

**Weekly Legislative Report
May 6, 2023**

GOVERNOR:

Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony – On April 30th, Governor Greg Abbott honored members of law enforcement who lost their lives in the line of duty and their families at the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony at the Texas Capitol in Austin. The governor awarded the Texas Medal of Honor to a family member of each of the 58 officers who were recognized at the ceremony. Governor Abbott said, "In Texas, we cherish our law enforcement officers, especially those whose bravery and valor led to the ultimate sacrifice. This Peace Officers' Memorial is far more than just a granite monument - it's an eternal reminder of our Texas heroes taken too soon. Our hearts ache over the tragic loss of these lives and for all the peace officers who have fallen in the line of duty. We are eternally grateful for those heroes who fought for justice and kept Texas safe. God bless each of our law enforcement officers, and may God forever bless all the men and women who serve and protect our communities." The annual ceremony recognizes law enforcement personnel who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to their state and their communities. The governor was joined at the ceremony by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas President Lieutenant Marvin Ryals, Texas Municipal Police Association President Sergeant Joe Tovar, Texas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police President Officer Karla Pruneda, and Concerns of Police Survivors Representative Kayleigh Nava.

National Day of Prayer – On May 1st, Governor Greg Abbott commemorated the National Day of Prayer at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Round Rock. Addressing more than 700 interfaith and community leaders, the governor highlighted the importance of prayer in our everyday lives and presented a proclamation recognizing Thursday, May 4th as A Day of Pray in Texas. Governor Abbott said, "I have found what many of you have found, and that is God is always revealing and He is with us. Just over a year ago, a powerful tornado destroyed Salado. I toured the damage that ravaged the town, including First Cedar Valley Baptist Church. The church was leveled and wiped off the face of the Earth, but one thing survived unscathed: a massive cross. The spirit of community brought together by God persevered, and that church has been rebuilt less than a year later. Just like He was with First Cedar Valley Baptist Church, God is with us on this National Day of Prayer and every day. He reminds us in so many ways that all we need to do is pray." The Governor's Prayer Breakfast is an affiliate of the National Day of Prayer, an annual interfaith observance that seeks to mobilize unified public prayer for America.

Jewish American Heritage Month – On May 1st, Governor Greg Abbott recognized the month of May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month to celebrate American Jews' many contributions to Texas' and the nation's history and culture. The governor also issued a proclamation honoring the Jewish community in Texas. Governor Abbott said, "Texas has a proud, long-standing history of supporting the Jewish American community in our state and across the country. As we commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month, we reaffirm this enduring alliance with Jewish Americans and the people of Israel. We are honored to celebrate the resiliency and strength of the Jewish people in Texas and the United States this May. In Texas, we are continually working to recognize this bond and combat antisemitism, having signed a law creating the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Anti-Semitism Advisory Committee and allocating \$10 million in grants to secure places of worship in Texas like synagogues. Like the Jewish people, early Texans were shaped by fierce struggles and the blessings of freedom. This month, we come together to honor the achievements and contributions of Jewish Americans across Texas." In June 2021, Governor Abbott signed HB 3257 into law, establishing the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission. This commission produces biennial studies of antisemitism in Texas, works with schools and institutions of higher education to develop effective methods to combat antisemitism, and implements Holocaust and genocide courses of study and awareness programs. The governor also awarded \$10 million through his Public Safety Office for security enhancement projects to houses of worship, such as synagogues, that are at risk of attacks based on ideology, beliefs, or mission. Jewish American Heritage Month was established in 2006 as part of a bipartisan effort to educate all Americans of the contributions and achievements of Jewish Americans nationwide.

Governor Asks Chicago Mayor to Request President Biden to Secure the Border – On May 1st, Governor Greg Abbott advised Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot to call on President Joe Biden to secure the border in response to her request that Texas stop transporting migrants to her self-declared sanctuary city. In a letter to Mayor Lightfoot, the governor reminded her of the necessity of Texas' busing strategy to provide relief to overwhelmed, small border communities amid the Biden Administration's growing border crisis. The letter said, "If you truly want to 'work together to find a real solution' to this border crisis gripping our nation, you must call on the Biden Administration to do its job by securing our border, repelling the illegal immigrants flooding into our communities, classifying the Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, and intercepting the deadly fentanyl that is endangering our country. You are right that 'this situation is completely untenable,' but this is not a Texas problem - this is a problem for the entire United States of America. Texas began busing migrants to sanctuary cities such as your 'Welcoming City,' along with Washington, D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia, to provide much-needed relief to our overrun border communities. Until President Biden secures the border to stop the inflow of mass migration, Texas will continue this

necessary program." In August 2022, Governor Abbott added sanctuary city Chicago as a drop-off location for the busing strategy as part of the state's response to President Biden's open border policies overwhelming border communities in Texas. With its "Welcoming City Ordinance," Chicago will not deny city services to individuals based on their immigration status. The city also does not require local police to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

[View letter to Mayor Lightfoot.](#)

Parent Empowerment Night in Houston – On May 2nd Governor Greg Abbott pledged to expand education freedom for all Texas students at a Parent Empowerment Night held at Reflections of Christ's Kingdom World Outreach International (The R.O.C.K.) in Houston. Governor Abbott said, "The time for school choice is now in the great state of Texas. Texas wants to see all of our children well-educated - and the best way to do it is by empowering parents to choose the best education option for their child. We can have the best of both worlds by fully funding public education and school choice - and in the best of both worlds, mom and dad are in charge of their kids. Our kids should have access to the number one education system in the United States, and we will do that by empowering parents and passing school choice this session." The governor was joined by Gallery Furniture Owner Jim 'Mattress Mack' McIngvale, two-time World Heavyweight Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist George Foreman, The R.O.C.K. Founder and Senior Pastor Dr. Dana Carson, The Imani School Founding Head and Executive Director Patricia Williams, Booker T. Washington Initiative Director Dr. Richard Johnson, Texas Public Policy Foundation Campaign Director Mandy Drogin, and other parent empowerment advocates. Speaking from the stage of The R.O.C.K.'s Fellowship Hall, Governor Abbott detailed his plan to keep public schools fully funded while also expanding state-funded Education Savings Accounts to every Texas student. The governor highlighted the importance of protecting parents' fundamental role as the primary decisionmakers in their child's education. Additionally, he pointed out that a majority of rural, urban, and suburban Texans want to protect parents' right to access their child's school curriculum, school libraries, and classroom materials. Governor Abbott also noted the quality of public education improved in states that empowered parents to choose the best education option for their child.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month – On May 3rd, Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation designating May 2023 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Texas. The proclamation said, "Texans know the meaning of diversity. We live in a state that is populated by people of all races, nationalities, religions, and backgrounds. Such diversity lends itself to a greater marketplace of ideas, and these distinctive populations, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, have made great contributions in areas such as the arts, business, and government - lustrous threads that constitute the beautiful tapestry that is Texas. In 1978, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific

Islanders and to promote greater awareness of these cultures and their histories through education and celebration. In 1992, Congress expanded this culturally important observance into a monthlong celebration. The month of May was chosen in commemoration of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to America in May 1843, as well as in recognition of the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad - the tracks of which were laid mostly by Chinese immigrants - in May 1869. From the first Native Hawaiians to settle in the Astoria Colony to the Pacific Islander Americans hailing from Guam, American Samoa, and many of the 27 island nations and territories in the Pacific, the United States and Texas have benefited from the rich cultural heritage and traditions of these peoples. Each May, Texas joins this celebration in proud recognition of these diverse communities, their histories and traditions, and their significant contributions to the Lone Star State. At this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize, honor, and celebrate all Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and the strength that cultural diversity brings to our state."

Update on Operation Lone Star – On May 5th, Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Texas National Guard announced that they are continuing to work together to secure the border; stop the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and people into Texas; and prevent, detect, and interdict transnational criminal behavior between ports of entry. Since the launch of Operation Lone Star, the multi-agency effort has led to over 371,000 illegal immigrant apprehensions and more than 27,000 criminal arrests, with more than 25,000 felony charges reported. In the fight against fentanyl, Texas law enforcement has seized over 385 million lethal doses of fentanyl during this border mission. Governor Abbott said, "Operation Lone Star continues to fill the dangerous gaps left by the Biden Administration's refusal to secure the border. Every individual who is apprehended or arrested and every ounce of drugs seized would have otherwise made their way into communities across Texas and the nation due to President Joe Biden's open border policies."

DPS Recruiting Class Graduation Ceremony – On May 5th, Governor Greg Abbott celebrated new law enforcement graduates who answered the call to serve and protect their fellow Texans at the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Recruit Class C-2022 Graduation Ceremony in Austin. During his keynote address, the governor congratulated the 60 graduate troopers on completing the rigorous 29-week training program and highlighted DPS' critical role in protecting Texans across the state. Governor Abbott said, "Whatever the danger, DPS troopers are the go-to team to protect our state. At this moment in time, you play a more pivotal role than ever before and your job has never been more demanding or more essential. As you take your oath today as DPS troopers, you have answered a higher calling to serve our state and all who call it home. Whatever the challenge, you are now a part of the DPS legacy - a legacy built by heroes. Congratulations on this tremendous achievement, and thank you for your service to Texas." DPS Class C-2022 graduates included 26 military veterans, 10 women, 19 with prior law enforcement experience, and 25 who speak more than

one language. Class C-2022 graduates will report to their individual duty stations on May 28, 2023. The governor was joined at the graduation by DPS Director Steve McCraw, Texas Public Safety Commissioner Steve Stodghill, DPS Major Derek Prestridge, Chief Walt Goodson, Captain Shannon Hamby, Chief Orlando Alanis, and other state officials.

SENATE:

The Senate was in session Monday through Thursday this week. On Friday, a skeleton crew convened to refer bills to committee.

Senate Property Tax Relief Plan - On Thursday, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick announced that President Donald Trump has joined realtors and business leaders in supporting SB 3, Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$70,000 and \$100,000 for homeowners over 65, by Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) which he said cuts billions more dollars for homeowners than the House's 5 percent appraisal cap plan. Former President Donald Trump's tweet said, "I fully support Dan Patrick's, and the Senate's \$100 K senior homestead exemption and \$70,000 for those under 65. Vote for the homestead exemption, it's \$27 billion bigger tax cut than the House plan."

On Monday, the Senate passed 10 bills including:

- **SB 561** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would prohibit a political subdivision from **issuing a public security** to purchase or lease tangible personal property if the expected useful life of the property ends before the maturity date of the public security. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 20 to 10 on April 26th; on May 1st, it received final approval by a vote of 20 to 10. Has been referred to the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee.*
- **SB 1145** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would authorize the legislature to provide an ad valorem tax exemption for **property used to operate a child-care facility**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 25 to 6. (Note: this is the enabling bill for HJR 64, which passed the Senate on Wednesday)*
- **SB 1192** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would authorize the Health & Human Services Commission to access **criminal history record information** for employees, volunteers, and contractors of the commission. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0. It has been referred to the House Human Services Committee.*
- **SB 1399** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require a **protectiveness review** on all standard air permits every six years. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0. It has been referred to the House Environmental Regulation.*
- **SB 1581** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the Center for Healthcare Data at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston to establish the **Texas Health Insurance Mandate Advisory**

Committee to analyze bills that would impose new mandates on health benefit plan issuers including the extent to which the mandate would increase or decrease costs. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 13 on April 27th; it received final approval on May 1st by a vote of 19 to 12.*

- **SB 1780** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require **online notaries** to keep an online record of all notarizations, mark which ones were done online, and require notes to be kept if the signature was digital. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0. It has been referred to the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence.*
- **SB 1987** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would remove the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools** from the definition of “recognized accrediting agency” for purposes of accreditation of postsecondary educational institutions. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 2. It has been referred to the House Higher Education Committee.*

