increases the rate of contributions to JRS-2 from six percent to 9.5 percent for certain judicial officers who accrue 20 years of service credit or have attained the rule of 70.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 296

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Canales

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 296 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide for the eligibility for dismissal by a municipal court of all applicable charges, following a defendant's completion of a driving safety or motorcycle operator training course, and for the request by a defendant to take such a course through a court-designated email address or online portal. The bill also provides for a defendant's payment of a separate reimbursement fee for each offense committed by the defendant that is eligible for dismissal.

Senate Bill 304

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 304 amends the Government Code to authorize the governing body of a municipality by ordinance to provide that a municipal court has the following:

- civil jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing municipal ordinances regulating dangerous structures and junked vehicles;
- concurrent jurisdiction with a district court or a county court at law under applicable Local Government Code provisions within the municipality's territorial limits and property owned by the municipality located in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing health and safety and nuisance abatement ordinances; and
- authority to issue search warrants for the purpose of investigating a health and safety or nuisance abatement ordinance violation and seizure warrants for the purpose of securing, removing, or demolishing the offending property and removing the debris from the premises.

Senate Bill 305

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 305 amends the Transportation Code to include the following among the vehicles that trigger an offense for the operator of another vehicle who, on approaching the vehicle, fails to slow to a specified speed or vacate the lane closest to the vehicle:

- a vehicle operated by an employee of a local authority for the purpose of issuing a parking citation that meets specified conditions; and
- a vehicle operated by an authorized individual for the purpose of removing an animal or animal carcass from a roadway that meets specified conditions.

Senate Bill 314

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Harris Davila

Effective: 5-27-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 314 amends the Education Code to prohibit a public school district or open-enrollment charter school that provides free or reduced-price meals to eligible students under a locally funded program, the national school breakfast program, or the national school lunch program from providing as part of a free or reduced-price meal any food that contains certain food additives beginning with the

2026-2027 school year. The bill establishes that a district or charter school that receives a waiver exempting the district or school from the prohibition is not in violation of the bill.

Senate Bill 326

Effective: 5-20-25

Senate Author: King et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 326 amends the Education Code to require a public school district, open-enrollment charter school, and public institution of higher education, in taking disciplinary action against a student for certain behaviors involving antisemitism, to use a specified statutory definition of antisemitism in determining whether the student's behavior was motivated by antisemitism.

Senate Bill 331

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Frank

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 331 amends the Health and Safety Code to extend the applicability of statutory provisions requiring the disclosure of health care cost information applicable to licensed hospitals under current law to certain other types of health care facilities. However, the bill limits the applicability of those provisions to facilities with a total gross revenue of \$10 million or more. The bill additionally revises provisions relating to the administrative penalty that the Health and Human Services Commission may impose on a facility that fails to respond to a request to submit, or fails to comply with the requirements of, a corrective action plan.

Senate Bill 365

Effective: 5-6-25

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Howard et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Current law provides for the right to an academic fresh start, which allows undergraduate students seeking to reenroll in postsecondary education to waive their previous academic record if their coursework was completed 10 or more years ago. Senate Bill 365 amends the Education Code to authorize a public institution of higher education to choose to additionally disregard academic course credits or grades earned by an applicant between five and 10 years before the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll. The bill requires each public institution of higher education to adopt, post on its website, and submit to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a policy regarding academic fresh start admissions, including the period for which an applicant's course credits or grades will be considered by the institution under the policy.

Senate Bill 370

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Perry

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Harless

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 370 amends the Government Code to provide for an exception under state public information law for information that relates to certain sensitive personal information of all current or former employees of the office of the attorney general, family members of such persons, and current or former employees of a public defender's office. The bill establishes the confidentiality of information included in a form submitted by a covered individual notifying a governmental body of the individual's choice to restrict public access to the applicable information. The bill amends the Tax Code to make changes to the persons eligible to make information in appraisal records confidential and available only for the official use of an applicable governmental entity.

Senate Bill 372

Senate Author: Campbell
House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 372 amends the Property Code to clarify that a person authorized as a trustee or appointed as a substitute trustee to exercise the power of sale under the terms of a contract lien on real property includes an individual, corporation, organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, or other legal entity so authorized or appointed, as applicable.

Senate Bill 378

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.
House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 378 amends the Occupations Code to prohibit a person performing a barbering or cosmetology service within the scope of an individual practitioner license or student permit from making an incision into the dermis layer of a person's skin, including for purposes of injecting a medication or other substance, or from using a device that is required under federal or state law to be ordered or prescribed by a practitioner, unless the person is also licensed or otherwise authorized by law to perform such an act.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texas should be removing barriers for small businesses and occupational licensees. Senate Bill 378 by Schwertner does just the opposite by, among other things, prohibiting a licensed cosmetologist or barber from 'making an incision into the dermis layer of a person's skin.' Barbers who nick a customer's neck during a straight razor shave should not fear the loss of their licenses. As we work to make government more efficient and less intrusive for Texans and businesses, unnecessary and overly burdensome regulations are counterproductive. Therefore, I disapprove of this bill."

Senate Bill 379

Senate Author: Middleton et al.
House Sponsor: Gerdes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 379 amends the Human Resources Code to prohibit a SNAP recipient from using those benefits to purchase a sweetened drink or candy ordinarily packaged and sold for consumption without further preparation.

Senate Bill 384

Senate Author: Flores et al.
House Sponsor: Orr et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 384 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to provide for a hunting or fishing license applicant to make a donation to the operation game thief fund when applying for the license.

Senate Bill 387

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Landgraf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 387 amends the Government Code to increase the bond amount set by the applicable county commissioners court that the judge of either a statutory county court or a constitutional county court presiding over guardianship or probate proceedings is required to execute before beginning the duties of office to not less than \$500,000. The bill removes the exemption from provisions relating to the bond requirement and the removal of a statutory county court judge from office for a judge of a statutory county court who does not preside over guardianship proceeding.

Senate Bill 401**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Frank et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Public Education

Current law authorizes a public school that participates in an activity sponsored by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to opt in to allowing participation in the activity by non-enrolled students on behalf of the school. Senate Bill 401 amends the Education Code to instead require such a school to allow participation by non-enrolled students unless the school is subject to a policy adopted by the board of trustees of a public school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school declining to grant non-enrolled students the opportunity to participate in UIL activities. The bill authorizes a non-enrolled student, if the school that the student would be eligible to attend based on the student's residential address is subject to such a policy, to participate in a UIL activity for the closest school that is not subject to such a policy.

Senate Bill 402**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Little et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Current law allows a person to file a written request with a collector or taxing unit to receive a property tax refund at a particular address. Senate Bill 402 amends the Tax Code to require the comptroller of public accounts to prescribe a form for the request and to condition the duty of a collector or taxing unit to comply with the request on the person filing the request before the date the refund is issued.

Senate Bill 412**Senate Author:** Middleton et al.**House Sponsor:** Patterson et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 412 repeals the Penal Code provision that establishes as an affirmative defense to prosecution for the sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor that the sale, distribution, or exhibition was by a person having scientific, educational, governmental, or other similar justification. The bill amends the Penal Code to establish as an affirmative defense to prosecution for specific conduct constituting that offense that the actor was a judicial or law enforcement officer discharging the officer's official duties at the time of the offense.

Senate Bill 412 replaces the affirmative defense to prosecution for the offense of sexual performance by a child that the conduct constituting the offense was for an applicable bona fide purpose with an affirmative defense to prosecution for that offense that the actor was a judicial or law enforcement officer discharging the officer's official duties at the time of the offense.

Senate Bill 413**Senate Author:** Middleton et al.**House Sponsor:** Buckley**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 413 amends the Education Code to remove the option for the certified agenda or recording of a regular or special meeting of the board of trustees of an independent school district to reflect each member's attendance at or absence from the meeting as an alternative to the minutes of the meeting reflecting that information. The bill requires those minutes to also include each member's vote on any item that is voted on by the board at the meeting and sets deadlines by which the board is required to post meeting minutes and any adopted resolutions on the district's website. Additionally, the bill requires the board to make a recording of each regular or special meeting of the board.

Senate Bill 434

Senate Author: Miles

House Sponsor: Jones, Jolanda et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 434 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Health and Safety Code to authorize the board of hospital managers of the Harris County Hospital District to employ and commission peace officers for the district.

Senate Bill 437

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Cunningham

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 437 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the annual inservice training for employees and health care professionals of inpatient mental health facilities, treatment facilities, and hospitals that provide comprehensive medical rehabilitation services regarding the identification of patient abuse or neglect and of illegal, unprofessional, or unethical conduct to be provided in person or through a live, interactive, instructor-led, and electronic method that uses synchronous audiovisual interaction between the instructor and employees. The bill adds to the criteria to be considered with regard to the determination of the following penalty amounts:

- the amount of a civil penalty for a violation of statutory provisions or rules relating to the regulation of chemical dependency treatment facilities; and
- the amount of an administrative penalty for a violation of statutory provisions, rules, or orders relating to facilities that treat persons with a chemical dependency.

Senate Bill 441

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

House Sponsor: Lalani

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Previous law established an offense for the unlawful production or distribution of sexually explicit deep fake videos depicting a real person performing an action that did not actually occur. Senate Bill 441 amends the Penal Code to expand the scope of that offense to include any visual depiction or media created or altered through computer-generated or technological means, including artificial intelligence (AI). The bill also creates an offense for a person who intentionally threatens to produce or distribute deep fake media with the intent to coerce, extort, harass, or intimidate another person.

Senate Bill 441 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to set out provisions relating to liability for the unlawful production, solicitation, disclosure, or promotion of certain artificial intimate visual material, including the liability of owners of Internet websites or applications, social media platforms, certain AI applications, and related payment processors. The bill requires a person who owns an Internet website or application, including a social media platform, to provide an easily accessible system that allows requests for the removal of artificial intimate visual material from the website or application. The bill also provides for the optional use of a confidential identity by a claimant in a suit regarding the unlawful production, solicitation, disclosure, or promotion of intimate visual material and sets the statute of limitations period for a person to bring such a suit at 10 years from the discovery of the applicable intimate visual material or the 18th birthday of the person depicted, whichever is later.

Senate Bill 447

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Morales, Eddie

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 447 amends the Election Code to authorize the City of Mission to change the date on which it holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date.

Senate Bill 455**Senate Author:** Middleton et al.**House Sponsor:** Morgan et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 455 amends the Insurance Code to require a surplus lines insurance contract for a risk located wholly in Texas and that contains an arbitration agreement to provide the following:

- the arbitration will be conducted in Texas and governed by state laws; and
- the insurance contract will be interpreted in accordance with state laws unless the insurer and policyholder agree to a different venue after the insurer provides written notice to the policyholder of the insurer's request for a different venue and the insurer provides the policyholder with a premium credit for the costs incurred by the policyholder as a result of the change in venue.

For surplus lines insurance contracts for over \$2 million in insured value, the insurer and policyholder may agree by mutual consent to a different arbitration venue and governance under another state's laws, provided the agreement is in a form.

Senate Bill 456**Senate Author:** Middleton et al.**House Sponsor:** Lopez, Janie**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 456 amends the Occupations Code and Penal Code to increase from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony the penalty for the offense relating to the purchase and sale of human organs. The bill requires the Texas Medical Board to revoke the license of a physician who knowingly uses a human organ obtained in violation of that offense in a medical procedure.

Senate Bill 457**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst et al.**House Sponsor:** Frank et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 457 amends the Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Human Resources Code to revise and set out provisions relating to the regulation of certain nursing facilities. The bill provides for the establishment of an annual patient care expense ratio for the reimbursement of nursing facility providers providing services to Medicaid recipients and requires a related report by the Health and Human Services Commission. Additionally, the bill provides for the continued Medicaid reimbursement of applicable nursing facilities while a change in ownership application for the facility is pending and requires nursing facility license applicants and license holders to disclose certain information related to the ownership interests in the facility or the property on which the facility is located.

Senate Bill 458**Senate Author:** Schwertner et al.**House Sponsor:** Dean et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 458 amends the Insurance Code to require a personal automobile or residential property insurance policy to contain an appraisal provision, which is intended to provide a type of dispute resolution process solely to determine the amount of loss when that amount is in dispute between the policyholder and the insurer. This requirement does not apply to a Texas Windstorm Insurance Association policy or a commercial insurance policy. Among other provisions, the bill makes the appraisal outcome binding, with certain exceptions, and requires the commissioner of insurance to adopt rules necessary to implement the appraisal provision requirement, including rules establishing the period in which the appraisal must be completed and rules mandating an appraisal for total loss and damage of the property that is the subject of the appraisal. In adopting the rules establishing the period in which the appraisal must be completed, the commissioner must consider the qualifications and selection of appraisers and umpires for the appraisal.

Senate Bill 462

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Harris Davila et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 462 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission to require that any waiting list for child-care services must establish a priority position for the delivery of those services to children of child-care workers employed by and working in a licensed child-care facility for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

Senate Bill 463

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

House Sponsor: Howard

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 463 amends the Health and Safety Code to expand the definition of "facility" for purposes of workplace violence prevention requirements.

Senate Bill 467

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 467 amends the Tax Code to create a temporary exemption from property taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire. The bill takes effect January 1, 2026, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 84.

Senate Bill 480

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Canales

Effective: 5-28-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 480 amends the Government Code to authorize a local government to enter into an interlocal contract with another local government, the state, or the federal government to jointly participate in research or planning activities related to water resources.

Senate Bill 482

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Harless

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 482 amends the Penal Code to classify interference with an employee or agent of a utility performing a duty within the scope of that employment or agency as an offense of interference with public duties and to enhance penalties and punishment, as applicable, for assault, harassment, and an offense committed in a disaster area or evacuated area that are committed against such an employee or agent.

Senate Bill 487

Senate Author: Alvarado

House Sponsor: Flores et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 487 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to make provisions relating to the confidentiality of identifying information of victims of stalking applicable to a person who is the subject of an offense that allegedly constitutes indecent assault or invasive visual recording or an offense that is part of the same criminal episode as such an offense.

Senate Bill 493

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.
House Sponsor: Wharton

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 493 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a pharmacy benefit manager from prohibiting or restricting a pharmacist or pharmacy from informing an enrollee of any difference between the enrollee's out-of-pocket cost for a prescription drug under the enrollee's prescription drug benefit and the out-of-pocket cost without submitting a claim under that benefit. The bill establishes that a provision in a pharmacy benefit manager's pharmacy benefit network contract is void and unenforceable if the provision prohibits or restricts a pharmacist or pharmacy from doing either of the following:

- informing an enrollee of such a cost difference; or
- communicating with plan sponsors or administrators regarding member services with respect to prescription drug benefits, pharmacy services and benefits, network access and adequacy with respect to prescription drug benefits, partnership opportunities, or prescription claim reimbursement.

Senate Bill 494

Senate Author: Sparks et al.
House Sponsor: Landgraf et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources
House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 494 requires the Railroad Commission of Texas to appoint a temporary task force to study and make recommendations related to preventing the theft of petroleum products in Texas.

Senate Bill 499

Senate Author: Sparks et al.
House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 499 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to remove the requirement that a bank selected to serve as a depository for money of the West Coke County Hospital District be in the district.

Senate Bill 500

Senate Author: Sparks et al.
House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 500 amends the Family Code to establish specific deadlines for the provision of pre-adoption health, social, educational, and genetic history reports, records, and information by the Department of Family and Protective Services and certain entities placing a child for adoption. The bill also revises confidentiality provisions with regard to the examination of such records and information and requires a prospective adoptive parent to sign a nondisclosure agreement before the release of confidential information.

Senate Bill 502

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Orr et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 502 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to classify an officer commissioned and employed by the Health and Human Services Commission office of inspector general as a peace officer and to require that office to ensure such an officer is compensated according to Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule prescribed by the General Appropriations Act. The bill also provides for the applicability of statutory provisions relating to hazardous duty pay for qualifying state employees and injury leave for certain peace officers to an officer commissioned by the office.

Senate Bill 503

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 503 amends the Agriculture Code to require the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to establish and maintain on its website a publicly available and searchable electronic registry of livestock marks and brands recorded with a county clerk. The bill requires the TAHC to adopt rules and procedures to implement the registry, including a process for a person to record a mark or brand with a county clerk through an electronic method, in a form and manner prescribed by the TAHC, and for a county clerk to deliver to the TAHC an electronic record of a mark or brand that has been recorded with the county clerk, including any records of a mark or brand that was recorded with the county clerk before the registry's establishment.

Senate Bill 503, among other provisions, includes as a person subject to statutory provisions relating to general animal disease and pest control as the caretaker of an animal and who is presumed to control the animal a person who has recorded a mark or brand for the animal.

Senate Bill 506

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Paul et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 506 amends the Election Code to set out requirements relating to ballot propositions. The bill requires a ballot proposition to substantially submit the question with such definiteness, certainty, and facial neutrality that the voters are not misled and provides for a person to seek a writ of mandamus under certain conditions to compel compliance for a ballot proposition to meet those standards. The bill also sets out ballot proposition language enforcement provisions, including review by the secretary of state of a ballot proposition to determine whether the proposition is misleading, inaccurate, or prejudicial.

Senate Bill 509

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Schofield

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 509 amends the Election Code to require a court to electronically notify the attorney general of a hearing in an action under the Election Code seeking a temporary restraining order. The bill provides for the participation of the attorney general in the hearing and makes a temporary restraining order issued in violation of the bill's provisions void and unenforceable.

Senate Bill 510

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 510 amends the Election Code to expand the authority of the secretary of state to withhold certain election funding from a voter registrar to include withholding such funding from a registrar for failure to timely perform any duty imposed on the voter registrar under the Election Code that requires the following:

- the approval, change, or cancellation of a voter's registration;
- the scheduling of a hearing on the challenge of a voter registration cancellation or of the registration of a voter by another registered voter;
- the determination of either such challenge; or
- the delivery of a confirmation notice to a voter whose registration is challenged by another voter.

Senate Bill 512

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: Schofield

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial
 Services

Senate Bill 512 amends the Finance Code to prohibit a money transmission licensee from including in the licensee's terms of service agreement a provision allowing or providing for a monetary fine or penalty for violating any provision of the agreement. However, the bill clarifies that this prohibition does not prevent a money transmission licensee from closing a customer account as a result of a customer's violation of the licensee's terms of service agreement, provided that the licensee refunds the account balance in a manner that makes the funds readily available to the customer. A licensee that violates the prohibition is liable for a civil penalty.

Senate Bill 513

Senate Author: Sparks et al.
House Sponsor: Craddick

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 513 amends the Family Code to provide for the development and implementation of a rural community-based care pilot program in an eligible rural region by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), in partnership with a qualifying lead entity, for purposes of implementing a community-based model of child welfare services and increasing community engagement in the child welfare system, improving outcomes for children and families by expanding the availability of child welfare services and promoting innovation in the delivery of those services to children and families, and developing a sustainable, replicable model for the provision of child welfare services in rural areas. Among other provisions, the bill requires DFPS to contract with an independent evaluator for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program and to submit certain reports to the legislature. The bill sets its provisions to expire September 1, 2031, and requires the legislature to review the program by that date to determine whether to extend, modify, or conclude the program.

Senate Bill 519

Senate Author: Middleton
House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 519 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Historical Commission to create and administer the Texas History Grant Program to support the purpose of promoting educational engagement with the state's history.

Senate Bill 522

Senate Author: Perry et al.
House Sponsor: Button et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 522 amends the Occupations Code to revise the eligibility requirements for certification by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy for the holder of a CPA certificate or license issued by another state. The bill also revises the eligibility requirements for the holder of an active CPA certificate or license issued by another state whose principal place of business is not in Texas to be able to exercise the privileges of Texas certificate and license holders without obtaining a certificate or license under Texas law.

Senate Bill 523

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
 Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 523 amends the Transportation Code to allow a parole officer or a probation officer to use an office address as an alternate address on their driver's license.

Senate Bill 527

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.
House Sponsor: Oliverson

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 527 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a health benefit plan that provides coverage for general anesthesia from excluding from coverage medically necessary general anesthesia services in connection with dental services provided to a covered individual who is younger than 13 years of age and unable to undergo the dental service without general anesthesia due to a documented physical, mental, or medical reason, provided that the anesthesia is performed by a qualified provider of anesthesia services.

Senate Bill 528

Senate Author: Schwertner
House Sponsor: Harris Davila

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 528 amends the Health and Safety Code to set out provisions applicable to a facility that contracts or subcontracts with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide inpatient competency restoration services or that subcontracts to provide those services. The bill requires the executive commissioner of HHSC to require each facility to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the county and municipality in which the facility is located and each local mental health authority and local behavioral health authority that operates in the county or municipality, as applicable, to outline the respective powers and duties of the parties with respect to inpatient competency restoration services. The bill sets out annual reporting requirements for each facility and for HHSC.

Senate Bill 529

Senate Author: Sparks
House Sponsor: Craddick

Effective: 5-30-25
Senate Committee: Economic Development
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 529 amends the Tax Code to establish that the City of Midland may pledge or commit certain tax revenue for the payment of bonds or other obligations related to a qualified project for only two qualified projects.

Senate Bill 529 entitles the City of Midland to receive the sales and use tax and, if applicable, mixed beverage tax revenue derived from qualified restaurants, bars, retail establishments, and swimming pools and swimming facilities owned and operated by the related qualified hotel that are located in the municipality.

Senate Bill 530

Senate Author: Sparks
House Sponsor: Shofner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 530 amends the Education Code to remove the specific reference to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from the definition of "recognized accrediting agency" for purposes of statutory provisions relating to the accreditation of public postsecondary educational institutions and to replace certain statutory references to that association with references to a recognized accrediting agency. The bill provides for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt rules or take other action necessary to ensure that each public institution of higher education is properly accredited as required to participate in federal student financial assistance programs.

Senate Bill 535

Senate Author: Huffman
House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 535 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish that, in the prosecution of certain trafficking, sexual, or assaultive offenses or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any such offense,

reputation or opinion evidence of a victim's past sexual behavior and evidence of a specific instance of a victim's past sexual behavior are not admissible. The bill specifies that a "victim" includes the victim of an extraneous offense or act with respect to which evidence is introduced during the prosecution of an applicable offense.

Senate Bill 535 prohibits a defendant from offering evidence of a specific instance of a victim's past sexual behavior unless the court, on a motion of the defendant made outside the presence of the jury, conducts an in camera examination of the evidence in the presence of the court reporter and determines that the probative value of the evidence outweighs the danger of unfair prejudice to the victim and that the evidence meets certain conditions. The bill requires the court to seal the record of the in camera examination conducted and preserve the examination record as part of the record in the case.

Senate Bill 535 establishes that, under the terms provided by statutory provisions relating to rules of evidence in criminal cases, Rule 412, Texas Rules of Evidence, is disapproved.

Senate Bill 541

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Hull

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 541 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to cottage food production operations by expanding the types of products that such an operation may sell and the types of entities that qualify as such an operation, revising labeling requirements, establishing a registration requirement for the sale of time and temperature control for safety foods, and prohibiting a local government authority from requiring such an operation to obtain any type of license or permit to produce, sell, or provide samples of authorized food. The bill also provides for the sampling and donation of cottage food and for the sale of such food to a cottage food vendor.

Senate Bill 546

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Sponsor: Craddick

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 546 amends the Transportation Code to revise the exceptions to the requirement for a school bus, school activity bus, multifunction school activity bus, or school-chartered bus operated by or contracted for use by a public school district for the transportation of schoolchildren to be equipped with a three-point seat belt for each passenger. The bill also provides for a report by each applicable district that includes information on the number of buses operated by or contracted for use by the district that are not equipped with seat belts, that are equipped with two-point seat belts, and that are equipped with three-point seat belts, and the estimated cost to equip applicable buses with three-point seat belts. The bill requires the Texas Education Agency, not later than January 1, 2027, to collect the information submitted under the district reports, calculate the total amount of financial assistance needed for all districts to come into full compliance with the three-point seat belt requirement, and summarize and make available to certain individuals the required information.

Senate Bill 565

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Sponsor: Harris Davila

House Committee: Natural Resources

Current law provides for the suspension of a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality enforcement action against a regional water supply, sewer, wastewater treatment, or solid waste disposal service that is integrating certain water supply, sewer, wastewater treatment, or solid waste disposal services. Senate Bill 565 amends the Water Code to expand those integrated services and to clarify the regional service's administration.

Senate Bill 568

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Buckley

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 568 amends the Education Code to revise and set out provisions relating to special education in public schools, including funding for special education under the foundation school program. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for the ability of a student who is enrolled in a special education program to earn the distinguished level of achievement;
- replaces requirements for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to develop a statewide design and plan for the delivery of services to children with disabilities with a requirement for TEA to develop a comprehensive system to ensure statewide and local compliance with federal and state law related to special education;
- requires the board of trustees of a public school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school, at least once each year, to include during a public meeting a discussion of the performance of students receiving special education services;
- revises the eligibility criteria for participation in a special education program;
- provides for the development and distribution to applicable parents of information regarding educational residential placement options for children who may qualify for placement in a state supported living center;
- revises and sets out provisions relating to contracts for the provision of services to students with disabilities in a residential or day placement program, including requirements regarding oversight of such contracts by the commissioner of education;
- revises provisions relating to funding for noneducational community-based support services to provide for the operation of a grant program for the provision of such services to students who are placed in a residential program or are placed in a day placement program and at risk of being placed in a residential program;
- renames the supplemental special education services program as the parent-directed special education services program and makes certain other changes regarding that program, including requiring TEA to maintain an online application system, requiring use of a waitlist if more acceptable applications are received than available funding, and requiring the commissioner to award a grant to each eligible applicant who applied but was not accepted for the 2024-2025 school year; and
- revises provisions relating to students with visual impairments, who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who are deaf-blind, including by providing for the consolidation of statewide plans for the education of such students and revising requirements for data collection and reporting regarding the language acquisition of certain children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Effective September 1, 2025, the bill does the following:

- increases the special education transportation reimbursement rate and the college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus for students receiving special education services;
- establishes a special education full individual and initial evaluation allotment;
- provides allotment funding for qualifying day placement programs or cooperatives and establishes an allotment for regional day school programs for the deaf as a replacement for the existing method of allocating appropriated funds for such programs based on the number of weighted full-time equivalent students served; and
- makes discretionary the provision of grants for video surveillance of special education settings using excess foundation school program funds.

Furthermore, the bill does the following effective September 1, 2026:

- revises provisions relating to the special education allotment to provide for the transition from a placement-based funding model to a service intensity-based model and, with respect to extended

school year services, to provide for funding at the highest tier of intensity for which the student qualifies and remove the 75 percent funding limit and the \$10 million statewide cap;

- establishes a new special education service group allotment;
- provides for special education transition funding for the 2026-2027 school year;
- revises the eligibility criteria for the allotment for a student with dyslexia or a related disorder and removes a cap on the amount of the allotment that may be used to contract with a private provider to provide supplemental academic services to the student;
- replaces a reference to a mainstream instructional arrangement with a reference to a general education setting in provisions relating to the basic allotment; and
- requires reporting through PEIMS of information regarding students enrolled in a special education program as necessary for TEA to perform general supervision activities and determine allotment funding.

Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect June 20, 2025.

Senate Bill 569

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith et al.

Effective: 5-6-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 569 amends the Education Code to set out provisions authorizing a public school district or open-enrollment charter school to deliver instruction through hybrid courses, virtual courses, full-time hybrid programs, and full-time virtual programs and, if authorized by the commissioner of education, to operate a full-time hybrid campus or a full-time virtual campus. The bill also authorizes a consortium of districts or charter schools, a public institution of higher education, or a regional education service center to deliver instruction through hybrid or virtual courses in the same manner provided for a district or charter school. The bill repeals provisions relating to the state virtual school network and makes certain provisions currently applicable to that network applicable instead to virtual or hybrid courses offered under the bill's provisions.

With respect to hybrid and virtual courses, Senate Bill 569 sets out provisions relating to course quality requirements, the rights of students and teachers, administration of academic skills tests, tuition and fees for certain courses, and attendance for class credit or a grade. With respect to full-time hybrid or full-time virtual campuses, the bill sets out provisions relating to the process for authorization of such a campus, the revocation of an authorization, student enrollment eligibility, student rights, campus designations, and funding. The bill also includes provisions regarding accountability for a private or third party acting as a whole program virtual instruction provider, participation in extracurricular activities, and the reporting and verification of attendance, among other topics. The bill requires the Texas Education Agency to publish a list of virtual courses offered by districts and charter schools, to develop professional development courses and materials for educators in providing high-quality virtual education, and to provide grants and technical assistance to districts and charter schools to aid in the establishment of high-quality full-time hybrid or full-time virtual campuses.

Senate Bill 569 prohibits a district or charter school from actively discouraging a student from enrolling in a virtual or hybrid course. The bill authorizes a district or charter school to deny a request to enroll a student in a virtual or hybrid course based on a determination that the cost of the course is too high, among other grounds for denial under existing law, and requires a district or charter school that denies such a request to provide to the student and the student's parent a written explanation of the denial that includes information about the appeal process.

Senate Bill 569 requires a district or charter school, before expelling a student, to consider the appropriateness and feasibility of enrolling the student in a full-time hybrid or virtual program or campus as an alternative to expulsion, with certain exceptions. The bill requires a remote or hybrid dropout recovery education program to be a full-time hybrid or virtual program or campus and revises provisions relating

to the computation of average daily attendance (ADA) with respect to students in a dropout recovery education program.

Senate Bill 569 requires the commissioner, in a school year in which the occurrence of an emergency or crisis causes a statewide decrease in ADA of districts entitled to foundation school program funding or, if applicable, a regional decrease in the ADA of districts located in a specific region affected by an emergency or crisis, to modify or waive requirements applicable to the affected districts with respect to ADA and adopt appropriate safeguards to ensure the continued support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools and the continued delivery of high-quality instruction under that system.

Senate Bill 569 requires the allotment for a special-purpose school district operated by a general academic teaching institution to be determined as if the district were a full-time hybrid or virtual campus with no tier one local share. The bill requires a student receiving a full-time virtual education provided through a full-time virtual campus to be included in determining the number of students who are educationally disadvantaged and reside in an economically disadvantaged census block group for purposes of the compensatory education allotment.

Senate Bill 571

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 571 amends the Education Code to consolidate and revise provisions relating to the reporting and investigation of misconduct by employees of public educational entities and private schools. Among other changes, the bill revises the circumstances under which an applicable administrator must make a report, the type of misconduct that must be reported, and the reporting deadlines and requires the reports to be submitted through the Internet portal maintained by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The bill subjects service providers for a public educational entity who have or will have direct contact with students to the same misconduct reporting requirements as employees of such an entity who are not educators and, with respect to private schools, requires misconduct reporting for all employees and persons seeking employment, rather than only educators as under previous law. Furthermore, the bill sets out new requirements for the comptroller of public accounts to report certain misconduct by a person who is employed by or contracts with an educational provider to provide educational services to a child participating in the education savings account program.

Senate Bill 571 expands the type of misconduct involving a student for which the student's parent or guardian must be notified. The bill requires notification to TEA when the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) places a notice of an alleged incident of misconduct on the public certification records of an educator and requires TEA to immediately place the educator on the do-not-hire registry with an indication that the educator is under investigation for alleged misconduct. If it is determined that the educator has not engaged in the alleged incident, the SBEC must immediately notify TEA to remove the educator from the registry.

Senate Bill 571 revises provisions regarding the use of pre-employment affidavits for certain applicants for employment with a public educational entity. Among other changes, the bill expands the applicability of those provisions to require submission of an affidavit by any person applying for employment with or who will act as a service provider for such an entity and revises the information that must be disclosed on the affidavit.

Senate Bill 571 expands the applicability of procedures for notification, investigation, and hearing regarding alleged misconduct by non-educators. With respect to the investigation of misconduct, the bill sets a deadline by which TEA or the SBEC must make certain preliminary determinations, revises provisions regarding the issuance of subpoenas, and restricts the surrender of an educator certificate or permit pending investigation.

Senate Bill 571 revises provisions relating to the registry of persons not eligible for employment in public schools, including by broadening the registry's scope to include service providers, expanding the

grounds for inclusion in the registry, and requiring the registry to include information indicating whether a person's listing expires. The bill provides for a person's temporary inclusion in the registry based on a continuing and imminent threat to public welfare or certain arrests and also provides for the temporary suspension of an educator certification or permit on the same grounds.

Senate Bill 571 requires TEA to report certain allegations of misconduct to law enforcement, to review certain misconduct investigations conducted by public educational entities to ensure that appropriate investigative protocols are used, and to post on the TEA website quarterly reports regarding reported misconduct. The bill also authorizes TEA to investigate certain allegations of misconduct directly, regardless of whether a report or complaint was filed with TEA. The bill provides for the authority of the commissioner of education to authorize a special investigation based on an entity's failure to follow appropriate investigative protocols, to produce evidence or an investigation report relating to a person who is under investigation by TEA, or to timely submit a required misconduct report.

Senate Bill 571 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Education Code to expand the list of offenses for which conviction or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision, as applicable, triggers revocation of an educator certificate and termination or refusal of employment. The bill also prohibits the issuance of an educator certificate or permit to a person with an applicable conviction or deferred adjudication placement.

Senate Bill 571 amends the Family Code to revise provisions governing the investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect. Among other changes, the bill includes conduct that constitutes the offense of improper relationship between educator and student in the definition of "abuse," shortens the deadline by which a professional must make a report of child abuse or neglect, and authorizes the identity of an individual making a report to be disclosed to TEA or the SBEC for certain purposes. The bill also revises the requirement for the Department of Family and Protective Services to provide notice of an investigation of child abuse or neglect involving an employee of a public or private school to the applicable school administrator by removing the condition that the child is a student at the school and requiring the notice to be in writing.

Senate Bill 571 amends the Health and Safety Code to make conforming changes.

Senate Bill 599

Senate Author: West

House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha

Effective: 5-15-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 599 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, order, or other measure that requires a group day-care home or family home licensed, registered, or listed under applicable state law to comply with health and safety standards that exceed the standards established by statute or Health and Human Services Commission rule.

Senate Bill 608

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Howard

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 608 amends the Government Code and Local Government Code to include the number of evidence collection kits for use in the collection and preservation of evidence of a sex offense that a law enforcement agency did not take possession of by the statutorily prescribed deadline among the required contents of the following reports:

- the annual report submitted by the Department of Public Safety identifying the number of evidence collection kits that have not yet been submitted for laboratory analysis or for which the laboratory analysis has not yet been completed, as applicable; and
- the biennial report that a county adult sexual assault response team is required to provide to the commissioners court of each county.

Senate Bill 610

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Thompson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 610 amends the Occupations Code to authorize the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to combat human trafficking by establishing an anti-trafficking unit within TDLR, identifying businesses operating within TDLR-regulated industries that are impacted by human trafficking, and coordinating with certain entities. The bill provides for the confidentiality of information that identifies an individual as a victim of human trafficking and authorizes TDLR to withhold such information without requesting an attorney general decision as to whether the information is excepted from disclosure under state public information law.

Senate Bill 612

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Martinez

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 612 amends the Water Code to prohibit certain water districts in Cameron, Hidalgo, or Willacy Counties from imposing on a developer that proposes to construct a water or sewer pipeline or associated infrastructure in such a respective district's service area a fee that is greater than applicable costs incurred by the district in association with the construction.

Senate Bill 614

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 614 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize the Texas Forensic Science Commission (FSC) to review and refer to the office of capital and forensic writs cases that are dismissed by the FSC with an express referral to a previously published report that covers the same subject matter and is issued for certain FSC investigations.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As the Supreme Court of the United States recognized nearly two centuries ago, a final criminal judgment is 'binding on all the world.' *Ex parte Watkins*, 3 Pet. 193, 202-203 (1830). That is why efforts to reopen a state court judgment in habeas proceedings must be the rare exception—*i.e.*, where the convicting court manifestly lacked jurisdiction over the defendant or his offense.

"Senate Bill No. 614, however, encourages convicted criminals, defense attorneys, and state courts to embrace the notion that the writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* is merely a fifth, sixth, or seventh round of review—sometimes taken decades after defendants received the process due to them in a criminal trial and exhausted any direct appeals afforded by state law. This bill would encourage the Texas Forensic Science Commission to refer cases that have *already* been dismissed as lacking merit to the Office of Capital and Forensic Writs.

"OCFW should not be seeking to assist convicted criminals with undoing final criminal judgments based on 'the same subject matter' that TFSC already determined was baseless. That undercuts 'the State's sovereign interest in its final judgment' and its 'powerful and legitimate interest in punishing the guilty.' *Brown v. Davenport*, 596 U.S. 118, 132-133 (2022). Our laws must separate 'the meritorious needles from the growing haystack' of habeas claims, not stack it even higher. *Id.* at 132."

Senate Bill 616

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Harris Davila

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 616 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to authorize by rule or permit the injection of water into a geologic formation that

underlies the Edwards Aquifer for an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project that includes an ASR injection well that transects the Edwards Aquifer in Medina County or the area of Williamson County east of Interstate Highway 35.

Senate Bill 617

Senate Author: Schwertner
House Sponsor: Harris Davila et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 617 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality's governing body from approving the conversion of a property under the municipality's control to provide housing to homeless individuals unless the governing body holds a public hearing.

Senate Bill 627

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: VanDeaver

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 627 amends the Occupations Code to remove references to provisional licensed dietitians and to the fitness of applicants for a dietician license. Among other provisions, the bill repeals a provision that requires the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to prepare and make available a registry of licensed dietitians and provisional licensed dietitians and a provision that requires the State Office of Administrative Hearings to use the schedule of sanctions adopted by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation for a sanction imposed as the result of a hearing conducted by the office.

Senate Bill 646

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 646 amends the Education Code to extend eligibility for the mental health professionals loan repayment program to the following categories of professionals:

- licensed master social workers;
- persons who hold a licensed professional counselor associate license;
- licensed marriage and family therapist associates; and
- certified school counselors who have earned at least a master's degree related to counseling from any public or accredited private institution of higher education.

In addition, the bill revises the program eligibility requirements to give a mental health professional the option of providing mental health services to students enrolled in a public school in Texas as an alternative to providing mental health services to patients in a state hospital or individuals receiving applicable community-based mental health services. The bill removes provisions that require grants for licensed marriage and family therapists to be given lower priority than grants for all other types of eligible mental health professionals.

Senate Bill 646 raises caps on the amount of assistance that an eligible mental health professional may receive under the program and provides for additional one-time repayment opportunities for professionals who are fluent in a language of need in their practice area, who practice in a county with a population of 150,000 or less, or who practice in a program-eligible manner for a fourth and fifth consecutive year. The bill authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to use funds, in an amount not to exceed \$1 million appropriated for the program, to market the program to students enrolled in postsecondary institutions, mental health professionals, and mental health professional organizations and associations and to contract with a third party for this purpose.

Senate Bill 647

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Anchía et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 647 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Government Code to revise statutory provisions specifying the action that a clerk of the supreme court, clerk of the court of criminal appeals, clerk of a court of appeals, district clerk, county clerk, district and county clerk, or municipal clerk must take if they have a reasonable basis to believe in good faith that a document or instrument previously filed or recorded or offered or submitted for filing or for filing and recording is fraudulent. The bill, among other provisions, establishes the conditions under which a document or instrument is presumed to not be fraudulent, sets out the circumstances under which the clerk must refuse to file or record the document or instrument submitted for filing or recording, and provides for a clerk's immunity from liability and suit arising out of the filing, recording, or refusal to file or record the document or instrument.

Senate Bill 648

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Anchía et al.

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 648 amends the Estates Code and Property Code to set out additional recording requirements for certain instruments concerning real property. The requirements differ depending on who files the instrument. The bill also sets out recording requirements for an affidavit of heirship concerning heirship to real property that is filed for recording by a person other than an attorney, title agent, title company, or escrow company that provides closing, settlement, or other comparable transaction services in connection with the transfer of real property, a public utility, a governmental entity, or a person acting on behalf of the attorney, agent, company, utility, or entity. The bill provides an alternative form for recording an affidavit of facts concerning the identity of a decedent's heirs for purposes of the additional requirements relating to an instrument conveying real property under the bill's provisions.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "No one disputes that title theft and deed fraud are serious problems. That is why criminal offenses and civil penalties already prohibit it under Texas law. *E.g.*, TEX. PENAL CODE ch. 31, 32; TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE ch. 12. That is also why county clerks are required to notify property owners when they have a good faith belief that a document purporting to create a lien or assert a property claim has been fraudulently filed. *See* TEX. GOV. CODE § 51.901.

"Although Senate Bill No. 648 seeks to strengthen protections, it does so by imposing barriers that will burden low-income Texans, rural residents, and those handling family land without legal assistance. The bill would require property owners—but only those who have not retained an attorney or title agent—to jump through additional hoops, like producing every named heir to execute an affidavit of heirship. The ability to hire a professional may help individuals navigate legal rules more easily. But it should not entitle a person to *different rules* altogether.

"I am adding this issue to a special session call so that legislators may tackle title theft and deed fraud without creating separate rules for the haves and have-nots."

Senate Bill 650

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Bowers et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 650 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to require a person to visually inspect and access electronically readable information on a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or identification certificate for the purpose of verifying a purchaser's age in any retail sale of an alcoholic beverage on a permitted or licensed premises for off-premises consumption. The person may manually enter the information on the license or certificate into an electronic reader if the license or certificate cannot be

electronically scanned. Among other provisions, the bill establishes exemptions to this requirement, revises provisions relating to the retention of electronically readable information, and establishes defenses to prosecution for failure to access such information on the license or certificate.

Senate Bill 651

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Lopez, Ray

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 651 amends the Government Code to give a veterans county service office the option to report directly to a designated county executive official, as an alternative to reporting directly to the applicable commissioners court.

Senate Bill 663

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: DeAyala et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 663 amends the Government Code and Local Government Code to replace the requirement for applicable district judges and statutory county court judges to approve a community supervision and corrections department's (CSCD) budget and strategic plan with a requirement for those judges to review such a budget and plan following the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) community justice assistance division's (CJAD) approval of the budget and plan. Accordingly, the bill does the following:

- revises provisions establishing the responsibility of such judges for budgetary decisions; and
- with respect to the actions the TDCJ-CJAD must require be taken as a condition of payment of state aid to a CSCD or county, replaces the submission of the CSCD's strategic plan after approval by an applicable judge with a submission of the CSCD's budget for the state fiscal biennium and a strategic plan to the TDCJ-CJAD and the approval of the budget and plan by the TDCJ-CJAD.

The bill makes the authorization for a plan to be amended at any time with the approval of the TDCJ-CJAD applicable to a CSCD's budget or strategic plan. The bill also revises provisions governing the budgets of certain juvenile boards and CSCDs by exempting CSCDs from the applicability of those provisions.

Senate Bill 664

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Cook

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Previous law set out qualifications for appointment as a master, magistrate, referee, associate judge, or hearing officer that varied across specific counties.

Senate Bill 664 amends the Government Code to remove those qualifications and instead sets out uniform qualifications for the appointment of such judicial personnel and officials in all counties, with an exception for magistrates in Webb, Comal, Burnet, Brazoria, Guadalupe, Kerr, and Denton Counties. The bill also does the following:

- requires such judicial personnel and officials with duties regarding bail to comply with applicable training requirements under state law; and
- requires each local administrative judge to ensure such judicial personnel and officials comply with specified state laws and to supervise the performance of judicial personnel and officials with duties regarding bail.

Senate Bill 667

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Barry

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 667 amends the Government Code to provide for a prohibition against certain state governmental entities from investing in Chinese-affiliated entities. The bill sets out general provisions relating to that prohibition, including provisions that do the following:

- provide for the indemnification of certain state governmental entities, employees, and others with respect to a cause of action based on a determination made or taken in connection with the bill; and
- set out a prohibition against a person suing or pursuing a private cause of action against certain state entities, employees, and contractors for any applicable claim or cause of action regarding the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 667 does the following with respect to duties regarding investments:

- requires the comptroller to prepare and maintain, and provide to each state governmental entity, a list of all restricted entities and prohibits a state governmental entity from acquiring securities of a listed restricted entity, except as provided by the bill's provisions;
- provides for the identification of a state governmental entity's investment in restricted entities and for a written notice of divestment to be sent from the state governmental entity to each restricted entity;
- requires a state governmental entity required to sell, redeem, divest, or withdraw all publicly traded securities of a listed restricted entity to comply with a divestment schedule;
- sets out conditions under which a state governmental entity may cease divesting from one or more listed restricted entities; and
- establishes applicable reporting requirements and authorizes the attorney general to bring any action necessary to enforce the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 670

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Campos

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 670 amends the Health and Safety Code to allow patients the option of using investigational sun protection products. The bill authorizes a manufacturer of an investigational sun protection product to make the product available to eligible patients who provide the requisite informed consent. The bill prohibits an official, employee, or agent of the state from blocking an eligible patient's access to an investigational sun protection product and prohibits the Texas Medical Board from taking any disciplinary action against a physician's license based solely on a recommendation or prescription of an investigational sun protection product.

Senate Bill 672

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 672 amends the Health and Safety Code to require licensed hospitals that have an emergency department or otherwise regularly provide emergency services to submit to the Health and Human Services Commission a written summary of the part of the hospital's emergency operations plan that addresses diversions from the hospital's emergency department in the event that the hospital experiences a cyber attack or an electrical power outage.

Senate Bill 681**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Paul et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 681 amends the Occupations Code to remove the requirement for the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to provide for the annual renewal of a license or registration issued under the Texas Engineering Practice Act. The bill instead provides for the validity of such a license or registration for a term of not less than two years. The bill also changes from one year or two years to not less than two years the term for which a certificate of registration or license under the Professional Land Surveying Practices Act is valid.

Senate Bill 682**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Alders**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 682 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 2493 in Smith County as the Captain Kevin Williams and Firefighter Austin Cheek Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 687**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Bumgarner**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 687 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Local Government Code to include land surveyors in the scope of liability and contract protections with respect to certain construction or services contracts.

Senate Bill 688**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Hayes et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 688 amends the Election Code to change the date on which presidential electors are required to convene at the State Capitol to perform their duties as prescribed by federal law from the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December following their election to the first Tuesday after that Wednesday.

Senate Bill 693**Senate Author:** West**House Sponsor:** Anchía et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 693 amends the Government Code to create a Class A misdemeanor offense for a notary public who performs any notarization with knowledge that the signer, grantor, maker, or principal for whom the notarization is performed did not personally appear before the notary at the time the notarization is executed. The bill provides for a penalty enhancement and an affirmative defense to prosecution under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 693 requires the secretary of state to adopt rules necessary to establish education requirements for appointment and continuing education requirements for reappointment as a notary public. The bill requires a notary public to retain the requisite notary records until the 10th anniversary of the date of notarization and includes the failure to maintain notary records as required by state law among the statutory "good causes" for which the secretary of state may reject an application or suspend or revoke the commission of a notary public.