They gave preliminary approval to 3 bills including:

- **SB 1072** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require **local school health advisory councils** to recommend the policies, procedures and circumstances in which a school district employee may discuss matters of human sexuality with students and a campus may host an extracurricular event related to human sexuality, subject to approval by the school board. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 19 to 12 on May 1st. On May 2nd, it received final approval by the same vote.*
- **SB 1474** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would implement the recommendations of the **Texas Commission on Special Education Funding** including **education savings accounts** for **students with disabilities**; and establish the **Retired Special Education Teacher Grant Program** to reimburse school districts and charters for the costs of employing a retired teacher to teach special education. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 13 on May 1st. On May 2nd, it received final approval by the same vote.*
- **SB 1993** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require the Secretary of State to call a **new election** in a county if two percent or more polling locations in a county of 1 million or more (Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis Counties) are denied paper ballots for more than one hour. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12 on May 1st. On May 2nd, it received final approval by the same vote.*

On Tuesday, the Senate passed the three Third Reading Bills (SB 1072, SB 1474, and SB 1993) and passed 15 additional bills including:

- **SB 258** by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) would establish new **energy efficiency goals for electric utilities**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 13.*
- **SB 1166** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would increase the penalties for **burglary of a vehicle** if the actor breaks into or enters the vehicle with the intent to commit **theft of a firearm**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1647** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would allow **dropout recovery education programs** to be operated by an accredited education management organization and be offered in person, remotely, or through a hybrid option. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 22 to 9. It has been referred to the House Public Education Committee.*
- **SB 1712** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would exempt **limited partnerships** and limited liability companies from the requirement to have a real estate license in order to act on another person's behalf in a **real estate transaction**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1966** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would establish the **School-Based Health Care Grant Program** for health care organizations to implement, maintain and expand school-based health care initiatives for underserved students and to provide those students with preventative, primary, and behavioral health care. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 11.*
- **SB 2016** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would update **dietitian licensing** requirements to align with national standards. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 23 to 8.*
- **SB 2064** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit health professionals from working for an entity that provides telecommunications or information technology to enable the service if the entity engages in the **sale of** or shares **patient information** with a **social media platform**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 2107** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would define pore space ownership, address long-term responsibility of **carbon storage projects**, and address the process of acquiring land for a carbon storage project. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2. It has been referred to the House Energy Resources Committee.*
- **SB 2200** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would allow Texas Department of Transportation to use sponsorships for **safety service patrol programs**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1. It has been referred to the House Transportation Committee.*
- **SB 2476** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would prohibit **ground ambulance services** provided by municipalities from engaging in **balance billing**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*

- **SB 2527** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would impose a civil penalty against a person who awards an **incentive to a health professional** who offers telehealth services based on the number of **prescriptions for controlled substances** prescribed by the practitioner to patience. *The committee substitute and three floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*

About SB 258, Sierra Club Conservation Director Cyrus Reed said, “We are very thankful for the tireless efforts of Senator Eckhardt, her co-authors and thousands

of Texans that fought to bring attention to the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to make our grid more reliable: increasing energy efficiency programs at private utilities. These programs will help consumers save money and lower stress on our electric grid. We also appreciate the leadership of Chair Dr. Charles Schwertner in moving the bill out of committee. We call on Speaker Dade Phelan to prioritize this bill as it makes its way to the House. Texans need more programs to help them afford increasing electricity costs, and we need consumer-friendly solutions, such as setting a long-term energy efficiency goal for the state of Texas.”

They gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 150** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would set the amount of **maximum unemployment benefits** based on a formula based on the unemployment rate. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Wednesday, it received final approval by the same vote. It has been referred to the House Business & Industry Committee.*
- **SB 2453** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would prohibit a local governmental entity from adopting a building code less stringent than an energy code or **energy and water conservation design standard** established by the State Energy Conservation Office. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 17 to 14. It has been referred to the House State Affairs Committee.*

On Wednesday, the Senate passed the Third Reading bills (SB 150 and SB 2453) and passed another 15 bills including:

- **SB 114** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would also require the Public Utility Commission to require each retail electric provider in the ERCOT power region to create a **residential demand response program** to reduce the average total residential load; and would allow a customer to participate in demand response programs through retail electric providers and demand response providers. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
- **SB 365** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require an **electric utility** that **constructs a transmission line** that connects to the utility’s existing transmission facilities to a substation or metering point to provide written

notice to each landowner whose property is located within 300 feet of the substation. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 5.*

- **SB 418** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow **transfer and assignment of students between school districts** (current law requires the school districts to be adjoining); and would allow a school district to deny approval of a transfer if the district or school is at full student capacity, the student is suspended or expelled by the student's current district, or approval of the transfer would supersede a court-ordered desegregation plan. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 595** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require parental consent for psychological or **psychiatric examination or treatment of a student** conducted by a school district employee. *The committee substitute and two amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4. It has been referred to the House Public Education Committee.*
- **SB 1567** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require school districts and charters to maintain at least one **physical copy** of each **instructional material** selected by the district or school for each subject. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1814** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would change the definition of **current debt service** to the minimum dollar amount required to be expended for debt service in the current year. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 22 to 9.*
- **SB 1979** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require a **business that buys** more than 10 **single-family residential properties** per year to file a **report** with the Texas Real Estate Commission providing the public with information on those market participants. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 2497** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would increase the **bilingual education allotment** from 0.1 to 0.15 if the student is in an alternative language method offered by a school district. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0. It has been referred to the House Public Education Committee.*
- **SB 2530** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit state governmental entities from contracting with a company unless the contract contains a written verification from the company that it does not **boycott energy companies**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment w343 adopted and it passed by a vote of 23 to 8.*
- **SJR 64** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide an ad valorem tax exemption for **property used to operate a child-care facility**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 25 to 7. (Note: the enabling bill is SB 1145, which passed the Senate on Monday)*