Senate Bill 703

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: McLaughlin

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 703 amends the Occupations Code and Penal Code to expand the offenses for which a conviction, plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or deferred adjudication renders a person ineligible for a license as a massage establishment, massage school, massage therapist, or massage therapy instructor, as well as results in the license revocation of a massage therapist and massage therapy instructor. The bill also includes a licensed massage therapist as a health care services provider for purposes of statutory provisions relating to sexual assault.

Senate Bill 705

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Gerdes

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 705 amends the Occupations Code to remove the two ex officio nonvoting members from the air conditioning and refrigeration contractors advisory board's membership and to increase from two to three the number of appointed members whose terms expire February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Senate Bill 706

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Isaac et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 706 amends the Government Code to establish that a valid handgun license issued by any other state is recognized in Texas. The bill provides for reciprocity agreements with other states that require such an agreement before recognizing a Texas handgun license and requires the Department of Public Safety to publish on its website and annually update a list of states in which a Texas handgun license is recognized.

Senate Bill 710

Senate Author: Eckhardt

House Sponsor: Bucy

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 710 amends the Government Code to authorize the governing body of a municipality by ordinance or resolution to authorize each board, commission, or similar entity of the municipality to establish and use an online message board or similar Internet application, for the purposes of a written electronic system accessible to the public, to communicate or exchange written information about public business or public policy.

Senate Bill 711

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Turner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 711 amends the Property Code to clarify the authority and functions of property owners' associations (POA) with respect to the prohibition against a POA enforcing a restrictive covenant that prevents a property owner from building or installing certain security measures, to set out provisions relating to eligibility to serve on a POA's architectural review authority and relating to the solicitation of candidates for the authority, and to update provisions governing condominium unit owners' associations with respect to the online availability of dedicatory instruments, the information that must be stated on a management certificate, the electronic filing of a management certificate, the exemption of a unit owner from liability for certain fees incurred by an association relating to a delinquent assessment, and the fee for furnishing a resale certificate.

Senate Bill 739**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst**House Sponsor:** Bhojani**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 739 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to classify an insurance fraud investigator commissioned by the commissioner of insurance as an "authorized peace officer" for purposes of statutory provisions governing the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications.

Senate Bill 740**Senate Author:** Perry et al.**House Sponsor:** Spiller**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 740 amends the Water Code to limit the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) with respect to wholesale water furnished by a municipality to another municipality. The bill sets out provisions relating to an application for a system improvement charge filed with the PUC. The bill revises an existing statutory provision to require the PUC by rule to adopt a process to expedite an application for the acquisition of the stock, ownership interest, or assets of a utility in receivership, a utility in supervision, or a utility in temporary management and, if applicable, its certificated service area by an applicable Class A or Class B utility. The bill also requires the PUC by rule to adopt an expedited process to authorize an applicable municipally owned utility, county, water supply or sewer service corporation, public utility agency, or special district or authority to acquire the stock, ownership interest, or assets of a utility in receivership, a utility in supervision, or a utility in temporary management and, if applicable, its certificated service area.

Senate Bill 745**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst**House Sponsor:** Gerdes**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 745 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for intoxication manslaughter from a second degree felony to a first degree felony if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the actor caused the death of more than one person during the same criminal transaction.

Senate Bill 746**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Thompson et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 746 amends the Estates Code to authorize a judge to appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interests of a proposed ward in a guardianship proceeding and makes the following provisions applicable with respect to a proposed ward:

- the duty of a guardian ad litem to protect the person's interests in a manner that will enable the court to determine the action that will be in that person's best interests; and
- the exemption from liability of a guardian ad litem for civil damages from a recommendation made or an opinion given in that capacity.

The bill prohibits a person who has an interest that is adverse to a proposed ward or incapacitated person from filing an application for the appointment of a guardian for the proposed ward or incapacitated person and from filing a motion or complaint to request the removal of a guardian or contest the request for removal of a guardian.

Senate Bill 746 requires a court to enter an order to the effect of whether the court approves an annual account filed by the guardian of the estate or an annual report filed by the guardian of the person. If the court does not approve the annual account or the annual report, the court must require the applicable guardian to file another annual account or report, respectively, within a period prescribed by the order, which may not be later than the 30th day after the date the order is entered.

Senate Bill 748

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Gerdes

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 748 amends the Health and Safety Code to replace the requirement for the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to administer and enforce statutory provisions relating to radioactive materials and other sources of radiation with a requirement for the executive director to administer and enforce statutory provisions relating to laser hair removal. The bill also repeals provisions providing for certain warning sign requirements relevant to laser hair removal facilities and license applicants.

Senate Bill 761

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Thompson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 761 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to include the following among the information in the written notice that the state's attorney must give to a crime victim not later than the 10th day after the date that an indictment or information is returned against a defendant:

- a statement that the state's attorney does not represent the victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim; and
- notification of the right of a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim to assert the rights granted by state law relating to crime victims' rights either orally or in writing, and either individually or through an attorney.

The bill establishes that a victim has the right to have an attorney present during an investigative interview but prohibits the attorney from unreasonably delaying or otherwise impeding the interview process.

Senate Bill 761 sets a deadline by which the state's attorney must provide a victim who has requested notice of any scheduled court proceedings and the filing of a request for continuance of a trial setting of at least five business days before the date of the court proceeding or the filing or otherwise as soon as reasonably practicable, thereby replacing the currently prescribed timeline of as far as reasonably practical. The bill clarifies that the state's attorney must give notice to the victim, if requested by the victim, of any changes in scheduled proceedings as soon as possible.

Senate Bill 761, among other provisions, requires the following:

- a court, before accepting a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere, to inquire as to whether the state's attorney has conferred with the victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim regarding the disposition of the case; and
- an individual or entity that must offer a victim who is reporting sexual assault the opportunity to have an advocate from a sexual assault program be present with the victim during a forensic medical examination to document whether the offer was extended to the victim, whether the advocate was available at the time of the examination, and, if that offer was not extended to the victim, the reason the offer was not extended to the victim.

Senate Bill 763

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 763 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, at least once every eight years, to conduct a protectiveness review of a standard permit that authorizes the operation of a permanent concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing regarding the plant's operation.

Senate Bill 764

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 764 amends the Occupations Code to remove the provision authorizing a hearing under the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act to be conducted by a hearings officer designated by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation.

Senate Bill 765

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Landgraf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 765 amends the Government Code to establish that information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to fraud detection and deterrence measures is confidential and excepted from the public availability requirement of state public information law.

Senate Bill 766

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Landgraf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 766 amends the Agriculture Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Local Government Code, Natural Resources Code, Occupations Code, Parks and Wildlife Code, Penal Code, Special District Local Laws Code, Tax Code, Transportation Code, and Water Code to update references to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission with references to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Senate Bill 767

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

House Sponsor: Fairly et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 767 amends the Education Code to require the Texas A&M Forest Service to create and maintain a comprehensive database that shows in real time the statewide inventory of firefighting equipment that is available for use in responding to wildfires.

Senate Bill 769

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: González, Mary et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 769 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to prepare and submit to the legislature a report on enrollment and success in higher education for students with a disability.

Senate Bill 771

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Ashby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 771 amends the Tax Code to establish that the holder of an applicable license issued by the comptroller of public accounts may take a credit on a return for the period in which a purchase occurred, and a person who does not hold a license may file a refund claim with the comptroller, if the license holder or person paid tax on diesel fuel and the diesel fuel is used in Texas by auxiliary power units or power take-off equipment on any motor vehicle.

Senate Bill 777

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Lujan et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 777 amends the Local Government Code to clarify the guidelines and standards regarding compensation and employment conditions for employees of certain municipalities through charters or collective bargaining agreements, including the dispute resolution process. The bill, among other provisions, also sets out provisions regarding binding interest arbitration for the employees of the City of Austin's fire department.

Senate Bill 783

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Hernandez et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 783 amends the Government Code to exempt the following from the prohibition against a governmental entity adopting or enforcing certain regulations regarding residential or commercial building products, materials, or methods:

- an energy code adopted by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO);
- an energy and water conservation design standard established by SECO; and
- certain high-performance building standards approved by the board of regents of an applicable public institution of higher education.

Senate Bill 783 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize SECO to amend an adopted or published edition of the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code and to amend an adopted or published edition of the International Energy Conservation Code.

Senate Bill 785

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Effective: 9-1-26

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 785 amends the Texas Manufactured Housing Standards Act, Occupations Code, to prohibit a municipality from requiring a specific use permit or other permit that serves a similar purpose to a specific use permit for a new HUD-code manufactured home if the home has been constructed in accordance with federal law and the act and the municipality does not require a specific use permit for other residential property in the same zoning classification. The bill, except as otherwise provided by its provisions, requires a municipality with zoning regulations or zoning district boundaries to do the following:

- permit the installation, by right, of a new HUD-code manufactured home for use as a dwelling within the municipality's boundaries under at least one of the following:
 - residential zoning classification;
 - type of residential zoning district; or
 - dedicated zoning classification for residential HUD-code manufactured homes;
- ensure at least one of these residential zoning classifications or districts has been adopted and applies to an area of land within the municipality's boundaries; and
- if the municipality has a comprehensive zoning classification map, indicate on the map such areas.

Senate Bill 790

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 790 amends the Water Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas by rule to adopt a simplified procedure to resolve a complaint by a tenant against an owner about a bill for

water or wastewater service brought under certain statutory provisions relating to submetering and nonsubmetering for apartments and manufactured home rental communities and other multiple use facilities.

Senate Bill 800

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 800 amends the Education Code to require a postsecondary educational institution's orientation for entering freshman or undergraduate transfer students on the institution's sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policy to include a video that states the names of the institution's Title IX coordinators and deputy coordinators, the location and contact information of the institution's Title IX office, the services provided by the institution's Title IX office, how to report a sexual assault to the institution, information regarding the crime victims' compensation program, and a list of local community and statewide organizations that provide support services to survivors of sexual assault. Additionally, the bill requires each student identification card issued by a public institution of higher education to have printed on the card the contact information for the National Sexual Assault Hotline.

Senate Bill 815

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Spiller et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 815 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a utilization review agent from using an automated decision system to make, wholly or partly, an adverse determination. The bill authorizes the commissioner of insurance to audit and inspect at any time a utilization review agent's use of an automated decision system for utilization review. The bill expands the definition of "adverse determination" that applies to provisions governing utilization review agents to include a determination that health care services provided or proposed to be provided to a patient are not medically appropriate.

Previous law required a notice of an adverse determination to include either a description of or the source of the screening criteria used as guidelines in making the determination. Senate Bill 815 requires instead that the notice include both the description and source and also requires the notice to include a description of and the source of review procedures used as guidelines in making the determination.

Senate Bill 823

Senate Author: Middleton

House Sponsor: Leo Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 823 amends the Texas Aquatic Life Act, Health and Safety Code, to prohibit the following:

- a food service supplier, wholesaler, distributor, or wholesale distributor from selling shrimp in Texas unless the shrimp's label includes a clear and conspicuous notice stating whether the shrimp is imported; and
- a restaurant from labeling or representing imported shrimp as "Texas shrimp," "American shrimp," "Domestic shrimp," or "Gulf shrimp."

The bill authorizes the Department of State Health Services, a public health district, a county, or a municipality that under applicable state law requires a restaurant, food service supplier, wholesaler, distributor, or wholesale distributor to hold a license or permit for the purpose of operating in Texas to impose an administrative penalty against the license or permit holder for a violation of the bill's provisions or a rule adopted under such provisions.

Senate Bill 826

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Little et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 826 amends the Penal Code to increase from a Class B misdemeanor with a minimum term of confinement of 72 hours to a state jail felony the penalty for driving while intoxicated if it is shown on the trial of the offense that at the time of the offense the person was operating a motor vehicle in a school crossing zone during the time the reduced speed limit applies to the zone.

Senate Bill 827

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: DeAyala

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Current law provides for the manual audit of an election using an electronic voting system based on the number of applicable precincts. Senate Bill 827 amends the Election Code to expand this process by requiring the general custodian of election records to conduct a manual count of all the races in at least one percent of the election day polling locations and one percent of the early voting locations or in three election day polling locations and three early voting locations, whichever is greater, in which the electronic voting system was used. The bill also requires the general custodian of records to conduct a similar manual count of all the races contained on the mail-in ballots based on the number of precincts in which the ballots were counted using automatic tabulating equipment. The bill revises the requirement for the general custodian of election records to conduct a risk-limiting audit for a statewide race or measure and requires all counties holding an election to participate in the risk-limiting audit on the selected statewide races or measures, regardless of the method of counting voted ballots used by the county.

Senate Bill 835

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 835, Trey's Law, amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish that any provision of a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement or nondisclosure or confidentiality provision of any agreement is void and unenforceable as against the public policy of the state to the extent the provision prohibits a person, including a party, from disclosing an act of sexual abuse or facts related to an act of sexual abuse to any other person. The bill establishes that nothing in its provisions may be construed to prohibit a person, including a party, from agreeing to keep confidential any other provision of a settlement agreement, including the amount or payment terms of a settlement.

Senate Bill 836

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Hull et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 836 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to expand the contents of the written notice provided to certain victims of sexual assault by a peace officer to include information about the rights and procedures under statutory provisions governing the confidentiality of identifying information and medical records of certain crime victims. The bill gives a sex offense victim who completes a pseudonym form the option to return that form to the state's attorney prosecuting the offense as an alternative to the law enforcement agency investigating the offense, prohibits the required disclosure of identifying information by such a victim in connection with the investigation or prosecution of the offense, and provides for the use of the pseudonym and maintenance of the form by the state's attorney.

Senate Bill 836 sets out provisions relating to the discovery of certain evidence depicting an invasive visual recording of a person 14 years of age or older and the discovery of property or material from a forensic medical examination performed on certain victims. The bill further prohibits a court, during

the course of a criminal hearing or proceeding, from making available or allowing to be made available for copying or dissemination to the public any property or material related to or derived from evidence collected during a forensic medical examination of a sexual assault victim. The bill also requires a court, before allowing the electronic transmission or broadcasting of certain criminal and civil court proceedings in which evidence or testimony is offered that depicts or describes acts of a sexual nature, to provide notice to and receive express consent for the transmission or broadcasting from the victim or the parent, conservator, or guardian of the victim, as applicable, the state's attorney, and the defendant.

Senate Bill 840

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 840 amends the Local Government Code to set out provisions relating to the regulation of mixed-use and multifamily residential use and development in certain populous municipalities. The bill requires a municipality to allow mixed-use or multifamily residential use and development in a zoning classification that allows office, commercial, retail, warehouse, or mixed-use use or development as an allowed use under the classification. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- prohibits certain municipal regulations in connection with the use, development, construction, or occupancy of certain buildings proposed to be converted to mixed-use residential or multifamily residential use;
- prohibits a municipality from imposing an impact fee on land where such a building has been converted to mixed-use residential or multifamily residential use unless the land on which the building is located was already subject to an impact fee before a building permit related to the conversion was filed with the municipality; and
- authorizes a housing organization or other person adversely affected or aggrieved by a violation of the bill's provisions to bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief against a municipality.

See also [Senate Bill 2477](#).

Senate Bill 841

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hughes

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Harless

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 841 amends the Property Code to include a person who is the qualified assignee of an artisan, laborer, mechanic, contractor, subcontractor, or materialman who labors or who furnishes labor or material for the construction or repair of an improvement on specific real property in Texas among the beneficiaries of any trust funds paid or received in connection with the improvement. The bill establishes that an assignment by a beneficiary of the beneficiary's interest in unpaid trust funds may not be enforced unless certain conditions are satisfied.

Senate Bill 842

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Phelan

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 842 amends the Occupations Code to grant a ringside physician immunity from civil liability arising from acts within the scope of the physician's responsibilities at a combative sports event, unless the cause of action arises from an act or omission constituting gross negligence of the physician.

Senate Bill 843

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Buckley

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 843 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to develop and maintain a database that includes current information regarding public school district or open-enrollment charter school bonds, taxes, and bond-related projects. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the information that the database must include, requires a district or charter school to provide relevant information to TEA, and requires TEA to transmit the information to the Bond Review Board to satisfy the local government bond election reporting requirements under state law. Implementation of a provision of this bill by TEA is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

Senate Bill 850

Senate Author: Middleton

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 850 amends the Tax Code and Government Code to revise provisions relating to the payment of certain property tax refunds. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- establishes that a person may, but is not required to, apply for a refund of taxes due to the person under the Property Tax Code if the amount of the refund is at least \$20;
- revises the process by which a tax collector must refund the amount of an erroneous or excessive payment and includes the option to apply a tax payment that exceeds the amount owed by \$20 or more to the amount of taxes owed for the following tax year;
- requires certain tax refunds to be paid not later than the 60th day after the date the liability for the refund arises, revises the rate at which interest accrues regarding certain refunds, and expands the applicability of refund payment provisions to include additional refunds; and
- revises provisions regarding specific types of refunds relating to escrow accounts, certain appeals, temporary exemptions for disaster-damaged property, and late applications for a residence homestead exemption, veteran's organization exemption, or disabled veterans residence homestead exemption.

Senate Bill 855

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

House Sponsor: Frank et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 855 amends the Family Code and Government Code to authorize a medical consentor other than the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to assume financial responsibility for medical care provided to a foster child by an out-of-network provider engaged by the medical consentor on the child's behalf. The bill establishes that DFPS is not liable for the cost of such care unless a court orders DFPS to cover the cost. The bill prohibits a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) from taking adverse action to prevent or discourage a recipient from accessing health care and related services and benefits in accordance with the bill's provisions and requires a STAR Health program managed care contract between a Medicaid MCO and the Health and Human Services Commission to require that the MCO comply with this prohibition.

Senate Bill 856

Senate Author: Flores

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 856 amends the Labor Code to make the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station eligible for support from the Texas Workforce Commission's skills development fund.

Senate Bill 857

Senate Author: Schwertner
House Sponsor: Louderback

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 857 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a peace officer or a Department of Public Safety license and weight inspector to remove or require the moving of a vehicle from a highway if the vehicle is operated in violation of certain driver's license or financial responsibility requirements.

Senate Bill 860

Senate Author: Flores
House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 860 amends the Government Code to abolish the Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee.

Senate Bill 863

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Isaac

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 863 amends session law to prohibit water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer from being transported outside the Edwards Aquifer Authority's boundaries. The bill authorizes water withdrawn from the aquifer to be used within the certificated area of a retail public utility according to a certificate of convenience and necessity, as the certificate existed on September 1, 2025, any part of which was located within the authority's boundaries on June 28, 1996.

Senate Bill 863 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, the same as enacted Senate Bill 2885.

Senate Bill 865

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.
House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 865, the Landon Payton Act, amends the Education Code to require each school nurse, assistant school nurse, athletic coach or sponsor, physical education instructor, marching band director, cheerleading coach, and any other school employee specified by the commissioner of education and each student who serves as an athletic trainer to participate in instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and to receive and maintain certification in CPR from a nationally recognized association. The bill requires an open-enrollment charter school to adopt a policy to make available to school employees and volunteer nurses instruction in the principles and techniques of CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Previous law required each public school district, and each private school that receives from the Texas Education Agency either an AED or funding to purchase or lease an AED, to develop safety procedures for a district or school employee or student to follow in responding to a medical emergency involving cardiac arrest. Senate Bill 865 replaces that requirement with a requirement for each district and each such private school to develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan that establishes safety procedures for a district or school employee or other appropriate personnel to follow in responding to a medical emergency involving cardiac arrest on district or school grounds. The bill sets out requirements for the development and content of the plan, including requirements for the plan to include the establishment of a cardiac emergency response team, procedures for activating that team, annual practice drills, and ongoing training in first aid, CPR, and the use of AEDs for appropriate district or school employees.

Senate Bill 868

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

House Sponsor: King et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Bill 868 amends the Government Code to allocate at least 10 percent of appropriations for a state fiscal year from the volunteer fire department assistance fund to volunteer fire departments in areas of Texas at high risk for large wildfires.

Senate Bill 869

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 869 amends the Government Code to prohibit the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) from tolling or extending the deadline by which the TEC must either dismiss a sworn complaint or propose an agreement to the respondent to settle the complaint without holding a preliminary hearing for a duration other than the duration of any litigation brought by the respondent or the TEC regarding the complaint at issue. The bill also prohibits the TEC from adopting or enforcing a rule to toll or extend that deadline for a duration other than the duration of any litigation brought by the respondent or the TEC regarding the complaint at issue.

Senate Bill 870

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Slawson

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 870 amends the Education Code to require any written regulations adopted by the governing entity of a public school district, open-enrollment charter school, private school, or public junior college regarding the carrying or possession of a handgun by a school marshal to provide that a school marshal who is wearing a uniform identifying themselves as such may openly carry a handgun on their person.

Senate Bill 876

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Slawson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 876 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 377 under construction as of September 1, 2024, in Hood and Johnson Counties as the Bob Cornett Parkway.

Senate Bill 879

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 879 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to exempt a person who submits a request for authorization or is authorized to use a valid permit by rule issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) for a closed-loop geothermal injection well from statutory provisions that require the submission of drilling permit fees to, and the filing of an organization report with, the RRC.

Senate Bill 888

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 888 amends the Government Code to authorize the attorney general to defend a state district attorney or a county attorney in an action in a federal court if the district or county attorney is a defendant because of their position, the cause of action relates to the enforcement of a state statute, and the district or county attorney requests the attorney general's assistance in the defense.

Senate Bill 890**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Hefner**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 890 amends the Government Code to make the handgun license application process for active and retired judicial officers available to a person serving as a judge of a statutory probate court or as a visiting judge appointed to serve as the judge of a statutory county or probate court.

Senate Bill 896**Senate Author:** Blanco**House Sponsor:** Cole**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 896 amends the Insurance Code to extend the enrollment period for a newborn child under certain health benefit plans to 60 days after the child's birth.

Senate Bill 897**Senate Author:** Blanco et al.**House Sponsor:** Lopez, Ray**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 897 amends the Government Code to reduce the amount of matching funds under the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) grant program to support community mental health programs for veterans and their families that a potential grant recipient must provide from non-state sources to qualify for a grant, if the applicable program provides services in a county with a population of 250,000 or more. Implementation of a provision of this bill by HHSC is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose in an amount greater than the amount appropriated to HHSC for that purpose for the 2024-2025 state fiscal biennium.

Senate Bill 901**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst**House Sponsor:** Wilson**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 901 amends the Election Code to make a candidate who files an application for a place on the general primary election ballot or for nomination by convention with more than one political party in the same voting year ineligible for a place on the ballot for a general primary election, nomination by convention, and certain candidacies and nominations in the succeeding general election. The bill provides for the omission of the name of such an ineligible candidate from the applicable general primary election ballot and requires the secretary of state to provide the candidate written notice of the candidate's ineligibility.

Senate Bill 901 prohibits a presiding officer or a county chair from certifying a candidate's name for an office if the candidate has filed an application for a place on the ballot for two or more offices that are not permitted by law to be held by the same person and are to be voted on at one or more elections held on the same day.

Senate Bill 904**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Cunningham**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 904 amends the Occupations Code to streamline rulemaking requirements with respect to the sale of hearing instruments for purposes of provisions relating to speech-language pathologists and audiologists and hearing instrument fitters and dispensers. The bill also removes the continuing education exemption for new hearing instrument fitter and dispenser licensees and expands the types of

licensed physicians who may sign a statement of a minor patient's evaluation and candidacy for a hearing instrument.

Senate Bill 905

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Cunningham

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 905 amends the Occupations Code to streamline rulemaking requirements with respect to the sale of hearing instruments for purposes of the licensing and regulation of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing instrument fitters and dispensers. Additionally, the bill removes provisions relating to issuance of provisional licenses, revises education requirements for an audiology license, and expands the types of licensed physicians who may sign a statement of a minor patient's evaluation and candidacy for a hearing instrument.

Senate Bill 906

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Blanco et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: González, Mary

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 906 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize the tribal council of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to employ and commission peace officers to enforce state law within the tribe's reservation.

Senate Bill 912

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Blanco et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Guillen

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 912 amends the Occupations Code to require each applicable licensing entity that issues a license to a health care practitioner to establish a continuing education tracking system for use by and accessible to health care practitioners, licensing entity staff, and applicable continuing education providers that only collects and uses information directly related to a practitioner's compliance with continuing education requirements and other information designated by the licensing entity as necessary for the system's performance. The bill also requires the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to establish such a continuing education tracking system.

Senate Bill 914

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Author: Blanco

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Morales, Eddie

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 914 amends the Election Code to authorize the governing bodies of the City of Alpine and Montgomery County to change the date on which the governing body holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date.

Senate Bill 916

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Spiller

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 916 amends the Insurance Code to postpone until September 1, 2027, the expiration date of statutory provisions relating to the emergency medical services (EMS) provider balance billing rate database and statutory provisions establishing consumer protections against balance billing by EMS providers for ground ambulance services under certain types of health plans. The bill removes requirements under those provisions for an applicable insurer, plan administrator, or health maintenance organization to annually adjust a payment made at a rate that is set, controlled, or regulated by a political subdivision and submitted to the Texas Department of Insurance for the database by increasing the payment by the lesser of the Medicare Inflation Index or 10 percent of the provider's previous calendar year rates. The bill

authorizes a political subdivision instead to annually adjust such a rate by not more than the lesser of the Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor or 10 percent of the provider's previous calendar year rates.

Senate Bill 916 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), regardless of whether an EMS provider is directly operated by a governmental entity, to revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew a license or certificate of the provider if DSHS confirms that the provider has intentionally submitted incorrect information required under the EMS provider balance billing rate database or engaged in a pattern of violations of the aforementioned Insurance Code provisions establishing consumer protections against balance billing by EMS providers for ground ambulance services.

Senate Bill 917

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Phelan

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 917 amends the Health and Safety Code to change the deadline by which a boiler certificate inspection report must be filed by the applicable inspection agency with the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) from not later than the 30th day after the date on which the inspection is performed to not later than the 10th day after that date. The bill repeals provisions establishing that the executive director serves as an ex officio Board of Boiler Rules member and requiring a vote of support by a minimum of five board members for a board decision to take effect.

Senate Bill 918

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: VanDeaver

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 918 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions providing for exemptions from and substitutes for the licensing requirements to practice orthotics and prosthetics. Current law entitles a person who presents evidence satisfactory to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) of the person's unique qualifications for such a practice to an exemption from the licensing requirements. Among other provisions, the bill removes that provision and instead authorizes the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to exempt a person who presents such evidence to TDLR from one or more of the academic, clinical training, or examination requirements established under law for license eligibility.

Senate Bill 920

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Howard

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 920 amends the Education Code and Occupations Code to grant a private school or open-enrollment charter school, its governing body, and its employees immunity from civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to a student under the same conditions that a public school district and its employees and trustees are granted such immunity. The bill also extends that immunity to apply to administrative disciplinary action.

Senate Bill 920 authorizes a policy adopted by a district, charter school, or private school concerning the administration of medication to students to permit an employee of the district or school, including a nurse, to administer nonprescription medication to a student without further authorization or written protocol from the student's health care provider if the district or school has received a written request to administer the medication from the parent, legal guardian, or other person having legal control of the student; the medication is unexpired and administered from a container that appears to be the original container and properly labeled; and the dose administered is consistent with the instructions on the container's label.

Senate Bill 920 authorizes the governing body of a charter school or private school to allow a licensed physician or registered nurse who provides volunteer services to the school and for whom the school

provides liability insurance to administer to a student nonprescription medication or medication currently prescribed for the student.

Senate Bill 922

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Fairly et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 922 amends the Occupations Code to prohibit the disclosure of a sensitive test result that has a reasonable likelihood of showing a finding of malignancy or that may reveal a genetic marker to a patient or patient representative by electronic means before the third day after the date the result is finalized.

Senate Bill 924

Senate Author: Hancock

House Sponsor: Geren

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 924 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to exclude certain direct-to-home satellite services and video programming from the definition of "video service" for purposes of provisions of the act relating to state-issued cable and video franchising and the corresponding franchise fees.

Senate Bill 926

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Frank

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 926 amends the Insurance Code to authorize a health maintenance organization (HMO) or insurer to provide incentives for enrollees or insureds to use certain physicians or health care providers through modified deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing provisions. An HMO or insurer that encourages an enrollee or insured to obtain a health care service from a particular physician or health care provider, or that introduces or modifies a tiered network plan or assigns physicians or providers into tiers, has a fiduciary duty to engage in that conduct only for the primary benefit of the enrollee, group contract holder, insured, or policyholder, as applicable. The bill specifies certain conduct that violates such fiduciary duty and prohibits an encouragement or incentive from being based solely on cost or imposing a cost-sharing requirement for out-of-network emergency services that is greater than the cost-sharing requirement that would apply had the services been furnished by a participating or preferred provider. These provisions do not apply to a vision care plan.

Senate Bill 926 also revises requirements for a health benefit plan issuer that ranks physicians or classifies physicians into tiers based on performance with respect to the standards used by the plan issuer, disclosure to affected physicians, and the process for physician disputes. The bill requires the commissioner of insurance to prohibit a health benefit plan issuer from using a ranking or classification system otherwise authorized under state law for not less than 12 consecutive months if the commissioner determines that the issuer has engaged in a pattern of discrepancies, falsehoods, or violations relating to physician ranking and classification.

Senate Bill 927

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: McQueeney

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 927 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal recipients.

Senate Bill 929

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Lujan

Effective: 5-21-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 929 amends the Property Code to establish that in determining the deadline to provide a notice or to take any required action relating to a mechanic's, contractor's, or materialman's lien, if the deadline is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period is extended to include the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Senate Bill 955

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Cook

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 955 reenacts and amends Penal Code provisions to do the following with respect to enhanced penalties for the offense of trafficking of persons:

- specifies that the location of the shelter or facility operating as a residential treatment center that serves certain individuals from which recruitment, enticement, or obtainment of the trafficked person results in the penalty being enhanced to a first degree felony includes the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the premises of the shelter or facility;
- enhances the penalty to a first degree felony if the actor recruited, enticed, or obtained the trafficked person from a correctional facility while the trafficked person was confined in the facility; and
- includes a correctional facility among the premises on or within 1,000 feet of which committing the offense results in the penalty being enhanced to a first degree felony punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life or for a term of not more than 99 years or less than 25 years.

Senate Bill 958

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Thompson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 958 amends the Government Code to expand the applicability of provisions establishing the eligibility of certain victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information to include an otherwise eligible person who is convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for any of the following offenses:

- a misdemeanor offense under the Texas Controlled Substances Act;
- the misdemeanor offense of criminal trespass;
- the misdemeanor offense of tampering with a governmental record;
- the misdemeanor offense of public intoxication; and
- the Class A misdemeanor offense of theft.

Senate Bill 963

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Manuel

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 963 amends the Government Code to prohibit the marketing guidelines the Health and Human Services Commission establishes for Medicaid managed care organizations from prohibiting such an organization from informing an individual about the availability of qualified health plans offered through an exchange or advertising a Medicare Advantage plan or related benefit offered under applicable federal law at a community enrollment or other event. The bill sets out requirements with respect to an organization that informs an individual about the availability of those qualified health plans.

Senate Bill 965

Senate Author: Parker et al.
House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 965 amends the Education Code to prohibit a public school district, open-enrollment charter school, or another state governmental entity from infringing on the right of a district or school employee to engage in religious speech or prayer while on duty, except under limited conditions.

Senate Bill 968

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Cunningham

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 968 amends the Occupations Code to update provisions relating to the issuance of a residency podiatrist license and repeals provisions establishing training program requirements for members of the podiatric medical examiners advisory board.

Senate Bill 971

Senate Author: Sparks et al.
House Sponsor: Gerdes

Effective: 6-20-25
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 971 repeals a conflicting provision in the Water Code that makes a municipality with a population of 10,000 or less part of the service area of which is located in an urban area with a population of 50,000 or more a rural political subdivision for purposes of the Texas Water Assistance Program, thereby retaining in statute the provision that makes a municipality with such a population no part of the service area of which is located in such an urban area a rural political subdivision for such purposes.

Senate Bill 973

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.
House Sponsor: Turner

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Ways & Means

Current law prohibits information in appraisal records from being posted online if the information is a photograph, sketch, or floor plan of an improvement to residential real property. Senate Bill 973 amends the Tax Code to revise the types of information excepted from this prohibition. The bill prohibits the plan for periodic reappraisal of property developed and approved by an appraisal district's board of directors from including a standard or timeline that prevents the applicable chief appraiser from appraising property as necessary to comply with the requirement for all taxable property to be appraised at its market value as of January 1.

Senate Bill 974

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.
House Sponsor: Turner

Effective: Vetoed
Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 974 amends the Tax Code to authorize a public school district teacher to serve on an appraisal district's appraisal review board (ARB). The bill creates an offense for an employee or board member of an independent school district who communicates with a teacher serving as a member of an ARB with the intent to influence their decision as a member of the ARB.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Appraisal review boards serve as arbiters in the local property tax imposition process. And it is imperative that board members are free from allegations that their profession colors their judgment, especially when one of the entities that could benefit from a board decision may be a board member's employer. While the intent of Senate Bill No. 974 is well taken, we must ensure members of appraisal review boards can exercise judgment without compromise."

Senate Bill 984**Senate Author:** Bettencourt**House Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 984 amends the Health and Safety Code to set out provisions relating to access to individualized investigational treatments for patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- makes a health care facility operating under certain federal assurance for the protection of human subjects eligible to provide an individualized investigational treatment; and
- makes a patient eligible to access such a treatment if, among other things, the patient has a life-threatening illness or severely debilitating illness, the patient has considered all other treatment options currently approved by the FDA, and the patient has given written informed consent for access to the treatment.

Senate Bill 985**Senate Author:** Bettencourt et al.**House Sponsor:** Hayes et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Elections

Current law authorizes the commissioners court of a county with a population of less than 1.2 million that does not participate in the countywide polling place program to combine county election precincts under certain circumstances. Senate Bill 985 amends the Election Code to extend that authority to the commissioners court of any county that does not participate in the program and to authorize the county executive committee of a political party to combine precincts in a primary election under certain circumstances. The bill also authorizes a commissioners court, for a general or special election, and the county executive committee of a political party, for a primary election, to combine county election precincts to avoid unreasonable election expenditures under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 991**Senate Author:** Bettencourt**House Sponsor:** González, Mary et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 991 amends the Education Code to include chronically absent and truant students, as described by the bill, among the students who are considered at risk of dropping out of school. The bill includes the number of chronically absent students enrolled at each campus among the information that must be reported annually by each public school district and open-enrollment charter school through PEIMS and provides for that data, and the data regarding truant students required to be reported under current law, to be reported in total and disaggregated by whether the student is receiving compensatory, intensive, or accelerated instructional services. The bill requires the Texas Education Agency to annually aggregate at the campus and district levels and make publicly available the data on truancy and student chronic absenteeism collected through the PEIMS reports.

Senate Bill 992**Senate Author:** Nichols et al.**House Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 992 amends the Government Code to require the attorney general to approve or deny a contract for outside legal services between an attorney and a state agency in the executive department not later than the 25th day after the date the contract is received by the attorney general from the submitting agency. If the attorney general denies approval of the contract, the attorney general must provide the submitting agency a written explanation.

Senate Bill 995

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

House Sponsor: Paul

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 995 amends the Transportation Code to replace the comptroller of public accounts and the attorney general with the Texas Department of Transportation as the entity that must approve the requisite surety bond with respect to a contract with the Texas Transportation Commission authorizing certain oversize or overweight vehicles to cross a road or highway.

Senate Bill 996

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 996 amends the Occupations Code to authorize fireworks sales to the public by retail fireworks permit holders during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on July 5, 2026, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on July 5, 2026.

Senate Bill 1008

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

House Sponsor: Harris

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1008 amends the Health and Safety Code to set out provisions relating to state and local authority to regulate the food service industry. The bill sets out prohibitions against a county, municipality, or public health district doing the following:

- requiring a food service establishment, retail food store, mobile food unit, roadside food vendor, or temporary food service establishment, or an employee of such an entity, to obtain a permit, license, certification, or other form of authority unless the entity or employee would be required to do so if the entity or employee was located within the jurisdiction of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS); or
- charging such an entity or an employee of any of those entities a fee that exceeds the maximum fee such an entity or employee would pay to DSHS if the entity or employee were located within DSHS jurisdiction.

Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises statutory provisions relating to certain fees for premises with an alcoholic beverage permit or license;
- includes a municipality as an entity required to establish a fee schedule for certain fees and to revise the fee schedule as necessary;
- expands the DSHS registry of certain adopted municipal ordinances that differ from state law or DSHS rules or orders to include fee schedules;
- sets out provisions regarding sound regulations and regarding transporting, delivering, and serving food at a workplace by a food service establishment or a mobile food unit; and
- revises statutory provisions governing a public health district's authority to require permits.

Senate Bill 1008 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to include an ordinance, order, or rule adopted or enforced by a municipality or county in violation of certain Health and Safety Code provisions among the local regulations adopted or enforced by a municipality or county in violation of state law for which an applicable person has standing to bring and may bring an action against the municipality or county. The bill also establishes that, in provisions relating to municipal and county liability for certain regulation, a reference to a municipality or county includes a public health district created by one or more municipalities or counties.

Senate Bill 1012**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst et al.**House Sponsor:** Howard**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1012 requires the General Land Office to offer to sell or lease specified real property located in Austin. Proceeds from such a transaction must be deposited in a new dedicated account in the general revenue fund to be known as the Bicentennial Texas State Library and Archives Commission Fund, which is to be used for the following purposes:

- capital improvements to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center and the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building; and
- making original source materials more accessible to the public.

The bill makes the sale or lease of the real property contingent on the construction and occupation of an alternative state records facility that replaces the facility being operated on the real property by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Senate Bill 1012 authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to lease specified real property located in Austin and requires proceeds from such a lease to be deposited in the Texas Capital Trust Fund for HHSC's benefit.

Senate Bill 1018**Senate Author:** Huffman et al.**House Sponsor:** Bonnen**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Appropriations

Senate Bill 1018 amends the Transportation Code to revise the allocation of money received by the comptroller of public accounts from state traffic fines by decreasing from 70 to 50 the percentage of that money deposited to the credit of the undedicated portion of the general revenue fund and by increasing from 30 to 50 the percentage of that money deposited to the credit of the designated trauma facility and emergency medical services account.

Senate Bill 1019**Senate Author:** Huffman et al.**House Sponsor:** Hull**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1019 amends the Family Code to revise the applicability of provisions relating to the admissibility of hearsay statements of a child or a person with a disability who is the alleged victim of certain sexual, assaultive, or trafficking offenses in a hearing under the juvenile justice code in which a child is alleged to be delinquent on the basis of such offenses.

Senate Bill 1020**Senate Author:** Huffman et al.**House Sponsor:** Louderback**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1020 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a personal bond pretrial release office to submit a copy of a record containing information about a person released on bond to the state's attorney and the accused person's attorney and to update the record if the person violated a condition of release on bond in the preceding month. With respect to the requirement for the office to include in the record a statement of whether the person has failed to comply with conditions of release on personal bond, the bill specifies that such failure includes failing to comply by tampering with an electronic monitoring device. The bill requires a personal bond office, agency, or officer supervising a defendant's release on bond to notify the court or magistrate with jurisdiction of the case immediately after the office, agency, or officer determines there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant had violated a condition related to an electronic monitoring device.

Senate Bill 1020 amends the Government Code to authorize a community supervision and corrections department to release data or information related to the location of a person who is supervised by the

department to law enforcement or the office of the state's attorney for the purpose of locating the person or serving a warrant.

Senate Bill 1021

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Huffman

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Harless et al.

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1021 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Health and Safety Code, and Penal Code to make a defendant adjudged guilty of stalking ineligible for judge-ordered community supervision. The bill expands the conduct that constitutes the offense of improper contact with a victim to include such improper contact by a person confined in a correctional facility after being charged with or convicted of stalking.

Senate Bill 1023

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Author: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Troxclair

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1023 amends the Tax Code to require the property tax rate calculation forms used to calculate and submit a taxing unit's no-new-revenue tax rate and voter-approval tax rate to be capable of including a hyperlink to a document that evidences the accuracy of each entry included in the form, other than an entry making a mathematical calculation. With respect to a taxing unit in which a tax rate calculation for a tax year is affected by the application of statutory provisions relating to the treatment of captured appraised value and tax increment, the bill requires the adjustments to the value of taxable property and the adjustments to the amount of taxes imposed or collected to be calculated separately for each reinvestment zone in which the applicable taxing unit participates.

Senate Bill 1025

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Author: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Troxclair

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1025 amends the Election Code to require a ballot proposition submitted by a taxing authority to the voters for approval of the imposition, increase, or reduction of a tax to be printed in mixed-case typewritten letters. With respect to a proposition that only seeks voter approval of the imposition or increase of a tax, the bill includes among the required contents of the proposition the statement "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE" at the top of the proposition in capital typewritten letters of the same font size as the rest of the proposition.

Senate Bill 1032

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Leach

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1032 amends the Education Code to include a private or independent institution of higher education among the institutions eligible to participate in the governor's university research initiative.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The Governor's University Research Initiative was primarily intended to aid public institutions of higher education in recruiting distinguished researchers from around the world to come to Texas public universities. Senate Bill No. 1032 would expand GURI program eligibility to private institutions. That may be a worthwhile cause. But the reality is that the Legislature did not fully fund the program. I would be happy to reconsider this legislation at a future time when GURI is fully funded."

Senate Bill 1035**Senate Author:** Sparks et al.**House Sponsor:** Spiller et al.**Effective:** 5-19-25**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 1035 amends the Agriculture Code to authorize an owner, operator, or lessee of an agricultural operation who is aggrieved by a political subdivision's enforcement of a governmental requirement affecting certain agricultural operations in violation of applicable state statutory or constitutional provisions to bring an action against the political subdivision to obtain declaratory and injunctive relief to block the enforcement of the governmental requirement.

Senate Bill 1036**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Darby**Effective:** See below**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1036, the Residential Solar Retailer Regulatory Act, amends the Occupations Code to provide for the regulation of residential solar retail transactions and to establish occupational registration requirements for solar salespersons and solar retailers. The bill takes effect September 1, 2025, except for certain registration requirements for those individuals, which take effect a year later.

Senate Bill 1038**Senate Author:** Sparks**House Sponsor:** Noble**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1038 amends the Government Code and Human Resources Code to revise provisions regarding damages and penalties for certain fraud and abuse violations under the Medicaid program. Among other provisions, the bill revises and expands the list of conduct that constitutes such a violation, clarifies the criteria that constitutes acting knowingly with respect to certain information regarding that conduct, classifies the damages and administrative penalty together as an administrative remedy, revises the liability for such a remedy, and specifies that each day a person engages in applicable conduct constitutes a separate violation. The bill further expands the requisite contents of the notice the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) must provide regarding a preliminary report concluding that a person committed a Medicaid violation and extends the deadline by which a person who receives that notice may either give HHSC consent to the report or request an informal review.

Senate Bill 1044**Senate Author:** Parker**House Sponsor:** Capriglione et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1044 amends the Health and Safety Code and Occupations Code to include Duchenne muscular dystrophy among the diseases and disorders for which newborn screening and related diagnosis and follow-up are required.

Senate Bill 1049**Senate Author:** King**House Sponsor:** Frank**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 1049 amends the Education Code to require a public school district or open-enrollment charter school, on the request of a parent or legal guardian of an enrolled student, to excuse the student from attending school to attend a released time course in religious instruction offered by a private entity for at least one but not more than five hours a week. The bill requires each district and charter school to adopt a policy for such excused absences that complies with the requirements set out by the bill.

Senate Bill 1055

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Ashby

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1055 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to raise the cap on the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District's groundwater well permit fee from one cent per thousand gallons of withdrawn groundwater to seven cents per such thousand gallons.

Senate Bill 1057

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Meyer et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 1057 amends the Business Organizations Code to set out provisions relating to the submission and approval of a proposal by shareholders of an applicable nationally listed corporation that makes an affirmative election to be governed by the bill's provisions under an amendment to the corporation's governing documents. The bill requires such a corporation to provide notice to shareholders of the proposed adoption of such an amendment in any proxy statement preceding the amendment's adoption and to include in any provided proxy statement specific information about the process by which a shareholder or group of shareholders may submit a proposal on a matter requiring shareholder approval. The bill requires a shareholder or group of shareholders, subject to the corporation's governing documents, to satisfy certain criteria in order to submit a proposal on a matter to the shareholders for approval at a meeting of shareholders.

Senate Bill 1058

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1058 amends the Tax Code to require a registered securities market operator, in calculating the entity's total revenue for purposes of the franchise tax, to exclude from its total revenue transaction rebate payments made by the operator to a broker or dealer as part of a securities transaction.

Senate Bill 1061

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1061 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to prioritize the conservation of regional groundwater water supplies when reviewing an application to amend a restoration table value with respect to an injection well permit for the mining of uranium. The bill revises the provision that makes an application for an authorization that allows the holder of such a permit to conduct mining and restoration activities in production zones within the boundary established in the permit an uncontested matter not subject to a contested case hearing or the hearing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act under certain conditions. The bill repeals provisions that provide for an alternative process by which the first application for an authorization for a production zone located within a permit's boundary is subject to the act's requirements relating to an opportunity for a contested case hearing.

Senate Bill 1062

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.
House Sponsor: Smithee

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1062 amends the Government Code to authorize a governmental entity in certain counties, in lieu of publishing a notice in a newspaper, to publish such notice in a digital newspaper that meets certain conditions.

Senate Bill 1066

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1066 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to require the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), TPWD's executive director, or the executive director's designee, if the value of a contract for professional services relating to a TPWD project that involves constructing, altering, or repairing a public building or carrying out or completing any public work exceeds \$150,000, to require the contractor to execute a performance bond and a payment bond to TPWD before beginning work.

Senate Bill 1079

Senate Author: West
House Sponsor: Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1079 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county commissioners court to order the destruction of a sensitive media device determined by the court to have been used to store certain data the maintenance or disclosure of which is regulated by state or federal law if:

- the device is salvage or surplus property; and
- the commissioners court determines that the destruction is necessary to prevent inadvertent disclosure of information in connection with the disposal of the device.

Senate Bill 1080

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Cook et al.

Effective: 5-27-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1080 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to limit the felony convictions for which certain occupational licenses must be revoked on the license holder's imprisonment to the following offenses:

- an offense that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation;
- an offense ineligible for judge-ordered community supervision; or
- a sexually violent offense.

However, the bill authorizes a licensing authority to revoke a license on the grounds of the license holder's imprisonment following any felony conviction.

Senate Bill 1080 revises the discretion for a licensing authority to issue a provisional license to an otherwise qualified applicant who has been convicted of an offense as follows:

- extends the term during which the provisional license is valid from six months to 12 months; and
- specifies that the applicants to whom the licensing authority may issue the provisional license include applicants who are imprisoned in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) or released on parole or mandatory supervision residing at a halfway house or community residential facility and who have enrolled in or completed certain educational programs.

The bill authorizes TDCJ to issue a license to an applicant who is an inmate imprisoned in TDCJ and who is enrolled in or has completed such an educational program before the applicant has been released.

Senate Bill 1084

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

House Sponsor: Lalani

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1084 amends the Health and Safety Code to require certified mammography facilities to be aware of and comply with all applicable federal and state "dense breast" reporting requirements and to revise the required contents of the notice such a facility must provide to a patient on completion of a mammogram.

Senate Bill 1106

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Harris et al.

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1106 amends the Local Government Code and Tax Code to require the governing body of a municipality or county to do the following:

- not later than the seventh day after the date the governing body levies an assessment on property within a public improvement district, submit the assessment roll for each public improvement district to each applicable appraisal district;
- submit an updated assessment roll to that appraisal district not later than the seventh day after making a supplemental assessment or a reassessment or new assessment; and
- post a copy of an approved, amended, or updated service plan, including a copy of the form for notifying purchasers of property in the district of the obligation to pay district assessments, on the appropriate county or municipal website not later than the seventh day after approving, amending, or updating the plan.

The bill sets out the required content of and method for submitting the assessment roll and requires an appraisal district's property tax database to include specified information regarding property located in a public improvement district.

Senate Bill 1119

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Harris Davila

Effective: 5-21-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1119 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a person engaged in the business of owning or operating a water park from liability to any person for a water park participant injury if, at the time of the injury, a prescribed warning was posted in accordance with the bill's provisions. The bill expressly does not limit liability for an injury caused by certain negligence, intentional conduct, or failure to train or improper training by a person engaged in such a business or a potentially dangerous condition at the water park.

Senate Bill 1120

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

House Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1120 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, and Government Code to set out provisions relating to the rights of victims of family violence, stalking, or a violation of a protective order or condition of bond. Among other provisions, the bill entitles those victims and their guardian or close relative to the general crime victims' rights within the criminal justice system and to additional rights, including the right to confer with the state's attorney on the disposition of the offense, extends entitlement to certain parole notifications to victim advocates, and provides for the duration of a protective order rendered with respect to a respondent who is a party to certain family law suits or is charged with certain offenses involving family violence.

Senate Bill 1121**Senate Author:** Nichols et al.**House Sponsor:** Metcalf**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1121 amends the Natural Resources Code to include the installation, maintenance, operation, replacement, or minor modification of buried communication facilities located in the right-of-way of an existing road among the activities that are categorical exclusions to the requirement to notify the Texas Historical Commission regarding certain projects on state or local public land.

Senate Bill 1137**Senate Author:** Miles et al.**House Sponsor:** Simmons et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1137 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a group home consultant, except as otherwise provided by the bill, from referring a potential resident to an unlicensed or unpermitted group home. The bill creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for a group home consultant who violates the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1141**Senate Author:** Miles**House Sponsor:** Campos et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1141 amends the Family Code to require a court, before commencement of a full adversary hearing held in a child protection suit, to confirm in writing and in open court with an alleged perpetrator the following:

- before interviewing the alleged perpetrator, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) informed the person of the person's right to create an audio or video recording of the interview and to request an administrative review of DFPS's findings; and
- when DFPS first contacted the alleged perpetrator after initiating an investigation of a parent or other person having legal custody of a child, DFPS provided the person with certain information relating to DFPS investigation procedures and child placement resources.

Senate Bill 1143**Senate Author:** Blanco**House Sponsor:** Talarico**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Economic Development**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 1143 amends the Workforce Investment Act, Government Code, to require a local plan adopted by a local workforce development board, in establishing goals, objectives, and performance measures for segments of the population as part of the plan's requisite operational component, to establish the specific goals, objectives, and performance measures for individuals who are at least 14 years of age but younger than 25 years of age.

Senate Bill 1143 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to annually evaluate the following:

- the effectiveness of TWC's youth workforce development programs funded under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and
- the best practices for local workforce development boards to meet the current and projected workforce needs of employers in workforce development areas and to provide workforce development services to individuals who are at least 14 years of age but younger than 25 years of age.

Among other provisions, the bill sets out information that must be included in the evaluation and establishes certain reporting requirements.

Senate Bill 1145

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Landgraf et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1145 amends the Water Code to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to issue permits for the land application of produced water resulting from certain mining and oil and gas extraction operations that has been treated for beneficial use and to require the TCEQ to adopt standards for such land application.

Senate Bill 1146

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1146 amends the Natural Resources Code to authorize an operator in good standing who is the owner of an interest in a current oil and gas lease or the mineral estate of a tract of land on which an orphaned well is located or the owner of the surface estate of a tract of land on which an orphaned well is located to contract with a well plugger who is approved by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to plug or replug the well. In addition to provisions relating to this authority, the bill also exempts a private person who has paid money to the RRC to plug or replug an abandoned well from liability for any applicable damages that may occur relating to the plugging or replugging.

Senate Bill 1147

Senate Author: Birdwell

House Sponsor: Dyson et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1147 withdraws the State of Texas from the Interstate Mining Compact and abolishes the office of the Interstate Mining Compact Commissioner for Texas and the Texas Mining Council. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect May 13, 2025.

Senate Bill 1150

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

House Sponsor: Geren et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1150 amends the Natural Resources Code to authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to grant, under certain conditions, an extension of the deadline for plugging a well that has been inactive for more than 15 years and was completed more than 25 years before the date the operator submits an extension request. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the RRC to establish an administrative penalty for a violation of provisions relating to the extension of a deadline for the plugging of an inactive well;
- requires the RRC to produce and deliver to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature an annual report relating to inactive wells;
- for each inactive well for which 15 years have elapsed from the date on which the relevant well completion report was filed with the RRC, requires an operator to submit an annual report to the RRC with information regarding the results of a successful fluid level test or hydraulic pressure test of the well conducted in accordance with RRC rules; and
- requires the RRC to adopt rules as necessary to regulate and monitor inactive wells.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 1151**Senate Author:** Blanco**House Sponsor:** Wharton**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Insurance

Current law requires an insurer that uses a third-party administrator to conduct an audit of the administrator's operations at least biennially if the administrator administers benefits for more than 100 certificate holders, injured employees, plan participants, or policyholders on the insurer's behalf. Senate Bill 1151 amends the Insurance Code to remove the specification that the audit is conducted on-site.

Senate Bill 1164**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Moody**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1164 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to emergency detention of certain persons evidencing mental illness and court-ordered inpatient and extended mental health services under the Texas Mental Health Code. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises the conditions under which a peace officer may take a person evidencing mental illness into custody without a warrant;
- revises the statutorily prescribed form for a notification of emergency detention;
- provides that a peace officer or emergency medical services personnel who transports a person to an applicable mental health facility is not required to remain at the facility while the person is medically screened or treated or the person's insurance coverage is verified and may leave the facility immediately after the person is taken into custody and the notification is provided;
- revises the conditions under which a guardian of the person of a ward who is 18 years of age or older may transport the ward to an inpatient mental health facility for a preliminary examination without the assistance of a peace officer;
- revises the criteria for which a magistrate to whom an application for emergency detention is presented may find there is reasonable cause to believe that a person evidences mental illness and must issue a warrant for that person's immediate apprehension;
- revises the requirements relating to the written statement by a physician who conducts a preliminary examination of a person that is required for the admission of a person to a facility for emergency detention;
- clarifies the county clerks with whom an application for court-ordered mental health services for a proposed patient may be filed;
- revises the required contents of a certificate of medical examination for mental illness that must be sworn to, dated, and signed by an examining physician;
- revises the requisite finding that certain outcomes are likely or certain circumstances currently exist as a result of a proposed patient's mental illness on which a judge may order the patient to receive court-ordered temporary or extended inpatient mental health services;
- includes among the information that evidence of a recent overt act or a continuing pattern of behavior tends to confirm, for purposes of satisfying the requisite findings for court-ordered temporary or extended inpatient mental health services, that the proposed patient has an inability to recognize symptoms or appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment;
- revises the criteria that a physician must evaluate with respect to a patient as soon as possible within 24 hours after the time detention begins for purposes of determining whether the patient cannot be at liberty pending a probable cause hearing; and
- removes provisions establishing the manner in which a substantial risk may be demonstrated for purposes of the apprehension of a person evidencing mental illness by a peace officer, transportation of a ward who is 18 years or older by a guardian for emergency detention, the issuance of a warrant for emergency detention by a magistrate, and a physician's evaluation of a patient as soon as possible within 24 hours after the time detention begins.

Senate Bill 1169

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 5-20-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1169 amends the Local Government Code and Water Code to revise provisions governing and relating to public utility agencies. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- makes a water supply or sewer service corporation an applicable public entity;
- authorizes a participating public entity to make certain acquisitions;
- makes a public utility agency a retail public utility for water rates and services purposes;
- provides for a participating public entity to withdraw from a public utility agency;
- revises provisions relating to public utility agency powers and obligations;
- establishes that, except as otherwise provided by specified statutory provisions, a public utility agency does not have the power of eminent domain;
- establishes that the Public Utility Commission of Texas has appellate jurisdiction over the rates and charges of a public utility agency; and
- establishes provisions relating to the receivership and temporary management by a public utility agency of certain utilities and water supply or sewer service corporations.

Senate Bill 1171

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: González, Mary

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1171 amends the Government Code and Human Resources Code to replace the authorization for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to include hazardous duty pay in the compensation paid to an individual for services rendered during a month if the individual is an investigator, inspector general, security officer, or apprehension specialist employed by the office of inspector general of TJJD with a requirement for TJJD to do so. The bill makes statutory provisions relating to injury leave for a peace officer who is commissioned as a law enforcement officer or agent by certain entities applicable with respect to the office of inspector general of TJJD. The bill requires TJJD to ensure that a peace officer commissioned by the office of inspector general of TJJD for purposes of carrying out the office's duties is compensated according to Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule prescribed by the General Appropriations Act.

Senate Bill 1172

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1172 amends The Real Estate License Act, Occupations Code, to exempt the following from the act's applicability:

- a transaction involving the sale, lease, or transfer of a real property interest in a quarry, standing timber, or other energy sources, as that term is defined by the bill;
- the sale, lease, or transfer of real estate owned or leased by or being acquired by or leased to a limited partnership or a limited liability company by certain persons; and
- a person conducting a real estate transaction on behalf of a commercial signage entity.

Senate Bill 1173

Senate Author: Perry et al.
House Sponsor: Spiller et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1173 amends the Education Code, Health and Safety Code, Local Government Code, and Transportation Code to raise from \$50,000 to \$100,000 expenditure thresholds that trigger the requirement for certain political subdivisions to use a competitive procurement method for contracting.

Senate Bill 1177

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.
House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1177 amends the Government Code to require a fire safety inspection of a public or private school, including an open-enrollment charter school, to include an examination of each automated external defibrillator (AED) on the school campus to determine whether the AED is fully functional, which must include verifying that the AED's pads and battery have not expired and that the AED's status indicator light indicates that the device is ready for use. The bill requires a representative of the school campus to present each AED for inspection and requires the person who conducts the inspection to provide specified inspection report information to the applicable school administrator. The bill requires the minimum curriculum requirements established by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection for training fire protection personnel or recruits to require training on conducting a fire safety inspection at a public or private school.

Senate Bill 1184

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1184 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to lower the minimum age of wine that a wine collection seller is authorized to sell to a permitted restaurant, as measured by the amount of time between manufacturing and the date of sale, from 20 years to 10 years.

Senate Bill 1185

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1185 amends the Health and Safety Code to exempt unfired pressure vessels in an autoclave and boilers of a certain size that are a component of an FDA-regulated medical device from boiler registration and inspection requirements.

Senate Bill 1188

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: Bonnen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1188 amends the Health and Safety Code to set out provisions regarding electronic health record requirements, including a requirement for electronic health records that contain patient information to be physically maintained in the United States or a U.S. territory and accessible only to certain individuals for health care purposes. The bill establishes provisions relating to the use of artificial intelligence for diagnostic purposes, access to a minor's electronic health records, record requirements regarding biological sex, and related investigations, disciplinary actions, and injunctive relief.

Senate Bill 1191

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Harris Davila

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1191 amends the Education Code to replace the authorization for the commissioner of education to develop a standard method of computing a student's high school grade point average that provides for additional weight to be given to each honors course, advanced placement (AP) course, international baccalaureate (IB) course, or dual credit course completed by a student with a requirement to do so. Additionally, the bill includes an OnRamps dual enrollment course among the courses for which additional weight must be given. The bill requires that the method provide for the following:

- an equal amount of additional weight to be given to an AP course, an IB course, an OnRamps dual enrollment course, and a dual credit course not included in the Workforce Education Course Manual or its successor adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and
- the amount of additional weight to be given to such a dual credit course to be different from the amount of additional weight to be given to a dual credit course included in that course manual or its successor.

Senate Bill 1194

Senate Author: Flores

House Sponsor: Buckley et al.

Effective: 5-15-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1194 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Central Texas Water Alliance, a regional water authority whose initial sponsors are the following:

- Bell County;
- Bell County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1;
- Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District; and
- McLennan County.

Senate Bill 1197

Senate Author: Birdwell

House Sponsor: Geren et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1197 amends the Penal Code to create the Class B misdemeanor offense of operation of an unmanned aircraft over a spaceport for a person who intentionally or knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft over a spaceport, allows an unmanned aircraft to make contact with a spaceport, or operates an unmanned aircraft in a manner that interferes with the operations of or causes a disturbance to a spaceport.

Senate Bill 1198

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Morales, Eddie et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1198 amends the Government Code to include in the definition of "critical infrastructure facility" for certain criminal and civil liability purposes with respect to the public protection of such facilities any property or facility used for the launch, landing, recovery, or testing of spacecraft and any such property that is under construction and all equipment and appurtenances used during that construction.

Senate Bill 1202

Senate Author: King
House Sponsor: Dean

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1202 amends the Local Government Code to provide for the review of a development document, and the conduction of a development inspection, by a third party for a home backup power installation.

Senate Bill 1207

Senate Author: King et al.
House Sponsor: Leo Wilson et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1207 amends the Education Code to require the parenting and paternity awareness program used in public school curricula to include information related to adoption, including the differences between private adoption and foster care, the process for adopting a child privately or through the state foster care system, adoption as an alternative to becoming a parent, and the process for placing a child for adoption. The bill authorizes the research-based programs and curriculum materials that a district may develop or adopt for use in conjunction with the program to provide instruction on such adoption information.

Senate Bill 1212

Senate Author: Paxton et al.
House Sponsor: Kerwin et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1212 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to make any conduct constituting the offense of trafficking of persons punishable as a first degree felony.

Senate Bill 1214

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1214 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise provisions relating to the operations and administration of the Concho County Hospital District. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- removes the requirement for a person seeking to be elected or appointed as a director to be a freeholder and at least 18 years of age when elected or appointed;
- prohibits a person from being elected or appointed as a director if the person is a district employee;
- requires the board of directors to elect a vice president from among its members;
- revises requirements related to district administration by the board, including by repealing requirements for board members to execute bonds in specified amounts that are conditioned on the performance of the member's duties; and
- authorizes the board to enter into construction contracts and public work contracts for the district.

Senate Bill 1215

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.
House Sponsor: Villalobos

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1215 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to authorize a person to place a cultivated oyster in a natural oyster bed, a private oyster bed, or coastal waters if the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) authorizes the placement in writing. The bill requires TPWD to adopt best management practices for authorizing such placement of cultivated oysters.

Senate Bill 1220

Senate Author: Hughes et al.
House Sponsor: Smithee

Effective: 6-20-25
Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1220 amends the Government Code to establish that, unless expressly provided otherwise, the exhaustion of civil, including administrative, remedies is not a prerequisite to the vesting in a trial court of subject matter jurisdiction over a criminal action for which the trial court would otherwise have jurisdiction under other law.

Senate Bill 1227

Senate Author: Flores et al.
House Sponsor: Lopez, Ray

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1227 amends the Transportation Code to remove the \$3 fee for the issuance of one set of military specialty license plates for Pearl Harbor survivors and for recipients of the Purple Heart. The bill clarifies that there is no additional fee for a military specialty license plate except as otherwise provided by statutory provisions relating to such plates.

Senate Bill 1229

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Alders et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1229 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 69 in Smith County as the Veterans Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 1230

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Shofner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1230 amends the Transportation Code to designate Farm-to-Market Road 10 in Panola County as the Deputy Sheriff Chris Dickerson Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 1233

Senate Author: Hancock et al.
House Sponsor: Swanson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1233, the Perinatal Palliative Care Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to ensure a pregnant woman whose unborn child is diagnosed with a life-threatening or life-limiting illness or medical condition is informed of the availability of perinatal palliative care. The bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission to develop perinatal palliative care informational materials and a geographically indexed list of perinatal palliative care providers and programs in Texas. The bill sets out a health care provider's duties on diagnosis of an unborn child's life-threatening or life-limiting illness or medical condition and subjects a provider who violates those duties to disciplinary action and an administrative penalty.

Senate Bill 1236

Senate Author: Hughes et al.
House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1236 amends the Insurance Code to set out provisions relating to the relationship between pharmacies or pharmacists and health benefit plan issuers or pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). The bill establishes limitations on claim payment adjustments resulting from an audit of a pharmacist or pharmacy

and requires a health benefit plan issuer or PBM to make available a secure, online portal through which a pharmacist or pharmacy may access applicable pharmacy benefit network contracts. The plan issuer or PBM must also make a provider manual available on this portal.

Senate Bill 1236 conditions the authority of a health benefit plan issuer or PBM to make an adverse material change to a pharmacy benefit network contract during the term of the contract on the parties mutually agreeing to the change. For a proposed modification or addendum to a pharmacy network contract that is not an adverse material change, the bill requires the health benefit plan issuer or PBM to post the proposed modification or addendum to the online portal and email the pharmacist or pharmacy notice of the proposed modification or addendum not later than the 90th day before the date it is to take effect.

Senate Bill 1236 prohibits a pharmacy benefit network contract from incorporating by reference a document not included in a contract or contract attachment and requires such a contract to set forth all financial terms and state that the contract is subject to specified state laws and rules. The bill prohibits a health benefit plan issuer or PBM from doing the following:

- charging a fee before providing a pharmacist or pharmacy with the full proposed pharmacy benefit network contract;
- requiring a pharmacist or pharmacy to participate in a pharmacy benefit network;
- conditioning a pharmacist's or pharmacy's participation in a pharmacy benefit network on participation in any other pharmacy benefit network; or
- penalizing a pharmacist or pharmacy for refusing to participate in a pharmacy benefit network.

The bill provides for the use of unique group numbers for health benefit plans subject to statutory provisions relating to pharmacy benefit cards.

Senate Bill 1238

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Morgan et al.

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1238 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit an insurer from engaging in the following forms of discrimination:

- refusing to continue to insure or provide coverage to an individual or limiting the amount, extent, or kind of coverage available to an individual because the individual is widowed or the individual's marital status otherwise reflects the death of a spouse; or
- charging an individual who is widowed or whose marital status otherwise reflects the death of a spouse a rate that is different from the rate that would be charged if the individual's marital status was married.

Senate Bill 1239

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Middleton

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Lambert

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 1239 amends the Uniform Commercial Code--Investment Securities, Business & Commerce Code, to establish that, if a security is determined to be invalid under the issuer's local law, the law of the jurisdiction agreed by the issuer of the security to govern the construction or interpretation of documents evidencing or containing the terms of the security and matters arising out of or relating to the security governs the consequences to the issuer and the purchaser of the invalidity. The bill sets out a range of claims and demands that are included with the rights acquired by a purchaser of a security issued by a foreign state and limits the defenses that issuers may assert against an applicable obligation, claim, or demand. The bill further provides for the modification of a security's terms with less than unanimous consent and authorizes the retroactive application of the governing law specified in the terms of the security.

Senate Bill 1241

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

House Sponsor: Leo Wilson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1241 amends the Education Code to revise the criteria for admission to a general academic teaching institution, which require an applicant to have either successfully completed certain high school curriculum requirements or met certain college examination score thresholds. Specifically, the bill replaces the option for the applicant to have satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment or earned a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent on the SAT assessment with the option for the applicant to have achieved a score set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on a college entrance examination designated by THECB rule.

Senate Bill 1241 requires the THECB to conduct a study on college entrance examinations to determine which examinations, and the requisite score for each examination, should be used as a criterion for admission to a general academic teaching institution. The bill sets out requirements for the study and a related report.

Senate Bill 1242

Senate Author: Birdwell

House Sponsor: Wilson

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1242 amends the Education Code to remove the requirement for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to review and approve the acceptance or acquisition of land and facilities by the board of regents of the Texas State Technical College System if the board of regents requests to place the land and facilities on its educational and general buildings and facilities inventory and the combined value of the land and facilities is more than \$300,000 at the time the board of regents requests the property to be added to that inventory.

Senate Bill 1243

Senate Author: Birdwell

House Sponsor: Slawson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1243 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the public entities that participate in a public utility agency by concurrent ordinances to dissolve the agency and transfer the agency's obligations, assets, permits, and licenses to the remaining public entities. The bill authorizes a public entity that is the only remaining participant in a public utility agency by ordinance to dissolve the agency as such.

Senate Bill 1245

Senate Author: Blanco et al.

House Sponsor: Morales, Eddie et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1245 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to authorize a qualified landowner or landowner's agent, under the authority of a permit to manage wildlife and exotic animals from aircraft, to contract to participate as a hunter or observer in using a helicopter to take depredating aoudad sheep.

Senate Bill 1247

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1247 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to remove the nonresident special hunting license, nonresident spring turkey hunting license, and nonresident banded bird hunting license. The bill requires a nonresident general hunting license for a nonresident to hunt alligator in Texas. The bill redesignates the nonresident five-day special hunting license as a nonresident five-day hunting license; makes the license

invalid for a mule deer, white-tailed deer, turkey, pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, or alligator; and authorizes a nonresident to acquire multiple such licenses during a license year.

Senate Bill 1248

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Orr

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1248 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to prohibit information from a report submitted to the Parks and Wildlife Department relating to the authorized recreational harvest of game animals, game birds, fur-bearing animals, nongame animals, alligators, or fish or other aquatic life, including the specific location of harvested wildlife, from being disclosed except as authorized by the bill's provisions or specified state law.

Senate Bill 1252

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: King

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1252 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality from adopting or enforcing an amendment to the National Electrical Code, or an ordinance, rule, or other measure, that would regulate the installation or inspection of a residential energy backup system.

Senate Bill 1253

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1253 amends the Local Government Code to require a political subdivision to provide a credit against water and wastewater impact fees otherwise assessed to a development to a builder or developer for the construction, contribution, or dedication of a facility, system, or product that results in water reuse, conservation, or savings, including a facility, system, or product that does the following:

- reduces per service unit water consumption, supply requirements, or necessary treatment and distribution infrastructure per service unit;
- decreases the need of wastewater collection and treatment facilities per service unit;
- diminishes the demand for stormwater and drainage facilities per service unit; or
- integrates practices or technologies that achieve water efficiency, reuse, or conservation performance that exceed standard compliance requirements.

A political subdivision that provides such a credit must establish procedures for calculating and applying the credits in a fair and consistent manner and for reviewing and approving the credits.

Senate Bill 1253 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District to assess a production fee capped at 30 cents per 1,000 gallons and, beginning January 1, 2026, and continuing on January 1 of each subsequent year, increasing by five percent from the previous year's maximum amount. The bill authorizes the district to provide a credit against a service connection fee otherwise assessed to a water utility that is also assessed a production fee for the construction, contribution, or dedication of an eligible facility, system, or product that results in water reuse, conservation, or savings. The bill repeals provisions establishing exemptions from district regulation, permitting, or metering for certain wells.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As originally proposed, Senate Bill No. 1253 tackled an important problem, encouraging conservation of water by authorizing political subdivisions to reduce impact fees for builders who include facilities that increase water conservation and efficiency. On third reading in the House, however, the bill changed dramatically. It now singles out property owners in one groundwater conservation district and subjects them to new burdens for exercising private property rights, like new

fees that increase every year and entry onto property without the owner's permission. We can and should pursue strategies that protect 'property rights from government intrusion and control.' *Texas v. DHS*, 123 F.4th 186, 213 (5th Cir. 2024)."

Senate Bill 1254

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1254 amends the Labor Code to revise statutory provisions regulating professional employer organizations with respect to the duties of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in issuing and renewing a license to provide professional employer services and taking certain disciplinary action and with respect to the consequences of a license holder's failure to timely apply for license renewal.

Senate Bill 1255

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1255 amends the Occupations Code to remove mycotoxins from the definition of "mold" for purposes of statutory provisions relating to mold assessors and remediators. The bill exempts from such provisions the demolition of a structure after a disaster and repeals a provision that establishes that an employee of a mold assessment license holder or mold remediation license holder is not required to be licensed to perform mold assessment or mold remediation while supervised by the license holder as provided by Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation rules.

Senate Bill 1257

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1257 amends the Insurance Code to require a health benefit plan that provides or has ever provided coverage for an enrollee's gender transition procedure or treatment to provide coverage for the following:

- all possible adverse consequences related to the enrollee's gender transition procedure or treatment, including any short- or long-term side effects of the procedure or treatment;
- any baseline and follow-up testing or screening necessary to monitor the mental and physical health of the enrollee on at least an annual basis without regard to the sex or gender identity designation in the enrollee's medical record; and
- any procedure, treatment, or therapy necessary to manage, reverse, reconstruct from, or recover from the enrollee's gender transition procedure or treatment.

The bill requires a health benefit plan that offers coverage for a gender transition procedure or treatment to also provide the coverage described by the bill to any enrollee who has undergone a gender transition procedure or treatment regardless of whether the enrollee was enrolled in the plan at the time of the procedure or treatment.

Senate Bill 1259

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Bumgarner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1259 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to the qualifications and examination requirements for a registered professional land surveyor and a surveyor-in-training certificate, to advisory opinions of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS), and to the reports, recommendations, and meetings of the advisory committee appointed by TBPELS.

Senate Bill 1261

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Gerdes

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1261 amends the Government Code to set out provisions relating to obligations for water projects that are inapplicable to financial assistance provided by the Texas Water Development Board. The bill authorizes such obligations to be issued, sold, incurred, and delivered for the following purposes:

- financing or refinancing an eligible project;
- refunding obligations, other indebtedness, or contractual obligations of the issuer issued or incurred in connection with an eligible project; and
- paying the costs of issuance or delivery of the obligations.

Among other provisions, the bill sets out provisions relating to the following:

- the security for an obligation;
- the maturity or term of an obligation; and
- the required adoption or approval by an issuer's governing body of an obligation authorization before an obligation may be issued or incurred.

An eligible project under the bill's provisions is one or more related water supply projects that are identified as recommended water management strategies in the state water plan and the cumulative capital costs of which are not less than \$750 million.

Senate Bill 1261 amends the Water Code to make such an eligible project also eligible for certain other financial assistance.

Senate Bill 1265

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Harris Davila et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 1265 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission to maintain in a prominent location on its website a link to a web page consisting of comprehensive and current information to help employers assist employees who are parents with accessing child care.

Senate Bill 1266

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Hull

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1266 amends the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure that providers have access to a support team for the centralized Medicaid provider enrollment Internet portal that assists current and prospective Medicaid providers in completing the Medicaid provider enrollment and credentialing processes and reduces the administrative burdens associated with those processes. The bill requires HHSC, for purposes of improving such processes, to develop a procedure by which a provider may electronically submit complaints and feedback about those processes and the support provided by the support team. The bill requires HHSC to take certain actions before HHSC may disenroll a Medicaid provider for failing to complete the enrollment revalidation process.

Senate Bill 1267

Senate Author: Alvarado

House Sponsor: Vasut

Effective: 1-1-28

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1267 amends the Water Safety Act, Parks and Wildlife Code, to set out provisions relating to certificates of number and certificates of title issued by and records kept by the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). In addition to revising provisions relating to the identification and required

numbering of vessels, the bill revises provisions relating to certificates of title for vessels and outboard motors, including by adding, among other provisions, provisions relating to the following:

- the issuance, rejection, and cancellation of a certificate of title;
- a hull damaged title brand, including a related offense;
- TPWD recordkeeping;
- the perfection of a security interest in a vessel or outboard motor;
- the transfer of ownership of a vessel or outboard motor by a secured party's transfer statement;
- the transfer of ownership of a vessel or outboard motor by operation of law;
- an application for the termination of a security interest without a certificate of title; and
- the rights of a secured party and of a purchaser other than a secured party.

Senate Bill 1268

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Blanco

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Sponsor: Villalobos

House Committee: Natural Resources

The Administrative Procedure Act requires a rule of a state agency to be reviewed by the agency every four years. Senate Bill 1268 amends the Water Code to exempt from that requirement a rule of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) related to the state water plan, regional water plans, the state flood plan, or regional flood plans and to provide instead for the review by the TWDB of such a rule every five years to coincide with the five-year cycle for the adoption of, as applicable, a new state water plan or new state flood plan.

Senate Bill 1271

Effective: 5-27-25

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Sponsor: Frank et al.

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1271 amends the Government Code to authorize the governor, on written application of an authorized representative of the United States to the governor and in the name and on behalf of the state, to accept the establishment of the state's concurrent jurisdiction with the United States over land in Texas owned or acquired by the United States for an authorized military purpose. The bill authorizes a state agency or political subdivision to enter into a memorandum of understanding with any U.S. officer or agency for the purpose of coordinating and assigning duties with respect to the concurrent jurisdiction.

Senate Bill 1273

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Wilson

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1273 amends the Education Code to establish the Higher Education Research Security Council to promote secure academic research at tier one research institutions while mitigating the risk of foreign espionage and interference. The council is composed of each research security officer designated by a public institution of higher education and a research security officer designated by each private or independent institution of higher education that elects to participate in the council. The bill provides for the administration and duties of the council and for an annual report on the status of research security at tier one research institutions.

Senate Bill 1278**Senate Author:** Parker et al.**House Sponsor:** Thompson et al.**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1278 amends the Penal Code to establish a general affirmative defense to prosecution for victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution who engaged in the conduct charged due to certain coercion, duress, or threats of serious bodily injury or imminent death. The bill provides exceptions to the affirmative defense and authorizes the use of information relevant to the identification of a defendant's status as an applicable victim to establish the affirmative defense.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "No State has done more to both protect and advance the future of victims of human trafficking. Our commitment to supporting those victims will remain steadfast.

"That said, Senate Bill No. 1278 does more than aid and support victims of human trafficking. It goes beyond that and creates an affirmative defense that could excuse a crime if a defendant claims to be a victim of human trafficking or compelled prostitution and claims to have acted in response to coercion or threats. The bill's approach, however, severs the link between culpability and conduct. If the person is a qualifying victim, the bill holds out 'an affirmative defense to prosecution'—*any* prosecution.

"That means a person could be immune not only for acts of prostitution that are linked to their own prior victimization, but also for raping a child, murdering a law enforcement officer, or engaging in acts of terrorism. We can and should recognize that victimization begets more victimization. But legal responsibility cannot always be passed off to someone else. Some who started off as victims later make a choice to perpetrate similar crimes against others. As for those who act out of genuine fear of reprisal, existing law recognizes the legitimate defense of duress—narrowly drawn and equally applicable to all. *See* TEX. PENAL CODE § 8.05.

"For these reasons, I find it necessary to veto this draft. I look forward to working with the authors during a special session on a more narrowly tailored piece of legislation."

Senate Bill 1281**Senate Author:** Parker et al.**House Sponsor:** Alders**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1281 amends the Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes mail theft as follows:

- removes the condition that the mail be appropriated from another person's mailbox or premises; and
- includes the intent to steal a negotiable instrument among the intent with which the commission of the requisite conduct constitutes the offense.

Accordingly, the bill sets out penalties ranging from a state jail felony to a first degree felony for mail theft involving a negotiable instrument based on the number of instruments appropriated and increases penalties to the next higher category of offense if it is shown at trial that the actor at the time of the offense knew or had reason to believe that an addressee from whom the actor appropriated a negotiable instrument was a disabled or elderly individual.

Senate Bill 1281 also creates the third degree felony offense of unlawful conduct involving a mail receptacle key or lock for a person who, with the intent to harm or defraud another or to deprive another of that person's property, obtains, possesses, duplicates, transfers, or uses a key or lock adopted by a postal service for any box or other authorized receptacle for the deposit or delivery of mail. The bill enhances the penalty to a second degree felony for a subsequent conviction of the offense.

Senate Bill 1283**Senate Author:** Parker et al.**House Sponsor:** Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1283 amends the Health and Safety Code to set out requirements for senior retirement communities relating to resident safety from criminal activity.

Senate Bill 1300

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Cook et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1300 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to revise the conduct, penalties, and provisions relating to the prosecution of the offense of organized retail theft. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- removes the current conduct constituting the offense and instead establishes as conduct constituting the offense that the actor committed any of the following:
 - while acting in concert with one or more other persons, unlawfully appropriated retail merchandise, money, or other property from a merchant with the intent to deprive the merchant of the property;
 - on two or more occasions within a 180-day period, unlawfully appropriated retail merchandise, money, or other property from a merchant with the intent to deprive the merchant of the property;
 - knowingly obtained a benefit from such conduct that was committed by another person; or
 - knowingly acted in concert with one or more other persons to overwhelm the security response of a merchant or a peace officer for the purpose of committing the offense or avoiding detection or apprehension for the offense;
- makes statutory provisions establishing the conduct constituting the unlawful appropriation of property in connection with theft offenses applicable to the offense for purposes of determining whether property was unlawfully appropriated from a merchant in the prosecution of the offense;
- establishes that certain circumstances are not a defense to the prosecution of the offense;
- increases the penalties for the offense but removes the provision increasing the offense to the next higher category under certain circumstances;
- prohibits an indictment or information in the prosecution of the offense from being held insufficient for failure to name or describe each item of property stolen; and
- provides for the admissibility of evidence and evidence that constitutes prima facie evidence in the prosecution of the offense.

Senate Bill 1302

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1302 amends the Water Code to prohibit a discharger, after the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) denies or suspends the discharger's authority to discharge waste into or adjacent to waters in Texas under a general permit due to a TCEQ determination that the discharger's compliance history is classified as unsatisfactory, from discharging under the general permit until the TCEQ executive director actively authorizes the discharger to use the general permit. The bill prohibits the executive director from using an automatic process to authorize the use of a general permit under the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1307

Senate Author: Cook et al.

House Sponsor: Vo

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1307 amends the Insurance Code to require the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to consult with the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a biennial reference guide designed to educate the public about health coverage in Texas. The bill sets out the required content of the reference guide and requires TDI to publish the reference guide on its website and in a printed form available to the public on request.

Senate Bill 1313**Senate Author:** Cook et al.**House Sponsor:** Cunningham et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1313 amends the Health and Safety Code to create a Class B misdemeanor offense for a retailer who uses in any manner related to the retailer's marketing, advertising, or sale of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or tobacco products a sign, logo, or other design mark that does the following:

- depicts a cartoon-like fictional character primarily aimed at entertaining minors;
- imitates or mimics the trademarks or visual appearance of products primarily marketed to minors;
- includes a symbol primarily used to market products to minors;
- includes an image of a celebrity; or
- includes an image resembling a food product, such as candy or juice.

Senate Bill 1316**Senate Author:** Cook et al.**House Sponsor:** Cunningham et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1316 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a sign containing an advertisement for e-cigarettes from being located closer than 1,000 feet to a church or school.

Senate Bill 1318**Senate Author:** Schwertner et al.**House Sponsor:** Bonnen et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1318 amends the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act of 1983, Business & Commerce Code, to revise the conditions under which a covenant not to compete relating to the practice of medicine is enforceable against a licensed physician. The bill makes such a covenant void and unenforceable against a licensed physician who is involuntarily discharged from contract or employment without good cause.

Senate Bill 1318 sets out required conditions for a covenant not to compete relating to the practice of dentistry or nursing or practice as a physician assistant.

Senate Bill 1321**Senate Author:** Hagenbuch et al.**House Sponsor:** DeAyala**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1321 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to entitle a commissioned law enforcement officer (LEO) of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to receive state hazardous duty pay and, beginning with the 2026-2027 state fiscal biennium, provides for the classification of such a LEO as a Schedule C position under the Position Classification Act. The bill entitles a peace officer who is commissioned by TCOLE as a LEO or an agent, including a ranger, to receive special injury leave and provides for the compensation of a peace officer commissioned for certain purposes as an investigator employed by TCOLE according to Schedule C of the salary schedule prescribed by the General Appropriations Act.

Senate Bill 1330**Senate Author:** Hancock**House Sponsor:** Paul**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 1330 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a supplier who is not enrolled in Medicare as a participating supplier but provides Medicare-covered durable medical equipment, orthotic devices or supplies, or prosthetic devices or supplies to Medicare enrollees from charging an enrollee more than 115 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for such equipment, devices, or supplies for which the supplier

has not accepted written assignment unless the enrollee agrees in writing to pay the additional amount before being billed and the enrollee enters into a rental payment plan or pays the additional amount in full before receiving the equipment, device, or supply. The bill provides certain notice requirements for the written agreement between the supplier and enrollee. The bill establishes that a supplier who violates these provisions engages in a false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice and creates a fine-only misdemeanor offense for such a violation.

Senate Bill 1330 establishes that a Medicare supplement benefit plan issuer is not required to reimburse an enrollee or nonparticipating supplier for the amount by which a charge for durable medical equipment, orthotic devices or supplies, or prosthetic devices or supplies exceeds 115 percent of the Medicare-allowed amount for the equipment, device, or supply.

Senate Bill 1332

Effective: 5-30-25

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Hull et al.

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1332 amends the Insurance Code to authorize a health maintenance organization (HMO) or insurer, if a group health benefit plan policy or contract holder notifies the HMO or insurer of the termination of an individual's eligibility for coverage later than the end of the month in which the individual's eligibility for the group coverage terminated, to waive the policy or contract holder's liability for premiums on the individual for any subsequent months, provided that no covered services were provided to the individual after the end of the month in which the individual's eligibility terminated.

Senate Bill 1333

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Leach

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 1333 amends the Property Code to establish the conditions under which an owner of residential real property or the owner's agent may request that the applicable sheriff or constable immediately remove a person who unlawfully entered and is occupying a dwelling on the property without the owner's consent.

Senate Bill 1333 amends the Penal Code to create the Class A misdemeanor offense of presenting a false, fraudulent, or fictitious document conveying a real property interest and the first degree felony offense of the fraudulent sale, rental, or lease of residential real property. The bill sets the penalty for a criminal mischief offense that involves damaging or destroying a habitation while in the course of committing criminal trespass and that results in a pecuniary loss of \$1,000 or more but less than \$300,000 as a second degree felony, thereby increasing the penalty for an offense involving such conduct that results in a pecuniary loss of more than \$1,000 but less than \$2,500.

Senate Bill 1335

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Sponsor: Landgraf

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1335 amends the Estates Code to clarify and update provisions relating to decedents' estates, including provisions providing for the effect and cancellation of letters testamentary, a court's removal of a personal representative with notice, the discharge and release of bond sureties when no estate property remains or when the estate is fully administered, and the procedures for closing the administration of an estate.

Senate Bill 1341**Senate Author:** Hancock**House Sponsor:** McQueeney**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1341 amends the Business & Commerce Code and Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to the regulation of manufactured homes as follows:

- replaces the definition of "HUD-code manufactured home" with a reference to the definition of "manufactured home" under federal law;
- removes the specification that a location at which all required records of a manufacturer, retailer, broker, or installer licensee are to be maintained must be within Texas;
- authorizes a licensee to maintain required records electronically under specified circumstances;
- removes the specification that the required provision of a written costs disclosure to a consumer by certain retailers before entering into any agreement for a sale or exchange that will not be financed occur more than one day before entering into such an agreement; and
- removes requirements related to the timing of delivery, character, acceptance, and withdrawal of a contract for a manufactured home that is to be financed and will not be subject to specified federal law.

Senate Bill 1343**Senate Author:** Johnson et al.**House Sponsor:** Harris Davila**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 1343 amends the Business & Commerce Code, with respect to the notice that must be posted on a data broker's website or mobile application stating that the entity maintaining the website or application is a data broker, to require that such a notice also inform a consumer how to exercise any consumer rights the consumer may have under applicable state consumer data protection law. The bill also requires a data broker's business registration statement to include a link to a page on the data broker's website that provides consumers with specific instructions, which must be prominently displayed, on how to exercise their consumer personal data rights and any other applicable data privacy rights under applicable state consumer data protection law.

Senate Bill 1346**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Patterson**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1346 amends the Government Code to prohibit a sales agent from knowingly selling or allowing the sale of tickets for a lottery game involving a drawing to one or more persons attempting to purchase all or substantially all possible winning tickets for the drawing. The bill requires the Texas Lottery Commission to revoke the license of a sales agent who violates that prohibition and prohibits a person whose license is revoked in such a manner from applying for a sales agent license before the first anniversary of the license revocation date.

Senate Bill 1349**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Lopez, Janie et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1349 amends the Government Code and Penal Code to create the offense of transnational repression, and to establish the penalty for such an offense, for a person who, as an agent of a foreign government or foreign terrorist organization, commits or conspires to commit an offense of trafficking of

persons, assault, aggravated assault, harassment, stalking, or compelling prostitution with the intent to do one of the following:

- cause another person to act on behalf of a foreign government or a foreign terrorist organization;
- cause another person to leave or be confined in the United States;
- discourage another person from engaging in protected conduct; or
- retaliate against another person for engaging in protected conduct.

The bill provides for a Department of Public Safety training program for peace officers regarding transnational repression.

Senate Bill 1349 creates the second degree felony offense of unauthorized enforcement of foreign law for a person who, as an agent of a foreign government or foreign terrorist organization and without the approval of the state or the United States, prevents another person in Texas from violating the laws of a foreign government or detects, investigates, monitors, or surveilles another person in Texas for the purpose of preventing the other person from violating the laws of a foreign government.

Senate Bill 1350

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1350 amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Bicentennial Commission to coordinate celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of Texas' independence.

Senate Bill 1351

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

House Sponsor: Martinez

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1351 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 281 in Hidalgo County as the U.S. Border Patrol Agent Jose Rodriguez-Lua Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 1352

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam

House Sponsor: Capriglione

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1352 amends the Tax Code to require a chief appraiser that extends the deadline for a property owner to file a rendition statement or property report to May 15 to also extend the deadline for the property owner to file an application for a property tax exemption for freeport goods or an allocation application form to May 15. The bill provides for a further extension of the application deadlines and revises provisions relating to the penalties for which a property owner who files such a late application is liable to each taxing unit if the late application is approved.

Senate Bill 1353

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam

House Sponsor: Gámez

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1353 amends the Transportation Code to establish a pilot board for a navigation district located in Cameron County and to set out provisions relating to licensing and regulation of pilots in the board's jurisdiction. The bill provides for the board's composition and jurisdiction and authorizes the board to appoint, suspend, or dismiss an applicable branch pilot or deputy branch pilot, to establish pilotage rates for service, and to adopt and enforce applicable rules. The bill sets out provisions relating to the following:

- the regulation of branch pilots and deputy branch pilots, including qualifications for license or certification, the four-year term of a branch pilot's commission, and the appointment of a deputy branch pilot by a branch pilot;

- pilotage rate liability, including the authorization for a pilot to bring an action to recover compensation for pilotage or services offered; and
- pilot liability, including limiting an applicable pilot's liability for damage or loss.

Senate Bill 1355**Senate Author:** Parker et al.**House Sponsor:** Phelan**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1355 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to require a distiller's and rectifier's permit holder to provide a written invoice to a wholesaler's permit holder upon the sale of liquor and to require the wholesaler to pay for the liquor in accordance with the agreed terms of a contract or written agreement between the two parties. The bill authorizes a distiller's and rectifier's permit holder who sold liquor to a wholesaler to report any delinquency in payment to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and subjects such a wholesaler to TABC disciplinary action.

Senate Bill 1362**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Hefner et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1362, the Anti-Red Flag Act, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to prohibit certain state and local governmental entities from adopting or enforcing a rule, ordinance, order, policy, or other similar measure relating to an extreme risk protective order unless state law specifically authorizes the adoption and enforcement of such a measure. The bill also prohibits such an entity from accepting federal grant funds for the implementation, service, or enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation purporting to implement or enforce an extreme risk protective order against a person in Texas and makes such a federal law that infringes on certain protected rights unenforceable. The bill exempts certain protective orders from its provisions and creates a state jail felony offense for a person who serves or enforces or attempts to serve or enforce an extreme risk protective order against a person in Texas, unless the order was issued under state law.

Senate Bill 1364**Senate Author:** Nichols**House Sponsor:** Gerdes**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 1364 repeals Government Code provisions relating to wheelbase and horsepower restrictions for the state's passenger vehicle fleet.

Senate Bill 1366**Senate Author:** Nichols et al.**House Sponsor:** King**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1366 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to require that certain information relating to construction or maintenance work zones be included in the curriculum of each driver education course or driving safety course.

Senate Bill 1369**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** VanDeaver**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1369 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 11 in Morris County as the Army Staff Sergeant Samuel T. Castle Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 1371

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Villalobos

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1371 amends the Tax Code to revise the provision establishing that the exemption from the compressed natural gas and liquified natural gas tax for gas delivered for certain motor vehicles used to provide the services of a transit company does not apply if the gas is delivered from a refueling facility that meets certain criteria.

Senate Bill 1371 amends the Transportation Code to revise the applicability of the statutory provision relating to fares, tolls, charges, rents, and other compensation by a metropolitan rapid transit authority confirmed before July 1, 1985, and excludes certain periods of service for purposes of statutory term limitations for service on the board of specified metropolitan rapid transit authorities.

Senate Bill 1372

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Louderback

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1372 amends the Government Code to remove a defendant from the individuals who may be authorized to access and use the Department of Public Safety's crime laboratory portal.

Senate Bill 1376

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: VanDeaver

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1376 amends the Occupations Code to authorize a code enforcement officer in training to engage in code enforcement without supervision if the employer of the officer in training does not also employ a registered code enforcement officer.

Senate Bill 1378

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Geren et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Current law generally prohibits a holder of a nonresident seller's permit from holding or having an interest in the permit, business, assets, or corporate stock of a person authorized to import liquor into Texas for the purpose of resale. Senate Bill 1378 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to exempt from the prohibition a permittee who holds a winery permit that was first issued on or before May 1, 2010, for a winery whose premises is located in the City of Carrollton. The bill prohibits the holder of a nonresident seller's permit who holds a winery permit or whose affiliate holds a winery permit from selling wine to the holder of the winery permit.