And, the Senate gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 2037** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a municipality from regulating, directly or indirectly, minimum lot sizes, lot dimensions, lot frontages, lot setbacks, or other components of lot density in its **extraterritorial jurisdiction**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 21 to 10. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 20 to 11.*

On Thursday, the Senate gave final approval to SB 2037 and passed x bills:

- **HB 998** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) and Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would prohibit the delivery of **property owners' association insurance** through the **FAIR Plan Association** unless the Commissioner of Insurance determines a property owners' association insurance plan is not reasonably available in the voluntary market. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **HB 1315** by Abel Herrero (D-Robstown) and Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would establish the open burn pit registry fund; and would authorize **specialty license plates** to honor members of the U.S. armed **forces exposed to open burn pits**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 1565** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) is the sunset bill for the **Texas Water Development Board**. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 2308** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would add production of hay and the provision of veterinary services to the definition of agricultural operation; and would require the burden of proof in a **nuisance action against an agricultural operation** to be by clear and convincing evidence. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **HJR 126** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing **the right to engage in farming**, ranching, timber production and wildlife management. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 629** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require the Commissioner of State Health Services to establish an advisory committee to examine and review the **administration of opioid antagonists** to a person experiencing an apparent opioid-related drug overdose. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1664** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require Texas Education Agency to establish the **school safety technical advisory committee** to advise the agency regarding the **school safety accountability program**; and would require the agency to establish a school safety accountability program to ensure school district and charter campuses provide safe and secure environments. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*

- **SB 1677** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would require the Health & Human Services Commission, in cooperation with local mental health authorities located primarily in rural areas, to contract with nonprofit organizations to establish **behavioral health centers or jail diversion centers** to provide hospital beds and **competency restoration services**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1781** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would authorize a **local education agency** to enter into an interlocal contract with one or more other local education agencies to establish a cooperative to procure **group health insurance coverage**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1950** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a county clerk, elections administrator, early voting clerk, or early voting ballot board from suspending the requirements of the **mail ballot review**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12 and received final approval by the same vote.*
- **SB 2460** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would require a municipal utility to consent to a request by the utility with 90 days to **build a transmission** line that does not exceed three miles if connected to a load-serving substation or metering point, or two miles if the line connects to generation substation or metering point. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 21 to 10.*
- **SB 2627 and SJR 93** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Texas Energy Fund**. *SB 2627 – Two floor amendment were adopted; SJR 93 – One floor amendment was adopted and they passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*

They gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 1557** Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would allow the parent of a **student who was victimized** by a public school employee to transfer the student to another campus or receive funding for the student to **attend private school**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 13.*

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week: 128
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 108
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar: 43
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 651
Total number of HB's and HJR's passed by the Senate this session: 14

Next Week: The Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 8, 2023.

HOUSE:

The House was in session Monday through Saturday this week.

House General Investigating Committee Report – On Saturday, House General Investigating Committee Chairman Andrew Murr (R-Junction), surrounded by the other committee members Representatives Ann Johnson (D-Houston), Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth), Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) and David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) addressed the House to report the findings and recommendations of the committee regarding the allegation of inappropriate workplace conduct of Representative Bryan Slaton (R-Royce City). Former District Judge and Harris County Prosecutor Catherine Evans conducted the investigation on behalf of the committee, and found that Representative Slaton provided alcohol to and had a sexual encounter with a 19-year-old intern working in his office and then attempted to prevent any person with direct knowledge of the encounter from disclosing it. After receiving the report, the committee held a due process hearing. After the hearing the report was unanimously adopted by the committee. The report concluded, “It is the committee’s unanimous recommendation that, considering the factors stated, the only appropriate discipline in this matter is expulsion. . . Most members of this House who have committed conduct in violation of law or in violation of House rules and policies, and thus reflected discredit upon the House, have resigned from office, thereby negating any need for the body to take further action. Slaton has declined to take action to prevent further discredit to the House by resigning.” HR 1542, a resolution expelling Representative Slaton is scheduled to be taken up by the House on Tuesday, May 9th.

On Monday, the House passed 16 Third Reading bills and three proposed constitutional amendments including:

- **HJR 27** by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would propose a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of and use of money in the **Grow Texas Fund** and allocating general revenue to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and the state highway fund. *It passed by a vote of 121 to 14. (Note the enabling bill is HB 1392, which received preliminary approval on Monday and final approval on Tuesday)*
- **HJR 111** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Texas Severance Tax Revenue and Oil and Natural Gas (STRONG) Defense Fund** to address needs in major energy producing areas of the Lone Star State, including the Permian Basin by designating a portion of severance tax revenue to support transportation infrastructure, workforce and economic development, public education, healthcare, and public safety needs in regions of the state with the highest oil and gas production. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 2. (Note: the enabling bill is HB 2207, which received preliminary approval on Monday and final approval on Tuesday)*

And they gave preliminary approval to 89 other bills including:

- **HB 19** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would establish a **statewide business court** with concurrent jurisdiction with a district court in a derivative action on behalf of a business organization. *The committee*

substitute and ten floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 90 to 51. It has been referred to the Senate Jurisprudence Committee.

- **HB 148** by Julie Johnson (D-Carrollton) would move the **Texas Medical Disclosure Panel** from Texas Department of Health to the Health & Human Services Commission. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 112 to 32. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
- **HB 264** by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would allow closing of a **home equity loan** by a person who is not present in the office of the lender from a remote location using remote online notarization if the borrower is unable to travel to the closing. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 0; on Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 145 to 0. (Note: this is the enabling bill for HJR 20, which passed the House on April 27th)*
- **HB 376** by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would require the notice provisions in **landowner's bill of rights** to include the property owner's right to submit to the county appraisal district office a report of decreased value for the owner's remaining property after the taking. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*
- **HB 433** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would change the definition of **commercial fleet** from at least 25 motor vehicles to 12. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.*
- **HB 621** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to provide for the issuance of a **temporary teaching certificate** to a person who has served in the **armed services**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 109 to 34. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 107 to 34.*
- **HB 667** by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would institute licensing for **music therapists**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 77 to 65; on Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 101 to 45.*
- **HB 718** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would authorize 30-day **temporary license plates** to be issued to a motor vehicle purchaser even if the buyer's tag has not expired. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.*
- **HB 875** by Brian Harrison (R-Waxahachie) would allow **Texas State Technical College** to operate a campus in one or more locations in **Ellis County** (instead of the City of Red Oak). *It passed by a vote of 143 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education.*
- **HB 1163** by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would enhance the penalty for **boating while intoxicated** if the watercraft is occupied by a passenger who is younger than 15 years of age. *It passed by a vote of 142 to 3.*
- **HB 1357** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would repeal Section