Senate Bill 1379

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Cook

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1379 amends the Penal Code to increase the base penalty and enhanced penalties for forgery.

Senate Bill 1383

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

House Sponsor: King et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1383 amends the Business & Commerce Code to set out provisions relating to the regulation of referral agencies for senior living communities. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a referral agency, at the time of a referral, to provide a disclosure statement to the consumer that includes certain information;
- sets out prohibited conduct for, and duties of, a referral agency; and
- sets out provisions relating to referral agency compensation.

Senate Bill 1383 amends the Occupations Code to exempt a referral agency from the applicability of statutory provisions relating to the offense of soliciting patients.

Senate Bill 1388

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Frank et al.

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1388 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions governing the Thriving Texas Families Program. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure that service providers are not associated with an abortion services provider and do not provide, refer patients to, advocate for, or promote abortion services; requires service providers and contractors to make an annual certification regarding the program's goals; includes certain housing assistance among the program's services; and prohibits HHSC and contractors from providing any abortion-related services through the program. The bill also makes governmental and quasi-governmental entities and certain other organizations ineligible for funding under the program and requires HHSC to adopt measures to simplify program participation by certain small service providers.

Senate Bill 1398

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Sponsor: Noble

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1398 amends the Family Code to set out and revise provisions relating to certain procedures in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship for a child placed in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the provision of family preservation services and community-based foster care. Among other provisions, the bill provides for certain restrictions with respect to DFPS's or a single source continuum contractor's temporary emergency supervision of a child without a placement and requires DFPS or the contractor to report to the court certain information regarding attempted placements. The bill also expands the services that may be provided under the family preservation services pilot program and the families eligible to receive such services, requires DFPS to post certain information on its website regarding the implementation of community-based care and the single source continuum contractors providing community-based care services, and revises the contents of a contract between DFPS and such a contractor for the provision of those services in a catchment area with respect to implementation timelines, performance reviews, financial penalties and incentives, and community engagement plans.

Senate Bill 1398 amends the Human Resources Code to change the frequency with which the state auditor must review DFPS's performance-based contracts to ensure the enforcement of contract provisions.

Senate Bill 1400

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Kitzman

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1400 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the standing advisory committee established to provide advice and counsel relating to the funding of public junior colleges, to conduct a study to assess the feasibility and the fiscal and policy implications of revising the requirements for subsequent transfer to a general academic teaching institution for purposes of performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program

to include students who were previously enrolled at a general academic teaching institution. The bill sets out requirements for conducting the study and for submission of a report on the study to the legislature.

Senate Bill 1401

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: West

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1401 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program and encourage participating institutions to develop pipeline programs for the purpose of providing a clear, guided pathway for public junior college students to transfer to a participating institution to pursue a baccalaureate degree or a postbaccalaureate degree or certificate leading to licensure and practice in certain mental health professions. The bill sets out requirements relating to the implementation of the program.

Senate Bill 1403

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: West

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Sponsor: Dutton

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1403 amends the Family Code to clarify and revise provisions establishing procedures for child support cases and orders and the powers and duties of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in its capacity as the Title IV-D agency. Among other provisions, the bill clarifies certain OAG duties and procedures with respect to incarcerated obligors and related administrative adjustments of support obligations, provides for the dismissal of certain claims against OAG-contracted attorneys or political subdivisions, clarifies the authority of attorneys to represent the OAG at court proceedings, provides for online availability of Title IV-D brochures, and updates the contents and method for serving certain child support-related notices.

Senate Bill 1404

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: West

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Sponsor: Dutton

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1404 amends the Family Code to authorize the court clerk in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship to send documents relating to a final order to a party's email address using the state court electronic filing system. The bill provides for the inclusion in a final order of an email address at which a party may receive required notices and other legal documents when an order prohibiting the disclosure of the party's information has been rendered. The bill also requires a court, in rendering a judgment for attorney's fees, expenses, or court costs in such a suit or when a respondent has failed to make child support payments, to render the judgment separate from any judgment confirming the amount of arrearages.

Senate Bill 1405

Effective: 7-1-2025

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Ashby

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1405 amends the Government Code to revise statutory provisions relating to the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program, broadband speed thresholds, the state broadband development map, and the broadband development program and amends the Tax Code to make certain changes relating to sales and use tax for Internet access service and franchise tax liability in connection with qualifying broadband grants. Specifically, the bill does the following, among other provisions:

- with respect to the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program, revises the definition of "qualifying broadband service" and "unserved area" and makes changes to the requirement for

the comptroller of public accounts to maintain and publish certain information relating to the program;

- revises the minimum download and upload speeds that Internet service must be capable of providing to be considered "broadband service" for purposes of provisions relating to the broadband development office;
- with respect to the state broadband development map, revises the conditions a location must satisfy to be considered an unserved location for the map's purposes; revises the conditions under which the office is not required to create, update, or publish a map; and repeals certain statutory provisions relating to the map's development;
- makes provisions relating to grants, loans, or other financial incentives awarded under the broadband development program applicable also to contracts and further revises provisions governing the program's administration;
- removes Internet access service from the list of taxable services subject to the sales and use tax; and
- provides for the expansion of the definition of "qualifying broadband grant" for purposes of franchise tax provisions that exclude proceeds of such a grant from a taxable entity's total revenue and allow for certain related expenses to be included as a cost of goods or as compensation.

Senate Bill 1405 also eliminates the governor's broadband development council.

Senate Bill 1409

Effective: 5-13-25

Senate Author: Parker

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Johnson et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1409 amends the Education Code to authorize a postsecondary educational institution to offer health benefits to enrolled students and their family members. The bill sets out provisions relating to health benefits offered by such an institution, including a prohibition against requiring a student to enroll in the benefits, a restriction on the duration of a waiting period for a preexisting condition, and requirements for the institution to register with the Texas Department of Insurance, take certain actions to ensure the actuarial soundness of the benefits, and disclose to benefit applicants that the benefits are not provided through a state-regulated insurance product. The bill also provides for the institution's authority to contract with an authorized insurance company to transfer risk or obtain coverage for obligations arising from the offered benefits.

Senate Bill 1415

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Sponsor: Hull et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1415 amends the Tax Code to change the period during which the existing sales tax holiday for qualifying clothing and footwear takes place from a period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the Friday before the 15th day preceding the fourth Monday in August and ending at 12 midnight on the following Sunday to a period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August and ending at 12 midnight on the following Sunday.

Senate Bill 1418

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Author: Campbell

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Ashby

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1418 amends the Education Code to replace references to the "ACT-Plan" with references to the "PreACT" and remove an outdated reference to the SAT Subject Tests.

Senate Bill 1422

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1422 amends the Transportation Code to designate the Farm-to-Market Road 852 bridge in Upshur County as the Petty Officer Billy Machen Memorial Bridge.

Senate Bill 1423

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Dean

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1423 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 2275 in Gregg County as the Bill Stoudt Parkway.

Senate Bill 1426

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Vasut et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1426 amends the Government Code to place the first capitol state historic site located in West Columbia, Texas, and the replica of the first Republic of Texas house of representatives building housed on the site under the Texas Historical Commission's jurisdiction, make the commission responsible for the preservation, maintenance, and operation of the site and replica, and set out requirements for the commission with regard to the site and replica.

Senate Bill 1433

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Smithee

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1433 amends the Government Code to authorize the attorney general to assert legislative privilege on behalf of the state or a state agency or official during discovery, hearing, or trial in an action challenging the constitutionality of state statutes unless asserting the privilege would create a conflict in the attorney general's representation of the state, state agency, or official.

Senate Bill 1437

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Noble

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1437 amends the Human Resources Code to expand the applicability of provisions relating to the ineligibility of certain juvenile officers or employees of a juvenile facility for certification or provisional certification as a result of certain conduct to include an individual who does not hold such a certification and who is or was employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), a juvenile probation department, or a juvenile facility registered with TJJD. The bill replaces the authorization for TJJD to designate as permanently ineligible for such certification an individual who has been terminated from employment with TJJD for engaging in certain conduct with an authorization for TJJD to do so if either of the following circumstances applies:

- the individual, while employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for an applicable entity or facility, engaged in conduct that violates provisions relating to the standards for and regulation of certain juvenile officers and employees or a TJJD rule or that demonstrates the individual is not suitable for certification; or
- a panel of three Texas Juvenile Justice Board members determines the individual's certification would threaten juveniles in the juvenile justice system.

Senate Bill 1448**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Hayes**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1448 amends the Estates Code and Government Code to clarify provisions relating to decedents' estates and revise procedures relating to probate proceedings, probated wills, and the administration of certain estates. The bill also provides for the service of a required citation or notice on a person who is now deceased but survived the decedent who is the subject of a probate proceeding. See also [House Bill 3421](#), which contains most provisions of this bill.

Senate Bill 1451**Senate Author:** Flores**House Sponsor:** Cook**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1451 amends the Penal Code to increase the penalty for stealing or receiving a stolen check or similar sight order from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony.

Senate Bill 1453**Senate Author:** Bettencourt**House Sponsor:** Meyer**Effective:** 1-1-26**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1453 amends the Tax Code and Education Code to authorize a taxing unit's governing body to approve a debt rate that exceeds the taxing unit's statutorily determined debt rate only if the motion is approved by at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body and the rate is proposed to be approved by a motion that states the rate determined under applicable state law, states the proposed rate, states the difference between the proposed rate and the determined rate, and describes the purpose for which the excess revenue collected from the proposed rate will be used.

Senate Bill 1455**Senate Author:** Hagenbuch**House Sponsor:** Hefner**Effective:** 1-1-26**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 1455 amends the Insurance Code and Labor Code to change the funding mechanism for regulating workers' compensation and workers' compensation insurance from the imposition of maintenance taxes to the imposition of surcharges assessed, collected, and paid in the same manner as the maintenance tax, except as otherwise provided by the bill.

Senate Bill 1464**Senate Author:** Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"**House Sponsor:** Villalobos**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 1464 amends the Transportation Code to prohibit a person from applying for a hearing on a vehicle title refusal, rescission, cancellation, suspension, or revocation if the action is related to a title for a vehicle for which a court has awarded ownership or possession to another person, that is the subject of any pending litigation or court proceedings, or that is held as evidence in a criminal investigation. The bill clarifies the conditions under which a county assessor-collector must deny an application for an applicable hearing.

Senate Bill 1467

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"
House Sponsor: Oliverson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1467 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to implement a procedure to provide certain death information for each deceased person for whom a death certificate is filed with a local registrar in Texas to a hospital designated as a Level I trauma facility to assist with the hospital's participation in the Medicaid managed care program. DSHS may use that procedure to provide death information to a hospital that does not have such a designation.

Senate Bill 1468

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.
House Sponsor: Dyson et al.

Effective: 5-15-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1468 amends the Education Code to authorize the board of regents of The Texas A&M University (TAMU) System to construct and acquire power plants, and additions to power plants, located on TAMU System property in Brazos County and to acquire water systems and sewer systems located on such property.

Senate Bill 1470

Senate Author: Hughes et al.
House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 1470 amends the Election Code to require the secretary of state, for purposes of maintaining the statewide voter registration list and preventing duplication of registration in more than one state or jurisdiction, to use data of registered voters who apply for a driver's license or personal identification card in another state to identify voters whose addresses have changed, who are not qualified to vote due to a felony conviction, or who are registered to vote in more than one state. The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to share with the secretary of state any data related to individuals who hold a driver's license or personal identification card in Texas and who apply for such identification in another state.

Senate Bill 1490

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.
House Sponsor: Gerdes et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1490 amends the Education Code to revise the thresholds for determining the number of instructional days of the school year for which a student is considered to be in average daily attendance, with a 100 percent attendance rate, for purposes of funding for an adult high school charter program.

Senate Bill 1493

Senate Author: Parker
House Sponsor: Patterson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1493 amends the Transportation Code to establish that a high-mounted stoplamp is considered to comply with applicable federal standards if the stoplamp varies in intensity four or fewer times but never deactivates when the vehicle brakes for not more than two seconds.

Senate Bill 1494

Senate Author: Johnson et al.
House Sponsor: Anchía et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 1494 amends the Election Code to authorize the governing body of a political subdivision, other than a county or municipal utility district, that holds its general election for officers on a date other

than the November uniform election date to change the date on which it holds that election to the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years.

Senate Bill 1497

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Perez, Mary Ann

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1497 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to specify, for purposes of the prohibition against a peace officer searching a person's cellular telephone or other wireless communications device under a lawful arrest of the person without obtaining a search warrant, that a wireless communications device does not include a skimmer or a device manufactured for the purpose of illicitly obtaining payment card information or identifying information.

Senate Bill 1498

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Perez, Mary Ann

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1498 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish procedures related to the forfeiture of contraband that is digital currency, non-fungible token, or stablecoin.

Senate Bill 1499

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Perez, Mary Ann

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1499 transfers provisions relating to the financial crimes intelligence center from the Occupations Code to the Government Code and amends those provisions. The bill expands the type of fraud addressed by the center by replacing references to card fraud with references to payment fraud and changes the type of officer appointed to supervise and manage the operation of the center from a chief intelligence coordinator to a director.

Senate Bill 1502

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Troxclair

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1502 amends the Tax Code to prohibit the governing body of a public school district from adopting, without an election, a tax rate in response to certain disasters that have impacted the district for a tax year in which:

- the governing body previously adopted a tax rate that exceeded the district's voter-approval tax rate;
- an election was held for the purpose of determining whether to approve the district's adopted tax rate; and
- the proposition to approve the district's adopted tax rate was not approved by the voters of the district at the election.

Senate Bill 1504

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Middleton

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Paul

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1504 amends the law to provide for the Gulf Coast Authority's board of directors to meet regularly as necessary and for the directors to hold an open or closed meeting by telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method.

Senate Bill 1506

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Harless et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1506 amends the Government Code to revise the requirements for the policy adopted by the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) governing the time frame in which an applicable inmate who has previously been denied release on parole must be reconsidered for release by the BPP as follows:

- removes the requirement that the policy require the BPP to reconsider certain inmates for release as soon as practicable after the first anniversary of the date of denial of release; and
- requires the policy to require that the BPP reconsider all inmates for release during a month that is designated for reconsideration by the parole panel that denied release.

With respect to the time frame in which a month is designated for reconsideration of an inmate, the bill does the following:

- establishes that the month must begin after the first anniversary of the date of the denial and end before the fifth anniversary of that date, except as otherwise provided;
- establishes that the month for an inmate serving a sentence for certain offenses under the Texas Controlled Substances Act must begin as soon as practicable after the first anniversary of the date of the denial; and
- retains the time frame provided by current law for inmates serving a sentence for aggravated sexual assault or a life sentence for a capital felony.

Senate Bill 1522

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Rose

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1522 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise and update provisions of the Texas Continuing Care Facility Disclosure and Rehabilitation Act by doing the following:

- clarifying the definitions of "continuing care," "entrance fee," "facility," and "living unit" for purposes of the act and providing for the act's applicability;
- establishing residents' rights to assemble and to receive a copy of a provider's annual disclosure statement;
- authorizing the commissioner of insurance to reject an application for a certificate of authority if the applicant does not own the real property on which the facility is located or proposed to be located;
- providing for a refund of entrance fees due to the rescission of a continuing care contract and for the deduction of certain money transferred to a provider from a refund provided upon cancellation of a contract due to death or incapacity;
- revising and clarifying processes and requirements with respect to the acceptance, return, and release of fees and other funds deposited into an escrow account; and
- subjecting a facility that leases any portion of its grounds from a third party to more frequent actuarial reviews than otherwise required by law.

Senate Bill 1532

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Martinez

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1532 amends the Water Code to remove from the information regarding the use of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas that is required to be posted by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on its website and regularly updated any nonconfidential information submitted to the TWDB as part of an application for financial assistance from the fund that is approved by the TWDB.

Senate Bill 1534**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Lambert et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Economic Development**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 1534 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission, to conduct a study on health physics education in Texas that identifies gaps in health physics training programs provided by public institutions of higher education and assesses workforce needs in the nuclear energy and radiological safety sectors. The bill provides for submission of a report on the study to relevant legislative committees.

Senate Bill 1535**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Button**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Economic Development**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1535 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission, in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and in consultation with representatives designated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas to coordinate the state's nuclear energy strategies, to establish and administer the advanced nuclear energy workforce development program for the purpose of addressing urgent skilled labor demands in the advanced nuclear energy industry in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the creation of a strategic plan and for the development of customized curriculum requirements for relevant degree and certificate programs.

Senate Bill 1537**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Smithee**Effective:** 5-30-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1537 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise the requirement for the appointment of an interpreter in a criminal proceeding on an applicable motion and the court's determination that the person charged or witness does not understand and speak the English language by specifying that the interpreter be appointed as provided by Government Code provisions relating to the appointment of an interpreter or a communication access realtime translation provider.

Senate Bill 1540**Senate Author:** Bettencourt**House Sponsor:** Capriglione et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 1540 amends the Government Code to extend the confidentiality protections for certain personal identifying information under state public information law to current or former election officials and their employees, volunteers, and designees and to employees of the secretary of state's office who perform election-related duties. Additionally, the bill amends the Election Code to include the chair of a state executive committee of a political party that nominates by primary election in the definition of "election official."

Senate Bill 1547**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Orr**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1547 amends the Local Government Code to exclude electronic issuance of an electronic copy of real property records from mandatory fees collected by a county clerk for such issuance of noncertified papers but specifies that the requirement for the clerk to charge a fee for providing a non-paper format copy of a record maintained by the clerk applies to real property records.

Senate Bill 1555

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

House Sponsor: Patterson et al.

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1555 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to establish and administer a grant program for political subdivisions to fund rail-pedestrian grade separation projects that are located at intersections of railroads and public pedestrian crossings and rail-roadway grade separation projects that are located at intersections of railroads and public roadways that are not part of the state highway system. The bill sets out provisions relating to grant approval and grant program funding and requires a political subdivision that receives a program grant to designate TxDOT to manage contracting for and supervision of planning and construction of an applicable project.

Senate Bill 1558

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Bonnen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1558 amends the Family Code to include a nonprofit entity that contracts with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) or with a single source continuum contractor to provide community-based care or child welfare services among the nonprofit entities considered to be charitable organizations for the purposes of the application of the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act of 1987 to the entity and any person who is an employee or volunteer of that entity. Accordingly, the bill makes the act applicable to a caregiver providing services on behalf of an applicable nonprofit entity and makes certain limitations on liability applicable to an act or omission by an applicable nonprofit entity or person that occurs while the entity or person is acting within the scope of the entity's contract with a single source continuum contractor.

Senate Bill 1558 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to prohibit an applicable nonprofit entity from being held liable for damages resulting from an act or omission of a person who is an employee or volunteer of the entity or a caregiver providing services on behalf of the entity if, at the time of the act or omission giving rise to the claim, the entity has met certain requirements. This prohibition expressly does not affect the liability of such a nonprofit entity for damages resulting from the gross negligence of the entity.

Senate Bill 1558 establishes that such a nonprofit entity may be held vicariously liable by a claimant on the basis of services received from the entity for the act or omission of a person who is an employee or volunteer of the entity or a caregiver providing services on behalf of the entity only if the claimant shows certain facts.

Senate Bill 1559

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Thompson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1559 amends the Family Code to provide for the mandatory transfer of a protective order to the court having jurisdiction of a subsequent suit for dissolution of a marriage or a suit affecting the parent-child relationship. The bill also establishes that a protective order prevails over any other order rendered in either such suit to the extent of any conflict between the orders and requires each protective order issued to include a statement about the prevailing nature of the order.

Senate Bill 1563**Senate Author:** Menéndez et al.**House Sponsor:** Plesa et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1563 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, in consultation with the Texas Veterans Commission, to develop a training program for county jailers on interacting with veterans in the criminal justice system.

Senate Bill 1566**Senate Author:** Bettencourt**House Sponsor:** Darby**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1566 amends the Local Government Code to authorize an entity otherwise prohibited from serving or connecting any land with utility service, unless the entity has been presented with or otherwise holds a plat compliance certificate applicable to the land, to serve or connect land with those utility services, regardless of whether the entity is presented with or otherwise holds that certificate, if the land was removed from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction under applicable state law and the entity holds a certificate of convenience and necessity to serve the land.

Senate Bill 1567**Senate Author:** Bettencourt et al.**House Sponsor:** Vasut**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1567 amends the Local Government Code to set out provisions relating to residential zoning limitations related to occupancy applicable to a home-rule municipality with a population of less than 250,000 in which the campus of a public institution of higher education with a student enrollment of more than 20,000 is located or that is adjacent to the campus of such an institution. The bill prohibits such a municipality from adopting or enforcing a regulation that limits the number of people who may occupy a dwelling unit based on age, familial status, occupation, relationship status, or whether the occupants are related to each other by a certain degree of affinity or consanguinity. The bill authorizes such a municipality to impose a limit on the number of occupants of a dwelling unit that is not more restrictive than one occupant per sleeping room with a minimum floor area of 70 square feet and one additional occupant for each additional 50 square feet of floor area in the same sleeping room. The bill prohibits such a municipality from requiring a third party fiduciary to submit for review or provide access to a lease or related document to determine the number of unrelated occupants of a dwelling unit for the purpose of enforcing a dwelling unit occupancy requirement. The bill authorizes a person who owns property in or a tenant who resides in a municipality who is adversely affected or aggrieved by the municipality's violation of the bill's provisions to bring an action against the municipality or an officer or employee of the municipality in the officer's or employee's official capacity for applicable relief.

Senate Bill 1568**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Curry**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 1568 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to design and issue specialty license plates that include the words "Spay. Neuter. Adopt." The bill provides for the deposit of the fees for issuance of those license plates to the credit of the animal friendly account in the general revenue fund.

Senate Bill 1569

Senate Author: King

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 1569 amends the Government Code and Tax Code to provide for the confidentiality of certain personal identifying information of the following persons:

- a member of the governing board or the president or other chief executive of a public, private, or independent institution of higher education; and
- the chancellor or other chief executive officer of a university system.

Senate Bill 1574

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1574 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Judicial Council (TJC) by rule to develop a centers of excellence program to identify, support, and recognize justices and judges who excel in serving their communities and in representing the judiciary. The bill requires the TJC, in awarding a center of excellence recognition to a justice or judge, to consider the following:

- a justice's or judge's governance, access, fairness, case flow management, and court operations; and
- the compliance of the justice's or judge's court with statutory or procedural requirements for judicial reporting, court security, fee collection, indigent defense, and guardianship fraud and abuse prevention.

A justice or judge of an appellate court, district court, statutory county court, statutory probate court, county court, justice court, or municipal court is eligible for recognition as a center of excellence and may apply for recognition on a form and in the manner prescribed by the TJC.

Senate Bill 1577

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: McQueeney et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1577 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to revise statutory provisions relating to the temporary sale of alcoholic beverages at certain racing facilities by including distilled spirits among the beverages that may be sold in that manner, expanding the types of facility events during which the temporary sale is authorized, and removing restrictions on the alcohol content of the beverages, the frequency of sale, and the number of locations at which the beverages may be sold.

Senate Bill 1579

Senate Author: Blanco

House Sponsor: González, Mary

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1579 amends the Local Government Code to set out provisions relating to the appointment of a receiver for and sale of certain parcels of land that are abandoned, unoccupied, tax delinquent, and undeveloped in the City of Socorro.

Senate Bill 1580

Senate Author: Blanco

House Sponsor: VanDeaver

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1580 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the governing body of a local mental health authority that has a governing body to include a veteran selected by a majority of the governing body members.

Senate Bill 1583**Senate Author:** Blanco**House Sponsor:** Barry**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1583 amends the Water Code to require a groundwater conservation district's management plan, and any amendments to the plan, to include the most recently approved desired future conditions and the amount of modeled available groundwater corresponding to those conditions. The bill requires a district to amend its management plan before the second anniversary of the adoption of those conditions. The bill specifies the circumstances under which a management plan is administratively complete with respect to a disputed desired future condition.

Senate Bill 1589**Senate Author:** Hancock et al.**House Sponsor:** Orr**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1589 amends the Family Code to require a contract between a single source continuum contractor and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) for the provision of community-based care services in a catchment area to include provisions that allow DFPS, at DFPS's sole discretion, to reclaim the case management authority over any or all of the cases in a catchment area from the contractor or transfer such authority from the contractor to another single source continuum contractor.

Senate Bill 1596**Senate Author:** Hagenbuch**House Sponsor:** Hayes et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1596 amends the Penal Code to remove language making it an offense for a person to intentionally or knowingly possess, manufacture, transport, repair, or sell a short-barrel firearm.

Senate Bill 1598**Senate Author:** Hagenbuch**House Sponsor:** Curry**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 1598 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the use of certain confidential motor vehicle collision report information for purposes of a criminal investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency. The bill makes the authorization applicable to any person acting on behalf of the agency. The bill authorizes a governmental entity holding the applicable collision report information to release a vehicle identification number and specific collision information relating to that vehicle to an applicable person and, with respect to the release of such information or a redacted collision report, provides for a prohibition against a governmental entity releasing personal information and for a requirement for the entity to withhold or redact specified information.

Senate Bill 1610**Senate Author:** Perry et al.**House Sponsor:** Cook et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Corrections

Senate Bill 1610 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Penal Code to revise the conduct of and enhance penalties for certain assaultive offenses, provide for the prosecution of offenses committed by a civilly committed sexually violent predator, and revise provisions relating to the sex offender registration program and the civil commitment of a sexually violent predator. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the imprisonment of a defendant in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life or any term of not more than 99 years or less than 25 years on conviction of a felony offense, other than a state jail felony, if it is shown on the trial that the defendant was civilly committed as a sexually violent predator at the time of the offense;
- enhances the penalties for indecent assault and aggravated assault if the offense is committed by an actor committed to a civil commitment facility against Texas Civil Commitment Office (TCCO) officers, employees, or contractors under certain circumstances;
- expands the conduct that constitutes harassment by a person in a correctional, detention, or civil commitment facility and harassment of a public servant; and
- provides for the application of the offense of obstruction or retaliation committed against a person who contracts with the state to perform a service in a civil commitment facility or that person's employee.

Senate Bill 1610, with respect to magistration and the prosecution of offenses committed by a civilly committed sexually violent predator, revises provisions relating to venue, warrantless arrests, duties of magistrates, notice of certain bail reductions, bail and conditions of bond, and consecutive sentencing. The bill also does the following:

- authorizes a magistrate to impose on a defendant who was civilly committed as a sexually violent predator at the time of the alleged offense any reasonable condition of bond related to public safety or the safety of a civil commitment facility but requires the magistrate to impose the condition that the defendant does not commit a new offense while on bond and complies with their civil commitment order;
- requires a magistrate who finds that such a defendant violated a condition of bond to revoke bond and order the defendant immediately returned to custody; and
- excludes an accused person who is civilly committed as a sexually violent predator at the time of the offense from statutory provisions authorizing release without bond for fine-only misdemeanors.

The bill provides for a prosecuting attorney serving on the special prosecution unit to represent the state in the prosecution of a criminal offense committed by a person civilly committed as a sexually violent predator. The bill provides for a court to conduct a proceeding relating to litigation by a civilly committed individual who is unable to pay costs without the consent of the individual or applicable parties.

Senate Bill 1610, with respect to the sex offender registration program, does the following:

- provides for the application of the program to a person with a reportable conviction or adjudication for which the person has been civilly committed as a sexually violent predator;
- grants immunity to a TCCO employee or officer from liability for good faith conduct under the program;
- requires a person who has been civilly committed as a sexually violent predator but is not required to reside in a civil commitment center to report quarterly to their local law enforcement authority; and
- expands the prohibition against a person subject to sex offender registration from taking certain actions for compensation.

Furthermore, the bill requires lifetime sex offender registration for a person who has a reportable conviction or adjudication, other than an adjudication of delinquent conduct, for which the person has been civilly committed as a sexually violent predator, except that the duty to register for such a person whose conviction or order of deferred adjudication in a cause that was transferred to a district or criminal district court is subject to the standard 10-year period.

Senate Bill 1610 requires information in the computerized criminal history system maintained by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to include any sexually violent predator civil commitment order. The bill entitles TCCO to obtain from DPS criminal history record information maintained by DPS and relating

to a person who is civilly committed as a sexually violent predator or who was previously committed and subsequently released by a court order.

Senate Bill 1610 revises provisions governing the civil commitment of sexually violent predators as follows:

- establishes that a person is a repeat sexually violent offender if the person is convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual and a sentence is imposed for the offense;
- establishes that a civilly committed sex offender is responsible for costs of repairs or replacement of property or medical care expenses under certain circumstances in which the offender intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently caused the damage or injury;
- caps the term of contracts for the provision of any necessary supervised housing and other related services and for medical and mental health services and sex offender treatment for civilly committed sexually violent predators at 10 years but authorizes a contract to provide for renewals each for an additional term capped at 10 years; and
- provides for the payment of reasonable compensation by the Health and Human Services Commission to persons performing a duty or providing a service to a committed person with an intellectual or developmental disability, a mental illness, or a physical disability that prevents the committed person from effectively participating in the sex offender treatment program.

The bill provides for the immediate dismissal of any action asserting a claim against a person granted immunity from liability under provisions governing the civil commitment of sexually violent predators, the attorney general's defense of any person providing or contracting, appointed, or volunteering to perform any service requested by TCCO, and the recovery of related court costs and attorney's fees.

Senate Bill 1619

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Cortez et al.

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1619 amends the Education Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, and Occupations Code to replace references to "epinephrine auto-injector" with references to "epinephrine delivery system," which includes an epinephrine auto-injector and an epinephrine nasal spray, in provisions relating to the possession, maintenance, storage, administration, and disposal of, and prescriptions for, epinephrine auto-injectors.

Senate Bill 1620

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1620 amends the Government Code to require the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to establish the Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot Program to increase the forensic science workforce capacity in Texas. The bill requires OCA to collaborate with the Texas Forensic Science Commission (FSC) to administer the pilot program and, for purposes of implementing the pilot program, to enter into contracts with each publicly funded accredited crime laboratory that is awarded an apprentice position by the FSC and with certain entities that provide relevant training programs in forensic disciplines. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2030.

Senate Bill 1621

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Fairly

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1621 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to revise provisions relating to the third degree felony offense of possession of child pornography and the second degree felony offense of promotion of child pornography. The bill does the following:

- defines "depiction of a child" for purposes of the offenses;
- expands the conduct constituting those offenses to include the condition that the person should have known that the depiction is of a child younger than 18 years of age at the time the image of the child was made among the conditions that, in addition to committing the requisite conduct involving possession or promotion of the visual material, qualifies as constituting the applicable offense;
- revises the conditions under which the penalty enhancements for those offenses apply to a person convicted of such an offense; and
- establishes that in the prosecution of those offenses, the state is not required to prove the identity of the child in the depiction and there is a rebuttable presumption that the depiction is of an actual child and not of a computer-generated child.

Furthermore, the bill creates the state jail felony offense of possession of computer-generated child pornography and the third degree felony offense of promotion of computer-generated child pornography and provides for penalty enhancements for both offenses.

Senate Bill 1621 also includes a depiction of a minor or a child, created using an artificial intelligence application or other computer software, that to a reasonable person is virtually indistinguishable from an actual minor or child younger than 18 years of age among the visual material to which the offenses of electronic transmission of certain visual material depicting a minor and possession or promotion of lewd visual material depicting a child apply.

Senate Bill 1637

Senate Author: King

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Current law establishes that recklessness and danger are presumed in the commission of the offense of deadly conduct if the actor knowingly pointed a firearm at or in the direction of another. Senate Bill 1637 amends the Penal Code to establish that this presumption does not apply to a peace officer engaged in the lawful discharge of the officer's official duties. The bill also exempts a peace officer engaged in the actual discharge of those duties from the application of certain conduct constituting that offense under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 1644

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Smithee

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1644 amends the Insurance Code to require an insurer that uses credit scoring in the underwriting or rating of personal insurance to do the following:

- use a consumer's credit report issued not more than 90 days before the date the policy is first issued or renewed if the insurer uses the report information to take an action that results in an adverse effect to the insured;
- review and update the credit report of an insured not less than every 36 months; and
- reassess the insured's policy rating and adjust premiums based on the updated credit score.

The bill also requires an insurer, if requested by an insured or the insured's agent on renewal of an insurance policy, to re-underwrite and re-rate the policy based upon a current credit report or insurance score, not

exceeding once each 12-month period. The bill requires an insurer that takes an action resulting in an adverse effect with respect to an insured based on information contained in a credit report to provide to the insured within 30 days written or electronic notice of the insured's right to request the insurer re-underwrite and re-rate their insurance policy, if applicable. The bill establishes certain exceptions to an insurer's duty to update an insured's credit score and policy rating under these provisions.

Senate Bill 1646

Senate Author: King et al.

House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

Effective: 5-30-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1646 amends the Penal Code to set out conditions under which a person is authorized to possess copper or brass material, create the state jail felony offense of unauthorized possession of certain copper or brass material, and identify conditions for enhancement of the penalty to a third degree felony. The bill increases the penalty for certain theft offenses if the stolen property was copper or brass and the property was appropriated from a critical infrastructure facility or from equipment or communication wires appurtenant to or connected to the facility or on which the facility depends to properly function.

Senate Bill 1646 amends the Occupations Code to set out provisions that do the following with respect to a metal recycling entity:

- require the Department of Public Safety to develop and make available educational and training materials to aid such entities in identifying copper or brass material, including copper or brass material that may be stolen property;
- provide for a study on the effect of regulations of transactions involving copper or brass material on incidents of the theft of those materials;
- prohibit an entity from purchasing or otherwise acquiring copper or brass material from an applicable seller that sells regulated material in the ordinary course of the seller's business, unless certain conditions are met;
- require an entity to maintain transaction records of the purchase or acquisition of copper or brass material from an applicable person; and
- provide for the inspection of an entity's records regarding copper or brass material acquisition.

The bill prohibits a county, municipality, or political subdivision from altering or adding to the recordkeeping requirements provided by the bill and from restricting the purchase, acquisition, sale, transfer, or possession of copper or brass material by an authorized person.

Senate Bill 1660

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Cook

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1660 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a crime laboratory that is charged with the collection, storage, preservation, analysis, or retrieval of toxicological evidence of certain intoxication and alcoholic beverage offenses that is in possession of toxicological evidence to annually do the following:

- notify the prosecutor's office in the county in which the alleged offense occurred that the laboratory is in possession of toxicological evidence for an alleged offense that occurred in that county; and
- provide to the prosecutor's office the date on which the laboratory received the evidence.

If a prosecutor's office does not provide a written denial of a request to destroy toxicological evidence before a specified deadline and the prescribed retention periods for the evidence have expired, the entity or individual charged with storing the toxicological evidence may destroy that evidence.

Senate Bill 1662

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1662 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to provide notice not more than 24 hours in advance to a public drinking water supply system that obtains its water supply from underground sources of the TCEQ's intent to perform water quality testing to investigate a complaint related to the system's water quality.

Senate Bill 1663

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Current law requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), when the TCEQ receives applicable notice or obtains independent knowledge of groundwater contamination, to make every effort to give notice of the contamination by first class mail to applicable entities. Senate Bill 1663 amends the Water Code to include among those entities the residents of each residential address within one mile of the contamination site and to provide for alternative notice delivery methods.

Senate Bill 1664

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Hull

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1664 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to require a transmission and distribution utility to provide with each statement of intent to change rates, and any other applicable filing regarding a change in the utility's rates made with a regulatory authority, a stand-alone document that shows certain information relating to the change in rate and to current and anticipated delivery charges. The bill requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas to provide online information on the rates of transmission and distribution utilities.

Senate Bill 1666

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1666 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to transfer a restitution payment derived from unclaimed property for which a claim was filed by TDCJ to the clerk of the court that entered the order of restitution and to include with the restitution payment the last known address of the victim available to TDCJ, if any. The bill requires TDCJ to post on its website the contact information for a TDCJ employee who is able to respond to inquiries from county officials regarding a transferred restitution payment.

Senate Bill 1666 requires TDCJ, when a parole panel orders the payment of restitution from a releasee, to provide to the applicable court clerk at the time the payment is transmitted the last known address of the victim available to TDCJ, if any. The bill revises the provision establishing that unclaimed restitution payments made by a releasee are presumed abandoned if the victim entitled to restitution does not make a claim for payment before a specified deadline or if, after the victim makes a claim for payment, the clerk is unable to locate the victim for a specified period of time, as follows:

- changes the deadline by which a victim must make a claim to the third anniversary of the date the clerk receives the initial restitution payment; and
- reduces to three years the specified period of time after the last payment for which the unclaimed payments are held if the clerk is unable to locate the victim.

Senate Bill 1667**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Orr**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1667 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise procedures regarding the contents of an ex parte petition for an expunction of arrest records, certain related notices, the disposition of expunged records, and the retention of certain mental health records. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires each district clerk to compile and maintain on the clerk's website a list of the state and local agencies and entities that may have records or be involved with a person's arrest and include their email addresses;
- requires a state or local agency with an email address identified under a petition for expunction to accept a copy of the petition or notice of hearing that is provided in an electronic format by the clerk of the court;
- prohibits the clerk from charging a fee to electronically transmit such a copy of the petition or notice of hearing but requires the clerk to charge a \$25 fee for each entity that is listed in the petition and unable to receive electronic transmission;
- removes the condition that a clerk's mandatory destruction of all records concerning an expunction proceeding maintained in an area not open to inspection be executed within a specified timeframe and requires the clerk instead to destroy such records on the first anniversary of the date the expunction order is issued;
- clarifies that the files required to be destroyed by the clerk are files or records other than the expunction order itself and further requires the clerk to maintain the expunction order in a confidential manner and provide a copy only to the person subject to the order after proper presentation of identification, subject to any further order from the court regarding access to the order; and
- requires a court to retain federal prohibited person information regardless of whether an expunction order is issued with regard to the criminal case in which that information is contained and provides for the confidentiality and release of such information under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 1677**Senate Author:** Menéndez**House Sponsor:** VanDeaver et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1677 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to designate a public institution of higher education to conduct a study on the prevention and reduction of diabetes-related amputation. The bill requires the institution of higher education to submit to the Department of State Health Services a report summarizing the results of the study and containing recommendations for legislative or other action.

Senate Bill 1697**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** VanDeaver**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1697 amends the Utilities Code to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas to develop and periodically update a guide to provide customers with basic information, best practices, guidelines, and resources regarding solar energy devices for home use. The bill requires each electric utility that issues a bill directly to a customer and each electric cooperative, municipally owned utility, and retail electric provider to include a link to the guide on the entity's website and provide information about accessing the guide with each bill.

Senate Bill 1706

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

House Sponsor: Ordaz et al.

Effective: 5-15-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 1706 amends the Government Code to authorize the governing board of a board, commission, department, committee, or agency within the executive or legislative branch of state government that is directed by one or more elected or appointed members to conduct a closed meeting to deliberate a defense, military, or aerospace issue.

Senate Bill 1709

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam

House Sponsor: Raymond et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1709 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm to Market Road 70 in Nueces County as the Los Robles Trail.

Senate Bill 1718

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1718 amends the Government Code to make the National Rifle Association's Annual Meetings and Exhibits or another annual event of the association eligible for funding under the major events reimbursement program.

Senate Bill 1723

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Plesa et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1723 amends the Government Code to authorize a law enforcement agency to perform a rapid DNA analysis if certain conditions are met, including authorization by the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and to require the director to establish standards for such analysis. The bill revises the content and purposes of the DNA database maintained by DPS and revises statutory provisions relating to DNA laboratory regulation and DNA samples to reflect the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1723 requires DPS to establish a pilot program to optimize the process of reporting DNA records and decrease the number of arrests for which a DNA sample is not collected and analyzed by assisting authorized law enforcement agencies in implementing rapid DNA analysis. The bill requires DPS to do the following with respect to the implementation of the pilot program:

- not later than September 1, 2025, begin updating information technology systems as necessary to support the pilot program; and
- not later than September 1, 2026, begin implementing the pilot program in at least two counties, as determined by DPS.

The bill provides for the expansion of the pilot program and for a report to the legislature on the program and any related recommendations. The bill's provisions relating to the pilot program expire September 1, 2028.

Senate Bill 1728

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Lalani et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1728 amends the Education Code to include the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), juvenile boards, and juvenile probation departments among the entities to whom the Texas Workforce

Commission (TWC) may award a grant under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grant program. The bill includes among the factors that TWC may consider in awarding a grant for such purposes whether the course or program offers new career and technical educational opportunities not previously available as part of any existing educational programs that are offered in facilities operated wholly or partly by TJJD, a juvenile board, or a juvenile probation department, including a facility operated by a private vendor under a contract with such entities.

Senate Bill 1729

Senate Author: Miles et al.

House Sponsor: McQueeney

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1729 amends the Health and Safety Code and Transportation Code to revise provisions relating to the registration and inspection of vehicles. The bill repeals provisions in conflict with the elimination of mandatory vehicle safety inspections and provides for a fee for rental vehicles eligible for a three-year initial registration period and the subsequent deposit of such a fee to the credit of the Texas Mobility Fund and the clean air account. The bill specifies that the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles is required to designate a vehicle registration period of 24 consecutive months for a passenger car or light truck that meets certain criteria.

Senate Bill 1733

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Lozano

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1733 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to increase the number of commissioners on the board of the Calhoun Port Authority from six to seven by including one commissioner elected by the voters of the entire port authority. The bill provides for the first election to elect an at-large commissioner and the appointment of an at-large commissioner by the governor until an elected candidate qualifies to serve.

Senate Bill 1734

Senate Author: West

House Sponsor: Bhojani et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 1734 amends the Government Code and Property Code to authorize a property owner who has reason to believe that a document or instrument purporting to convey title to or an interest in the real property is fraudulent to complete and file with the applicable district clerk a petition for judicial review and to file an affidavit contesting the fraudulent filing in the applicable land records. The bill sets out the circumstances under which a document or instrument is presumed to be fraudulent.

Senate Bill 1737

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Geren et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial
Services

Senate Bill 1737 amends the Government Code to make peace officers commissioned by the comptroller of public accounts or the attorney general and certain employees of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) eligible to participate in the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officers Supplemental Retirement Fund administered by the Employees Retirement System of Texas. The bill requires TJJD to adopt standards for determining eligibility for service credit as a custodial officer employed by TJJD based on the need to encourage early retirement of persons whose duties are hazardous.

Senate Bill 1738

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial
Services

Senate Bill 1738 amends the Government Code to require a retiree of the Judicial Retirement System Plan Two (JRS-2) who resumes full-time service as a judicial officer other than by assignment and elects to rejoin JRS-2 as a member to provide notice of that election not later than the 60th day after the date the retiree takes the oath of office and to resume making member contributions at the rate of 9.5 percent of the person's state compensation. The bill revises provisions relating to the resumption of annuity payments on such a person's subsequent retirement from resumed service to provide the following:

- for a person who completes at least 24 months of resumed judicial service, JRS-2 must recompute the annuity selected at the time of the person's original retirement to reflect the highest annual state salary earned by the person while holding a judicial office included within the membership of JRS-2 and the additional service credit established during the period of resumed service; and
- for a person who does not complete at least 24 months of resumed service, JRS-2 must resume the suspended annuity payments and issue the person a refund of accumulated member contributions made during the period of resumed service.

The bill increases from six percent to 9.5 percent the member contribution rate for a judicial officer who elects to continue making contributions for each subsequent year of service credit accrued after either accruing 20 years of service credit in JRS-2 or serving at least 12 years on an appellate court and attaining the rule of 70.

Senate Bill 1738 repeals a provision that provides for a conditional implementation of statutory provisions governing a retiree's election to rejoin JRS-2 on resumption of full-time judicial service. This repeal takes effect May 15, 2025, while all other provisions of the bill take effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 1744

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs et al.

Senate Bill 1744 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Loop 255 in Camp County as the Camp County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 1745

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Metcalf et al.

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1745 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to rename the Chambers County Improvement District No. 1 as the Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District. Among other provisions, the bill revises provisions relating to the district's rights, powers, and privileges and provides for the district's authority to act as a nonfederal sponsor under a federal project partnership agreement, including by operating barges, engaging in dredging, and engaging in related maritime operations on water that is not in the district's territory.

Senate Bill 1746

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Metcalf et al.

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1746 amends the Water Code to require a navigation district that requires the relocation or removal of dredged spoils or materials from a dredged material placement area owned, operated,

managed, or established by another district to comply with all requirements imposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to the area and either relocate or remove the dredged spoils or materials or pay the cost of relocating or removing the spoils or materials. The bill sets out obligations for such a district if the relocation or removal results in the reduction of another district's rights to capacity in the dredged material placement area, including replacing the affected district's lost capacity, providing rights to the replaced lost capacity in an alternative area, and paying the affected district's applicable increased costs relating to the lost capacity.

Senate Bill 1758

Effective: 6-22-25

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Sponsor: Landgraf

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 1758 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to exempt an owner or operator of a facility operating under a new source review permit that authorizes the operation of a portland cement kiln, or the production of aggregates at an aggregate production operation, from liability for damages to a semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility resulting from seismic or vibrational disturbances caused by the cement or aggregate production facility owner's or operator's activities on the facility's site if the facility began operating before the date the semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility began operating.

Senate Bill 1758 provides for a cement or aggregate production and semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility pilot program in Grayson County under which the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin is required to conduct a study to, among other things, analyze seismological data related to aggregate production operations and analyze vibrational parameters necessary to ensure the successful operation of a semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility within 10 miles of certain cement and aggregate-associated facilities. The bill prohibits the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, under the pilot program, from issuing, renewing, or amending a permit or authorizing the use of a standard permit or a permit by rule for the construction or operation of certain cement and aggregate-associated facilities within 10 miles of a semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility that begins commercial operation after January 1, 2025, and before December 31, 2025.

Senate Bill 1759

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Birdwell

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Sponsor: Dyson et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1759 amends the Natural Resources Code to authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas executive director to declare an oil or gas emergency if the executive director finds that such an emergency has occurred. The bill, except in the case of gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct, grants a person immunity from civil liability for an act or omission that occurs in giving assistance, advice, or resources with respect to the response to such an emergency in which the assistance, advice, or resources are provided at the request of an authorized representative of a state, local, or federal agency.

Senate Bill 1760

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Sponsor: Thompson

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1760 amends the Estates Code to revise provisions relating to guardianship proceedings for persons who are incapacitated. Among other provisions, the bill clarifies and updates procedures relating to the transfer of a guardianship proceeding and establishes a set transfer fee. The bill also revises provisions relating to the deposits of and notification and accounting duties of a guardian, establishes new duties for a guardian with respect to citation and notice on presentation of an account for final settlement, and requires a court order discharging a guardian to also provide for the cancellation of the letters issued to a guardian.