- 32.03115(e) of the Human Resources Code which sunsets the provision requiring the medical assistance program to provide reimbursement for **medication-assisted opioid** or substance use **disorder treatment** on August 31, 2023. *It passed by a vote of 132 to 11. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
- **HB 1392** by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would add the **Grow Texas Fund** to the entities that receive automatic transfers of excess state revenue, which currently include the Texas Highway Fund and the Economic Stabilization Fund. *It passed by a vote of 132 to 13. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 27, which passed on Monday)*
 - **HB 1620** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would adjust the **sunset dates** for 2023 state agencies to 2015. *It passed by a vote of 138 to 4. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee*
 - **HB 1632** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require the secretary of state to provide a **standardized training program** in election law and procedure for presiding or alternate **election judges**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee*
 - **HB 1634** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would restrict the **public facility property tax exemption** to a public facility that does not refuse to rent to an individual or family because they participate in the voucher program. *It passed by a vote of 137 to 7. It has been referred to the Senate Local Government Committee*
 - **HB 1683** by Armando Lucio Walle (D-Houston) would adopt the **Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact** in Texas to provide for the mutual recognition of occupational therapy licenses of other member states. *It passed by a vote of 141 to 4. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee*
 - **HB 1718** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would allow **rural investment funds** to invest in targeted small businesses in rural areas; and would authorize an insurance premium tax credit for those investments. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 108 to 33. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 105 to 35. It has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.*
 - **HB 1745** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require a claimant bringing a **personal injury action against a transportation network company** to file with the petition an affidavit by claimant's counsel setting forth specifically each theory of recovery, the negligence or other action, error, or omission of the company and the factual basis for each claim. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 111 to 25. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 110 to 35. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
 - **HB 1747** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require **occupational licensing** agencies to include a notice in the licensing application form stating that an applicant's **prior criminal conviction** may be grounds for disqualifying

the applicant from receiving a license and the factors for determining whether a prior criminal conviction constitutes grounds for disqualification. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 137 to 5. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*

- **HB 1817** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would void **contracts for which a disclosure of interested parties is required** only if the governmental entity submits to the business entity written notice of the entity's failure to provide the required disclosure. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 131 to 4. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 139 to 3. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 1876** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would establish the **Rita Littlefield Chronic Kidney Disease Centralized Resource Center** within the Health & Human Services Commission to serve as a centralized system through which a person may obtain information on chronic kidney disease and related illnesses. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 93 to 52. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
- **HB 1883** by Salman Bhojani (D-Fort Worth) would require the State Board of Education to ensure that **assessment instruments are not administered on a religious holy day** including All Saints Day, Christmas, Diwali, Eid as-Adha, Eid al-Fitr, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Vaisakhi, Vesak, and Yom Kippur. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 110 to 36. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 1884** by Salman Bhojani (D-Fort Worth) would authorize a person who is authorized by a religious organization to **conduct a marriage ceremony**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 100 to 44. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 2088** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would allow **emergency refill of insulin** to exceed a 30-day supply if the smallest available package exceeds a 30-day supply; and would allow the Board of Pharmacy to take disciplinary action against a **pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee** engaged in fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or is convicted of a crime. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
- **HB 2134** by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would allow **local regulation** of the hours of operation of a **massage establishment**; and allow local regulation relating to an owner of a massage establishment who has been convicted of a sexual offense. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 2170** by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require a **tolling entity** to immediately **notify** the holder of an **electronic toll customer** account if a credit or debit card payment associated with the account was declined or

could not otherwise be processed. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.*

- **HB 2207** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would establish the **Texas Severance Tax Revenue and Oil and Natural Gas (STRONG) Defense Fund** to address critical needs in major energy producing areas of the Lone Star State, including the Permian Basin by designating a portion of severance tax revenue to support transportation infrastructure, workforce and economic development, public education, healthcare, and public safety needs in regions of the state with the highest oil and gas production. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 2. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 111, which was adopted on Monday)*
- **HB 2316** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would **prohibit a political subdivision** from discharging, indefinitely suspending, or **terminating** from employment a **peace officer**, detention officer, county jailer, or firefighter based on the person's inability to perform their work duties before the person is certified as having reached **maximum medical improvement**. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 2334** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would exempt **plumbing work performed on private property** in an area that extends from a public right-of-way or public easement to not less than five feet from a building or structure from plumbing licensing laws. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 119 to 26. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 2414** by James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) would authorize health maintenance organizations, insurers, and preferred provider benefit plans to provide **incentives for enrollees to use certain physicians or providers** through modified deductibles, copayments, coinsurance or other cost-sharing provisions. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 109 to 21. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 98 to 44.*
- **HB 2557** by Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) would adopt the **Licensed Professional Counselors Compact** providing for mutual recognition of professional counselors licensed in another participating state. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
- **HB 2568** by Richard Hayes (R-Hickory Creek) would require the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to study the extent of the **growth of Carrizo cane** along the Rio Grande. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 129 to 13. It has been referred to the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs.*
- **HB 2651** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would increase the term of a **sexual assault nurse examiner certification** from two to three years. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Amendment.*
- **HB 2672** by Frederick Frazier (R-McKinney) would expand eligibility for

student loan repayment assistance under the **math and science scholars loan repayment program** to include persons who agree to teach mathematics or science for a specified period in any public school (not just schools that receive federal funding under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965). *It passed by a vote of 135 to 11. It has been referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education.*

- **HB 2673** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would require Texas Education Agency to adopt **standards for permissible electronic devices** and software applications used by a school district or charter that minimizes data collection conducted on students. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 2. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 2683** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would allow a buyer of **dyed diesel fuel** who demonstrates proof from the comptroller that the fuel will be used during a disaster to an exemption from **motor fuel taxes**. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 2700** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add visual material that includes a computer-generated recognizable child's image, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic to the list of prohibited **sexually explicit visual material involving children**. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.*
- **HB 2729** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would provide different qualifications for a **prekindergarten program supervisor** (must be a certified teacher) than for a prekindergarten teacher (have child development certification or child care or prekindergarten classroom experience). *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 104 to 38. On Tuesday, on final passage one additional amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 95 to 48. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 2806** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would provide that if a **commercial sign** or structure cannot be continued because of **highway construction**, the owner of the commercial sign would be entitled to relocate the sign to another location on the same or adjacent property, on the same highway within one mile of the previous location, or within a municipality or the extraterritorial jurisdiction of that municipality. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 132 to 12.*
- **HB 2808** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would provide that an **accountability rating** assigned to a school district or charter is that school's final rating and may not be challenged. *It passed by a vote of 142 to 3. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 2818** by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would allow Texas Department of Agriculture to issue a **license to conduct hemp research** to institutions of higher education, including private or independent institutions. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it*

- passed by a vote of 126 to 17. It has been referred to the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 2839** by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would require insurers to file the insurer's results of an annual **liquidity stress test** with the State Board of Insurance if Texas is the lead state of the insurer's group and the insurer or the insurer's group meets the scope criteria adopted by the Commissioner of Insurance. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
 - **HB 2851** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would increase the maximum amount of a grant under the **Young Farmer Grant Program** from \$20,000 to \$35,000. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee.*
 - **HB 2897** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would require the **demand of payment notice** in a **theft of service case** to be sent to the actor using the actor's mailing address shown on records of the person whose service was secured or a check or similar sight order. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.*
 - **HB 2933** by Mark Dorazio (R-San Antonio) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to ensure that both adoptive parents of a **child adopted** from the **conservatorship** of the Department of Family and Protective Services and eligible for Medicaid are able to **consent to the medical care** provided to the child. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
 - **HB 3165** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would establish the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** for the conservation of, restoration of, or public access to land, water, or natural resources. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 131 to 13. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 138, which passed on April 28th)*
 - **HB 3315** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would establish a procedure for school districts to handle complaints concerning a violation of **parental rights**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 459 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
 - **HB 3338** by Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would require institutions of higher education to implement a policy providing for the availability of **opioid antagonists** at each residence hall and the training off resident advisors in the proper use of those devices. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education .*
 - **HB 3456** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would change the expiration date on the authorization for counties to operate **health care provider participation programs** from December 31 2023 to December 31, 2027. *It passed by a vote of 121 to 24. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
 - **HB 3474** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) is the **omnibus courts bill** establishing additional courts and making other changes. *The committee substitute and four amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 2. It*

- has been referred to the Senate Jurisprudence Committee.*
- **HB 3492** by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would require municipalities and counties to base **value-based fees** on the actual cost of a public **infrastructure improvement**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 3. It has been referred to the Senate Local Government Committee.*
 - **HB 3497** by Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria) would require a person who takes or assists in the taking of oysters on a licensed commercial oyster boat to obtain a general commercial fisherman's license unless the person holds a **commercial oyster boar captain's license**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 140 to 0.*
 - **HB 4051** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would change the criteria for qualification as a **media production development zone** from a metropolitan statistical area with a population of more than 250,000 to a metropolitan statistical area of 100,000. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 121 to 20.*
 - **HB 4053** by Julie Johnson (D-Farmers Branch) would require a candidate's **personal financial statement** that includes real property to list the name of a person with an interest in the property that holds a mortgage on the property. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 97 to 47.*
 - **HB 4363** by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would establish the **Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program** to recruit, prepare, and retain a talented and diverse workforce of career teachers by providing assistance for tuition, mandatory fees, and other usual and customary costs of attendance. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 108 to 34.*
 - **HB 4375** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would require school districts and charters to provide **instruction to students** in grades 7 through 12 on the **use of an automated external defibrillator** as part of their cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction. *One floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 138 to 6. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
 - **HB 4381** by Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would direct a trial court to allow a **debtor** to post **alternative security**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 130 to 15. It has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.*
 - **HB 4696** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would transfer **investigative** functions of **abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child** receiving state services from the Department of Family and Protective Services to the Health & Human Services Commission. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
 - **HB 4906** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would add sworn law enforcement officers commissioned as **school security officers** to the list

of peace officers authorized to obtain **search warrants**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 129 to 14. It has been referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.*

- **HB 4990** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative** to provide cost effective prescription drug access for employees and retirees of state agencies of institutions of higher education. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 129 to 11. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 128 to 12.*
- **HB 5125** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would outline the duties of the House and Senate **Administration Committees**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 3.*
- **HJR 132** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual net worth or **wealth tax**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 93 to 49. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 100 to 44. It has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.*
- **SB 664** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would **presume a food to be misbranded** food if it is an analogue product of meat, a meat food product, poultry, a poultry product, an egg product, or fish, unless its label bears in prominent type of uniform size immediately before the name of the product one of the following: analogue; meatless; plant-based; made from plants; or a similar qualifying term or disclaimer intended to clearly communicate to a consumer the contents of the product. *SB 664 was substituted for HB 1788 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 140 to 0. It has been sent to the governor.*
- **SB 729** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would allow **military service** to be credited under the **Employees Retirement System of Texas**. *SB 729 was substituted for HB 3056 on the House Calendar. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 0.*
- **SB 1004** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Abel Herrero (D-Robstown) would make it a criminal offense to **tamper with an electronic monitoring device** by a person required to submit to electronic monitoring as a condition of community supervision or parole. *SB 1004 was substituted for HB 2984 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 142 to 2. It has been sent to the governor.*
- **SB 1238** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would update statutes related to **broadband development**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 132 to 7. It is currently in conference committee.*
- **SB 1730** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would authorize district clerks to sell and distribute **money orders** for **passport application** payments. *SB 1730 was substituted for HB 3607 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 137 to 2. It has been sent to the governor.*