Senate Bill 1762

Senate Author: Blanco

House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1762 amends the Natural Resources Code to rename an energy conservation well as a geothermal energy conservation well for purposes of the designation by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) under the orphaned well reduction program of a person as the operator of such a well who files with the RRC a factually supported claim based on a recognized legal theory to a continuing possessory right in the geologic space accessed by the well. The bill specifies that such a well is not a battery energy storage resource.

Senate Bill 1786

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: VanDeaver et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1786 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to coordinate the competitive grant programs for secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs that are aligned with the state workforce development goals. The bill specifies certain actions that those agencies must take in coordinating the grant programs.

Senate Bill 1786 amends the Labor Code to require TWC to conduct a biennial assessment of available regional labor demands across Texas using the best available state and federal labor market data, as determined by TWC, to allow public institutions of higher education to better align educational programs with workforce needs. Among other provisions relating to that assessment, the bill requires the enhanced wage filings by employers under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act to include information related to wage, industry, occupational field, full-time and part-time status, county of primary employment, remote work status, and other important employment information necessary to conduct the assessment.

Senate Bill 1786 amends the Education Code to revise the eligibility requirements for a student to enroll at no cost in a dual credit course under the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program by clarifying that the student must be enrolled in a grade level from 9 through 12 and creating as an optional eligibility requirement that the student was educationally disadvantaged at any time during the school year in which the student enrolls in the dual credit course as an alternative to the student being educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four school years preceding the student's enrollment in the course. The bill also specifies that the Windham School District is an applicable school district for program purposes.

Current law specifies the measurable outcomes that are considered for purposes of performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program, which include the number of students who earn at least 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the junior college district and who subsequently transfer to a general academic teaching institution and the number of credentials of value awarded. Effective September 1, 2025, Senate Bill 1786 makes the following changes:

- includes as a component of the transfer student measurable outcome the number of students who earn at least 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the junior college district and who subsequently transfer to a private or independent institution of higher education that offers four-year degree programs;
- requires the THECB to designate a credential as a credential of value if the credential provides a positive return on investment for a student who received the credential, as measured in the manner specified by the bill, and allows the student to recoup the net cost of attendance at a public junior college, including opportunity cost; and

- authorizes the THECB to designate a credential in education or health care as a credential of value regardless of whether the credential meets that criteria if the THECB determines the designation is necessary to ensure state workforce needs are met in those fields.

The bill authorizes the THECB's use of emergency rulemaking procedures to adopt rules necessary to align the funding formulas under the public junior college state finance program with appropriations or other legislative action and sets out provisions relating to the THECB's rulemaking authority with respect to student financial assistance. The bill authorizes the THECB to adopt by reference a manual or policy document as a rule.

Except as otherwise provided, Senate Bill 1786 takes effect May 27, 2025.

Senate Bill 1789

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: McQueeney et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1789 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) by rule to adopt standards for the structural integrity of transmission and distribution poles, which must be implemented by electric utilities, municipally owned utilities, and electric cooperatives. The bill establishes punitive measures for failure to implement the standards and sets out provisions revising the circumstances under which the PUC may take appropriate enforcement action under provisions governing electric service reliability measures and expanding the matters the PUC must consider in determining such an action.

Senate Bill 1804

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Thompson et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1804 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to expand the applicability of provisions relating to mandatory restitution for victims of certain trafficking of persons or prostitution offenses and to include the cost of removal of a tattoo the victim received as a result of force, fraud, or coercion related to the offense among that restitution. The bill authorizes a victim of trafficking of persons to receive compensation capped at \$3,000 for such a tattoo removal and classifies certain expenses for such a tattoo removal as "pecuniary loss" for purposes of the Crime Victims' Compensation Act.

Senate Bill 1806

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Sparks

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Craddick et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1806 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize an officer who takes custody of a petroleum product alleged to have been stolen to arrange for the total amount of the petroleum product to be sold at a certain price. The bill provides for the recovery of the sale proceeds by the property's real owner.

Senate Bill 1806 amends the Government Code to authorize a commissioned officer of the Department of Public Safety who receives applicable training to conduct a comprehensive inspection of any cargo tank used or suspected of being used to transport a petroleum product on a public road or railroad in Texas. The bill authorizes an officer who conducts such an inspection to obtain a sample of the petroleum product or suspected petroleum product being transported in the cargo tank and submit the sample to a laboratory for forensic analysis.

Senate Bill 1806 amends the Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the offense of theft of a petroleum product to include the following:

- transporting to a waste disposal location a petroleum product for which the person cannot identify the petroleum product's initial owner;

- purchasing a petroleum product from a person who is not authorized by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to sell the petroleum product; or
- storing, purchasing, or trading a petroleum product for financial benefit by means of a method that is not authorized by the RRC.

The bill increases the penalties for this offense.

Senate Bill 1806 creates the offense of theft of oil and gas equipment for a person who unlawfully appropriates oil and gas equipment with intent to deprive the owner of the equipment by possessing, removing, delivering, receiving, purchasing, selling, moving, concealing, or transporting the equipment. The bill establishes penalties for this offense.

Senate Bill 1806 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to create an offense for a person who begins drilling or using a disposal well or converting an existing well into a disposal well to dispose of oil and gas waste without first obtaining a permit from the RRC. The bill establishes penalties for this offense.

Senate Bill 1809

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Lambert et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1809 amends the Penal Code to create the offense of fraudulent use, possession, or tampering with a gift card, gift card packaging, or gift card data or redemption information.

Senate Bill 1814

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs et al.

Senate Bill 1814 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Veterans Commission to establish and maintain an electronic database for the purpose of providing to members of the U.S. armed forces nearing discharge or release from active duty information regarding state and local benefits and resources available to veterans.

Senate Bill 1816

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1816 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a person to operate a miniature vehicle on a public highway only if the vehicle has been registered and titled in accordance with applicable state law and the vehicle is capable of operating in compliance with applicable statutory provisions governing vehicles and traffic.

Senate Bill 1818

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: McQueeney et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1818 amends the Occupations Code to require an applicable state agency, on receipt of an application for a license from certain military service members, military veterans, or military spouses, to issue the license or promptly issue a provisional license while the agency processes the application. The bill also requires a state agency, on receipt of the requisite notice and information for the recognition of an out-of-state license of a military service member or military spouse, to promptly issue the confirmation that the agency has verified the license in the other jurisdiction and that the member or spouse is authorized to engage in the applicable business or occupation or issue a provisional license to the service member or spouse pending the issuance of such confirmation.

Senate Bill 1833**Senate Author:** Parker**House Sponsor:** Anchía et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1833 amends the Health and Safety Code to increase the punishment for certain offenses involving the delivery of a controlled substance under the Texas Controlled Substances Act to the punishment prescribed by the next higher category of offense if it is shown at trial that the defendant used a social media platform in furtherance of the offense. For any such offense that is punishable as a first degree felony, the bill instead increases the punishment by five years and doubles the maximum fine for the offense.

Senate Bill 1838**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Moody**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1838 amends the Family Code to change the suit in which a court is required to appoint an attorney ad litem to represent the interests of certain parents or alleged fathers to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity in which termination of the parent-child relationship or the appointment of a conservator for a child is requested. The bill entitles an attorney appointed in a child protection suit filed by a governmental entity to serve as an attorney ad litem to reasonable fees and expenses in the amount set by the court to be paid by the parents of the child unless the parents are indigent. Among other provisions, the bill revises the requirement for the payment of an attorney ad litem appointed in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity if indigency of the parents is shown by replacing the fee schedule according to which the attorney ad litem must be paid with the fee schedule adopted under the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1838 requires each court in a county hearing suits affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity to jointly develop, adopt, and submit to the commissioners court of the county a fee schedule for the compensation of an applicable attorney ad litem appointed in such a suit where the indigency of the parents is shown that includes the following:

- payments for time spent in court making an appearance on behalf of the parent or child in the case and reasonable and necessary time spent out of court on the case; and
- reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses.

Senate Bill 1838 authorizes a court to remove a person from the list maintained by the court of persons qualified for appointment as attorney or guardian ad litem in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship if, after notice and a hearing, the court determines the person submitted a voucher or claim for payment for services the person did not perform. The bill provides for the filing of a petition by a person whose voucher or claim for payment was denied or modified by the court or has not been approved by the court and the review of and hearing on the petition by the presiding judge of the applicable administrative judicial region.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1838 invites attorneys appointed ad litem to argue with the courts that appointed them—at taxpayer expense—about how much money they are owed. This not only expands the existing cottage industry of post-judgment fee disputes, it also incentivizes court-appointed attorneys to inflate their fees in anticipation of later contesting any downward modification. It also requires the presiding judges of the administrative judicial regions to decide what constitutes reasonable compensation, even though those judges have no connection to the underlying case and no knowledge of how much an attorney worked. Better to trust the district courts to make that call."

Senate Bill 1839

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Dutton

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1839 amends the Estates Code to revise the requirement for the clerk of the court from which a probate proceeding is transferred to a court in another county to send to the clerk of the court to which the proceeding is transferred certain probate proceeding information by doing the following:

- removing the specification that the requirement for the clerk to send a copy of the original papers filed in the transferring court using the state's electronic filing system includes a copy of any will; and
- requiring the clerk instead to send by a qualified delivery method the original will or the paper copy of the will offered to prove a will that cannot be produced in court, as applicable.

The bill requires the applicant who requested to transfer a probate proceeding to pay that delivery cost, if applicable.

Senate Bill 1841

Senate Author: Johnson et al.

House Sponsor: Davis, Yvonne

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1841 amends the Transportation Code to expand the applicability of statutory provisions establishing the confidentiality of certain personal identifying information collected by a county, municipality, or joint airport governing board in relation to a person's use of an airport parking facility to include information collected by the entity in relation to a person's use of any airport facility. The bill also expands the information expressly made confidential under those provisions.

Senate Bill 1844

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Craddick et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1844 amends the Local Government Code to revise provisions relating to the petition process for the disannexation of an area for a municipality's failure or refusal to provide services or to cause services to be provided to the area by changing the requisite petitioners from a majority of the qualified voters of the area to a majority of the property owners of the area. The bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- includes as an area that may be disannexed as such an area, any part of which is located adjacent to a navigable waterway, that did not become part of the municipality in compliance with and under specified statutory annexation provisions;
- requires a district court to enter an order disannexing such an area if the court finds that the municipality has not connected the majority of the properties in the area covered by the petition, regardless of whether the area was annexed by the municipality, to the municipality's water and wastewater systems, if any other area in the municipality is connected to such systems; and
- makes the landowners of such an area disannexed ineligible for a refund of taxes or fees for the area.

Senate Bill 1851

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Harris et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1851 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a person to submit a complaint to the attorney general of a suspected violation of the requirement for a municipality to annually audit its records and accounts and to prepare a resulting financial statement or of a requirement to file that

financial statement in the office of the municipal secretary or clerk by the specified deadline. If the attorney general determines that the municipality has not complied with those requirements, the municipality is prohibited from adopting a property tax rate that exceeds the municipality's no-new-revenue tax rate for the following periods:

- for the tax year that begins on or after the date of the attorney general's determination; or
- for a subsequent tax year that begins before the date the municipality has had an annual audit completed and financial statement prepared or filed the financial statement and auditor's opinion on the financial statement with the municipal clerk, as applicable.

Senate Bill 1856

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1856 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to provide for the recovery of annual capacity-related costs for an electric utility that operates solely outside of ERCOT in areas of Texas included in the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council. The bill requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), on application by such an electric utility that has not exceeded the utility's authorized return on equity, to establish a capacity cost recovery rider that must be annually updated and that allows recovery of the utility's eligible costs and allows return to ratepayers of the utility's eligible revenues. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- subjects amounts recovered through a capacity cost recovery rider to reconciliation in the next base rate proceeding for the electric utility;
- requires the PUC, in each base rate proceeding following the establishment of a capacity cost recovery rider, to remove from the electric utility's base rates all cost and revenue items eligible for recovery through the electric utility's capacity cost recovery rider;
- sets out the required contents of the annual revenue requirement and rates for a proposed capacity cost recovery rider;
- provides for the manner in which rider charges and billing determinants must be derived or calculated, as applicable; and
- requires the PUC to process an application to establish or update a capacity cost recovery rider in accordance with the process set out by the bill.

Senate Bill 1858

Senate Author: Hagenbuch et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1858 amends the Government Code to define "law enforcement agency" for purposes of eligibility for the bulletproof vest and body armor grant program as an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ peace officers, including an independent school district.

Senate Bill 1862

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Hickland

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 1862 amends the Election Code to require a voter registration application to include the full address at which the applicant formerly resided. The bill requires a voter registrar, if an application indicates the applicant's previous residence was outside of Texas, to document the applicant's full legal name, date of birth, current address of residence, and previous address of residence. The bill requires the

voter registrar to compile that data and, at least once a month, submit the data to the secretary of state. The bill requires the secretary of state, on a monthly basis, to notify the voter registrar with jurisdiction over the previous residence of such a voter that the voter may be removed from that jurisdiction's voter registration list.

Senate Bill 1877

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Barry

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1877 amends the Utilities Code to entitle the Office of Public Utility Counsel under the Public Utility Regulatory Act to request and receive electricity market data from the Public Utility Commission of Texas, ERCOT, and an electric utility. The bill provides for the confidentiality of that information under certain conditions.

Senate Bill 1879

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Wharton et al.

Effective: 5-13-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1879 requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to transfer certain state property to Walker County. The bill restricts the county's use of the property to the purpose of a justice center and provides for the property's ownership to revert back to the state automatically if the county uses the property for any other purpose or fails to use the property as provided before the 10th anniversary of the date of transfer.

Senate Bill 1883

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Buckley et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1883 amends the Local Government Code to revise provisions relating to the financing of capital improvements required by new development in certain local governments, including the revision of certain deadlines. The bill makes approval of the imposition of an impact fee by a political subdivision contingent on an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the political subdivision's governing body and prohibits a political subdivision from increasing the amount of an impact fee for three years from the later of the date the fee was adopted or most recently increased. The bill removes the authority for a political subdivision's planning and zoning commission to act as the political subdivision's capital improvements advisory committee and increases the minimum percentage of the advisory committee's membership who must be representatives of the real estate, development, or building industries and are not employees or officials of a political subdivision or governmental entity. The bill requires a political subdivision, before it may increase an existing impact fee or adopt a new impact fee for a service area where an impact fee had previously been adopted, to conduct an independent financial audit as provided by the bill. The bill authorizes the attorney general to bring an action on a property owner's behalf to contest an impact fee or to recover a refund for an impact fee. The bill repeals the prohibition against an impact fee being held invalid for which public notice requirements were not complied with but for which compliance was substantial and in good faith.

Senate Bill 1886

Senate Author: Sparks

House Sponsor: Louderback et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1886 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to replace the authorization for a search warrant for property or items constituting evidence of an offense or tending to show that a particular person committed an offense, for purposes of collecting a blood specimen from persons suspected of

committing certain intoxication offenses, to be executed in any county adjacent to the county in which the warrant was issued by any law enforcement officer authorized to make an arrest in the county of execution with an authorization for such a search warrant for those purposes to be executed by any peace officer in any such adjacent county.

Senate Bill 1895

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Tepper

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1895 amends the Transportation Code to designate the portion of State Highway Loop 88 under construction as of September 1, 2025, as a relief route around Lubbock, in Lubbock County as the First Responders Memorial Loop, in addition to any other designation.

Senate Bill 1896

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Cook

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1896 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a person making an arrest or the person having custody of a defendant for an offense involving family violence or certain trafficking, sexual, assaultive, or stalking offenses to provide to a magistrate any information regarding the defendant that will aid the magistrate in issuing an order for emergency protection. The bill requires such a person to do the following:

- to the extent the information is available, provide information regarding the victim of the offense to the magistrate to aid the magistrate in issuing the order; and
- at a minimum, provide any applicable information collected by the bureau of identification and records in the administrative division of the Department of Public Safety concerning the number and nature of protective orders and magistrate's orders of emergency protection and all other pertinent information about all persons subject to active orders, and any applicable information included in the law enforcement information system relating to an active order, that is available to the person.

Senate Bill 1901

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: 5-30-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Bill 1901 amends the Government Code to establish that the voting members of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council serve for staggered six-year terms expiring on February 1 of each odd-numbered year and to set out conflict of interest provisions regarding members of the council. The bill repeals the requirement for any council decision or opioid abatement strategy to be approved by a minimum number of certain members of the council.

Senate Bill 1901 provides for the reallocation to the council of statewide opioid settlement agreement money that was distributed or should have been distributed to counties or municipalities to address opioid-related harms if a county or municipality does not timely deposit the money or submits in writing a document indicating that the municipality or county affirmatively forfeits or refuses to accept the money.

Senate Bill 1902

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

House Sponsor: McQueeney

Effective: 7-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1902 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to deny a dealer access to the database of dealer-issued license plates if TxDMV determines that

the dealer has been denied access to the temporary tag database due to fraudulently obtaining temporary tags from that database. The bill also revises provisions relating to the removal and transfer of a license plate on the sale or transfer of a motor vehicle to a dealer and requires TxDMV, not later than October 1, 2025, to adopt rules as necessary to implement or administer the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1921

Senate Author: West

House Sponsor: Anchía et al.

Effective: 5-28-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1921 amends the Local Government Code to revise and clarify the conditions under which a petition for the establishment of a tourism public improvement district in certain municipalities is sufficient. The bill also expands the authority of certain municipalities to undertake a common characteristic or use project.

Senate Bill 1923

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1923 amends the Family Code to revise the circumstances involving a change in the physical possession of a child that trigger the requirement for a court, on the motion of a party or a person having physical possession of the child, to modify a child support order to provide that the person having physical possession of the child for at least six months has the right to receive and give receipt for payments of support for the child and to hold or disburse money for the benefit of the child. The bill revises the manner by which notice of such a motion may be served and also provides for service of notice of a hearing on the motion.

Senate Bill 1930

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

House Sponsor: Metcalf

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1930 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to replace the requirement that saltwater sportfishing stamp sale net receipts be spent for coastal fisheries enforcement and management with a restriction on the spending of such receipts to the purpose of coastal fisheries management, including specified activities.

Senate Bill 1931

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Longoria

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs et al.

Senate Bill 1931 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Business U.S. Highway 83-S in Hidalgo County as the SP4 Rodolfo Valdez Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 1936

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

House Sponsor: Louderback

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1936 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise the definition for "abuse unit" for certain controlled substances under the Texas Controlled Substances Act with respect to an adulterant, dilutant, or carrier medium that is paper not marked or perforated into individual abuse units and if the controlled substance is not in liquid or solid form by removing the specification that such a unit is each quarter-inch

square section of paper and specifying instead that an abuse unit is each 10 milligrams of paper calculated by rounding the weight down to the nearest whole number.

Senate Bill 1937

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Louderback

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1937 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise the requirement for the state, before a defendant is tried for a capital offense in which the state is seeking the death penalty, to require the Department of Public Safety through one of its laboratories or a laboratory accredited by the Texas Forensic Science Commission to perform DNA testing, in accordance with the laboratory's capabilities at the time the testing is performed, on any biological evidence that was collected as part of an investigation of the offense and is in the possession of the state by specifying that the required DNA testing be nuclear DNA testing. Among other provisions, the bill revises the requirement for the state and the defendant to meet, confer, and agree about which biological materials qualify as biological evidence required to be tested by including a subject matter expert from the laboratory required to perform the nuclear DNA testing among the persons that the court must order to meet and confer about such matters.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1937 would impose a rigid mandate requiring nuclear DNA testing in every capital case, even where that method is not scientifically appropriate for the biological material at issue. DNA evidence varies in quantity, quality, and form; no single testing method is suitable in all circumstances. Federal courts, for example, recognize that mitochondrial DNA 'has some advantages over nuclear DNA.' *United States v. Beverly*, 369 F.3d 516, 528-529 (6th Cir. 2004).

"Additionally, Senate Bill No. 1937 would require overworked laboratory experts to participate in pretrial discovery meetings and hearings, potentially diverting scarce resources away from essential testing in other cases. Rather than expedite justice, this bill may inadvertently delay it—or prevent it altogether by limiting the evidentiary tools available to hold murderers accountable."

Senate Bill 1939

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Sponsor: Perez, Mary Ann

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1939 amends the Government Code to exempt the ship channel improvement revolving fund from the applicability of statutory provisions establishing that earnings that accrue on certain revenue held in an account in the general revenue fund are available for any general governmental purpose.

Senate Bill 1940

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hughes

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Sponsor: VanDeaver

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1940 amends the Estates Code and Occupations Code to provide for the designation of a beneficiary for a manufactured home classified as personal property to whom the owner's interest transfers on the owner's death. Among other provisions, the bill prohibits a will from revoking or superseding a beneficiary designation, regardless of when the will is made, but provides for the changing or revocation of a beneficiary designation before the death of a home's owner or owners.

Senate Bill 1946

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Manuel et al.

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1946 amends the Government Code to provide for the creation of the Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force within the criminal justice division of the governor's office to

analyze risk factors that may lead to family violence criminal homicide, advise and provide resources to state agencies and nonprofit organizations for training professionals who interact with family violence survivors, develop policy recommendations, and collect, analyze, and publish information regarding services for survivors and the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of family violence offenses. The bill sets out the composition of the task force and its required steering committee and requires the task force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

Senate Bill 1948

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Ashby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1948 amends the Government Code to prohibit a governmental entity from adopting or enforcing a measure that requires the installation of a fire protection sprinkler system in certain agricultural facilities.

Senate Bill 1951

Senate Author: Paxton

House Sponsor: Button

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1951 amends the Tax Code to revise the requirement for the chief appraiser to deliver a notice of the imposition of a penalty on a person who fails to timely file a rendition statement or property report by establishing that the notice must be delivered by certified mail if the property was not listed on the appraisal roll in the preceding tax year and by specifying that the chief appraiser must deliver the notice not later than June 1. The bill replaces the authorization for the notice to be delivered with a notice of appraised value if practicable with a requirement for the notice to be delivered with a notice of appraised value and requires a property owner's tax bill to state the amount of tax due and the amount of the penalty due as separate line items.

Senate Bill 1952

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Hull

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1952 amends the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), as the sole state agency responsible for administering the school health and related services program, to oversee the participation of local education agencies as program providers and collaborate with regional education service centers to provide appropriate assistance to such agencies participating or seeking to participate as program providers. The bill requires HHSC and the Texas Education Agency to enter into a memorandum of understanding that specifically identifies the responsibilities of each agency with respect to operating the program.

Senate Bill 1957

Senate Author: Hagenbuch

House Sponsor: Hickland

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1957 amends the Local Government Code to establish that a person who has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for a felony offense is ineligible to serve on a civilian oversight board for fire fighters or police officers.

Senate Bill 1963**Senate Author:** Creighton**House Sponsor:** Metcalf**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Current law provides a supplemental financing mechanism allowing an electric utility operating solely outside of ERCOT to obtain timely recovery of system restoration costs associated with a weather-related event or other natural disaster. Senate Bill 1963 amends the Utilities Code to make that mechanism available to any electric utility by authorizing an electric utility to apply for securitization and the issuance of system restoration bonds for estimated and actual system restoration costs of \$50 million or more in any calendar year.

Senate Bill 1964**Senate Author:** Parker**House Sponsor:** Capriglione**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 1964 amends the Government Code to set out provisions relating to the regulation and use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems and the management of data by governmental entities. The bill requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to do the following:

- establish an AI system code of ethics and minimum risk management and governance standards for required use by applicable state agencies and local governments;
- develop educational and training materials on AI systems for state and local government employees and the general public; and
- establish and administer a sandbox program to support eligible entities in contracting with vendors to engage in research, development, training, testing, and other pre-deployment activities related to AI systems.

The bill establishes a public sector AI systems advisory board, administratively supported by DIR, to assist state agencies in the development, deployment, and use of AI systems. The bill requires applicable state agencies to provide clear disclosure to the public of interaction with public-facing AI systems and conduct confidential AI system impact assessments.

Senate Bill 1964 provides for the enforcement of its provisions, a web page for complaints relating to AI systems, and educational information regarding the risks and benefits of AI systems posted on the attorney general's website. Among other provisions, the bill expands the information that DIR is required to collect from each state agency to include information regarding an agency's AI systems and requires an agency's biennial information resources deployment review to include certain information relating to AI systems. The bill requires local governments to complete a review of the deployment and use of heightened scrutiny AI systems and, on request, provide the review to DIR and authorizes the designation of a data management officer by an applicable state agency.

Senate Bill 1967**Senate Author:** Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.**House Sponsor:** Martinez et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1967 amends the Water Code to do the following:

- authorize the water loan assistance fund to be used by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to provide grants to drainage districts for water supply projects;
- include among the criteria the TWDB must consider in prioritizing projects for financial assistance from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas the consideration of whether a project is a water supply project that contains a flood control component; and
- explicitly include as a flood project eligible for financial assistance from the flood infrastructure fund the construction of multi-purpose flood mitigation and drainage infrastructure projects that

control, divert, capture, or impound floodwater, stormwater, agricultural runoff water, or treated wastewater effluent and treat and distribute the water for the purpose of creating an additional source of water supply.

Senate Bill 1968

Senate Author: Schwertner
House Sponsor: Harless et al.

Effective: 1-1-26
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1968 amends the Occupations Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the licensing and regulation of real estate brokers and sales agents by the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) under The Real Estate License Act. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- authorizes a broker to show real property available for sale or lease to a party without representation under certain conditions and requires such a broker to provide the requisite disclosure or notice before showing the property; and
- requires a license holder who performs any act of real estate brokerage for a prospective buyer of residential real property to enter into a written agreement with the prospective buyer that discloses certain information before showing any property to the prospective buyer or presenting an offer to purchase property on behalf of the prospective buyer, as applicable.

The bill also revises certain education requirements for broker and sales agent license applicants and license holders and clarifies the information license holders must provide to TREC.

Senate Bill 1998

Senate Author: Huffman et al.
House Sponsor: Shofner et al.

Effective: 5-21-25
Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1998 amends the Education Code to authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to contract with one or more organizations to operate a statewide pediatric subspecialty preceptorship program for medical students enrolled in Texas medical schools. An organization eligible to receive funds under the program must qualify for a federal income tax exemption under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or be operated by a state accredited medical school, and students eligible to participate in the program must indicate an interest in a career in a pediatric subspecialty.

Senate Bill 2001

Senate Author: King et al.
House Sponsor: Craddick

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2001 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of disabled peace officer (DPO) license plates and for the following with respect to those license plates:

- the registration, application, contents, eligibility, and fee for the license plates;
- disabled parking placards, certain parking privileges, and free or discounted use of an entity's toll project;
- an exemption of certain written statements relating to DPO license plates from the application of the offense for falsification or forgery relating to vehicle registration;
- expansions of the conduct that constitutes the offense of unauthorized use of parking designated for persons with disabilities; and
- the application of certain provisions, including the establishment of a fine, to a person who commits an unauthorized use of parking designated for persons with disabilities offense in which a disabled parking placard is not displayed.

Senate Bill 2004**Senate Author:** King**House Sponsor:** Geren et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Economic Development**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2004 amends the Government Code to make the INDYCAR Grand Prix of Arlington eligible for funding under the major events reimbursement program.

Senate Bill 2007**Senate Author:** Hagenbuch et al.**House Sponsor:** Morgan et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs**House Committee:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2007 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to provide a person registering or renewing the registration of a motor vehicle with the option to indicate whether the person is a member of the U.S. armed forces and to include that military status in its vehicle registration records and with any record information released by TxDMV relating to those records.

Senate Bill 2018**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Harris et al.**Effective:** 6-1-26**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2018 amends the Tax Code to establish a strong families tax credit against the franchise tax for a taxable entity that makes a designated contribution to an eligible nonprofit organization that, among other criteria, provides comprehensive case management services for at-risk families based on an assessment of family strengths and needs or provides services and resources to assist fathers in learning and improving parenting skills and being more engaged in their children's lives through in-school programs and online resources.

Senate Bill 2024**Senate Author:** Perry et al.**House Sponsor:** Leach et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 2024 amends the Health and Safety Code to increase the penalty for engaging in certain prohibited conduct with respect to certain e-cigarette products from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor and to expand the conduct that constitutes that offense.

Senate Bill 2032**Senate Author:** Paxton**House Sponsor:** Davis, Aicha**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 2032 amends the Family Code to provide for an extended notice period of early termination of a community-based care contract between a single source continuum contractor and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The bill specifies that DFPS's authority to enter into a contract with a different contractor upon such an early termination may be exercised without following competitive bidding, advertising, or proposal evaluation requirements.

Senate Bill 2034**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Davis, Aicha**Effective:** 5-19-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 2034 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Family Code to authorize a court of competent jurisdiction to appoint a receiver for a single-source continuum contractor or any of its parts, divisions, components, or companies on the petition of the Department of Family and Protective

Services under certain conditions. Among other provisions, the bill sets out provisions relating to a court's appointment of a receiver and qualifications for appointment, the duration and termination of a receivership, and the powers, duties, and liability of a receiver.

Senate Bill 2037

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

House Sponsor: Patterson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 2037 amends the Water Code and the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) by rule to establish an expedited permit application review process for permit applications for a project to construct or modify a liquefied natural gas export terminal. The bill sets out provisions relating to this expedited review process, including provisions regarding the deadline for the TCEQ executive director to respond to applicable public comments.

Senate Bill 2039

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Paul

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2039 amends the Transportation Code to require vehicle operators to stop and yield the right-of-way to sidewalk users in certain circumstances. Among other provisions, the bill makes certain traffic control signals and pedestrian control signals applicable to sidewalk users in the same manner as pedestrians and sets out prohibitions and requirements regarding the use of a crosswalk by a sidewalk user.

Senate Bill 2052

Senate Author: Birdwell

House Sponsor: Vasut et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2052 amends the Family Code to require a nonparent who files or intervenes in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship in which another party to the suit is a parent of the child to execute and serve with the nonparent's initial pleading an affidavit that attests, based on the nonparent's personal knowledge or representations made to the nonparent by a person with personal knowledge of the matter, that denying the relief sought would significantly impair the child's physical health or emotional development and contains facts that support such allegation. The bill requires the court to deny the relief sought and dismiss the suit or strike the intervention unless the court determines, based on the affidavit, that the affidavit contains facts adequate to support the allegation.

Senate Bill 2052 establishes that in a suit between a parent and a nonparent relating to conservatorship or possession of and access to a child, it is a rebuttable presumption that a parent acts in the best interest of the parent's child and it is in the best interest of a child to be in the care, custody, and control of a parent. The bill further establishes that in such a suit between the parent and a nonparent, the nonparent may overcome those presumptions by proving by clear and convincing evidence that denial of the relief requested by the nonparent would significantly impair the child's physical health or emotional development. If the court renders an order in the suit granting relief to the nonparent, the court must state in the order the extent to which the nonparent has overcome the rebuttable presumptions along with the specific facts that support the court's finding that denying the relief requested by the nonparent would significantly impair the child's physical health or emotional development.

Senate Bill 2052 establishes that a nonparent, in a suit for modification between a parent and a nonparent and if required to overcome the rebuttable presumptions established by the bill, must overcome those presumptions by clear and convincing evidence. The bill establishes that such a nonparent may not overcome the presumptions on the basis of a prior order granting relief to the nonparent if the parent agreed to the prior order.

Senate Bill 2053**Senate Author:** Birdwell et al.**House Sponsor:** Metcalf**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Administration**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2053 amends the Government Code to create the Governor's Medal of Service award to recognize a Texas resident who honorably retired from a position of public service in state or local government or contributed to Texas residents in an extraordinary way through the individual's work in the private sector or as a member of the Texas Legislature.

Senate Bill 2055**Senate Author:** West et al.**House Sponsor:** Lalani et al.**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 2055 amends the Education Code to revise provisions governing the Texas Leadership Scholars Program. The bill clarifies that a program-eligible institution is any general academic teaching institution and requires that each eligible institution receive at least one research scholarship award with remaining research scholarships awarded to eligible institutions based, in part, on the number of research doctoral degrees awarded by each institution. The bill prohibits the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from adopting rules for the program that limit the general academic teaching institutions that may participate or give preference to students enrolled in certain general academic teaching institutions.

Additionally, Senate Bill 2055 replaces the prohibition against a student receiving a scholarship under the program for more than four years with a prohibition against a student receiving a scholarship under either the leadership or research scholarship program for more than four years per student per program.

Senate Bill 2064**Senate Author:** Perry et al.**House Sponsor:** Lambert et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2064 amends the Tax Code to remove provisions that provide for the imposition of a motor vehicle gift tax on a person who receives a vehicle from a decedent's estate and to exempt the transfer of a motor vehicle from an estate to a distributee or the transfer of a motor vehicle under a rights of survivorship agreement from taxes on the sale, rental, and use of motor vehicles.

Senate Bill 2065**Senate Author:** Huffman**House Sponsor:** Bonnen et al.**Effective:** 5-15-25**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 2065 amends the Government Code to revise provisions governing the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS). The bill removes the cap on the state's required contribution to maintain the actuarial soundness of TESRS and requires the state, for each fiscal year in which the TESRS legacy liability has not been fully paid, to make an actuarially determined payment in the amount necessary to amortize the legacy liability by not later than the 2055 fiscal year, as determined biennially by the TESRS actuary consistent with actuarial standards of practice and principles specified by the bill. The bill requires TESRS, before each regular legislative session, to provide the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) with the amount necessary to make the payment and requires the LBB director to include that payment in the general appropriations bill. The bill changes the criteria for determining whether TESRS is actuarially sound.

Senate Bill 2065 provides that rules adopted by the TESRS board of trustees authorizing an optional annuity increase or supplemental payment may include procedures for the governing body of a participating department to request board approval to provide such a benefit enhancement and may prohibit the governing body from providing such a benefit enhancement without board approval. The bill prohibits the

use of state contributions to fund an optional annuity increase or supplemental payment and requires the applicable political subdivision's governing body to contribute the money necessary to cover the costs of all increased benefits provided.

Senate Bill 2066

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2066 repeals Education Code provisions establishing the Texas Research Incentive Program.

Senate Bill 2068

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Button et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2068 amends the Tax Code to establish that the name, age, home address, or home telephone number of a child provided in an application for a property tax exemption filed with a chief appraiser is confidential and not open to public inspection.

Senate Bill 2069

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Vo et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2069 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a work group to conduct a study on the feasibility of implementing a statewide or regional acute psychiatric bed registry to list available beds at inpatient mental health facilities for the psychiatric treatment of certain individuals. The bill requires HHSC to submit a written report that summarizes the results of the study to each standing committee of the senate and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over mental health.

Senate Bill 2073

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2073 amends the Tax Code to authorize an appraisal district's board of directors to finance the purchase of real property and the construction of improvements as necessary for purposes of establishing and operating the appraisal office or a branch appraisal office.

Senate Bill 2073 establishes that the financing of the acquisition of real property or the financing of the construction or renovation of a building or other improvement by an appraisal district does not require approval by the taxing units entitled to vote on the appointment of the appraisal district's board members. The bill revises the approval process for a proposal by an appraisal district to acquire or convey real property or to construct or renovate a building or improvement following the governing body's failure to act on the proposal.

Senate Bill 2075

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2075 amends the Agriculture Code, Education Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Occupations Code, and Transportation Code to provide for the creation of advisory boards regarding programs subject to regulation by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and to revise and standardize provisions relating to the establishment, powers and duties, terms, and governance of existing advisory bodies for certain TDLR-administered programs.

Senate Bill 2077**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Dean**Effective:** 5-19-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 2077 amends the Insurance Code to expand eligibility to serve as a member of the board of directors of the Texas Mutual Insurance Company by making certain revisions to the provision listing conflicts of interest that disqualify an individual from such service.

Senate Bill 2078**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst**House Sponsor:** Gerdes et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 2078 amends the County Solid Waste Control Act, Health and Safety Code, to prohibit, with certain exceptions, a person from depositing at a composting facility located in a county that does not contain a municipality with a commercial food waste composting ordinance food waste that is collected for composting in such a municipality and subject to such an ordinance. The bill makes a person liable for a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each violation of this prohibition.

Senate Bill 2111**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Moody**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2111, an omnibus bill that implements certain recommendations made by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code to set out and revise provisions relating to legal representation of indigent persons and proceedings before a magistrate. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- expands the conditions under which a convicting court is required to appoint an attorney to represent an eligible indigent defendant for purposes of filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus or representing the defendant in a proceeding based on such an application by requiring the court to do so if the state represents to the court that the defendant has a potentially meritorious claim for relief;
- revises the duties of an arresting officer and magistrate;
- revises the meaning of "managed assigned counsel program" for purposes of statutory provisions relating to such programs;
- entitles a managed assigned counsel program to obtain from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) criminal history record information maintained by DPS that relates to a criminal case in which an attorney has been appointed by the program;
- provides that for purposes of compensation for certain counsel appointed to represent a defendant in a criminal proceeding, reasonable and necessary time spent out of court on the case includes time spent traveling to perform legal services outside the county where the case is pending;
- expands the types of expenses that must be reimbursed to certain counsel in a noncapital case appointed to represent a defendant who is confined in a correctional facility located more than 50 miles from the court in which the defendant's proceeding is pending; and
- extends the confidentiality protections for home address information in property tax appraisal records to an employee of a public defender's office and an employee of a managed assigned counsel program.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As the Supreme Court of the United States recognized nearly two centuries ago, a final criminal judgment is 'binding on all the world.' *Ex parte Watkins*, 3 Pet. 193, 202-203 (1830). That is why efforts to reopen a state court judgment in habeas proceedings must be the rare exception—*i.e.*, where the convicting court manifestly lacked jurisdiction over the defendant or his offense.

"Senate Bill No. 2111, however, encourages convicted criminals, defense attorneys, and state courts to embrace the myth that the writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* is merely a fifth, sixth, or seventh round of review—sometimes taken decades after defendants received the process due to them in a criminal trial and exhausted any direct appeals afforded by state law. This bill would require courts to appoint counsel in post-conviction habeas proceedings anytime a habeas petitioner has 'a potentially meritorious claim.'

"Every petitioner claims he *may* be innocent or *may* have been convicted in violation of the law. But our legal system rests on the law, evidence, and authoritative judgments, not guesswork, surmise, and endless petitions. '[T]he final result of proceedings in courts of competent jurisdiction *establishes* what is correct "in the eyes of the law,"' namely, that the prisoner is guilty. *Edwards v. Vannoy*, 593 U.S. 255, 290-291 (2021) (Gorsuch, J., concurring). Our laws must separate 'the meritorious needles from the growing haystack' of habeas claims, not stack it even higher. *Brown v. Davenport*, 596 U.S. 118, 132 (2022).

"I look forward to considering other parts of this criminal justice bill if legislators can agree to deny bail to repeat murderers, rapists, and human traffickers."

Senate Bill 2112

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Villalobos

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2112 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to do the following with respect to offenses relating to cultivated oyster mariculture:

- for an offense involving the engagement in cultivated oyster mariculture without a cultivated oyster mariculture permit or involving a violation of statutory provisions relating to certain prohibited actions, provides for a certain enhancement of the penalty from a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor to a Class A Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor; and
- for an offense involving a violation of a rule adopted under statutory provisions relating to cultivated oyster mariculture, decreases the penalty from a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor to a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor but provides for a certain enhancement of the penalty back to a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

Senate Bill 2121

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 2121 amends the Business & Commerce Code, with respect to the state law regulating certain data brokers, to revise the definition of "data broker" to remove the provision in the definition stating that such a broker is a business entity whose principal source of revenue is derived from the collection, processing, or transfer of personal data, thereby redefining the term as a business entity that collects, processes, or transfers personal data that the business entity did not collect directly from the individual linked or linkable to the data. The bill revises the provision establishing the applicability of state law regulating certain data brokers to provide that the law applies only to a data broker that, in a 12-month period, derives, as follows:

- more than 50 percent of the data broker's revenue directly from processing or transferring personal data not collected by the data broker directly from the individuals to whom the data pertains; or
- revenue directly from processing or transferring the personal data of more than 50,000 individuals not collected by the data broker directly from the individuals to whom the data pertains.

Senate Bill 2122

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 2122 amends the Natural Resources Code to remove the requirement that an applicant for certain permits to discharge to surface water submit to the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) a nonrefundable fee of \$300. The bill requires an applicant for a permit for the storage, treatment, or disposal of certain oil and gas waste to submit to the RRC a nonrefundable fee for that application as follows:

- \$500 for an application for a landfarm, landtreatment, or land application permit or permit amendment;
- \$2,000 for an application for a commercial oil and gas waste separation facility permit;
- \$1,000 for an application for an amendment to a commercial oil and gas waste separation facility permit;
- \$3,000 for an application for a commercial surface oil and gas waste disposal facility permit; and
- \$1,000 for an application for an amendment to a commercial surface oil and gas waste disposal facility permit.

Senate Bill 2124

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Barry

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2124 amends the Water Code to change from not later than April 1 to not later than June 1 the annual deadline by which the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee is required to publish a joint groundwater monitoring and contamination report.

Senate Bill 2127

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Raymond et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2127 amends the Government Code to revise the eligibility requirements for a former or retired justice or judge of an applicable appellate court to be subject to assignment to active service on a court of appeals and to be named on a presiding judge's list of retired and former judges subject to assignment as a visiting judge under the Court Administration Act as follows:

- lowers from 96 to 72 the minimum number of months for which the former or retired justice or judge must have served as an active justice or judge in an applicable court;
- changes the courts in which the former or retired justice or judge must certify a willingness not to appear and plead as an attorney for two years from any court in Texas to any court of appeals in Texas or a district, statutory probate, or statutory county court in a county under the jurisdiction of the appellate court to which the justice or judge is assigned and from any court in Texas to any court in the administrative judicial region in which the judge is assigned, respectively; and
- requires the former or retired justice or judge to certify a willingness not to hear any matter involving a party who is a current or former client of the justice or judge for the duration of the assignment.

Senate Bill 2129

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Bhojani et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2129 amends the Transportation Code to enhance the penalty for failing to obey a signal indicating approach of a train or other on-track equipment from a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200 to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$400 if it is shown at the trial of the offense that the actor disregarded a warning given by a flagger.

Senate Bill 2137

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Cunningham et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 2137 amends the Government Code to prohibit the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), in allocating low income housing tax credits, from including criteria relating to educational quality of a public school campus with an attendance zone that contains a proposed development site among the threshold criteria under a qualified allocation plan and among the criteria used by TDHCA to score and rank an application for tax credits. This prohibition expires September 1, 2027. The bill requires TDHCA to conduct a study of the effects of the prohibition on the allocation of low income housing tax credits in Texas and to submit a resulting report to each standing committee of the legislature with jurisdiction over affordable housing not later than November 1, 2027.

Senate Bill 2139

Senate Author: King

House Sponsor: Olcott

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2139 provides a process for the release of the state's reversionary interest in certain property, and in property located or installed on that property, that was transferred by the state to the City of Mineral Wells for use as a fair, livestock show, and rodeo ground.

Senate Bill 2141

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Gámez

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2141 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for a current or visiting state or federal judge. The bill authorizes a person entitled to such a license plate to elect to receive plates that do not include the words "State Judge" or "U.S. Judge."

Senate Bill 2143

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Lopez, Ray

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2143 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county to commission a fire marshal, fire officer, fire inspector, or fire investigator as a peace officer for the purpose of administering state law relating to county fire protection, supporting fire-related operations or investigations, enforcing building-related codes, and making recommendations involving building safety. The bill conditions a county's authority to establish a law enforcement agency on the county being lawfully authorized to do so.

Senate Bill 2145

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Tepper

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 2145 amends the Local Government Code and Tax Code to provide for the advisory body of a public improvement district and the board of directors of a reinvestment zone to hold a meeting by a telecommunication device.

Senate Bill 2148

Senate Author: Hall et al.

House Sponsor: Slawson

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2148 amends the Utilities Code to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas and ERCOT to biennially conduct simulated or tabletop exercises with providers of electric generation service and transmission and distribution service in the ERCOT power region to mitigate and prepare for a threat of an attack or an actual physical attack on a critical facility. The simulated or tabletop exercise must identify the roles and responsibilities of certain entities, including law enforcement, in the event of such a threat or attack.

Senate Bill 2155

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Kitzman et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 2155 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions throughout the Veterinary Licensing Act, including provisions relating to the following:

- the temporary administration of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation;
- the TBVME's executive director and personnel;
- the TBVME's powers and duties;
- complaint procedures;
- disciplinary procedures; and
- administrative penalties.

Senate Bill 2155 authorizes the TBVME or its executive director, upon determining that an emergency exists requiring immediate action to protect the public health and safety, to issue an emergency order to either suspend or revoke an authorization issued under a program regulated by the TBVME or halt operation of an unsafe veterinary medical facility. The bill restricts the practice of veterinary medicine to in or from a veterinary medical facility that is registered with the TBVME or that is exempted by rule from registration; requires, unless otherwise exempted, every individual facility to be registered with the TBVME; and requires the TBVME to adopt and enforce rules relating to standards of operation of veterinary medical facilities.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, Senate Bill 2155 takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 2165

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Johnson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2165 amends the Family Code to require a court with jurisdiction over a child protection suit involving a child for whom the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has been appointed as the temporary managing conservator to retain jurisdiction and schedule a new dismissal date that is 180 days after the last dismissal date if the court finds that the child is missing from the child's substitute care provider. The bill prohibits the court from dismissing the case until the earlier of the date the child is found or the date on which the child would no longer be eligible to receive DFPS services or benefits. If the court retains jurisdiction but does not commence the trial on the merits before the dismissal date, the court's jurisdiction over the suit is terminated and the suit is automatically dismissed without a court order.

Senate Bill 2165 prohibits a court required to conduct a permanency hearing for a child protection suit involving a child for whom DFPS has been appointed as the permanent managing conservator from dismissing the suit while the child is missing from the child's substitute care provider.

Senate Bill 2166

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 2166 amends the Election Code to revise the methods and procedures for testing voting tabulation equipment and voting systems, including the testing required, the authorities conducting the tests, and the times for conducting each test. The bill also provides for testing the logic and accuracy of electronic pollbook systems.

Senate Bill 2167

Senate Author: Paxton

House Sponsor: Bumgarner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2167 amends the Occupations Code to require a massage school that changes location to obtain a new massage school license. The bill provides for the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation or the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to delay the determination to approve or refuse the issuance of a massage establishment or massage school license under certain conditions relating to the trafficking of persons. The bill also provides for a massage therapy civil penalty to be used for combatting human trafficking.