About HB 3165, Representative Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) said, “The Texas House acted boldly to preserve what we love about Texas. This fund supports land and water conservation efforts for both public recreation and natural resource conservation that will allow Texas to thrive for generations to come. Because 95 percent of Texas is privately owned, it is vital we encourage private conservation along with the expansion of public parks, and this legislation achieves that goal.” More than 240,000 acres of Texas land is lost to development each year. Texas needs additional parks, open spaces, and natural habitats to preserve our quality of life, provide food and fiber, clean water, and to support the multi-billion-dollar agricultural and outdoor recreation economy.

About HB 3165/HJR 138, Representative Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) said, “The Texas House acted boldly to preserve what we love about Texas. This fund supports land and water conservation efforts for both public recreation and natural resource conservation that will allow Texas to thrive for generations to come. Because 95 percent of Texas is privately owned, it is vital we encourage private conservation along with the expansion of public parks, and this legislation achieves that goal. More than 240,000 acres of Texas land is lost to development each year. Texas needs additional parks, open spaces, and natural habitats to preserve our quality of life, provide food and fiber, clean water, and to support the multi-billion-dollar agricultural and outdoor recreation economy. According to a recent study by the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, less than four percent of land in Texas is under some form of protection.

On Tuesday, the House passed the Third Reading bills and HJR 132, which passed to Third Reading on Monday. They also gave preliminary approval to 54 additional bills:

- **HB 181** by Jarvis Johnson (D-Houston) would require the Department of State Health Services to establish and maintain a **sickle cell disease registry**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 91 to 53. On Wednesday, it received final passage by a vote of 99 to 48.*
- **HB 191** by Diego Bernal (D-San Antonio) would add to the criteria for scoring **low-income housing credits** whether at the time the completed application is submitted, all units owned by the applicant are equipped with air conditioning. *One amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 87 to 51. On Wednesday it received final approval by a vote of 105 to 38.*
- **HB 246** by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would require the secretary of state to establish a pilot program requiring a county to use a **video recording** device to record **ballot counting activity** in at least 20 percent of precincts in the county. *It passed by a vote of 83 to 58. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 715** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would authorize a person to operate **electric bicycles** in a **state park** where bicycles are permitted. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 123 to*

20 It has been referred to the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee.

- **HB 823** by Alma Allen (D-Houston) would allow the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules authorizing **occupational licenses for former inmates** in the fields of air conditioning and refrigeration contracting; electrical contracting; and barbering and cosmetology. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 138 to 7. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 855** by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would authorize state agencies to reimburse a state employee for **groceries** purchased in connection with the **state employee's travel**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 87 to 54. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 94 to 53. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 1004** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would make **trafficking a person with a disability** punishable in the same way as trafficking a child. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.*
- **HB 1010** by Chris Turner (D-Arlington) would clarify that a **person providing care** to an **individual with a disability**, including an intellectual disability at a state supported living center, assisted living facility, or group home does not directly or indirectly have an insurable interest in the life of the individual unless the person is a relative of the individual. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 1225** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would require **assessment instruments** to be administered in **paper format** to any student whose parent or guardian requests the assessment to be administered in paper format. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 1229** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would prohibit the state or child-placing agencies from requiring an **agency foster home** to disclose the specific types of weapons, including firearms, that are present in the home. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 89 to 53. On Wednesday it received final approval by a vote of 100 to 46. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*
- **HB 1283** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require managed care organizations to develop, implement, and maintain an outpatient **pharmacy benefit plan** for enrolled recipients in the **Medicaid managed care program**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*

- **HB 1605** by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would establish a **high-quality instructional materials** program. *The committee substitute and 11 floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 126 to 18. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 139 to 6. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 1617** by Claudia Ordaz (D-El Paso) would prescribe language for a **statement** to admonish defendants before a court accepts a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere informing the persons convicted of a **felony cannot possess a firearm**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 197 to 48. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 1885** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would authorize Texas Transportation Commission to establish a **variable speed limit program** to allow the temporary lowering of a prima facie speed limit to address inclement weather, congestion road construction, or any other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of traffic. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 110 to 30. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 99 to 47. It has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.*
- **HB 1979** by John Raney (R-Bryan) would require local **workforce development boards** to post on the board's Internet website information for parents regarding finding **quality child-care providers** and eligibility for child-care assistance. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 2. It has been referred to the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee.*
- **HB 2022** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) provides that a **contractor** would be **liable** only to the extent a defective condition proximately causes actual physical damage to a residence, an actual failure or lack of capability of a building component or an imminent danger to the safety of the occupants of the residents. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 97 to 47. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 2162** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would eliminate instructional practices that are not aligned to the **science of teaching reading** and providing for **reading interventions** to struggling students. *It initially failed to pass on April 28th by a vote of 54 to 87. The committee substitute and three floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 119 to 21 on May 3rd.*
- **HB 2230** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would repeal Section 316.092 (b) and Sections 316.093 (c) and (d) removing the expiration dates on transfers of money from the **economic stabilization fund** to the **state highway fund**. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.*
- **HB 2271** by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would state that it is the agricultural policy of the state recognizing **aquaculture is a type of**

agriculture and entitled to the same rights, privilege, and protections as any other type of agricultural operation. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 3.*