Senate Bill 2173

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2173 amends the Tax Code to specify that a tax lien on a property that is extinguished when a person transfers the property accompanied by a tax certificate that erroneously indicates that no delinquent taxes, penalties, or interest are due on the property or that fails to include the property because of its omission from an appraisal roll includes, if applicable, the tax lien securing the payment of any delinquent taxes, penalties, or interest that are subsequently determined to be due on the property because a residence homestead property tax exemption was erroneously allowed for the property and was subsequently canceled. However, the bill sets out conditions under which a tax certificate that accompanies a transfer of property and erroneously indicates that no delinquent taxes, penalties, or interest are due on the property because of an erroneously allowed and subsequently canceled residence homestead exemption does not extinguish the tax lien securing the payment of any delinquent taxes, penalties, or interest that are subsequently determined to be due on the property.

Senate Bill 2177

Senate Author: Hagenbuch et al.

House Sponsor: Little

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2177 amends the Government Code to require the criminal justice division in the governor's office to establish and administer a grant program designed to improve clearance rates for violent and sexual offenses. The bill restricts the use of program grant money to an applicable law enforcement agency paying for the following:

- the hiring, training, and retaining of personnel;
- the acquisition, upgrading, or replacement of technology or equipment related to evidence collection, evidence processing, or forensic testing; and
- the upgrading of record management systems to achieve compliance with the bill's reporting requirements.

The bill provides for an annual report by a grant recipient relating to the clearance rate and the use of the grant and for the evaluation of practices employed by grant recipients to identify policies and procedures that have successfully improved clearance rates for violent and sexual offenses.

Senate Bill 2180

Senate Author: Hagenbuch et al.
House Sponsor: Isaac

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2180 amends the Occupations Code to require a certification for peace officers to conduct certain polygraph examinations and to authorize the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to establish minimum requirements for the training, testing, and certification of peace officers to conduct those examinations.

Senate Bill 2185

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam et al.
House Sponsor: Dutton

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 2185 amends the Education Code to establish a bilingual education allotment for public school districts that offer approved alternative language education methods for meeting the needs of their emergent bilingual students and are approved by the Texas Education Agency to receive the allotment. Among other provisions relating to implementation of the allotment, the bill sets the allotment amount and caps the total amount provided to districts under the allotment in each biennium at \$10 million.

Senate Bill 2185 also replaces salary supplements for teachers with teacher salaries as an expense for which a district's bilingual education or special language allocation may be used.

Senate Bill 2196

Senate Author: Johnson
House Sponsor: Manuel et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2196 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to change the effective period of an order for emergency protection for an offense involving family violence, family violence and serious bodily injury to the victim, trafficking or continuous trafficking of persons, sexual or aggravated sexual assault, indecent assault, or stalking, as follows:

- for an order authorized by a magistrate on an applicable motion or request, to up to the 91st day after the date of issuance but not less than 61 days after that date; and
- for an order required by a magistrate for an offense involving family violence and the use or exhibition of a deadly weapon during the commission of an assault, to up to the 121st day after the date of issuance but not less than 91 days after that date.

Senate Bill 2204

Senate Author: Birdwell
House Sponsor: Fairly

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2204 amends the Water Code to exempt from the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Act a contract under provisions relating to the water assistance fund, the water loan assistance program, or the rural water assistance fund.

Senate Bill 2206

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.
House Sponsor: Geren

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Ways & Means

Current law provides a franchise tax credit for certain research and development activities and a sales and use tax exemption for certain property used in those activities, both of which are set to expire December 31, 2026. Senate Bill 2206 repeals the credit and exemption but amends the Tax Code to effectively maintain the franchise tax credit, revise the definition of "qualified research expense," and increase the amount of the credit.

Senate Bill 2216

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Pierson

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 2216 amends the Election Code to implement secure storage measures for certain election equipment and to provide for the use of security seals on voting system equipment.

Senate Bill 2217

Senate Author: Hughes et al.
House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 2217 amends the Election Code to set out provisions relating to election data reporting, reconciliation processes, and electronic voting system requirements. Among other provisions, the bill establishes that a voter's registration takes effect immediately upon the registrar's receipt of a notice of the voter's change of address if the voter changes residence within the same county as the voter's current registration address and revises provisions relating to such a change of address. The bill establishes reporting requirements relating to polling places using optical scanners and election systems using a central accumulator.

Senate Bill 2221

Senate Author: Parker
House Sponsor: Lambert

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 2221 amends the Uniform Commercial Code--Secured Transactions, Business & Commerce Code, to revise the existing fraudulent filing removal process. Among other provisions, the bill changes the entity to whom a person who violates the prohibition against the fraudulent filing of a financing statement is liable from the owner of property covered by the financing statement to a person injured by the violation and increases the amount for which the person who committed the violation is liable from the greater of \$5,000 or the owner's actual damages to the greater of \$10,000 or the actual damages caused by the violation.

Senate Bill 2231

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam et al.
House Sponsor: Wilson

Effective: 5-21-25
Senate Committee: Education K-16
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2231 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to designate the second full week of October as Free College Application Week and, during the designated week, to permit individuals in Texas to apply to any public institution of higher education for undergraduate admission without paying an application fee.

Senate Bill 2232

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam
House Sponsor: Bumgarner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25
Senate Committee: Administration
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2232 amends the Government Code to designate October 21 as Unplug Texas Day to encourage Texans to unplug from their electronic devices and plug into play, creativity, friendship, adventure, and family.

Senate Bill 2237**Senate Author:** Bettencourt**House Sponsor:** Bell, Cecil**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 2237 amends the Local Government Code to place certain limitations on the provision of severance pay by a political subdivision to an executive employee of a political subdivision, to require a political subdivision to post each applicable severance agreement in a prominent place on the political subdivision's Internet website, and to prohibit a court from issuing a writ of execution or mandamus in connection with a judgment in an action brought against a political subdivision by an executive employee arising from the termination of the person's employment if the judgment does not comply with the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 2268**Senate Author:** Schwertner et al.**House Sponsor:** Hunter**Effective:** 6-12-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2268 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Utilities Code, to replace the prohibition against the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) disbursing the initial funds for an applicable loan awarded from the Texas Energy Fund for the ERCOT power region after December 31, 2025, with an authorization for the PUC to disburse those initial funds after that date if the PUC determines that market factors necessitate such an extension. The bill authorizes an applicant to request disbursement of initial funds after December 31, 2025, and requires the PUC to approve or deny the request on a case-by-case basis. The bill also includes provisions revising and establishing confidentiality protections for information submitted to the PUC relating to the awarding of certain grants and loans by the PUC.

Current law prohibits certain outstanding loans and certain completion bonus grants awarded from the Texas Energy Fund for the ERCOT power region, considered together, from supporting the addition or construction of more than 10,000 megawatts of generation capacity. Senate Bill 2268 makes that prohibition applicable to those loans and grants individually, instead. Additionally, the bill sets out provisions regarding the award of certain construction loans for the ERCOT power region awarded from the Texas Energy Fund.

Senate Bill 2269**Senate Author:** Perry**House Sponsor:** Manuel et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 2269 amends the Government Code to establish that a decision under the informal dispute resolution process for certain long-term care facilities by the contracting person adjudicating a dispute between the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and a licensed assisted living, convalescent, or nursing facility is binding on HHSC and cannot be overturned by HHSC.

Senate Bill 2269 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit HHSC from imposing an administrative penalty against a nursing facility for a violation arising out of the same act or failure to act that is the subject of certain penalties imposed against the facility by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or appealed before the facility exhausts all rights of appeal under certain conditions. The bill prohibits HHSC from retaliating against a nursing facility in response to the facility in good faith appealing an HHSC decision or filing another action to counter an HHSC action against the facility.

Senate Bill 2284

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

House Sponsor: Lopez, Janie

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2284 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality or a county from adopting or enforcing regulations that require an owner of archery equipment to obtain liability insurance coverage for applicable damages or regulations that relate to the following:

- the transfer, possession, wearing, carrying, ownership, storage, transportation, licensing, or registration of archery equipment;
- commerce in archery equipment; or
- the discharge of archery equipment at a sport shooting range.

The bill provides for exceptions to the municipal prohibition and establishes that the exception allowing for municipal regulation of the carrying of certain weapons at specified types of public locations or events does not apply to a handgun license holder.

Senate Bill 2284 removes the authorization for the governing body of a Type-A general law municipality to prohibit or otherwise regulate the use of firearms. The bill reduces the size of lots on which an applicable county commissioners court by order may prohibit or otherwise regulate hunting with bows and arrows.

Senate Bill 2306

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Schatzline et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 2306 amends the Family Code to require a licensed child-placing agency to post on its website information regarding adoption costs that includes an itemized list of each cost associated with an adoption.

Senate Bill 2308

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Harris et al.

Effective: 6-11-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2308 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the creation of a consortium that may apply for Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) selection to conduct drug development clinical trials with ibogaine and secure FDA approval of ibogaine as a medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder, co-occurring substance use disorder, and any other neurological or mental health condition for which ibogaine demonstrates efficacy. Among other provisions, the bill sets out requirements regarding a consortium's composition and administration by a lead institution of higher education, HHSC's selection of a consortium and contract with the lead institution, the allocation of revenue attributable to intellectual property rights and other commercial rights arising from the clinical trials, and a prescribing physician's supervision of ibogaine administration.

Senate Bill 2312

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Hefner et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2312, the Texas Geopolitical Conflict Stress Test Act, amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict to develop state security strategies and policies before a geopolitical conflict occurs and to collect and prepare information to assist in enhancing the state's command-and-control functions in the event of such a conflict. The bill provides for the committee's composition, administration, and operation and requires the committee to do the following:

- conduct a tabletop exercise centered on an invasion by a foreign adversary;
- investigate critical procurements supplied through a state supply chain that would be disrupted in the event of a geopolitical conflict;
- investigate the Texas drug supply chain to identify prescription drugs that are produced in or by a foreign adversary or substantially sourced from a company subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary; and
- investigate potential threats to critical infrastructure in Texas in the event of a geopolitical conflict.

The bill provides for respective reports submitted to the governor not later than October 1, 2026, relating to these requirements and an annual report of the committee's findings. The bill authorizes the committee to investigate additional matters at its discretion. The committee is abolished and the bill's provisions expire September 1, 2029.

Senate Bill 2314

Effective: 5-19-25

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Wilson

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2314 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create, maintain, and administer a direct admissions and financial aid portal, known as My Texas Future, to facilitate the awareness and application of public high school students into institutions of higher education. The bill sets out the required content of the portal, which includes a direct admissions program that lists institutions of higher education to which a student may be directly admitted based on the student's profile and information. The bill establishes as a requirement for high school graduation that a student elect whether to opt in to allowing their data and education records to be shared with institutions for purposes of the direct admissions program and provides the option for a student to be exempted from that requirement by a school counselor or through submission of an opt-out form by the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation or, in certain circumstances, the student. Among other provisions, the bill requires a public school district or an open-enrollment charter school, as part of the high school registration process, to annually notify each parent or guardian of an applicable student of that graduation requirement and of certain options available with respect to the portal.

Senate Bill 2321

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: King

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 2321 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to exercise its enforcement discretion to waive enforcement for emissions from electric generation facilities and on-site backup generation facilities in Texas during a period requested by an independent system operator if the operator notifies the TCEQ that additional electric generation is necessary to mitigate an emergency condition or a significant risk of an emergency condition. The bill sets out provisions relating to this authority.

Senate Bill 2332

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Parker

Senate Committee: Border Security

House Sponsor: Hefner

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2332 amends the Government Code to establish the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as primarily responsible for maintaining and scheduling aircraft DPS owns and operates, to require a pilot of such an aircraft to be a DPS employee, and to require DPS to base its aircraft at locations throughout Texas as it considers necessary.

Senate Bill 2337

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 2337 amends the Business Organizations Code to establish certain disclosure requirements with respect to the provision of proxy advisory services by a person who, for compensation, provides a proxy advisory service to shareholders of a company or to other persons with authority to vote on behalf of shareholders of a company. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the enforcement of its provisions under the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act and authorizes an affected party to bring an action seeking a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief under the Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act against a proxy advisor who violates the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 2349

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Walle

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 2349 amends the Property Code to exempt a landlord from the requirement that the landlord provide written notice to a tenant indicating whether the landlord is or is not aware that the applicable dwelling is located in a 100-year floodplain and written notice that the landlord knows that any portion of the dwelling has been damaged by flooding to a tenant under a lease with a term of less than 30 days or under certain temporary residential tenancies.

Senate Bill 2349 also provides that, as an alternative to being included in a separate written document as required under current law, the required written notices may be given to a tenant at or before execution of an applicable lease in a paragraph of the lease or as an addendum to the lease. The landlord and tenant must sign the document containing a required notice to evidence the provision and receipt of the notice.

Senate Bill 2351

Senate Author: Alvarado

House Sponsor: Walle et al.

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 2351 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), if it amends an applicable standard permit for a permanent concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing, to require each facility operator authorized to begin new construction of a facility under the former standard permit to update the facility's plans for the new construction in accordance with the amended standard permit if the operator did not begin the construction before the adoption of the amended permit and the operator filed a request under TCEQ rules for an extension to begin construction.

Senate Bill 2361

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Louderback et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2361 amends the Education Code to provide for the transfer of the University of Houston--Victoria to The Texas A&M University System. The bill's provisions take effect September 1, 2025, except for a provision requiring the Employees Retirement System of Texas to provide the applicable systems certain information regarding the transfer of employee group benefits coverage, which takes effect May 27, 2025.

Senate Bill 2366**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Hefner**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 2366 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Transportation to establish and administer a program to award grants to rural rail transportation districts that own or operate short line railroads to fund projects that replace short line railroad tracks or bridges, improve short line rail capacity, or restore short line railways. The bill requires Texas Transportation Commission approval for a program grant and provides for the funding of the grant program.

Senate Bill 2367**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst**House Sponsor:** Kitzman**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 2367 amends the Local Government Code to provide for the board of park commissioners of Waller County to adopt reasonable park use rules, the violation of which makes a person liable to the county for a civil penalty, authorizes the county to bring suit in a district court or county court to recover the civil penalty, and requires the deposit of such fines in the county's general fund. The bill also prohibits the board from adopting rules relating to the use of fireworks.

Senate Bill 2368**Senate Author:** Campbell et al.**House Sponsor:** Patterson**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2368 amends the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), Utilities Code, to set out and revise provisions relating to affiliation with certain foreign entities of persons working or participating in the electricity market. The bill requires ERCOT, as a condition of maintaining certification as an independent organization, to obtain an attestation from a prospective employee that includes any former travel to certain countries designated as a threat to critical infrastructure or any relationship to foreign governmental entities or political organizations. The bill revises PURA provisions relating to transactions with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure by doing the following, among other provisions:

- authorizing ERCOT to require as a condition of market participant registration that a business entity provide and disclose certain information to ERCOT or to the attorney general or the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC); and
- authorizing the attorney general, on request of ERCOT, to investigate the accuracy or sufficiency of certain information provided to ERCOT by business entities with respect to transactions with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure.

Senate Bill 2368 provides for a cap of \$1 million on an applicable administrative penalty imposed by the PUC for a violation of PURA provisions relating to transactions with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure in which a business entity fails to submit all required information to or knowingly submits false information to ERCOT. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the confidentiality of information and material in the possession of or obtained or compiled by the PUC that is related to a PUC enforcement proceeding under applicable PURA provisions.

Senate Bill 2368 amends the Business & Commerce Code to authorize the PUC to impose an administrative penalty on a business entity that is subject to the PUC's jurisdiction under the PURA for a violation of applicable state law in which the business entity enters into an agreement granting a company access to or control of the business entity's critical electric grid equipment or critical infrastructure. The bill caps that administrative penalty at \$1 million for each violation.

Senate Bill 2371

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

House Sponsor: Perez, Mary Ann

Effective: 5-27-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial
Services

Senate Bill 2371 amends the Business & Commerce Code to provide for reporting and investigation of payment card skimmers on electronic terminals. The bill requires a service technician who discovers a skimmer in or on an electronic terminal, or the service company employing the technician, to notify the merchant and the financial crimes intelligence center of the skimmer. The bill requires a merchant who discovers such a skimmer or is notified of the presence of a skimmer to disable, or cause to be disabled, the applicable electronic terminal, notify a law enforcement agency and the center that a skimmer has been detected, and take appropriate measures to protect the electronic terminal from tampering until the center or law enforcement agency arrives and the skimmer is removed. Additionally, the bill authorizes the center to accept a report of a suspected skimmer from any interested person. On receipt of a report under these provisions, the center may conduct an inspection for the presence of suspected skimmers. The bill sets out provisions relating to such an investigation, including a requirement for merchant cooperation during the investigation.

Senate Bill 2371 establishes a civil penalty for a violation of the bill's provisions or related rules. The bill also creates criminal offenses for refusing to allow an inspection of an electronic terminal as part of an investigation of a skimmer report, negligently or recklessly disposing of a skimmer that was installed on an electronic terminal by another person, or disposing of a skimmer installed on an electronic terminal by another person with knowledge that an investigation is ongoing or that a criminal proceeding has been commenced and is pending.

Senate Bill 2373

Senate Author: Johnson et al.

House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 2373 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Penal Code to set out provisions creating a cause of action for the dissemination of artificially generated media or a phishing communication for the purpose of financial exploitation, imposing a civil penalty for such dissemination, providing confidential identity protections in related actions, and creating the offense of financial abuse using artificially generated media or phishing.

Senate Bill 2383

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2383 amends the Government Code to make certain requirements relating to the discharge of or disciplinary action against Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers inapplicable to a retired commissioned officer who is employed by DPS as a commissioned officer.

Senate Bill 2398

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

House Sponsor: Cunningham

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 2398 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to develop a list of nonmedical academic accommodations a public school district may offer to a student diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury and a form for use by districts describing such accommodations. The bill requires TEA to make the form available on its website and sets out requirements for a district that

provides these accommodations regarding the provision of the form to district employees and to students or their parents or guardians.

Senate Bill 2398 also requires a district to adopt and implement a policy regarding how to respond to a concussion believed to have been sustained by a student while on school property or participating in a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property and sets out requirements for the content of the policy. These policy requirements do not apply to a concussion believed to have been sustained by a student while participating in an interscholastic athletic activity.

Senate Bill 2405

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Parker et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Canales et al.

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 2405 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Labor Code to continue the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) under the Texas Sunset Act until September 1, 2037. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions and updates to align statute with TDCJ's existing organizational structure, the bill does the following:

- requires TDCJ to do the following:
 - create a 10-year plan that identifies TDCJ's facility and capacity needs;
 - develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of active programs and activities offered in TDCJ facilities, collect and analyze data for the programs for purposes of providing oversight and improving program offerings, and submit a biennial report on TDCJ's analysis of active programs;
 - jointly develop with the Windham School District a strategic plan for rehabilitation and reentry programs;
 - develop and provide annual trainings in person or online to counties on pen packet submission; and
 - in consultation with relevant stakeholders, review current parole supervision practices and caseload approaches and submit a report on proposed parole supervision practices and caseload approaches;
- removes the statutorily prescribed maximum capacities for the units in TDCJ and requires TBCJ instead by rule to establish maximum capacities for those units;
- revises the procedures to increase the maximum capacity for the units in TDCJ and authorizes TBCJ to establish a new maximum capacity solely based on TBCJ's acceptance or modification of TDCJ's recommendations and findings;
- removes requirements relating to TDCJ's adoption of a salary career ladder and a policy establishing guidelines for maximum caseload ratios for parole officers and requires TBCJ instead to adopt such a salary career ladder and establish such guidelines by rule; and
- authorizes the parole division of TDCJ to establish a waiver procedure for when the division director is unable to appoint persons meeting qualifications for parole officers and supervisors.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 2405 does the following:

- requires TDCJ, the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP), and the Windham School District to do the following:
 - develop evidence-based program criteria specific to required individual treatment plan programs and parole-voted programs to be used in evaluating and assessing those programs;
 - develop and maintain a required individual treatment plan programs list and parole-voted programs list;
 - develop procedures for evaluating, assessing, and removing programming options; and
 - coordinate on programming options through regular meetings;

- requires the BPP and TDCJ to jointly establish a work group to assess the impact and effectiveness of special conditions;
- requires the BPP to do the following:
 - coordinate with TDCJ to collect and analyze data on releasees and the use of special conditions and graduated sanctions to evaluate outcomes and trends;
 - determine a method for evaluating the consistency of revocation decisions across all three-voter parole panels and use its findings from the data in developing the training required for BPP designees and members and parole commissioners;
 - adopt rules to administer provisions relating to medically recommended intensive supervision; and
 - develop and provide a comprehensive training program on the release of inmates on medically recommended intensive supervision for BPP members and parole commissioners serving on applicable parole panels;
- revises provisions relating to the release of an inmate on medically recommended intensive supervision;
- authorizes the Windham School District to enter into an agreement with a governmental entity to obtain and share data necessary to support and evaluate district and postsecondary education programs within TDCJ;
- requires the Windham School District to enter into a memorandum of understanding with TDCJ for postsecondary education programs to be administered by the district and to establish a postsecondary education advisory board to advise the district and TDCJ regarding such programs; and
- requires TBCJ to maintain oversight and supervision of the office of the independent auditor, the office of the independent ombudsman, the office of the inspector general, the office of the ombudsperson appointed by TBCJ under applicable state law, and the office providing legal representation under provisions relating to indigent inmate defense and indigent defense for civilly committed sexually violent predators.

Senate Bill 2406

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Kitzman

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2406 amends the law to revise and update the governing provisions of the Sabine River Authority of Texas, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill requires the authority's directors to employ a district manager and decreases from six years to four years the length of a director's term.

Senate Bill 2407

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Sparks et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Kitzman

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2407 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise and update the governing provisions of the Lower Neches Valley Authority, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill decreases from six years to four years the length of a director's term.

Senate Bill 2411**Senate Author:** Schwertner**House Sponsor:** Longoria**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2411 amends the Business Organizations Code to revise provisions governing business organization generally, for-profit corporations, nonprofit corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships, and associations. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for the construction of the Business Organizations Code with respect to references to district courts, the plain meaning of its text, and certain provisions governing a domestic entity;
- authorizes the governing documents of a domestic entity to require that one or more courts in Texas having jurisdiction must serve as the exclusive forum and venue for internal entity claims;
- sets out provisions relating to omissions or insertions in a restated certificate of formation for a for-profit or professional corporation, a nonprofit corporation, or a limited liability company and to updates to a restated certificate of formation for a real estate investment trust;
- provides for the approval and ratification of a document subject to certain requirements under state law by the applicable governing authority;
- revises the methods of delivery for a filing instrument and provides for an alternative filing fee for a filing by or for a registered series of a domestic limited liability company under certain circumstances;
- clarifies notices that are considered properly given under the Business Organizations Code and governing documents of a domestic entity and revises the requirement for a domestic entity to promptly notify each owner or member of certain actions;
- revises the permissive provisions that may be included in a plan of merger or plan of exchange and clarifies that certain documents or instruments are not considered part of such a plan but that those documents or instruments have the effects provided in the plan;
- provides for the authorization, adoption, and approval of an action taken by a converted entity in connection with the conversion of the converting entity that is provided by the plan of conversion and within the power of the converted entity under applicable law;
- revises provisions relating to the amendment of a certificate of formation, shares and shareholder rights, the board of directors, derivative proceedings, and defective corporate acts or shares of for-profit corporations;
- revises provisions relating to the board of directors, management committees, and defective corporate acts or transactions of nonprofit corporations;
- sets out provisions relating to subscriptions to limited liability companies and limited partnerships and revises provisions relating to membership interests in limited liability companies and the execution of filings of limited partnerships;
- revises certain exceptions to the application of provisions governing a derivative proceeding for a claim or a derivative proceeding by a member of a closely held limited liability company or by a limited partner of a closely held limited partnership;
- revises the required contents of the annual written report of a cooperative association; and
- makes certain Business Organizations Code provisions governing a domestic entity applicable to an unincorporated nonprofit association.

Senate Bill 2419**Senate Author:** Paxton**House Sponsor:** Dean**Effective:** 5-24-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2419 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a limited district that was created by the conversion of a special district under a strategic partnership agreement, and that is located in and serving an area that is disannexed under statutory provisions relating to the disannexation of certain areas

annexed during the transition from the nonconsent to consent annexation model, to exercise all powers and duties granted to the former special district by law in the portion of the disannexed area located in the district, notwithstanding the strategic partnership agreement or other agreement executed by the district and the disannexing municipality before the disannexation.

Senate Bill 2420

Senate Author: Paxton et al.

House Sponsor: Fairly et al.

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 2420 amends the Business & Commerce Code to establish the App Store Accountability Act. The bill provides for duties of app stores and software application developers with respect to age verification, parental consent, data protection, and age ratings. The bill, among other provisions, establishes that a violation of its provisions constitutes a deceptive trade practice and is actionable under the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.

Senate Bill 2431

Senate Author: Campbell

House Sponsor: Howard

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2431 amends the Education Code to require a public institution of higher education that, through any baccalaureate degree program, offers a study abroad component or program in a location where a language other than English is primarily spoken to provide an option that allows a student enrolled in the study abroad component or program to earn foreign language credit as part of that component or program, beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.

Senate Bill 2443

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2443 amends the Occupations Code to authorize the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to provide for the electronic delivery of any correspondence sent or received by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, including any notice, order, or pleading required under applicable law.

Senate Bill 2448

Senate Author: Sparks

House Sponsor: Ashby et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 2448 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in consultation with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to establish and administer the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program under which TWC may award grants to one or more nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and support to public institutions of higher education and public school districts located in rural areas of Texas in aligning and delivering workforce training and higher education programs to address skills gaps to meet urgent workforce demands of rural areas. Among other provisions, the bill sets out grant eligibility requirements and provides for TWC's annual report on the grant program.

Senate Bill 2476

Senate Author: Nichols
House Sponsor: Ashby

Effective: 5-24-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2476 authorizes the Angelina and Neches River Authority to enter into a contract with the Woodlawn Water Supply Corporation for the transfer of the corporation's assets, debts, and contractual rights and obligations to the authority.

Senate Bill 2477

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.
House Sponsor: Patterson et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2477 amends the Local Government Code to set out provisions relating to the regulation of mixed-use and multifamily residential use and development in certain populous municipalities. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- prohibits certain municipal regulations in connection with the use, development, construction, or occupancy of certain buildings proposed to be converted to mixed-use residential or multifamily residential use;
- prohibits a municipality from imposing an impact fee on land where such a building has been converted to mixed-use residential or multifamily residential use unless the land on which the building is located was already subject to an impact fee before a building permit related to the conversion was filed with the municipality and unless, for an impact fee related to water and wastewater facilities, the conversion increases the demand for water and wastewater service for the building; and
- authorizes a housing organization or other person adversely affected or aggrieved by a violation of the bill's provisions to bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief against a municipality.

The bill provides for the harmonization of its provisions with [Senate Bill 840](#) and for the control by that bill in the event of an irreconcilable conflict.

Senate Bill 2480

Senate Author: Campbell
House Sponsor: Oliverson

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2480 amends the Occupations Code to expand the applicability of the Texas Medical Board's (TMB) duty to run a continuous query on the National Practitioner Data Bank with respect to a physician license and to collect additional surcharges for purposes of administering such a query and the Texas Physician Health Program so that it applies with respect to each individual who holds a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization issued by the TMB. The bill also establishes the applicability of and manner of participation in the program with respect to such an individual.

Senate Bill 2501

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Landgraf

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2501 amends the Family Code to authorize a parent who the court has determined is indigent for the purposes of mandatory appointment of an attorney ad litem to select an attorney who meets certain eligibility requirements to represent the parent in a child protection suit filed by a governmental entity in which termination of the parent-child relationship or the appointment of a conservator for a child is requested. The bill prohibits the court from taking any action that influences, directs, or interferes with the selection of an attorney by the indigent parent.

Senate Bill 2501 requires an attorney ad litem selected by such an indigent parent to serve as the parent's counsel of record upon filing with the court a notice of appearance and, if the parent is represented

by other counsel, a motion to substitute counsel with the court. The bill requires the court's review of the notice and motion to be limited to confirming the attorney meets the eligibility requirements. The bill requires the court, upon confirming that the attorney selected meets those requirements, to grant an attorney's motion to substitute counsel, if applicable, and to terminate the appointment of any previously appointed attorney ad litem for the parent. The bill prohibits a court from doing the following:

- denying or delaying approval of a motion to substitute counsel except to confirm that the attorney meets the eligibility requirements; or
- imposing any additional eligibility requirements on the attorney.

Senate Bill 2501 provides for the powers and duties, disciplinary actions, and payment of services for an attorney ad litem selected by such an indigent parent as provided under state law for attorneys ad litem in an applicable child protection suit. The bill prohibits a court from adopting or enforcing local rules that conflict with the bill's provisions, impose additional requirements on the selection of an attorney ad litem by an indigent parent, or otherwise interfere with the right of an indigent parent to select an attorney in an applicable child protection suit. The bill's provisions relating to the selection of an attorney ad litem expressly do not limit the authority of a court to remove an attorney for good cause under applicable law.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 2501 seeks to give indigent parents greater freedom to select legal counsel for proceedings that affect the parent-child relationship. But it goes too far. Under this bill an attorney could be 'selected by the parent' to be 'compensated by the county,' only for the parent to 'substitute counsel' over and over again—for any reason or no reason at all. All of this must be allowed without 'any action [by the court] that influences, directs, or interferes.' That could invite some desperate or spiteful parents to select new counsel ad litem *ad infinitum*, in a stall tactic that harms children and burdens judicial efficiency.

"Worse yet, the bill may create conflicts of interests. An attorney ad litem 'represents a child during the course of a legal action' and owes 'duties of undivided loyalty' to the child. *Attorney ad litem*, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (12th ed.); TEX. FAM. CODE § 107.001(2). This bill, however, may tempt attorneys to divide their loyalties by deferring to the parents who appointed them, rather than seeking what is best for the client. I look forward to reviewing legislation in the future that includes reasonable safeguards against abuse."

Senate Bill 2514

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2514 amends the Government Code to establish the hostile foreign adversaries unit in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to support DPS's duty to prevent the harassment and coercion of Texas residents from foreign adversary operations, strengthen state agencies against such operations, and protect the state's critical infrastructure against threats those operations pose. The bill sets out requirements for the unit, including collaboration to operate the Texas Fusion Center and referral of certain cases for prosecution, and provides for a biennial report assessing the threat foreign adversary operations posed to the state.

Senate Bill 2514 prohibits certain actions relating to foreign influence by an employee or volunteer of a state agency or a political subdivision and creates a state jail felony offense for a violation of the bill's provisions. The bill establishes additional certification requirements for education relating to foreign adversaries for state-certified cybersecurity training programs.

Senate Bill 2515

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Alders

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2515 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 64 in Smith County as the Fire Marshal Jimmy W. Seaton Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 2520

Senate Author: Bettencourt
House Sponsor: Noble

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2520 amends the Tax Code to establish that, in the tax year immediately following the first tax year an individual qualifies a residence homestead for a residence homestead exemption on the basis of age or disability after the beginning of that first tax year, provided that the homestead remains eligible for that same exemption in that following tax year, the amount of the limitation is equal to the lesser of the following:

- the amount of the limitation for that tax year as computed under provisions prescribing the method of computation of the amount of the limitation if in the 2024 or a subsequent tax year an applicable elderly or disabled individual qualifies for the limitation; or
- the amount of tax imposed by the district on the residence homestead, calculated without regard to the limitation on tax increases provided by the applicable state law, in that tax year.

Senate Bill 2543

Senate Author: Hancock et al.
House Sponsor: Hefner

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2543 amends the Natural Resources Code to remove the limit on the number of locations across Texas that may be selected for state veterans cemeteries and to remove the cap on the amount the Veterans' Land Board may spend each fiscal year to plan and design, operate, maintain, enlarge, or improve state veterans cemeteries.

Senate Bill 2544

Senate Author: Hancock et al.
House Sponsor: Morgan

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 2544 amends the Insurance Code to set a deadline by which an out-of-network provider or health benefit plan issuer or administrator may request mandatory mediation for a health benefit claim submitted by an out-of-network facility of not later than the 180th day after the date an applicable provider receives an initial payment for a health care or medical service or supply.

Senate Bill 2550

Senate Author: West
House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Natural Resources
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2550 amends the Natural Resources Code, Property Code, and Water Code to exempt a transfer of a groundwater or surface water right from required disclosures applicable to the transfer of certain interests in real property.

Senate Bill 2569

Senate Author: Flores
House Sponsor: Lujan

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2569 amends the Government Code to revise reporting requirements for a state law enforcement agency or an applicable county or municipal law enforcement agency relating to the agency's use or operation of an unmanned aircraft, including by removing the requirement for an applicable agency to issue a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature regarding such use or operation during the preceding 24 months.

Senate Bill 2570

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2570 amends the Penal Code to establish that a guard employed by a correctional facility or a peace officer who is engaged in their official duties is justified in using force with a less-lethal force weapon against another when and to the degree they reasonably believe the force was necessary to accomplish their official duties if their use of the weapon is in substantial compliance with their training.

Senate Bill 2580

Senate Author: Hancock

House Sponsor: Schatzline et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2580 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to increase the number of county sheriff's departments considered a "designated law enforcement office or agency" for purposes of statutory provisions governing the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications by including as such a department the sheriff's department of any county with a population of 500,000 or more.

Senate Bill 2581

Senate Author: Hancock

House Sponsor: Geren

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 2581 repeals Local Government Code provisions that require the sheriffs of Dallas and Tarrant Counties to receive approval of the county commissioners court before making a disbursement from commissary proceeds or accepting new bids to renew a contract of commissary suppliers and that subject a purchase made by the sheriff using those proceeds to the competitive purchasing procedures under the County Purchasing Act.

Senate Bill 2587

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Guillen

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety &
Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2587 amends the Estates Code and Government Code to revise the entitlement of certain entities to obtain certain criminal history record information through the FBI and from a criminal justice agency in Texas. The bill includes the following among such entities: the Texas Department of Insurance, the Health and Human Services Commission, certain agencies operating part of a public benefits program, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the manufactured housing division of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the state fire marshal, the Texas Medical Board, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

Senate Bill 2587, among other provisions, removes provisions relating to the use of an individual's social security number in requesting criminal history record information and specifies that a qualified entity is entitled to certain criminal history record information regarding the entity's employees and contractors under the federal National Child Protection Act of 1993. The bill requires a guardian who is a certified guardian or attorney and who has designated a person to have care and custody of a ward or the ward's estate on the guardian's behalf to notify the court of any change concerning the designation or contact information of such a person and provides for the duty to obtain criminal history record information relating to such a person.

Senate Bill 2587 amends the Occupations Code to provide for the issuance of an associate license to an eligible person under the Licensed Professional Counselor Act.

Senate Bill 2589**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** McLaughlin**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 2589 amends the Transportation Code to provide for a procedure for a commissioners court to close, abandon, or vacate a county road that is located wholly or partially outside the corporate limits of the City of Laredo and in Webb County that meets certain other criteria. The bill establishes that the commissioners court is not required to comply with procedures for conveyance of the property if the commissioners court finds that conveying such a road to any abutting property's owner will create a public nuisance or safety hazard and authorizes the commissioners court to petition the municipality to annex the county road or to use the road for any public purpose not related to motorized vehicle traffic.

Senate Bill 2601**Senate Author:** Blanco et al.**House Sponsor:** Guillen**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Border Security**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2601 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise provisions relating to the landowner compensation program established and administered by the attorney general for the purpose of providing compensation for property damage caused by certain border crime activities. Among other provisions, the bill expands the program by changing the persons eligible for compensation and revises provisions specifying the program's funding sources and establishing guidelines related to compensation amounts.

Senate Bill 2601 amends the Government Code to revise state public information law provisions relating to the confidentiality of crime victim or claimant information by expanding the applicable meaning of "crime victim or claimant" to include a person who has filed an application for compensation under the landowner compensation program.

Senate Bill 2601 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit an insurer, in setting rates under statutory provisions governing property and casualty insurance, from considering whether a claim has been made by or on behalf of a policyholder in relation to an event documented by a written report by a law enforcement agency relating to property damage caused by a trespasser and occurring in connection with a border crime.

Senate Bill 2610**Senate Author:** Blanco et al.**House Sponsor:** Capriglione**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Bill 2610 amends the Business & Commerce Code to prohibit a person harmed from a breach of system security from recovering exemplary damages in an action arising from the breach from a business entity in Texas that has fewer than 250 employees and owns or licenses computerized data that includes sensitive personal information if the entity demonstrates that at the time of the breach the entity implemented and maintained a cybersecurity program that meets specified criteria.

Senate Bill 2615**Senate Author:** Creighton**House Sponsor:** Tepper**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 2615 amends the Education Code to restrict the circumstances under which a public institution of higher education may allow telework for an employee on a temporary or permanent basis.

Senate Bill 2629

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Darby

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic
Development

Senate Bill 2629 amends the Property Code to update certain provisions of the Uniform Condominium Act and the Texas Residential Property Owners Protection Act. The bill, among other updates, provides that, as follows:

- a meeting of a condominium unit owners' association or a property owners' association (POA) may be held by any method of communication, including electronic and telephonic means, as provided by applicable Business Organizations Code provisions; and
- voting in a condominium unit owners' association meeting or POA meeting may be conducted electronically or by electronic ballot, respectively.

Senate Bill 2662

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Harris

Effective: 5-30-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2662 amends the Water Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas to regulate and supervise the tariffs of each water and sewer utility within its jurisdiction. The bill grants exclusive original jurisdiction to a municipality's governing body over the tariffs of a water and sewer utility within the municipality's corporate limits. The bill requires a utility to file with each regulatory authority, along with the utility's tariffs, the utility's drought contingency plan required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and establishes that a provision of such a plan does not constitute a rate. The bill includes noncompliance with a drought contingency plan as a reason for which certain entities may discontinue, reduce, or impair water or sewer service. The bill revises provisions relating to the drought contingency plans required by TCEQ rule of wholesale and retail public water suppliers and irrigation districts, including a requirement that such a plan include reasonable procedures for the enforcement of mandatory water use restrictions.

Senate Bill 2753

Senate Author: Hall et al.

House Sponsor: Isaac

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 2753 amends the Election Code to provide for the integration of early voting by personal appearance and election day voting, including the manner in which election returns are processed and other related changes. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- changes the early voting period to run from the 12th day before election day through the day before election day, including weekends and holidays;
- changes the early voting period for an election held on the uniform election date in May and any resulting runoff election to run from the ninth day before election day through the day before election day, including weekends and holidays;
- revises the circumstances under which county election precincts may be combined;
- provides for the designation of locations for polling places on election day;
- requires a county, city, or independent school district that conducts an election and maintains a website to post online the total number of votes cast for each candidate or for or against each measure at each polling location;
- requires a local canvassing authority to prepare a tabulation stating for each candidate and for and against each measure the total number of votes received in each polling location;
- requires voted early voting ballots that will be counted manually to be kept in a separate ballot box from ballots that will be counted using automatic tabulating equipment;

- revises the processes through which early voting ballots are delivered to the main polling place; and
- repeals provisions relating to late voting due to the death of an immediate family member and the prohibition against a direct recording electronic voting machine deployed for early voting also being deployed on election day.

Senate Bill 2774**Senate Author:** Hinojosa, Adam**House Sponsor:** Darby et al.**Effective:** 1-1-27**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2774 amends the Tax Code to expand the definition of "retail trade" for purposes of the franchise tax to include activities involving the rental of industrial uniforms, industrial garments, and industrial linen supplies that are classified as Industry 7213 or 7218 of the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual published by the federal Office of Management and Budget.

Senate Bill 2776**Senate Author:** Hinojosa, Adam**House Sponsor:** Lujan et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2776 amends the Human Resources Code to authorize the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to disclose information concerning a person who was committed to TJJD, including personally identifiable information, if the following conditions are met:

- the person has been discharged from commitment by TJJD, is at least 18 years of age, and has given consent for TJJD to disclose the information; and
- TJJD does not disclose any information for which the person did not consent to disclosure and does not disclose any information for a purpose other than the purpose for which the person consented to disclosure.

Senate Bill 2778**Senate Author:** Hinojosa, Adam**House Sponsor:** Lujan et al.**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 2778 amends the Health and Safety Code to raise from \$2,000 to \$50,000 the cap on the amount of an expenditure that an emergency services district employee may pay without approval from the district's board.

Senate Bill 2781**Senate Author:** Birdwell et al.**House Sponsor:** Shaheen**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2781 amends the Election Code to impose civil penalties for a violation of statutory provisions governing the restriction of certain political contributions and expenditures by lobbyists or the prohibition on lobbying by a person making or authorizing certain political contributions and direct campaign expenditures.

Senate Bill 2786**Senate Author:** Creighton et al.**House Sponsor:** Lambert**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 2786 amends the Education Code to exempt the following students from assessment requirements under the Texas Success Initiative:

- a student who is certified as an emergency medical technician and employed by a political subdivision;

- a student who is included as fire protection personnel under applicable state law; and
- a student who is elected, appointed, or employed to serve as a peace officer.

Senate Bill 2790

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: West et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha et al.

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2790 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 67 in Dallas and Ellis Counties as the Eddie Bernice Johnson Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 2798

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Creighton

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Sponsor: Little

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2798 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to set the statute of limitations period for all felony offenses classified as fraud under the Penal Code at seven years from the date of the commission of the offense, except for forgery or the uttering, using, or passing of forged instruments, the limitations period of which remains at ten years from the date of the commission of the offense.

Senate Bill 2801

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Author: Hughes

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Sponsor: Shofner

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2801 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to provide for a field trial permit to be issued by the Parks and Wildlife Department for a competitive hunting dog event where dogs chase or pursue squirrels, fur-bearing animals, or nongame animals under field conditions and under which a registered participant is exempt from hunting license requirements.

Senate Bill 2807

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Hagenbuch

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Sponsor: Curry

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2807 amends the Transportation Code to revise provisions relating to the regulation of automated motor vehicles and automated driving systems. Among other provisions, the bill removes the prohibition against a state agency imposing a regulation related to the operation of an automated motor vehicle or automated driving system and the provision establishing the operator of an automated motor vehicle. Instead, the bill does the following:

- prohibits a state agency from imposing a regulation that discriminates against a person operating an automated motor vehicle or an automated motor vehicle relative to other types of motor vehicles or with respect to road usage;
- provides for automated motor vehicles' exemption from the application of a specific state traffic or motor vehicle law by the Public Safety Commission on the commission's determination that the exemption will not cause a risk to public safety;
- establishes that, when an automated driving system is engaged, the system is the operator of the vehicle, including for, rather than solely for, purposes of assessing compliance with state traffic or motor vehicle laws;
- establishes that, when an automated driving system installed on an automated motor vehicle is engaged, the owner of or the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) authorization holder for the automated motor vehicle must be issued any citation for a violation of traffic or motor vehicle laws relating to the vehicle; and

- establishes that neither a licensed human driver nor a license issued under applicable statutory provisions is required to operate an automated motor vehicle if the automated driving system installed on the vehicle is engaged.

Senate Bill 2807 authorizes any motor vehicle equipped with an automated driving system to operate in Texas but revises the requisite conditions under which an automated motor vehicle may operate on a highway in Texas while the automated driving system is engaged and makes those conditions also applicable to the operation of such a vehicle on a street while the system is engaged. The bill, in addition to those requisite conditions, sets out conditions that must be met before a person may operate an automated motor vehicle to transport property or passengers in furtherance of a commercial enterprise on a highway or street in Texas without a human driver. The bill creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for a person who operates an automated motor vehicle in violation of those conditions.

Senate Bill 2807 requires the board of TxDMV by rule to prescribe the form and manner by which a person may apply to TxDMV for authorization to operate automated motor vehicles to transport property or passengers in furtherance of a commercial enterprise on a highway or street in Texas without a human driver for a commercial enterprise. The bill requires TxDMV to approve an application that complies with TxDMV rules and issue a unique operating number to an applicant authorizing such operation of automated motor vehicles without a human driver. The bill establishes that an authorization for such operation does not expire and remains active unless suspended, revoked, or canceled by TxDMV and provides for TxDMV to take such actions or impose restrictions on the operation of the vehicle for an authorization holder's noncompliance with certain requirements.

Senate Bill 2807 makes the requirement for an automated motor vehicle or any human operator of an automated motor vehicle to comply with statutory provisions relating to collisions and collision reports in the event of a collision involving the automated motor vehicle applicable to a person on behalf of an automated motor vehicle. The bill requires an automated motor vehicle that is a commercial motor vehicle to operate in accordance with any state or local laws or regulations governing the operation of commercial motor vehicles, except that any provision that reasonably applies only to a human driver does not apply to an automated motor vehicle operating with the automated driving system engaged.

Senate Bill 2807 prohibits the deployment, implementation, or use of a motor carrier safety improvement by or as required by a motor carrier or a related entity from being considered when determining whether the operator of a motor vehicle is an employee or joint employee of the motor carrier or an independent contractor for purposes of state law.

Senate Bill 2807 amends the Insurance Code to establish that an automated motor vehicle is considered a transportation network company driver for purposes of statutory provisions governing insurance requirements for transportation network company drivers and that the coverage requirements of those provisions apply to the automated motor vehicle.

Senate Bill 2807 amends the Occupations Code to establish that an entity that, for compensation, enables a passenger to prearrange a ride in an automated motor vehicle through the entity's digital network is a transportation network company and is subject to the requirements of provisions governing such companies. The bill authorizes a transportation network company holding an applicable permit to use automated motor vehicles to provide digitally prearranged rides through the company's digital network. The bill excepts an automated motor vehicle that is used to provide digitally prearranged rides from the requirement for each motor vehicle in a transportation network company's digital network to have four doors and excepts a transportation network company that uses automated motor vehicles from the requirement to conduct an accessibility pilot program. The bill specifies that a reference in statutory provisions governing transportation network companies or a rule adopted under those provisions to a "driver" includes an automated motor vehicle, except that a provision or rule that reasonably applies only to a human driver does not apply to an automated motor vehicle operating with the automated driving system engaged.

Senate Bill 2835

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Talarico et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2835 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a municipality to authorize an apartment building that meets certain requirements to have a single stairway.

Senate Bill 2878

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2878 is an omnibus bill relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures regarding proceedings in the judicial branch of state government.

Senate Bill 2878 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Election Code, Family Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Local Government Code, Penal Code, Property Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises the composition of certain judicial districts and the jurisdiction of certain district courts and statutory county courts;
- creates 13 judicial districts, 1 county civil court at law, 1 statutory probate court, and 2 district attorney offices;
- raises the cap on the amount in controversy in a civil case over which a statutory county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court;
- revises provisions relating to excess contributions and fees allocated to statutory probate courts;
- allows a former or retired justice of an appellate court to be assigned as a visiting judge for a statutory probate court and sets out provisions regarding a motion of recusal or disqualification of a statutory probate court judge;
- adjusts the visiting judge salary tier;
- sets out provisions applicable to judges or justices assigned to a court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border region that relate to compensation and the use of electronic means to conduct proceedings or perform judicial actions;
- provides for judicial mentor compensation;
- sets out general qualifications for appointment as a master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge and accordingly removes qualifications that apply to specific counties;
- provides for the appointment of criminal magistrates in Bell County and criminal associate judges in Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties;
- entitles a business court judge to an additional annual salary from the state;
- revises provisions relating to petit and grand jury service;
- revises procedures for the contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment;
- authorizes the use of a digitized signature for waiver of service in a suit for the dissolution of a marriage and the use of electronic notarization in a proceeding relating to the marriage relationship;
- requires that a judge or judicial officer who does not hear cases involving family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect be exempted from required judicial training on those issues and includes elder abuse and neglect as a topic covered by that training;
- designates the office of justice for the Fifteenth Court of Appeals as a statewide judicial office for purposes of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, establishes a timeline for filling the last two places on that court, and establishes a jurisdiction restriction for a notice of appeal in a civil case requesting assignment of the appeal to that court;
- sets out requirements for a district clerk with respect to record maintenance;

- authorizes the appointment of a spoken language interpreter who is not a certified or licensed court interpreter for certain courts;
- requires each prosecuting attorney to report to the Texas Judicial Council certain information relating to the number and categories of offenses prosecuted, the attorney's personnel, the number of missed indictment deadlines that led to release, and the number of out-of-county offenses committed by defendants released from the attorney's jurisdiction;
- requires a court security committee to develop a court emergency management plan and makes certain other changes relating to the operation and responsibilities of such committees;
- authorizes the administrative director of the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to develop an alternative performance measure to assess the efficient and timely adjudication of probate and mental health matters for purposes of OCA's annual report;
- revises provisions relating to compensation for regional presiding judges and local administrative district judges;
- revises the term length of a local administrative district judge;
- requires OCA to hold an annual court leadership conference;
- revises the counties in which an application for court-ordered mental health services may be filed;
- increases the fee for a bond approval;
- removes an appeal as a type of action for which a local consolidated civil filing fee must be paid;
- extends to all counties the authorization to construct, enlarge, equip, and operate a parking lot or parking garage adjacent to or near the county courthouse;
- requires OCA to conduct a study on digital court reporting;
- sets out requirements relating to the contents of copies certified by clerks;
- sets out and revises provisions relating to youth diversion;
- revises the composition of certain juvenile boards;
- revises provisions relating to the applicability of limitations periods to arbitration;
- requires court clerks to be provided certain additional identifying information for each party in a civil action who is an individual;
- removes residency requirements for service as a municipal judge in certain cities;
- increases the amount of credit earned by a defendant toward fines or costs for the performance of certain labor or community service;
- extends to certain judicial employees the applicability of confidentiality protections for home address information on county voter registration lists, in local property tax appraisal records, and on driver's licenses and exceptions to required disclosure under state public information law for certain personal information;
- provides for a county clerk or district clerk to redact from a website certain personal information excepted from disclosure under state public information law on request of the person to whom the information relates;
- establishes that an arrest warrant issued for a child and a complaint or affidavit on which such a warrant is based are confidential and limits disclosure of those documents;
- requires the State Bar of Texas to credit an attorney serving as a state official appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate with meeting applicable continuing legal education requirements;
- enhances the penalty for harassment committed against court employees or judges; and
- provides for mandatory expunction for certain persons who have completed a pretrial intervention program.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 2878—presented as a routine judicial omnibus, which has traditionally been noncontroversial—includes significant, standalone policy proposals that failed to receive adequate consideration during the legislative session. For example, the bill would allow unlimited automatic

expunctions for completing any pretrial intervention program. While most of this bill should become law, parts of it should be excluded. The bill, in its current form, must be vetoed and will be placed on the special session agenda."

Senate Bill 2885

Senate Author: Flores

House Sponsor: Buckley

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2885 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), with respect to an aquifer storage and recovery project, by rule or by individual or general permit to authorize the injection of reclaimed water that is treated in accordance with standards adopted by the TCEQ for that purpose.

Senate Bill 2900

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Bhojani et al.

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2900 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to require the comptroller of public accounts to review each advisory entity that is part of the office of the comptroller, under the direction of the comptroller, or administratively attached to the office of the comptroller. The bill requires the comptroller, not later than December 1, 2026, to prepare and submit a report to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature that identifies any unnecessary, inefficient, or ineffective advisory entities. The bill revises and repeals provisions relating to certain advisory entities.

Senate Bill 2925

Senate Author: Blanco et al.

House Sponsor: Ordaz

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Economic Development

House Committee: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 2925 amends the Government Code to establish the Task Force on Modernizing Manufacturing to study the modernization of manufacturing in Texas. The bill provides for the task force's composition, powers, duties, and reporting and sets the date on which the task force will be abolished. The bill requires the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office to provide the staff and facilities necessary to assist the task force in performing its duties.

Senate Bill 2929

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Louderback et al.

Effective: 5-27-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 2929 amends the Education Code to establish that a verbal warning and persisting in inappropriate behavior are not required for a person serving as a referee, judge, or other official of an extracurricular athletic activity or competition sponsored or sanctioned by a public school district or the University Interscholastic League to eject a spectator from the extracurricular athletic activity or competition.

Senate Bill 2938

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Romero et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Committee: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2938 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), in assisting inmates who are veterans in applying for federal benefits or compensation under a program administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, to

mail any related correspondence on behalf of and at no charge to the inmate. The bill specifies that a county sheriff's duty to investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner applies during the intake process and sets out requirements for a county sheriff with regard to prisoners whose veteran status has been verified. The bill requires a county that transfers a defendant to TDCJ to deliver to a designated officer the defendant's veteran status.

Senate Bill 2964

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Bucy

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Current law authorizes an early voting clerk, upon receiving a timely yet otherwise noncompliant carrier envelope for a mail-in ballot, to offer to the voter an opportunity to correct any defect or cancel the voter's application to vote by mail. Senate Bill 2964 amends the Election Code to revise these procedures and to entitle a poll watcher to observe certain actions of the early voting clerk during this process. The bill requires the secretary of state to develop a corrective action form that may be completed and submitted to an early voting clerk to correct a defect and requires an early voting clerk to notify the voter of a discovered defect using the online tool provided by the secretary of state for ballot tracking and correction.

Senate Bill 2965

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil et al.

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2965 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise the process by which territory in an emergency services district may be annexed to be served by a municipality by, among other things, doing the following:

- requiring the municipality to be capable of being the sole provider of emergency services to the territory, with such services having to meet or exceed the level of applicable district services in the territory; and
- replacing the automatic disannexation of the territory on receipt by the district of applicable municipal notice with the disannexation of the territory being contingent on district resolution.

Senate Bill 2972

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2972 amends the Education Code to revise provisions relating to protected expression on the campuses of public institutions of higher education. The bill removes the requirement for an institution to ensure that the common outdoor areas of the institution's campus are deemed traditional public forums and requires instead that an institution's governing board designate the areas on the institution's campus that are public forums. The bill limits to enrolled students and institution employees the persons that an institution must permit to engage in expressive activities in the common outdoor areas of the institution's campus freely, as long as the expressive activity is not unlawful and does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution. The bill also excludes defamation, unlawful harassment, incitement to imminent unlawful activity, obscenity, or threats to engage in unlawful activity from the definition of "expressive activities."

Senate Bill 2972 revises the requirements for an institution's policy detailing rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities. Among other changes, the bill requires such a policy to require students enrolled at or employees of the institution to present proof of identity and status at the institution on request by an institution official on the institution's campus engaging in an official duty and to prohibit the following:

- using a device to amplify sound while engaging in certain expressive activities on campus during class hours;
- engaging in certain disruptive activities during the last two weeks of a semester or term;
- camping or erecting tents or other living accommodations on campus;
- wearing a disguise or other means of concealing a person's identity while engaging in expressive activities on campus with certain intent;
- lowering the institution's U.S. or Texas flag with the intent to raise the flag of another nation or a flag representing an organization or group of people; and
- engaging in expressive activities on campus between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Senate Bill 2986

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Leach

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2986 amends the Education Code to authorize a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or institution of higher education to allow a religious organization to use school facilities to host religious worship, services, sermons, or assemblies under certain conditions. The bill prohibits a state agency, political subdivision, school district, or other governmental entity from imposing a penalty or sanction on, or denying funding to, such a district, charter school, or institution based on a decision to allow a religious organization to use those facilities.

Senate Bill 2995

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: West et al.

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Sponsor: Davis, Aicha

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2995 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a financial aid displacement advisory for use by public institutions of higher education. The bill requires each such institution to include the advisory and specified information regarding gift aid in the institution's admission application form or provide a link to the advisory and information in the form.

Senate Bill 3031

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Huffman

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Johnson

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 3031 amends the Penal Code to revise the applicable conduct that constitutes the first degree felony offense of aggravated assault by an actor in a motor vehicle who causes serious bodily injury to any person in discharging a firearm as follows:

- removes the specification that the bodily injury is serious bodily injury; and
- provides that placing any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or causing damage to any property, in discharging the firearm, qualifies as applicable conduct, as an alternative to causing such bodily injury to any person.

The bill also specifies that such an offense applies to applicable conduct by an actor who is directly en route to or from a motor vehicle.

Senate Bill 3034

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Author: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Sponsor: Ashby

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 3034 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 249 in Grimes and Montgomery Counties as the Doug Pitcock Aggie Expressway.

Senate Bill 3037**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Zwiener**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3037 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the La Cima Municipal Management District No. 1 in Hays County.

Senate Bill 3039**Senate Author:** West et al.**House Sponsor:** Davis, Aicha**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 3039 amends the Education Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the transfer of students in public higher education and transparency regarding certificate or degree program requirements.

Senate Bill 3039 expands the type of information regarding transfers that each general academic teaching institution is required to annually report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the legislature and requires the THECB to submit a biennial legislative report that evaluates actions to increase the number, success, and persistence of students who transfer to a general academic teaching institution from a public junior college. The bill also broadens the scope of the annual report that a public junior college must provide the THECB and the legislature regarding courses taken by certain students at the college to include courses taken by students who, during the preceding academic year, completed a field of study curriculum.

Senate Bill 3039 requires each public institution of higher education to maintain on the admissions page of its website a list of the five majors or degree or certificate programs offered by the institution with the highest number of courses for which academic credit is denied or not applied toward the major or program and the five courses for each such major or program for which academic credit is most frequently denied because the credit is not applicable toward the major or program. The bill requires the THECB to adopt rules requiring public institutions of higher education to provide transparency in certificate and degree program requirements for students enrolling at or transferring to the institution.

Senate Bill 3039 requires each public institution of higher education, using existing resources, to designate at least one institution employee to serve as a single point of contact for other such institutions and the THECB regarding transfer issues and to act as a liaison officer for current or incoming students at the institution who will transfer into or out of the institution. The bill requires the transfer liaison to provide specified information to a student who transfers or requests to transfer to or from the institution and to assist students who transfer to the institution in obtaining a degree audit.

Senate Bill 3044**Senate Author:** Blanco**House Sponsor:** Morales, Eddie**Effective:** 5-29-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 3044 amends the law to change the nature of the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District from that of an underground water conservation district to that of a groundwater conservation district. The bill adds two district directors, one appointed by the City of Marfa and the other by the City of Presidio.

Senate Bill 3047**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Cole**Effective:** 9-1-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3047 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the following:

- Pura Vida Municipal Management District No. 1 in the City of Mustang Ridge;
- Wolf Creek Municipal Management District No. 1 in Hunt County; and
- Rivers Market Place Municipal Management District in the City of Elgin.

Senate Bill 3048

Senate Author: Birdwell
House Sponsor: Orr

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3048 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Bluebonnet Hills Municipal Management District No. 1 in the City of Midlothian.

Senate Bill 3050

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Luther

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3050 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Fannin County Improvement District No. 1.

Senate Bill 3052

Senate Author: Parker
House Sponsor: Hayes

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3052 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to cap the outstanding principal amount of bonds secured by qualifying contract payments issued by the Cole Ranch Improvement District No. 1 of Denton County, Texas, at an amount equal to, in the aggregate, 10 percent of the assessed value of all real property in all districts making payments under the contract.

Senate Bill 3053

Senate Author: Parker
House Sponsor: Hayes

Effective: 6-20-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3053 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to specify that the existing cap on the principal amount of bonds issued by the Hunter Ranch Improvement District No. 1 of Denton County, Texas, applies to bonds secured by property taxes and to cap the outstanding principal amount of bonds secured by qualifying contract payments issued by the district without an election at an amount equal to 10 percent of the assessed value of all real property in all districts making payments under the contract. The bill sets out additional provisions relating to the rights, powers, privileges, authority, duties, and functions of the district.

Senate Bill 3056

Senate Author: Hagenbuch
House Sponsor: Luther

Effective: 9-1-25

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 3056 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Alluvium Ranch Municipal Management District No. 1 in Grayson County.

Senate Bill 3059

Senate Author: Campbell et al.
House Sponsor: Metcalf et al.

Effective: 9-1-27

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 3059 amends the Government Code and Transportation Code, and transfers, redesignates, and repeals provisions of the Natural Resources Code and repeals certain session law which amended the Code of Criminal Procedure, to transfer jurisdiction of the Alamo complex from the General Land Office to the Alamo Commission, which is established by the bill for the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and protection of the Alamo complex and its contents and is administratively attached to the State Preservation Board. The bill sets out provisions relating to this new commission and provides for the transfer of jurisdiction.

Senate Bill 3070**Senate Author:** Hall et al.**House Sponsor:** Geren**Effective:** 6-20-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 3070 amends the Government Code, Occupations Code, Penal Code, and Transportation Code to provide for the transfer of the administration of the state lottery and the licensing and regulation of charitable bingo from the Texas Lottery Commission to the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), as applicable. The bill establishes that, on September 1, 2025, all functions and activities performed by the lottery commission relating to the state lottery under the State Lottery Act and the regulation of bingo operations under the Bingo Enabling Act immediately before that date are transferred to TCLR and TDLR. The bill repeals provisions relating to the lottery commission and accordingly replaces references to the lottery commission and the lottery division of the lottery commission.

Among other provisions, Senate Bill 3070 does the following:

- requires TDLR, not later than December 1, 2025, to initiate an independent review of existing lottery commission contracts to determine whether to renew, amend, or terminate the contract;
- entitles TDLR to obtain criminal history record information that relates to an applicant for or the holder of a license under the State Lottery Act or the Bingo Enabling Act;
- requires the Sunset Advisory Commission to conduct a limited-scope review of the state lottery program during the 2028-2029 state fiscal biennium;
- expands the requirement for TCLR to adopt rules governing the enforcement of prohibitions on a person playing a lottery game by telephone;
- requires the state auditor annually to conduct a comprehensive audit of TDLR's state lottery program;
- requires the executive director of TDLR to maintain a security office;
- provides for the preservation of lottery-related documents and the recording of state lottery meetings;
- revises the applicability of the requirement to conduct certain investigations and obtain certain criminal history record information to assist in those investigations;
- creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a lottery-affiliated person who purchases a ticket or claims, collects, or receives a lottery prize;
- sets out provisions limiting the number of lottery tickets a person may sell to an individual per transaction and providing for the age verification of ticket purchasers and creates Class B misdemeanor offenses for a person who violates those provisions;
- limits the method, location, and hours for ticket purchases and additionally provides for limitations on the access at a sales agent's licensed location to certain lottery equipment;
- with respect to the existing offense for the sale of a ticket to a person younger than 18 years of age, prohibits TCLR or TDLR from taking disciplinary action against an applicable sales agent under certain circumstances;
- sets out prohibitions regarding playing or facilitating play of a lottery game by telephone or by Internet or mobile Internet application and creates related misdemeanor offenses;
- conditions the authority of the director of TDLR to authorize payment of a lottery prize on the prize winner submitting certain verified forms to TDLR;
- makes certain individuals ineligible for appointment as a member of TCLR;
- establishes that a power granted or duty assigned to TCLR under the Bingo Enabling Act is a power or duty of the executive director, TDLR, or TCLR, as established by TCLR rule; and
- revises provisions of the Bingo Enabling Act governing the bingo advisory committee, commercial lessor license eligibility, equipment and supply transactions, organization bingo accounts, and the inspection of certain premises.

Senate Bill 3070 requires TCLR to establish a lottery advisory committee to provide external expertise on the lottery by advising TCLR and TDLR on the needs and problems of Texas' lottery industry and by providing input on proposed lottery rules.

Senate Joint Resolution 2

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Meyer et al.

For Election: 11-4-25

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Joint Resolution 2 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to increase the amount of the general school district residence homestead property tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000.

Senate Joint Resolution 3

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Craddick et al.

For Election: 11-4-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Joint Resolution 3 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to require the legislature to establish the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders. Among other provisions, the resolution establishes the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund, provides for the transfer of \$3 billion to that fund from the state's general revenue fund, and imposes a cap on the annual legislative appropriation to that research fund.

Senate Joint Resolution 5

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Smithee et al.

For Election: 11-4-25

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Joint Resolution 5 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to require a person to be denied bail pending trial under the following conditions:

- the state's attorney demonstrates by a certain evidentiary standard after a hearing that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably prevent the person's wilful nonappearance in court or ensure public safety; and
- the person is accused of committing certain violent, sexual, or trafficking offenses.

The resolution requires a judge or magistrate who grants a bail in accordance with the resolution's provisions to do the following:

- set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably prevent the person's wilful nonappearance in person and ensure public safety; and
- prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the justification for the grant and determinations required by the resolution's provisions.

Senate Joint Resolution 18

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Capriglione et al.

For Election: 11-4-25

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Joint Resolution 18 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust, including a tax on the sale or transfer of a capital asset that is payable by the individual, family, estate, or trust selling or transferring the asset.

Senate Joint Resolution 27

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

For Election: 11-4-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Joint Resolution 27 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to revise provisions relating to the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC), the membership of the tribunal to review the SCJC's recommendations, and the authority of the SCJC, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct.

Senate Joint Resolution 34**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Frank et al.**For Election:** 11-4-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Joint Resolution 34 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution stating that, in order to enshrine truths that are deeply rooted in the nation's history and traditions, the people of Texas affirm by the proposed amendment that a parent has the responsibility to nurture and protect the parent's child and the corresponding fundamental right to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing.

Senate Joint Resolution 37**Senate Author:** Birdwell et al.**House Sponsor:** Noble et al.**For Election:** 11-4-25**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Elections

Senate Joint Resolution 37 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to add persons who are not U.S. citizens to the classes of persons not allowed to vote in Texas.

Senate Joint Resolution 59**Senate Author:** Birdwell et al.**House Sponsor:** Lambert et al.**For Election:** 11-4-25**Senate Committee:** Education K-16**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Joint Resolution 59 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to establish the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund for the purpose of providing a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. Among other provisions relating to the administration of the funds, the resolution provides for an annual distribution from the permanent fund to the available fund and the appropriation of that distributed money to the TSTC System's board of regents for eligible capital projects and equipment purchases, as specified by the resolution. The resolution sets a cap on the sum of the amount distributed to the TSTC System through these new funds and the amount allocated to that system through the higher education fund.

Senate Joint Resolution 84**Senate Author:** Bettencourt et al.**House Sponsor:** Hefner**For Election:** 11-4-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Joint Resolution 84 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to authorize the legislature by general law to provide for a temporary exemption from property taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a person's residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire. The legislature by general law may prescribe the duration of the exemption and provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

Senate Joint Resolution 85**Senate Author:** Bettencourt et al.**House Sponsor:** Meyer et al.**For Election:** 11-4-25**Senate Committee:** Local Government**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Joint Resolution 85 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to increase the maximum amount of the exemption from property taxation by a school district of the market value of an elderly or disabled individual's residence homestead from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

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2ND CALLED SESSION, 2025

House Bill 1

House Author: Darby et al.
Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Effective: 9-5-25

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select
Senate Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

House Bill 1, the Youth Camp Alert, Mitigation, Preparedness, and Emergency Response (Youth CAMPER) Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to set out provisions relating to youth camp emergency plans and preparedness. Among other provisions, the bill requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to make certain campground safety requirements, as created by Senate Bill 1, 89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2025, applicable to youth camps, including the requirement for camp operators to develop and implement an emergency evacuation plan. The plan must do the following:

- specify muster zones for campers and camp staff to gather in an emergency event that requires evacuation from any location within the premises of the camp;
- establish procedures for responding to an emergency event and identifying and accounting for each camper affected by the emergency event;
- establish procedures to communicate with emergency management services, camp administrative and medical services staff, and the parents of campers; and
- designate a camp emergency preparedness coordinator.

House Bill 1 requires a youth camp operator to provide the plan to parents of campers and to conduct a mandatory safety orientation not more than 48 hours after each camp session begins. Youth camp operators are also required to maintain an operable radio system, install and maintain an emergency warning system, and monitor safety alerts. The bill sets out broadband Internet connection requirements for youth camps and requires operators to notify the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) of any modification to certain camp structures or camp activity locations. The bill also provides for the denial or suspension of a youth camp license based on the failure to comply with the bill's emergency plan and broadband requirements. The bill establishes the Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team within DSHS for the purpose of meeting regularly to develop proposed minimum standards for youth camps.

House Bill 4

House Author: Hunter et al.
Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Effective: 12-4-25

House Committee: Congressional Redistricting, Select
Senate Committee: Congressional Redistricting, Special

House Bill 4 redraws the 38 single-member districts from which the Texas members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected. The new districts apply beginning with the primary and general elections in 2026 for members of the 120th Congress.

House Bill 7

House Author: Leach et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

Effective: 12-4-25

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 7, the Woman and Child Protection Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for a prohibition on the manufacture and provision of abortion-inducing drugs, to authorize qui tam actions regarding the prohibition, to provide for the jurisdiction of and effect of certain judgments by courts within and outside Texas with respect to the manufacture and provision of those drugs, and to set out protections from certain counteractions under the laws of other states and jurisdictions.

House Bill 8

House Author: Buckley et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 8 amends the Education Code, Government Code, and Labor Code to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to transition the program for tests administered under the public school accountability system from the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) assessment program to the instructionally supportive assessment program provided by the bill and to set out and revise provisions relating to the adoption and administration of tests in public schools, indicators of achievement, public school performance ratings, and interventions and sanctions under the public school accountability system, a grant program for school district local accountability plans, and actions challenging TEA decisions related to public school accountability. With respect to the instructionally supportive assessment program, the bill does the following, among other provisions:

- requires TEA to adopt or develop appropriate beginning-of-year, middle-of-year, and end-of-year tests for certain subjects and to approve a list of alternative norm-referenced tests that may be administered in place of a beginning-of-year or middle-of-year test;
- exempts students in a special education program who have been identified as having a significant cognitive disability from beginning-of-year and middle-of-year tests and provides for alternative end-of-year and end-of-course tests for such students;
- removes English II as a course for which an end-of-course test is required;
- requires an item developed by TEA for inclusion on a test to be reviewed and approved by a committee composed of Texas teachers;
- requires the writing portion of a reading language arts test to be designed using open-ended questions that are grade-level appropriate, administered separately, and scored using a process that involves classroom teachers and allows for rescoring;
- requires TEA to adopt a schedule for the administration of tests within specified testing windows and to provide the schedule two years in advance;
- revises test design requirements with respect to the amount of time allocated for administering applicable tests;
- requires TEA to provide notice of test results within two business days; and
- limits the administration of benchmark tests.

Additionally, House Bill 8 does the following with respect to accountability and interventions and sanctions:

- requires TEA to develop a measure of student through-year instructional growth and improvement for evaluating the performance of applicable campuses;
- requires the commissioner of education to submit a report to certain state officials before modifying performance standards;
- requires TEA, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission to jointly develop a list of eligible industry certifications for the student achievement indicator;
- requires the commissioner to establish an accountability advisory committee to aid with the adoption and modification of performance standards and indicators;
- sets out provisions relating to the adoption of standards and the provision of explanatory materials for the accountability rating system; and
- provides for the continuation of applicable interventions and sanctions while the assignment of performance ratings is enjoined.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect December 4, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

House Bill 16**House Author:** Leach et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al.**Effective:** See below**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 16 is an omnibus bill relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures regarding proceedings in the judicial branch of state government. The bill contains some of the same provisions as vetoed Senate Bill 2878, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

House Bill 16 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Election Code, Estates Code, Family Code, Finance Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Labor Code, Local Government Code, Occupations Code, Penal Code, Property Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises the composition of certain judicial districts and the jurisdiction of certain district courts and statutory county courts;
- creates 14 judicial districts, 2 statutory county courts, 1 statutory probate court, and 2 district attorney offices;
- includes in the calculation of years of service for the purpose of determining the total annual salary of a statutory county court judge any years of service as a full-time district court, multicounty statutory county court, or statutory probate court associate judge;
- raises the cap on the amount in controversy in a civil case over which a statutory county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court;
- revises provisions relating to excess contributions and fees allocated to statutory probate courts;
- requires a court security committee to develop a court emergency management plan and makes certain other changes relating to the operation and responsibilities of such committees;
- removes residency requirements for service as a municipal judge in certain cities;
- allows a former or retired justice of an appellate court to be assigned as a visiting judge for a statutory probate court and sets out provisions regarding a motion of recusal or disqualification of a statutory probate court judge;
- adjusts the visiting judge salary tier;
- sets out provisions applicable to judges or justices assigned to a court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border region that relate to compensation and the use of electronic means to conduct proceedings or perform judicial actions;
- provides for judicial mentor compensation;
- revises the qualifications for appointment as a criminal magistrate in Bell County and provides for the appointment of criminal associate judges in Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties;
- revises the composition of certain juvenile boards;
- revises provisions regarding required judicial training on family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect by including elder abuse and neglect as a topic covered by the training and by requiring that a judge or judicial officer who does not hear cases on these issues be exempted from the training;
- designates the office of chief justice or justice for the Fifteenth Court of Appeals as a statewide judicial office for purposes of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, establishes a timeline for filling the last two places on that court, and establishes a jurisdiction restriction for a notice of appeal in a civil case requesting assignment of the appeal to that court;
- removes Bastrop County from the jurisdiction of the Second Business Court Division and adds that county to the jurisdiction of the Third Business Court Division;
- sets out requirements for a district clerk with respect to record maintenance;
- requires each prosecuting attorney to report to the Texas Judicial Council certain information relating to the number and categories of offenses prosecuted, the attorney's personnel, number

- of missed indictment deadlines that led to release, and the number of out-of-county offenses committed by defendants released from the attorney's jurisdiction;
- authorizes the administrative director of the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to develop an alternative performance measure to assess the efficient and timely adjudication of probate and mental health matters for purposes of OCA's annual report;
 - revises the term length of a local administrative district judge;
 - requires OCA to hold an annual court leadership conference;
 - increases the fee for a bond approval;
 - removes an appeal as a type of action for which a local consolidated civil filing fee must be paid;
 - requires OCA to conduct a study on digital court recording;
 - sets out requirements relating to the contents of copies certified by clerks;
 - revises provisions relating to the applicability of limitations periods to arbitration;
 - requires court clerks to be provided certain additional identifying information for each party in a civil action who is an individual;
 - removes the authorization for a magistrate's order for emergency protection to be transferred to the court that assumed jurisdiction over the relevant offense on motion, notice and hearing, or on agreement of the parties, but maintains the authorization for such an order to be modified by that court;
 - increases the amount of credit earned by a defendant toward fines or costs for the performance of certain labor or community service;
 - establishes certain fees for petitioners seeking expunction of a criminal record;
 - revises procedures for the contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment;
 - authorizes the use of a digitized signature for waiver of service in a suit for the dissolution of a marriage and the use of electronic notarization in a proceeding relating to the marriage relationship;
 - revises requirements for applicable courts relating to a motion for summary judgment;
 - revises provisions relating to youth diversion;
 - reverses certain statutory changes made by S.B. 1164, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, with respect to certificates of medical examination for mental illness and court orders for temporary or extended inpatient mental health services;
 - revises provisions relating to the Texas Supreme Court's rulemaking power in civil actions;
 - revises provisions relating to petit and grand jury service;
 - clarifies the authority of an attorney serving on the special prosecution unit, grants certain persons affiliated with the unit immunity from liability for good faith conduct under applicable state laws, and provides for attorney general representation of such a person on request;
 - extends to certain judicial employees the applicability of confidentiality protections for home address information on county voter registration lists, in local property tax appraisal records, and on driver's licenses and exceptions to required disclosure under state public information law for certain personal information;
 - provides for a county clerk or district clerk to redact from a website certain personal information excepted from disclosure under state public information law on request of the person to whom the information relates;
 - classifies a federal judge who resides in Texas as an "at-risk individual" for purposes of provisions relating to the protection of personal identifying information of such individuals in the judicial branch;
 - establishes that an arrest warrant issued for a child and a complaint or affidavit on which such a warrant is based are confidential and limits disclosure of those documents;

- requires the State Bar of Texas to credit an attorney serving as a state official appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate with meeting applicable continuing legal education requirements;
- extends to all counties the authorization to construct, enlarge, equip, and operate a parking lot or parking garage adjacent to or near the county courthouse; and
- enhances the penalty for harassment committed against court employees or judges.

The bill takes effect December 4, 2025, except as otherwise provided by the bill.

House Bill 18

Effective: 12-4-25

House Author: Shaheen et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa, Adam et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 18 amends the Government Code to impose restrictions on certain political contributions and expenditures with respect to a member of the legislature who intentionally breaks quorum by leaving the state. The bill prohibits a member of the legislature or a specific-purpose committee or legislative caucus supporting or assisting the member from knowingly doing the following during such an impending absence:

- accepting political contributions that in the aggregate from a single person exceed the per diem set by the Texas Ethics Commission for each day of a regular or special legislative session; and
- making a political expenditure for travel, food, or lodging expenses in connection with the member's impending absence.

The bill subjects a person who accepts a political contribution or makes a political expenditure in violation of the bill's provisions to a civil penalty in an amount capped at \$5,000.

House Bill 20

Effective: 12-4-25

House Author: Darby et al.

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

House Bill 20 amends the Government Code, Penal Code, and Civil Practice and Remedies Code to set out provisions regarding a designation program for disaster relief nonprofit organizations and financial institutions. The bill also expands the conduct that constitutes a state jail felony theft offense of unlawfully appropriating property with intent to deprive the owner of property to include conduct wherein property of a certain value was stolen in a disaster area and came into the actor's custody, possession, or control by virtue of the actor's status or purported status as a disaster volunteer, creates the offense of malicious solicitation of a disaster victim or for disaster response or recovery, and makes a person who engages in malicious solicitation during a disaster liable to the donee on whose behalf the payment was collected, the donee's estate, the donor from whom the payment was solicited, or the donor's estate.

House Bill 23

Effective: 1-1-26

House Author: Harless et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 23 amends the Tax Code to exempt from all property taxation all real and personal property in Harris County that is owned by a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, and held for use in promoting agriculture, supporting youth, and providing educational support in the community. However, the bill expressly does not exempt from property taxation any interest in real or personal property of a for-profit lessee of property for which such a nonprofit corporation is entitled to the exemption under the bill's provisions.

House Bill 25

House Author: Shofner et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall et al.

Effective: 12-4-25

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 25 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a pharmacist to dispense ivermectin without a prescription, in accordance with procedures or protocols issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. The bill establishes that a pharmacist acting in a reasonably prudent manner is not criminally or civilly liable or subject to professional disciplinary action for dispensing ivermectin in accordance with the bill.

House Bill 26

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 12-4-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 26 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a sheriff or constable of Harris County to enter into a contract with a local government, a property owners' association, or an owner of land to provide law enforcement services in the sheriff's county or the constable's precinct as follows:

- in and near the area managed or regulated by the local government or the association or the area owned by the owner; and
- to the persons residing in or visiting such an area.

The bill prohibits the commissioners court of the county from prohibiting or otherwise restricting the sheriff or constable from entering into such a contract and expressly authorizes the sheriff or constable to enter into the contract and determine the terms of the contract, regardless of whether the commissioners court approves of the contract or the terms.

House Bill 192

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Effective: 12-4-25

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 192 amends the Local Government Code to expand the conditions under which Harris County is required to hold an election for the reduction of funding or resources for certain primary law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the bill prohibits Harris County from doing the following:

- transferring money appropriated to the office of sheriff or constable to the county's general revenue fund or any other county account;
- prohibiting the office of sheriff or constable from spending money appropriated to the office for any lawful purpose; or
- prohibiting or otherwise restricting the use of appropriated money by the sheriff or constable for a lawful purpose, if the county auditor or county treasurer determines that the money is available to the respective office.

The bill also sets out certain restrictions on actions taken by the Harris County Commissioners Court in relation to money received under a contract for law enforcement services entered into by a constable or sheriff of the county with a local government, property owners' association, or landowner as authorized under state law.

Senate Bill 1

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

Effective: 9-5-25

Senate Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding,
Select

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

Senate Bill 1, the Heaven's 27 Camp Safety Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to set out provisions relating to campground safety and youth camp safety. The bill's campground safety provisions

require campground operators to install emergency rooftop access ladders on all cabins located within a floodplain and to develop an emergency evacuation plan for certain natural disasters. Furthermore, the bill establishes heightened safety provisions applicable to youth camps, including provisions that include requirements for youth camp operators relating to the development of procedures for responding to additional scenarios in youth camp emergency plans and for communicating with emergency services personnel and other applicable individuals, the ability to receive and provide emergency alerts at the camp, and safety training and orientation requirements for staff members and campers, respectively. Additionally, the bill prohibits the licensure of certain youth camps that operate cabins located within a floodplain, requires youth camp license holders to submit a renewal application after making certain changes to the camp's boundaries or cabins, and provides for the creation of an online youth camp registry.

Senate Bill 3

Effective: 9-5-25

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Sponsor: Wilson et al.

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

Senate Bill 3 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to identify each area in a flash flood-prone area that has a history of consistent or severe flooding and, based on that history and any factor the TWDB considers relevant, warrants the installation, maintenance, and operation of one or more outdoor warning sirens. For each identified area, the appropriate municipality or county must install, maintain, and operate one or more outdoor warning sirens, except that an outdoor warning siren is not required for an area in which a governmental entity already maintains and operates such a siren that meets the best management practices and guidance adopted by the TWDB. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities to jointly install, maintain, or operate an outdoor warning siren; requires regular testing of the functionality of an outdoor warning siren in a flash flood-prone area; and requires the TWDB to adopt rules and procedures to implement the bill's outdoor warning siren requirements, including guidance that a siren be equipped with a backup power source that is different from the siren's primary power source. The bill prohibits the TWDB from approving financial assistance, other than financial assistance for an outdoor warning siren, for a county or municipality until the county or municipality certifies to the TWDB that it is in compliance with the bill.

Senate Bill 3 amends the Government Code to require the governor's office to establish a grant program to assist municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities with covering the costs of installing outdoor warning sirens as required by the bill. The bill sets out provisions relating to the administration of the program, including an authorization for the governor to delegate that administration to a state agency.

Senate Bill 5

Effective: 9-18-25

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Sponsor: Bonnen et al.

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

Senate Bill 5 makes supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and preparedness and gives direction and adjustment authority regarding those appropriations. Accordingly, the bill does the following:

- appropriates the following amounts from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), otherwise known as the Rainy Day Fund, to the Trusteed Programs within the governor's office for the two-year period beginning on the bill's effective date to be used for the stated purposes:
 - \$200,000,000 to be used to match federal money received related to disaster response, relief, and recovery and for the disaster needs of the state in a manner consistent with Strategy A.1.1, Disaster Funds, as listed in Chapter 1170 (H.B. 1), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (the General Appropriations Act), and Chapter 1185 (S.B. 1), Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025 (the General Appropriations Act);

- \$50,000,000 to be used for the purpose of making grants to assist counties, municipalities, and other local governments operating within Bandera, Bexar, Burnet, Caldwell, Coke, Comal, Concho, Edwards, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Real, Reeves, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, Uvalde, or Williamson County, as provided by the governor's declaration of disaster on July 4, 2025, regarding a heavy rainfall and flooding event and the subsequent amendments to that declaration, in establishing and implementing a system of flood warning sirens and flood gauges and purchasing other related equipment; and
- \$28,000,000 to be used for the purpose of providing disaster preparedness grants for enhanced atmospheric measurement and modeling techniques to improve meteorological forecasting, enhance weather intelligence and forecasting accuracy, and improve flood management and timeliness of flood warnings; and
- appropriates \$2,594,265 from the ESF for use during the two-year period beginning on the bill's effective date and \$2,484,726 from the general revenue fund for use during the 2027 state fiscal year to the Department of State Health Services to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 1, 89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2025, relating to campground and youth camp safety.

Senate Bill 8

Effective: 12-4-25

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Orr et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 8 amends the Government Code to require a political subdivision or state agency to designate each multiple-occupancy private space in a building the political subdivision or state agency owns, operates, or controls for use only by individuals of one sex and to take every reasonable step to ensure an individual whose sex is opposite to the sex designated for such a multiple-occupancy private space does not enter the private space and to provide for the civil liability for a political subdivision or state agency that violates the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 8 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish that a person, including an entity, attorney, or law firm, who seeks declaratory or injunctive relief to prevent the state, a political subdivision of the state, a governmental entity, a public official, or any other person in Texas from bringing an action to enforce a statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or other law that regulates access to certain spaces based on an individual's sex in any state or federal court, or who represents a litigant seeking such relief in any state or federal court, is jointly and severally liable to pay the costs and reasonable attorney's fees of the prevailing party, including the costs and reasonable attorney's fees the prevailing party incurs in the party's efforts to recover costs and fees.

Senate Bill 11

Effective: 12-4-25

Senate Author: Parker et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Cook et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 11 amends the Penal Code to establish a general affirmative defense to prosecution for victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution who engaged in the applicable conduct as a direct result of being caused to engage in the conduct through means of certain force, fraud, or coercion. The bill prescribes the limited conditions under which the affirmative defense applies.

Senate Bill 12

Effective: 12-4-25

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Shaheen et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 12 amends the Election Code and Government Code to provide for the authority of the attorney general to prosecute criminal election offenses by, among other provisions, establishing that the

attorney general has jurisdiction to prosecute and is required to represent the state in the prosecution of such an offense.

Senate Bill 14

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil

Effective: 1-1-26

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 14 amends the Local Government Code to require a political subdivision to provide a credit against water and wastewater impact fees otherwise assessed to a development to a builder or developer for the construction, contribution, or dedication of an eligible facility, system, or product that results in water reuse, conservation, or savings. The bill provides for the eligibility for such a credit and further requires a political subdivision that provides such a credit to establish procedures for calculating and applying the credits in a fair and consistent manner and for reviewing and approving credits.

Senate Bill 16

Senate Author: West et al.

House Sponsor: Dyson et al.

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 16 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to create the felony offenses of real property theft and real property fraud with penalty scales based on the market value of the real property or the value of the benefit received. The bill provides additional penalty increases for the offenses, sets the statute of limitations period at 10 years, and sets out criminal court procedures for the offenses, including restitution for real property theft.

Senate Bill 16 amends the Government Code, Local Government Code, and Property Code to revise provisions relating to the filing and recording of documents concerning real property for the purpose of strengthening fraud prevention measures. Effective January 1, 2026, the bill requires a county clerk, if an individual advises the county clerk that a document or instrument that purports to convey an interest in real property is fraudulent, to provide to law enforcement notice of the allegation and the applicable photo identification information provided to the county clerk by the person who presented the document or instrument for filing. Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect December 4, 2025.

Senate Bill 18

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Gerdes et al.

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

Senate Bill 18 amends the Water Code to authorize a qualified local sponsor to do the following without obtaining a permit:

- construct or maintain on property owned or controlled by the sponsor a dam or reservoir with normal storage of not more than 200 acre-feet of water for the purposes of erosion, floodwater, and sediment control; and
- divert water from the dam or reservoir as needed in order to repair, maintain, or rehabilitate the impoundment and associated works of improvement so as to maintain the operational integrity and purpose of the dam or reservoir.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "On July 9, 2025, and August 15, 2025, I called special sessions in response to the tragic July 4th flooding. Both times, I designated legislation to 'improve early warning systems,' 'strengthen emergency communications,' and similar preparedness and response measures 'in flood-prone areas.' Senate Bill No. 18 does not concern emergency measures in areas like Kerrville. Instead, it exempts certain entities from the requirement to obtain a TCEQ permit to construct a dam or reservoir, duplicating a bill that failed to pass during the 89th Regular Session.

"The Texas Constitution provides that the Governor, when calling a special session, 'shall state specifically the purpose for which the Legislature is convened' in a proclamation. TEX. CONST. art. IV, § 8(a). It also

provides that 'there shall be no legislation upon subjects other than those designated in the proclamation of the Governor calling such session.' *Id.* art. III, § 40. These provisions are 'clearly mandatory, and are limitations upon the authority of the legislature in special session.' *Manor Casino v. State*, 34 S.W. 769, 771 (Tex. Civ. App. 1896).

"Because any legislation 'not embraced in the proclamation' is 'passed in violation of the constitution, and is, therefore, void,' *ibid.*, I hereby disapprove of this bill. A special session is not an open invitation to revive draft legislation that died during the regular. *See Ex parte Wolters*, 144 S.W. 531, 535-536 (Tex. Crim. App. 1911) (opinion of Davidson, P.J.); *id.* at 538 (opinion of Harper, J., concurring)."

Senate Bill 54

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Shaheen

Effective: 12-4-25

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 54 repeals the Election Code provision, as effective September 1, 2025, establishing that a voter's registration takes effect immediately upon the registrar's receipt of a notice of the voter's change of address submitted under applicable Election Code provisions if the voter changes residence within the same county as the voter's current registration address.

VETOES BY THE GOVERNOR

REGULAR SESSION, 2025

[House Bill 305](#)

House Author: Hayes

Senate Sponsor: Cook et al.

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 305 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish that, in a jurisdiction subject to the requirement for criminal proceedings in a case in which a criminal defendant has been restored to competency to resume not later than the 14th day after the date the court determines that the defendant's competency has been restored, a pretrial hearing on any evidentiary or procedural issue that must be resolved for the proceedings to proceed to trial or for another resolution must be conducted not later than the 14th day after such date.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 305 laudably seeks to promote the timely resolution of criminal cases following a defendant's restoration to competency but does so by imposing a rigid procedural mandate that could create legal problems. Requiring that counsel raise within 14 days 'any' evidentiary or procedural issue necessary for the case to proceed to trial could result in forfeiture or waiver of numerous issues by either side. It may prove impossible to wrangle the entire universe of trial-related issues in this artificially compressed timeline. I therefore disapprove of this bill because it would inadvertently transform a provision obligating courts to resume proceedings into a rule with new pitfalls that could harm both the state and the defense. I look forward to working with the bill authors to develop a more careful approach in the future."

[House Bill 353](#)

House Author: Patterson

Senate Sponsor: Hagenbuch

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 353 amends the Penal Code to create the Class A misdemeanor offense of trespass on or near school or day-care center property for a person who enters or remains on such property or on public property, including a street, highway, alley, public park, or sidewalk, located within 250 feet of such property under the following circumstances:

- the person does not have a reason or relationship for entering or remaining on the property that involves custody of or responsibility for a student enrolled at the school or day-care center or written permission from an authorized representative of the school or day-care center; and
- the person receives a reasonable request to depart by an administrator, educator, or security personnel officer employed by the school or day-care center and fails to depart.

If conduct constituting this offense also constitutes another Penal Code offense, the actor may be prosecuted for either offense or both offenses.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Keeping Texas children safe is one of the most sacred responsibilities of our government. The adult lurking along the playground fence seeking to lure a child away should be kept at bay. But this law does not target him.

"Instead, this bill would make a criminal of anyone merely present near a school or day-care center—even absent an unlawful or threatening act. In fact, the bill sweeps more broadly than that. The criminal prohibition applies to 'any grounds or buildings on which an activity sponsored by the school or day-care center is being conducted' and any 'public property located within 250 feet.'

"The problem? Schools sponsor activities on the Capitol Grounds—and in other places—daily. By the bill's plain terms, the tourist inspecting the Heroes of the Alamo Monument, an Austin resident listening to an orchestra performance in the rotunda, and the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House arriving for

work—all of them must obtain written consent or court criminal liability. That is surely not what legislators intended. But it is what they wrote down.

"I look forward to working with the author to draft a more tailored approach to protecting Texas children—without criminalizing ordinary conduct in public spaces. Until then, Texas law already contains a criminal trespass offense that allows school officials and law enforcement to remove individuals who do not belong on school grounds or who pose a risk to student safety."

House Bill 413

House Author: Jones, Jolanda et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: Vetoes

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 413 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to prohibit the detention of a defendant charged with a Class B misdemeanor or higher category of offense in jail pending trial for a cumulative period that exceeds the maximum term of confinement that may be imposed on conviction of that offense when considering the maximum credit toward the defendant's sentence to which the defendant would be entitled to earn as a result of the defendant's conduct while confined in the county jail of the county in which the offense occurred. The bill excludes from the prohibition a defendant who is being evaluated for competency or subject to an order of commitment issued after the defendant is found incompetent to stand trial.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 413 is a common-sense reform that ensures pre-trial detention does not become a form of punishment and will save taxpayers money. However, the bill fails to specify that the method of release must provide sufficient sureties to ensure public safety and appearance at trial. The protection of liberty must be balanced with clarity, accountability, and public safety. This bill fails to strike that balance and lacks critical safeguards against abuse. I look forward to considering these reforms in the future, with certain clarifications."

House Bill 449

House Author: González, Mary et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: Vetoes

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 449 amends the Penal Code to replace the unlawful production or distribution of sexually explicit deep fake videos with the unlawful production or distribution of sexually explicit deep fake media, as defined by the bill, as the conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The increased prevalence of sexually explicit deep fake media is alarming. However, the author of this bill requested it be vetoed because other, more comprehensive approaches to this issue were passed this session and signed into law, like Senate Bill No. 441."

House Bill 500

House Author: Bonnen

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

Effective: See below

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 500 makes supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and gives direction and transfer and other adjustment authority with respect to the General Appropriations Act and supplemental appropriations act adopted by the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session.

House Bill 500 reduces appropriations from the general revenue fund by roughly \$277 million and makes supplemental appropriations for the 2024-2025 state fiscal biennium totaling approximately \$18.1 billion, of which \$13.259 billion is from the general revenue fund; \$380 million is from federal funds; \$57 million is from general revenue dedicated accounts; and \$989 million is from various other sources. In addition, the bill appropriates slightly more than \$3.41 billion in unexpended and unobligated balances remaining from various appropriations made by the 87th and 88th Texas Legislatures.

As part of the appropriations outlined above, House Bill 500 appropriates over \$2.5 billion to the Texas Water Development Board to be used for water infrastructure and supply projects and over \$124

million to the Texas A&M Forest Service for the purpose of responding to natural disasters. Moreover, the bill sets the sum-certain appropriation to the Foundation School Program for state fiscal year 2025 at \$30,924,285,550.

Except for Section 1.14(a)(2), which does not take effect due to the governor's line-item veto, House Bill 500 takes effect June 22, 2025.

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 1.14(a)(2): *"Increasing our physical and cyber security is a priority for Texas. However, this funding is duplicative of other state initiatives including the Texas Cyber Command and would create an additional SCIF where others are currently operational. The Legislature can reconsider this item next session if the federal partner expresses direct support for such a project."*

House Bill 705

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 705 amends the Occupations Code to enact and enter into the cosmetology licensure compact to facilitate the interstate practice and regulation of cosmetology with the goals of improving public access to, and the safety of, cosmetology services and reducing unnecessary burdens related to cosmetology licensure. The bill sets out the compact's provisions and designates the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as the compact administrator for Texas.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Enacting and enforcing laws are not just things that sovereign governments do; it is the very embodiment of sovereign power. *Sovereign Power*, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (12th ed.). The 'power to create and enforce a legal code' is the most easily identified example of a State's sovereign interest. *Alfred L. Snapp & Son, Inc. v. Puerto Rico*, 458 U.S. 592, 601 (1982). House Bill No. 705 would cede Texas's sovereign power by subjecting it to a Cosmetology Licensure Compact comprised of other States. Under this proposal, Texas could 'enact and enforce laws' only if they are 'not inconsistent with' the Compact. The Compact Commission, meanwhile, could pass rules that 'shall have the force of law' in Texas, even though its Executive Committee might not include a Texan.

"While I appreciate that the bill's authors added language that attempts to protect state sovereignty, there is no guarantee that the Compact Commission will respect that language, or that it will refrain from making changes in the future that hurt Texans. That, of course, is the problem with giving away Texas sovereignty to others today—no one knows what they will do tomorrow. This cession of state power is also unnecessary. Out-of-state cosmetology licensees may already seek reciprocal licensing here. This session, the Legislature made it even easier for many practitioners by granting provisional licenses in Senate Bill No. 1818. If more changes are needed to better align Texas practice with national standards, there is a way to do that without surrendering state power: Pick and choose which rules to put in state law.

"Texans welcome good ideas, no matter where they come from. But in our republican form of government, Texas lawmakers must adopt the rules that will bind Texans. We should not ask some other sovereign—or a conglomerate of them—to do the lawmaking for us."

House Bill 1690

House Author: Gerdes

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 1690 amends the Water Code to require a groundwater conservation district to adopt rules requiring that certain notice be given for an application for a permit for the transfer of groundwater out of the district.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "In a session focused on securing water resources, House Bill No. 1690 sends the opposite message. This bill would increase the regulatory hurdles to convey water resources. And it would do so needlessly. State law already authorizes groundwater conservation districts to adopt rules necessary to manage groundwater resources, including rules for public notice and hearings on groundwater permits. TEX. WATER CODE §§ 36.101, 36.114. This bill, however, would *require* a groundwater district to adopt rules requiring that notice be given about all groundwater transfers outside of the district. The

management of groundwater resources varies across the State. House Bill No. 1690 creates a one-size-fits-all approach, which may not be appropriate for all areas."

House Bill 2243

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

Effective: Vetoes

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Bill 2243 amends the Education Code to establish the Texas Commission on Teacher Job Satisfaction and Retention to develop and make recommendations for improving teacher job satisfaction and retention. The bill provides for the commission's composition and operation and requires the commission to prepare and deliver a report of recommended statutory changes to the governor and the legislature.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 2243 rightly seeks to address the issue of teacher satisfaction and retention and to build upon the valuable work of the Teacher Vacancy Task Force that I convened in 2022. However, the bill would allow a newly-created Commission to hire staff and legal counsel and procure goods and consulting services without adhering to competitive bidding rules or the Professional Services Procurement Act—both important safeguards for the use of taxpayer dollars.

"To complicate matters, the bill would allow the Commission to do all this work in the executive branch while made up of members of the legislative branch. Our Constitution creates a government of 'three distinct departments' with no overlap, except where expressly authorized. TEX. CONST. art. II, § 1. All executive power is vested in an Executive Department comprised of six officers. *Id.* art. IV, §§ 1, 16, 21, 22; *id.* art. III, § 49; *id.* art. XIV, § 1. As 'Chief Executive Officer,' the Governor may oversee other officers of the Executive Department, *Day Land & Cattle Co. v. State*, 4 S.W. 865, 867 (Tex. 1887), and must exercise the residuary of executive power not lodged with them, *Collins v. Yellen*, 594 U.S. 220, 250–256 (2021). That includes the duty to superintend the exercise of executive power by those who act as agents with delegated authority. *Abbott v. Harris County*, 672 S.W.3d 1, 18 (Tex. 2023).

"It is unconstitutional for a different branch, by appointment or otherwise, to superintend the exercise of executive power. TEX. CONST. art. II, § 1; *cf. id.* art. IV, § 12. The 'notion that the Constitution allows one branch to install non-officer employees in another branch would come as a surprise to many.' *Donziger v. United States*, 143 S. Ct. 868, 870 (2023) (Gorsuch, J., dissenting from denial of certiorari). It is also unconstitutional for an inferior executive to superintend agents of the Chief Executive. TEX. CONST. art. IV, § 1.

"The stated purpose of this bill can be achieved without expending additional state funding, removing important contracting requirements, or transgressing the Texas Constitution's separation of powers. I will work with the author and sponsor to convene a task force this interim to streamline teachers' responsibilities and to repeal unnecessary administrative burdens."

House Bill 2520

House Author: Johnson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

Effective: Vetoes

House Committee: Delivery of Government Efficiency

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2520 amends the Government Code to designate a board of managers appointed by the commissioner of education as a governmental body subject to state open meetings law and to require a meeting notice provided by a governmental body under that law to include a meeting agenda containing the subjects to be considered in the open and closed portions of the meeting. The bill also subjects certain deliberations concerning operational issues that generally impact a class or group of employees to the law.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 2520 is framed as subjecting a TEA-appointed board of managers to the Open Meetings Act. But that is already the law. Boards of managers are directed to 'exercise the powers and duties of a school district's board of trustees.' TEX. EDUC. CODE § 39A.004. And one duty of a school district's board of trustees is to comply with the Open Meetings Act. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.001(3) (E). If a board of managers is not doing its duty, the answer is not to duplicate laws already on the books."

House Bill 3120**House Author:** Kitzman et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Huffman**Effective:** Vetoed**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3120 amends the Government Code and Local Government Code to require the owner or operator of a residential immigrant or refugee child detention facility to enter into a memorandum of understanding that requires the facility to do the following:

- report illness at the facility to the appropriate local health authority;
- provide a description of the facility's methods for preventing illness, an emergency evacuation plan, and quarterly compliance and safety inspection reports; and
- provide monthly facility occupancy records and a quarterly summary of certain incident reports.

The bill provides for the duty of a facility owner or operator to conduct criminal history background checks on facility personnel if the facility receives certain state funding and sets out provisions entitling such an owner or operator to obtain certain criminal history record information that may be used only to evaluate an applicant for employment with, or a current or former employee of, the facility.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 3120 is a well-intentioned effort to make child detention facilities, and the communities around them, safer. To that end, the bill would direct facility owners to seek a Memorandum of Understanding with a local government that includes plans for reporting and preventing illness, conducting quarterly inspections, safely evacuating residents, and reporting periodically on occupancy and facility incidents. This all seems like good policy. If a fire breaks out, firefighters should know how many people they need to search for inside.

"But these sorts of arrangements should be things of the past. While making the border more secure than ever before, President Trump has also reduced the trafficking of unaccompanied minors. Perhaps that is why the Department of Justice last month filed a motion in federal district court seeking to dissolve a 1997 settlement agreement governing child detention facilities. Given all this change, now is not the right time to adjust the rules governing such facilities. I look forward to revisiting this issue with a clearer picture of available options in the future."

House Bill 4530**House Author:** Romero et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**Effective:** Vetoed**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Bill 4530 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code and Water Code to revise provisions relating to the Texas Water Trust and the Texas Water Bank, including requiring that the dedication of any groundwater rights placed in trust be reviewed and approved by the Texas Water Development Board.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The Texas Water Development Board serves a vital purpose in overseeing our State's future water supply, including managing the Texas Water Trust to support environmental needs interconnected with surface water. House Bill No. 4530 would allow private individuals to dedicate their groundwater to the Trust. But it fails to explain *how* groundwater percolating below the surface of the Earth is to be transferred to a surface water trust focused on instream flows, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and bay and estuary inflows. It also fails to explain how to accurately measure the amount of groundwater added to the Trust. While I support individual liberty—including the liberty to alienate private property rights—this bill does not consider the means necessary to achieve its goal. Therefore, I disapprove of this bill."

House Bill 4885**House Author:** Moody**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**Effective:** Vetoed**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 4885 amends the Family Code to expand the entities to whom confidential facility records and information concerning a child may be disclosed under the juvenile justice code and that may inspect or copy confidential records of a juvenile probation department, prosecuting attorney, juvenile court, or clerk

of court relating to a child who is a party to a proceeding under that code to include a managed assigned counsel program responsible for appointing an attorney to represent the child in a juvenile delinquency proceeding to determine indigence or fulfill the program's duties in appointing and overseeing appointed counsel once a request for appointed counsel is made.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "I veto this bill."

House Bill 5671

House Author: Kerwin

Senate Sponsor: King

Effective: Vetoed

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5671 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to director eligibility and bond authority for the Johnson County Special Utility District and repeals provisions that limit the district's powers.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "This session I signed laws that secure water resources for generations of Texans to come so that our great State can continue to thrive. As with any government investment, we must make sure it is properly managed with sufficient oversight. House Bill No. 5671 does the opposite. This bill removes TCEQ approval of water and wastewater construction projects that the Johnson County Special Utility District funds with bond debt. It is fiscally inefficient for the District to increase local government debt to build infrastructure without any input from TCEQ, which is charged with ensuring those investments, once constructed, meet legal drinking water and wastewater standards. For these reasons, I disapprove of this bill."

Senate Bill 1

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Effective: See below

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, as passed by the legislature, appropriated approximately \$338 billion for the 2026-2027 state fiscal biennium. However, following the regular session, the governor exercised his line-item veto authority to veto Section 17.30 of Article IX of the bill, which appropriated \$60 million from the general revenue fund in fiscal year 2027 to administer the implementation of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program for that fiscal year. The governor also vetoed the following provisions of Article IX:

- Section 18.30, a contingency rider for House Bill 5333, which did not pass;
- Section 18.37, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 16, which did not pass;
- Section 18.44, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 249, which did not pass;
- Section 18.58, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 1361, which did not pass;
- Section 18.60, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 1413, which did not pass; and
- Section 18.77, a contingency rider for Senate Bill 2487, which did not pass.

As a result of the line-item vetoes, roughly \$337.9 billion of the amount originally appropriated ultimately became law as part of the biennial state budget, of which \$175 billion is for state fiscal year 2026 and \$162 billion is for state fiscal year 2027. These amounts include all funding sources except interagency contracts. (Figures and percentages may not add up due to rounding.)

Of the total amount appropriated, more than \$157.2 billion, or roughly 46.5 percent, is derived from general revenue, both dedicated and undedicated. Another \$100.9 billion, or 29.9 percent, represents federal funding, while the remaining \$79.8 billion, or 23.6 percent, comes from other funds. The \$337.9 billion budgetary total for the 2026-2027 biennium represents an increase of roughly 5.5 percent compared to the budget approved for the 2024-2025 biennium.

Legislative appropriations for major governmental functions and services for the 2026-2027 biennium compared with appropriations for the 2024-2025 biennium are as follows, listed by budgetary article:

- Article I - General Government receives \$11.5 billion, an increase of 5.8 percent;

- Article II - Health and Human Services receives \$105.6 billion, an increase of 3.33 percent;
- Article III - Agencies of Education receives \$126.3 billion, an increase of 27.03 percent;
- Article IV - The Judiciary receives \$1.23 billion, an increase of 1.37 percent;
- Article V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice receives \$19.8 billion, an increase of 4.59 percent;
- Article VI - Natural Resources receives \$7.9 billion, a decrease of 7.78 percent;
- Article VII - Business and Economic Development receives \$48.5 billion, an increase of 5.68 percent;
- Article VIII - Regulatory receives \$6.7 billion, an increase of 625.53 percent, which includes \$5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund;
- Article IX - General Provisions receives \$10 billion, a decrease of 69.43 percent; and
- Article X - The Legislature receives \$540.3 million, an increase of 10.31 percent.

As part of these appropriations, the bill provides for \$51 billion to be used for the purpose of maintaining and providing new property tax cuts. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$8.5 billion to be used for the implementation of House Bill 2, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, which would increase state public education funding, including extra money for teacher pay raises and safety requirements.

Except for Sections 17.30, 18.30, 18.37, 18.44, 18.58, 18.60, and 18.77 of Article IX, which do not take effect due to the governor's vetoes, Senate Bill 1 takes effect September 1, 2025.

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 17.30 of Article IX: "*As the contingency portions of this rider detail, there is significant uncertainty regarding federal matching rates for this and other similar programs. Once there is more clarity about the long-term fiscal ramifications for creating such a program, the Legislature can reconsider funding this item.*"

Governor's Reason for Veto of Sections 18.30, 18.37, 18.44, 18.58, 18.60, and 18.77 of Article IX: "*This veto deletes a contingency rider for legislation that did not pass.*"

Senate Bill 3

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: King

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 3 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise statutory provisions regulating the manufacture, distribution, and sale of consumable hemp products and to prohibit a consumable hemp product that contains any amount of a cannabinoid other than cannabidiol or cannabigerol from being sold at retail or otherwise introduced into commerce in Texas.

Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- prohibits a consumable hemp product manufacturer license holder from manufacturing such a prohibited consumable hemp product and provides for an initial \$10,000 licensing fee and additional license renewal requirements;
- revises testing requirements of consumable hemp products by requiring certain existing testing methods to be applied to all applicable products and by providing for the reporting of certain test results;
- provides for an annual \$20,000 registration fee for each location at which consumable hemp products are sold and conditions the sale of those products on consenting to physical inspections of the premises and other compliance measures;
- sets out requirements regarding consumable hemp product registration and creates a criminal offense for a person who distributes, delivers, sells, purchases, possesses, or uses an unregistered consumable hemp product;
- prohibits the sale of consumable hemp products that contain any artificial or synthetic cannabinoids or that contain or are mixed with alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, kratom, kava, or mushrooms;
- revises and subsequently expands the packaging and labeling requirements for consumable hemp products;
- creates felony and misdemeanor offenses relating to the manufacture, delivery, distribution, packaging, marketing, sale, and possession of consumable hemp products, including the sale of products near schools or to minors;

- provides for administrative enforcement by the Department of State Health Services of statutory provisions relating to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of consumable hemp products; and
- makes those statutory provisions inapplicable to cannabis regulated under the Texas Compassionate-Use Act and to certain hemp research.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texans on each side of the Senate Bill 3 debate raise serious concerns. But one thing is clear—to ensure the highest level of safety for minors, as well as for adults, who obtain a product more dangerous than what they expected, Texas must strongly regulate hemp, and it must do so *immediately*.

"Senate Bill 3 is well-intentioned. But it would never go into effect because of valid constitutional challenges. Litigation challenging the bill has already been filed, and the legal defects in the bill are undeniable. If I were to allow Senate Bill 3 to become law, its enforcement would be enjoined for years, leaving existing abuses unaddressed. Texas cannot afford to wait.

"This conclusion is not speculative. The only other State to attempt a ban like Senate Bill 3 is Arkansas. In 2023, Arkansas enacted Senate Bill 358, which (like this bill) would have criminalized hemp products that Congress expressly legalized in the 2018 Farm Bill. That federal law converted hemp and hemp products from contraband to lawful commodities. The Arkansas law was challenged, and a federal court swiftly halted it in its entirety, finding it was likely preempted by federal statutes and that its criminal provisions were likely unconstitutionally vague. *See Bio Gen, LLC v. Sanders*, 690 F. Supp. 3d 927, 941 (E.D. Ark. 2023). The result in Arkansas? Their law has sat dormant, meaningless, having no effect for nearly two years while further legal proceedings play out. That result must be avoided in Texas.

"As a former Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General of Texas, I know that Senate Bill 3 is vulnerable to the same legal attacks. At worst, Senate Bill 3 would be permanently invalidated by the courts; at best, its implementation would be delayed for years as the case winds its way through the legal system. We can do better.

"What is the legal problem with Senate Bill 3? As passed, it would prohibit *anyone* from manufacturing, distributing, or possessing consumable hemp products that contain 'any amount of a cannabinoid other than' CBD or CBG—regardless of whether those products fall under the federally-mandated THC threshold. It therefore criminalizes what Congress expressly legalized and puts federal and state law on a collision course: Today, federal law promises Texas farmers that they may grow hemp without fear of criminal liability. But under Senate Bill 3, the seeds used to grow those plants are 'consumable products'—currently available in stores—and they naturally contain cannabinoids. What's a Texas farmer to do? Trust the federal government's promise, or fear criminal liability from the State?

"Senate Bill 3 not only invites potential criminal entrapment for Texas farmers. It would also make felons of other innocent Texans, like pharmacists stocking health supplements, veterans treating PTSD, and parents caring for epileptic children with FDA-approved medications. Possessing 'any amount'—even *trace* amounts—of THC results in criminal penalties, despite federal law saying 'No State ... shall prohibit' the transportation of hemp products.

"In addition to the preemption issues that doomed the Arkansas law, Senate Bill 3 could also be an unconstitutional taking of private property. There are many bad actors who have abused the authority granted to them by both the federal government and the State of Texas. But there are also many Texans conducting business responsibly, who invested millions of dollars planting fields or opening up retail stores in reliance on laws making hemp a lawful product to 'be sold at retail or otherwise introduced into commerce.' TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 443.152(a). While States may restrict the use of dangerous contraband, it is a different thing entirely to change the rules in the middle of the game, thereby interfering with 'distinct investment-backed expectations' in property. *Penn Cent. Transp. Co. v. City of New York*, 438 U.S. 104, 124 (1978).

"Proponents of Senate Bill 3 have acknowledged this likelihood of litigation but may not have fully processed the consequences. Just two days ago, a group of plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in Travis County District Court arguing that Senate Bill 3 is preempted by federal law and would be an unconstitutional taking in violation of both the federal and state Constitutions. They assert that the bill will 'turn farmers, business owners, and consumers into criminals, despite the protections for hemp products conferred by federal law.'

See Original Pet., *CBD Pros USA v. Texas*, No. ____ (___ Dist. Ct., Travis County, Tex., filed June 20, 2025). They are right.

"Allowing Senate Bill 3 to become law—knowing that it faces a lengthy battle that will render it dead on arrival in court—would hinder rather than help us solve the public safety issues this bill seeks to contain. The problem THC poses for our communities is real. Earlier this year, a 15-year-old in Houston took a large amount of hemp gummies. When he suffered a 'bad reaction,' he called 911, then shot his mother and his sister repeatedly. Just this month, two teens distributed hemp products at a graduation party in Prosper. The celebration ended early when seven high school students had to be rushed to a hospital.

"How did we get here?

"In 2019, after the federal government passed the Farm Bill, legislators passed House Bill 1325, fixating on the *cannabis sativa* plant. Any plant variant with more than 0.3% THC by dry weight was deemed (illegal) marijuana; any variant with less was deemed (legal) hemp available to anyone, regardless of age. As it turned out, the smaller amount of THC in hemp could be multiplied and modified to make products stronger and more addictive than marijuana. Bad actors did what bad actors do—they took advantage. They engineered products with dangerously high concentrations. And they marketed lollipops and other products designed to mimic candies popular with kids. The current market is dangerously under-regulated, and children are paying the price. If Senate Bill 3 is swiftly enjoined by a court, our children will be no safer than if no law was passed, and the problems will only grow.

"That is why I am vetoing Senate Bill 3 and calling a Special Legislative Session in July to craft a law that does as much as possible to corral the problems while also being structured so that it can go into effect this year.

"Texas must enact a regulatory framework that protects public safety, aligns with federal law, has a fully funded enforcement structure, and can take effect without delay. Legislators could consider a structure similar to the way alcohol is regulated, with strict enforcement by an agency like the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. A sample of potential regulations could include some of the following:

- Selling or providing a THC product to a minor must be punishable as a crime;
- Sales must be prohibited near schools, churches, parks, playgrounds, and other areas frequented by children;
- Packaging must be child-resistant, tamper-evident, and resealable;
- Products must not be made, packaged, or marketed in a manner attractive to children;
- Any store selling these products must have a permit and restrict access to anyone under the age of 21, with strict penalties for any retailer that fails to comply;
- Products containing THC may not contain other psychoactive substances (*e.g.*, alcohol, tobacco, kratom);
- Testing must be required at every phase of production and manufacturing, including for both plants and derivative consumable products;
- Manufacturing and processing facilities must be subject to permitting and food safety rules;
- Permit and registration fees must suffice to support robust enforcement and testing by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, in partnership with other state agencies;
- An operator's permit and warning/danger signs must be posted at any store selling these products;
- Sales must be limited to the hours between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., and prohibited on Sundays;
- The amount of THC permissible in each product must be restricted and an individual may make only a limited number of purchases in a given period of time;
- Labels must include a surgeon general-style warning, a clear disclosure of all ingredients, including the THC content, and a scannable barcode or QR code linking to test results;
- Fraudulently creating or displaying manifests or lab results must be punishable as felony offenses;
- Public consumption, consumption on the premises of any store that sells these products, and possession of an open container in a vehicle must be punishable as crimes;
- The Attorney General, district attorneys, and county attorneys must have authority to pursue violations under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act;
- Local governments must have the option to prohibit or limit stores selling these products;

- Excise taxes must be assessed on these products to fund oversight and enforcement; and
- Additional funding must be provided to ensure law enforcement have sufficient resources to vigorously enforce restrictions.

"This list, of course, is not exhaustive. But it may provide items to consider in a regulatory system that is strict, fair, and legally sustainable.

"Passing a law is not the same thing as actually solving a problem. Texas needs a bill that is enforceable and will make our communities safer *today*, rather than years from now. Next month, the Legislature will have the opportunity to address this serious issue. I look forward to working with them to ensure that we get it right."

Senate Bill 268

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Howard

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 268 amends the Occupations Code to require a state licensing entity that receives a complaint concerning a health care practitioner who holds a license issued by a different licensing entity to promptly forward a copy of the complaint to that licensing entity and to prohibit a licensing entity from taking disciplinary action based on a complaint against such a health care practitioner unless the licensing entity with which the practitioner holds a license refers the complaint back to the licensing entity that received the complaint for investigation and resolution. The bill also requires a state licensing entity that receives a complaint concerning a health care practitioner that credibly accuses the practitioner of conduct constituting an offense that resulted in death or serious bodily injury to a person to promptly forward a copy of the complaint to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "In its attempt to streamline responses to health care complaints, this bill would inadvertently raise hurdles to protecting public health and safety. Senate Bill No. 268 aims to ensure a health care complaint is handled by the right regulatory board. It would require a board to forward a complaint about a licensee to the board that issued that individual's license. That's good. But it would also prohibit the original board from taking any disciplinary action for portions of a complaint within its jurisdiction. The Medical Board, for example, should not be prohibited from issuing a cease-and-desist order for unlicensed medical practice simply because the specific practice at issue is also regulated by another board. I look forward to working with the author in the future to craft a solution that accounts for regulatory overlap and ensures no gaps in enforcement."

Senate Bill 378

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Phelan

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 378 amends the Occupations Code to prohibit a person performing a barbering or cosmetology service within the scope of an individual practitioner license or student permit from making an incision into the dermis layer of a person's skin, including for purposes of injecting a medication or other substance, or from using a device that is required under federal or state law to be ordered or prescribed by a practitioner, unless the person is also licensed or otherwise authorized by law to perform such an act.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texas should be removing barriers for small businesses and occupational licensees. Senate Bill 378 by Schwertner does just the opposite by, among other things, prohibiting a licensed cosmetologist or barber from 'making an incision into the dermis layer of a person's skin.' Barbers who nick a customer's neck during a straight razor shave should not fear the loss of their licenses. As we work to make government more efficient and less intrusive for Texans and businesses, unnecessary and overly burdensome regulations are counterproductive. Therefore, I disapprove of this bill."

Senate Bill 614**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Author:** Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Sponsor:** Leach**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 614 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize the Texas Forensic Science Commission (FSC) to review and refer to the office of capital and forensic writs cases that are dismissed by the FSC with an express referral to a previously published report that covers the same subject matter and is issued for certain FSC investigations.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As the Supreme Court of the United States recognized nearly two centuries ago, a final criminal judgment is 'binding on all the world.' *Ex parte Watkins*, 3 Pet. 193, 202-203 (1830). That is why efforts to reopen a state court judgment in habeas proceedings must be the rare exception—*i.e.*, where the convicting court manifestly lacked jurisdiction over the defendant or his offense.

"Senate Bill No. 614, however, encourages convicted criminals, defense attorneys, and state courts to embrace the notion that the writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* is merely a fifth, sixth, or seventh round of review—sometimes taken decades after defendants received the process due to them in a criminal trial and exhausted any direct appeals afforded by state law. This bill would encourage the Texas Forensic Science Commission to refer cases that have *already* been dismissed as lacking merit to the Office of Capital and Forensic Writs.

"OCFW should not be seeking to assist convicted criminals with undoing final criminal judgments based on 'the same subject matter' that TFSC already determined was baseless. That undercuts 'the State's sovereign interest in its final judgment' and its 'powerful and legitimate interest in punishing the guilty.' *Brown v. Davenport*, 596 U.S. 118, 132-133 (2022). Our laws must separate 'the meritorious needles from the growing haystack' of habeas claims, not stack it even higher. *Id.* at 132."

Senate Bill 648**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Author:** West et al.**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Sponsor:** Anchía et al.**House Committee:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development

Senate Bill 648 amends the Estates Code and Property Code to set out additional recording requirements for certain instruments concerning real property. The requirements differ depending on who files the instrument. The bill also sets out recording requirements for an affidavit of heirship concerning heirship to real property that is filed for recording by a person other than an attorney, title agent, title company, or escrow company that provides closing, settlement, or other comparable transaction services in connection with the transfer of real property, a public utility, a governmental entity, or a person acting on behalf of the attorney, agent, company, utility, or entity. The bill provides an alternative form for recording an affidavit of facts concerning the identity of a decedent's heirs for purposes of the additional requirements relating to an instrument conveying real property under the bill's provisions.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "No one disputes that title theft and deed fraud are serious problems. That is why criminal offenses and civil penalties already prohibit it under Texas law. *E.g.*, TEX. PENAL CODE ch. 31, 32; TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE ch. 12. That is also why county clerks are required to notify property owners when they have a good faith belief that a document purporting to create a lien or assert a property claim has been fraudulently filed. See TEX. GOV. CODE § 51.901.

"Although Senate Bill No. 648 seeks to strengthen protections, it does so by imposing barriers that will burden low-income Texans, rural residents, and those handling family land without legal assistance. The bill would require property owners—but only those who have not retained an attorney or title agent—to jump through additional hoops, like producing every named heir to execute an affidavit of heirship. The ability to hire a professional may help individuals navigate legal rules more easily. But it should not entitle a person to *different rules* altogether.

"I am adding this issue to a special session call so that legislators may tackle title theft and deed fraud without creating separate rules for the haves and have-nots."

Senate Bill 974

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.

House Sponsor: Turner

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 974 amends the Tax Code to authorize a public school district teacher to serve on an appraisal district's appraisal review board (ARB). The bill creates an offense for an employee or board member of an independent school district who communicates with a teacher serving as a member of an ARB with the intent to influence their decision as a member of the ARB.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Appraisal review boards serve as arbiters in the local property tax imposition process. And it is imperative that board members are free from allegations that their profession colors their judgment, especially when one of the entities that could benefit from a board decision may be a board member's employer. While the intent of Senate Bill No. 974 is well taken, we must ensure members of appraisal review boards can exercise judgment without compromise."

Senate Bill 1032

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Leach

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Education K-16

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1032 amends the Education Code to include a private or independent institution of higher education among the institutions eligible to participate in the governor's university research initiative.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The Governor's University Research Initiative was primarily intended to aid public institutions of higher education in recruiting distinguished researchers from around the world to come to Texas public universities. Senate Bill No. 1032 would expand GURI program eligibility to private institutions. That may be a worthwhile cause. But the reality is that the Legislature did not fully fund the program. I would be happy to reconsider this legislation at a future time when GURI is fully funded."

Senate Bill 1253

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

House Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Bill 1253 amends the Local Government Code to require a political subdivision to provide a credit against water and wastewater impact fees otherwise assessed to a development to a builder or developer for the construction, contribution, or dedication of a facility, system, or product that results in water reuse, conservation, or savings, including a facility, system, or product that does the following:

- reduces per service unit water consumption, supply requirements, or necessary treatment and distribution infrastructure per service unit;
- decreases the need of wastewater collection and treatment facilities per service unit;
- diminishes the demand for stormwater and drainage facilities per service unit; or
- integrates practices or technologies that achieve water efficiency, reuse, or conservation performance that exceed standard compliance requirements.

A political subdivision that provides such a credit must establish procedures for calculating and applying the credits in a fair and consistent manner and for reviewing and approving the credits.

Senate Bill 1253 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District to assess a production fee capped at 30 cents per 1,000 gallons and, beginning January 1, 2026, and continuing on January 1 of each subsequent year, increasing by five percent from the previous year's maximum amount. The bill authorizes the district to provide a credit against a service connection fee otherwise assessed to a water utility that is also assessed a production fee for the construction, contribution, or dedication of an eligible facility, system, or product that results

in water reuse, conservation, or savings. The bill repeals provisions establishing exemptions from district regulation, permitting, or metering for certain wells.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As originally proposed, Senate Bill No. 1253 tackled an important problem, encouraging conservation of water by authorizing political subdivisions to reduce impact fees for builders who include facilities that increase water conservation and efficiency. On third reading in the House, however, the bill changed dramatically. It now singles out property owners in one groundwater conservation district and subjects them to new burdens for exercising private property rights, like new fees that increase every year and entry onto property without the owner's permission. We can and should pursue strategies that protect 'property rights from government intrusion and control.' *Texas v. DHS*, 123 F.4th 186, 213 (5th Cir. 2024)."

Senate Bill 1278

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Thompson et al.

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1278 amends the Penal Code to establish a general affirmative defense to prosecution for victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution who engaged in the conduct charged due to certain coercion, duress, or threats of serious bodily injury or imminent death. The bill provides exceptions to the affirmative defense and authorizes the use of information relevant to the identification of a defendant's status as an applicable victim to establish the affirmative defense.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "No State has done more to both protect and advance the future of victims of human trafficking. Our commitment to supporting those victims will remain steadfast.

"That said, Senate Bill No. 1278 does more than aid and support victims of human trafficking. It goes beyond that and creates an affirmative defense that could excuse a crime if a defendant claims to be a victim of human trafficking or compelled prostitution and claims to have acted in response to coercion or threats. The bill's approach, however, severs the link between culpability and conduct. If the person is a qualifying victim, the bill holds out 'an affirmative defense to prosecution'—*any* prosecution.

"That means a person could be immune not only for acts of prostitution that are linked to their own prior victimization, but also for raping a child, murdering a law enforcement officer, or engaging in acts of terrorism. We can and should recognize that victimization begets more victimization. But legal responsibility cannot always be passed off to someone else. Some who started off as victims later make a choice to perpetrate similar crimes against others. As for those who act out of genuine fear of reprisal, existing law recognizes the legitimate defense of duress—narrowly drawn and equally applicable to all. See TEX. PENAL CODE § 8.05.

"For these reasons, I find it necessary to veto this draft. I look forward to working with the authors during a special session on a more narrowly tailored piece of legislation."

Senate Bill 1838

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Moody

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1838 amends the Family Code to change the suit in which a court is required to appoint an attorney ad litem to represent the interests of certain parents or alleged fathers to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity in which termination of the parent-child relationship or the appointment of a conservator for a child is requested. The bill entitles an attorney appointed in a child protection suit filed by a governmental entity to serve as an attorney ad litem to reasonable fees and expenses in the amount set by the court to be paid by the parents of the child unless the parents are indigent. Among other provisions, the bill revises the requirement for the payment of an attorney ad litem appointed in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity if indigency of the parents is shown by replacing the fee schedule according to which the attorney ad litem must be paid with the fee schedule adopted under the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1838 requires each court in a county hearing suits affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity to jointly develop, adopt, and submit to the commissioners court of the county a fee schedule for the compensation of an applicable attorney ad litem appointed in such a suit where the indigency of the parents is shown that includes the following:

- payments for time spent in court making an appearance on behalf of the parent or child in the case and reasonable and necessary time spent out of court on the case; and
- reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses.

Senate Bill 1838 authorizes a court to remove a person from the list maintained by the court of persons qualified for appointment as attorney or guardian ad litem in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship if, after notice and a hearing, the court determines the person submitted a voucher or claim for payment for services the person did not perform. The bill provides for the filing of a petition by a person whose voucher or claim for payment was denied or modified by the court or has not been approved by the court and the review of and hearing on the petition by the presiding judge of the applicable administrative judicial region.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1838 invites attorneys appointed ad litem to argue with the courts that appointed them—at taxpayer expense—about how much money they are owed. This not only expands the existing cottage industry of post-judgment fee disputes, it also incentivizes court-appointed attorneys to inflate their fees in anticipation of later contesting any downward modification. It also requires the presiding judges of the administrative judicial regions to decide what constitutes reasonable compensation, even though those judges have no connection to the underlying case and no knowledge of how much an attorney worked. Better to trust the district courts to make that call."

Senate Bill 1937

Senate Author: Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" et al.

House Sponsor: Louderback

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1937 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise the requirement for the state, before a defendant is tried for a capital offense in which the state is seeking the death penalty, to require the Department of Public Safety through one of its laboratories or a laboratory accredited by the Texas Forensic Science Commission to perform DNA testing, in accordance with the laboratory's capabilities at the time the testing is performed, on any biological evidence that was collected as part of an investigation of the offense and is in the possession of the state by specifying that the required DNA testing be nuclear DNA testing. Among other provisions, the bill revises the requirement for the state and the defendant to meet, confer, and agree about which biological materials qualify as biological evidence required to be tested by including a subject matter expert from the laboratory required to perform the nuclear DNA testing among the persons that the court must order to meet and confer about such matters.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1937 would impose a rigid mandate requiring nuclear DNA testing in every capital case, even where that method is not scientifically appropriate for the biological material at issue. DNA evidence varies in quantity, quality, and form; no single testing method is suitable in all circumstances. Federal courts, for example, recognize that mitochondrial DNA 'has some advantages over nuclear DNA.' *United States v. Beverly*, 369 F.3d 516, 528-529 (6th Cir. 2004).

"Additionally, Senate Bill No. 1937 would require overworked laboratory experts to participate in pretrial discovery meetings and hearings, potentially diverting scarce resources away from essential testing in other cases. Rather than expedite justice, this bill may inadvertently delay it—or prevent it altogether by limiting the evidentiary tools available to hold murderers accountable."

Senate Bill 2111**Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al.**House Sponsor:** Moody**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2111, an omnibus bill that implements certain recommendations made by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code to set out and revise provisions relating to legal representation of indigent persons and proceedings before a magistrate. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- expands the conditions under which a convicting court is required to appoint an attorney to represent an eligible indigent defendant for purposes of filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus or representing the defendant in a proceeding based on such an application by requiring the court to do so if the state represents to the court that the defendant has a potentially meritorious claim for relief;
- revises the duties of an arresting officer and magistrate;
- revises the meaning of "managed assigned counsel program" for purposes of statutory provisions relating to such programs;
- entitles a managed assigned counsel program to obtain from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) criminal history record information maintained by DPS that relates to a criminal case in which an attorney has been appointed by the program;
- provides that for purposes of compensation for certain counsel appointed to represent a defendant in a criminal proceeding, reasonable and necessary time spent out of court on the case includes time spent traveling to perform legal services outside the county where the case is pending;
- expands the types of expenses that must be reimbursed to certain counsel in a noncapital case appointed to represent a defendant who is confined in a correctional facility located more than 50 miles from the court in which the defendant's proceeding is pending; and
- extends the confidentiality protections for home address information in property tax appraisal records to an employee of a public defender's office and an employee of a managed assigned counsel program.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As the Supreme Court of the United States recognized nearly two centuries ago, a final criminal judgment is 'binding on all the world.' *Ex parte Watkins*, 3 Pet. 193, 202-203 (1830). That is why efforts to reopen a state court judgment in habeas proceedings must be the rare exception—*i.e.*, where the convicting court manifestly lacked jurisdiction over the defendant or his offense.

"Senate Bill No. 2111, however, encourages convicted criminals, defense attorneys, and state courts to embrace the myth that the writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* is merely a fifth, sixth, or seventh round of review—sometimes taken decades after defendants received the process due to them in a criminal trial and exhausted any direct appeals afforded by state law. This bill would require courts to appoint counsel in post-conviction habeas proceedings anytime a habeas petitioner has 'a potentially meritorious claim.'

"Every petitioner claims he *may* be innocent or *may* have been convicted in violation of the law. But our legal system rests on the law, evidence, and authoritative judgments, not guesswork, surmise, and endless petitions. '[T]he final result of proceedings in courts of competent jurisdiction *establishes* what is correct "in the eyes of the law,"' namely, that the prisoner is guilty. *Edwards v. Vannoy*, 593 U.S. 255, 290-291 (2021) (Gorsuch, J., concurring). Our laws must separate 'the meritorious needles from the growing haystack' of habeas claims, not stack it even higher. *Brown v. Davenport*, 596 U.S. 118, 132 (2022).

"I look forward to considering other parts of this criminal justice bill if legislators can agree to deny bail to repeat murderers, rapists, and human traffickers."

Senate Bill 2501

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Landgraf

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2501 amends the Family Code to authorize a parent who the court has determined is indigent for the purposes of mandatory appointment of an attorney ad litem to select an attorney who meets certain eligibility requirements to represent the parent in a child protection suit filed by a governmental entity in which termination of the parent-child relationship or the appointment of a conservator for a child is requested. The bill prohibits the court from taking any action that influences, directs, or interferes with the selection of an attorney by the indigent parent.

Senate Bill 2501 requires an attorney ad litem selected by such an indigent parent to serve as the parent's counsel of record upon filing with the court a notice of appearance and, if the parent is represented by other counsel, a motion to substitute counsel with the court. The bill requires the court's review of the notice and motion to be limited to confirming the attorney meets the eligibility requirements. The bill requires the court, upon confirming that the attorney selected meets those requirements, to grant an attorney's motion to substitute counsel, if applicable, and to terminate the appointment of any previously appointed attorney ad litem for the parent. The bill prohibits a court from doing the following:

- denying or delaying approval of a motion to substitute counsel except to confirm that the attorney meets the eligibility requirements; or
- imposing any additional eligibility requirements on the attorney.

Senate Bill 2501 provides for the powers and duties, disciplinary actions, and payment of services for an attorney ad litem selected by such an indigent parent as provided under state law for attorneys ad litem in an applicable child protection suit. The bill prohibits a court from adopting or enforcing local rules that conflict with the bill's provisions, impose additional requirements on the selection of an attorney ad litem by an indigent parent, or otherwise interfere with the right of an indigent parent to select an attorney in an applicable child protection suit. The bill's provisions relating to the selection of an attorney ad litem expressly do not limit the authority of a court to remove an attorney for good cause under applicable law.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 2501 seeks to give indigent parents greater freedom to select legal counsel for proceedings that affect the parent-child relationship. But it goes too far. Under this bill an attorney could be 'selected by the parent' to be 'compensated by the county,' only for the parent to 'substitute counsel' over and over again—for any reason or no reason at all. All of this must be allowed without 'any action [by the court] that influences, directs, or interferes.' That could invite some desperate or spiteful parents to select new counsel ad litem *ad infinitum*, in a stall tactic that harms children and burdens judicial efficiency.

"Worse yet, the bill may create conflicts of interests. An attorney ad litem 'represents a child during the course of a legal action' and owes 'duties of undivided loyalty' to the child. *Attorney ad litem*, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (12th ed.); TEX. FAM. CODE § 107.001(2). This bill, however, may tempt attorneys to divide their loyalties by deferring to the parents who appointed them, rather than seeking what is best for the client. I look forward to reviewing legislation in the future that includes reasonable safeguards against abuse."

Senate Bill 2878

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2878 is an omnibus bill relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures regarding proceedings in the judicial branch of state government.

Senate Bill 2878 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Election Code, Family Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Local Government Code, Penal Code, Property Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises the composition of certain judicial districts and the jurisdiction of certain district courts and statutory county courts;
- creates 13 judicial districts, 1 county civil court at law, 1 statutory probate court, and 2 district attorney offices;
- raises the cap on the amount in controversy in a civil case over which a statutory county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court;
- revises provisions relating to excess contributions and fees allocated to statutory probate courts;
- allows a former or retired justice of an appellate court to be assigned as a visiting judge for a statutory probate court and sets out provisions regarding a motion of recusal or disqualification of a statutory probate court judge;
- adjusts the visiting judge salary tier;
- sets out provisions applicable to judges or justices assigned to a court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border region that relate to compensation and the use of electronic means to conduct proceedings or perform judicial actions;
- provides for judicial mentor compensation;
- sets out general qualifications for appointment as a master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge and accordingly removes qualifications that apply to specific counties;
- provides for the appointment of criminal magistrates in Bell County and criminal associate judges in Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties;
- entitles a business court judge to an additional annual salary from the state;
- revises provisions relating to petit and grand jury service;
- revises procedures for the contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment;
- authorizes the use of a digitized signature for waiver of service in a suit for the dissolution of a marriage and the use of electronic notarization in a proceeding relating to the marriage relationship;
- requires that a judge or judicial officer who does not hear cases involving family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect be exempted from required judicial training on those issues and includes elder abuse and neglect as a topic covered by that training;
- designates the office of justice for the Fifteenth Court of Appeals as a statewide judicial office for purposes of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, establishes a timeline for filling the last two places on that court, and establishes a jurisdiction restriction for a notice of appeal in a civil case requesting assignment of the appeal to that court;
- sets out requirements for a district clerk with respect to record maintenance;
- authorizes the appointment of a spoken language interpreter who is not a certified or licensed court interpreter for certain courts;
- requires each prosecuting attorney to report to the Texas Judicial Council certain information relating to the number and categories of offenses prosecuted, the attorney's personnel, the number of missed indictment deadlines that led to release, and the number of out-of-county offenses committed by defendants released from the attorney's jurisdiction;
- requires a court security committee to develop a court emergency management plan and makes certain other changes relating to the operation and responsibilities of such committees;
- authorizes the administrative director of the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to develop an alternative performance measure to assess the efficient and timely adjudication of probate and mental health matters for purposes of OCA's annual report;
- revises provisions relating to compensation for regional presiding judges and local administrative district judges;
- revises the term length of a local administrative district judge;
- requires OCA to hold an annual court leadership conference;

- revises the counties in which an application for court-ordered mental health services may be filed;
- increases the fee for a bond approval;
- removes an appeal as a type of action for which a local consolidated civil filing fee must be paid;
- extends to all counties the authorization to construct, enlarge, equip, and operate a parking lot or parking garage adjacent to or near the county courthouse;
- requires OCA to conduct a study on digital court reporting;
- sets out requirements relating to the contents of copies certified by clerks;
- sets out and revises provisions relating to youth diversion;
- revises the composition of certain juvenile boards;
- revises provisions relating to the applicability of limitations periods to arbitration;
- requires court clerks to be provided certain additional identifying information for each party in a civil action who is an individual;
- removes residency requirements for service as a municipal judge in certain cities;
- increases the amount of credit earned by a defendant toward fines or costs for the performance of certain labor or community service;
- extends to certain judicial employees the applicability of confidentiality protections for home address information on county voter registration lists, in local property tax appraisal records, and on driver's licenses and exceptions to required disclosure under state public information law for certain personal information;
- provides for a county clerk or district clerk to redact from a website certain personal information excepted from disclosure under state public information law on request of the person to whom the information relates;
- establishes that an arrest warrant issued for a child and a complaint or affidavit on which such a warrant is based are confidential and limits disclosure of those documents;
- requires the State Bar of Texas to credit an attorney serving as a state official appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate with meeting applicable continuing legal education requirements;
- enhances the penalty for harassment committed against court employees or judges; and
- provides for mandatory expunction for certain persons who have completed a pretrial intervention program.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 2878—presented as a routine judicial omnibus, which has traditionally been noncontroversial—includes significant, standalone policy proposals that failed to receive adequate consideration during the legislative session. For example, the bill would allow unlimited automatic expunctions for completing any pretrial intervention program. While most of this bill should become law, parts of it should be excluded. The bill, in its current form, must be vetoed and will be placed on the special session agenda."

2ND CALLED SESSION, 2025

Senate Bill 18

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Gerdes et al.

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

Senate Bill 18 amends the Water Code to authorize a qualified local sponsor to do the following without obtaining a permit:

- construct or maintain on property owned or controlled by the sponsor a dam or reservoir with normal storage of not more than 200 acre-feet of water for the purposes of erosion, floodwater, and sediment control; and

- divert water from the dam or reservoir as needed in order to repair, maintain, or rehabilitate the impoundment and associated works of improvement so as to maintain the operational integrity and purpose of the dam or reservoir.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "On July 9, 2025, and August 15, 2025, I called special sessions in response to the tragic July 4th flooding. Both times, I designated legislation to 'improve early warning systems,' 'strengthen emergency communications,' and similar preparedness and response measures 'in flood-prone areas.' Senate Bill No. 18 does not concern emergency measures in areas like Kerrville. Instead, it exempts certain entities from the requirement to obtain a TCEQ permit to construct a dam or reservoir, duplicating a bill that failed to pass during the 89th Regular Session.

"The Texas Constitution provides that the Governor, when calling a special session, 'shall state specifically the purpose for which the Legislature is convened' in a proclamation. TEX. CONST. art. IV, § 8(a). It also provides that 'there shall be no legislation upon subjects other than those designated in the proclamation of the Governor calling such session.' *Id.* art. III, § 40. These provisions are 'clearly mandatory, and are limitations upon the authority of the legislature in special session.' *Manor Casino v. State*, 34 S.W. 769, 771 (Tex. Civ. App. 1896).

"Because any legislation 'not embraced in the proclamation' is 'passed in violation of the constitution, and is, therefore, void,' *ibid.*, I hereby disapprove of this bill. A special session is not an open invitation to revive draft legislation that died during the regular. *See Ex parte Wolters*, 144 S.W. 531, 535-536 (Tex. Crim. App. 1911) (opinion of Davidson, P.J.); *id.* at 538 (opinion of Harper, J., concurring)."

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