- **HB 2470** by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would prohibit an employer from suspending, terminating or taking any other **adverse employment action** against a first responder solely because the employer knows or believes that the **first responder has a mental illness**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee.*
- **HB 2533** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would require Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, in collaboration with the Texas Homeless Network, to implement a **homeless data sharing network** through which homeless response systems and data warehouse vendors are able to share and assess real-time data on homelessness. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 117 to 25. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 102 to 44.*
- **HB 2837** by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would prohibit **financial institutions** from surveilling, reporting, or tracking the purchase of **firearms and ammunition**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 85 to 56. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 89 to 56. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 3014** by Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock) would exempt **electric vehicles** that are not equipped with an internal combustion engine from motor vehicle **inspection requirements**. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 3. It has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.*
- **HB 3615** by Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) would repeal Section 604A-0021 of the Business & Commerce Code which allows state and **local governmental entities** to impose a surcharge on a **buyer who uses a credit card** instead of cash, check or similar means of payment. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 98 to 48.*
- **HB 3712** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would allow the holder of a wholesaler's or distributor's permit to give **liquor samples**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 133 to 12. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 3723** by Stan Gerdes (R-Smithville) would require the Workforce Commission to establish the **Rural Workforce Training Grant Program** to provide targeted funding for job-specific workforce training to strengthen the skills, resources, and career opportunities of the rural workforce. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 110 to 22. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 115 to 32. It has been referred to the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee.*
- **HB 3928** by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would require school districts to obtain parental consent before **evaluating a student for dyslexia** and

related disorders. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 1.*

- **HB 3990** by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would require the Water Development Board, in cooperation with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to study the **interaction between surface water and groundwater**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 120 to 27. It has been referred to the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 4142** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would mandate the award of attorney's fees to a prevailing party in an action to enforce a **motor vehicle mortgagee's lien**. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 0. It has been referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*
- **HB 4358** by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would include **digital teaching** in the **micro-credential certification** program as an option in the continuing education process for teachers. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 6. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.*
- **HB 4437** by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would clarify that **information** regarding current, former, or prospective applicant or student of an institution of higher education that is obtained, received, or **held by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board** to be considered **confidential** and excepted from disclosure as an educational record. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 138 to 4. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 4827** by Terri Leo-Wilson (R-Galveston) would add private and independent institutions of higher education and career schools or colleges to the list of places where **carrying a weapon** is prohibited. *It passed by a vote of 117 to 26. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 5214** by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would authorize the attorney general to bring a civil action against a person on behalf of an individual or entity for injury to that individual or entity's business or property caused by a person's violation of the **Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 135 to 1. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 143 to 1. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **HB 5232** by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would increase the amount of the fine payable to the state for a violation of the **Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act** from \$1 million to \$50 million based on assets or market capitalization. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 139 to 1. ON Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 156 to 2. It has been referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee.*
- **SB 1002** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) and Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would encourage competitive private sector investment in the deployment of public **electric vehicle charging stations**. *SB 1002 was*

substituted on the House Calendar for HB 3508. It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 89 to 52. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 99 to 34.

- **SB 1170** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock) would allow (instead of require) a **municipally owned utility** to delegate the authority to designate the provider or **providers of last resort** to the Public Utility Commission. *SB 1170 substituted for HB 2663 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 143 to 1.*
- **SB 1222** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would update statutes regulating **property tax appraisers**. *SB 1222 substituted for HB 2427 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 140 to 0.*
- **SB 1425** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would change the sunset date for disbursements from the **universal service fund** for small and rural companies from September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2033. *SB 1425 substituted for HB 2771 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **SB 1563** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would repeal Section 96.66(h) of the Education Code which prohibits the **Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine** from receiving formula funding. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 136 to 5. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 134 to 8.*
- **SB 2038** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would allow property owners in an **extraterritorial jurisdiction** (ETJ) of a municipality to use petition and election procedures to remove themselves from the ETJ. *SB 2038 substituted for HB 5217 on the House Calendar. Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 127 to 18.*

On Wednesday, the House passed 50 Third Reading bills. And they gave preliminary approval to 51 additional bills including:

- **HB 103** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would allow retired judges who served as an active judge for at least 96 months to serve as **visiting judges**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*
- **HB 671** by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require the Texas Veterans Commission to conduct a suicide prevention campaign to provide **veterans** with information regarding **suicide prevention**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 677** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would prohibit a toll project from charging a toll to **public school buses**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
- **HB 844** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would update the definition of **trafficking of persons** to include solicit or patronize another person. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 2.*
- **HB 1073** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would authorize a **preferred provider benefit plan** to provide or arrange for health care services with a

physician or health care provider through a contract or subcontract for compensation under a fee-for-service arrangement; a risk-sharing arrangement; or a capitation arrangement. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*

- **HB 1703** by Claudia Ordaz Perez (D-El Paso) would require the Texas Workforce Commission to maintain an **automated** follow-up and evaluation **system** that includes **unemployment wage records and student follow-up information** available through the Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 109 to 36.*
- **HB 1899** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would provide **penalties for insider trading** or misuse of official information. *It passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*
- **HB 1927** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would require a **peace officer** who takes a **minor into custody** to use age-appropriate trauma-informed practices in responding to the situation. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 138 to 6.*
- **HB 2002** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require insurers to credit **out-of-pocket expenses paid directly to a physician** or health care provider for a covered service toward an insured's deductible and annual maximum out-of-pocket expenses. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 2120** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would allow a secondary school to obtain an establishment license to operate a **barbering and cosmetology** establishment on the school campus. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 2263** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would allow **natural gas local distribution companies** to offer energy conservation programs, approved by the Railroad Commission to customers. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 130 to 2. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 140 to 4.*
- **HB 2847** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would give the Railroad Commission jurisdiction over pipeline transportation and underground **storage of hydrogen** and would establish the Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council to study and make recommendations relating to **hydrogen energy development**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 1.*
- **HB 2946** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would change the instructional time required for **juvenile justice alternative education programs** from seven hours per day and 180 days per year to 43,200 minutes of instructional time. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 2976** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow school districts to offer an **elective course in firearms safety** to high school students. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 130 to 14.*

- **HB 3028** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would **reduce** the amount of **recapture** owed by a school district by **four percent** if the school district pays the total amount by February 15th of the school year in which the agreement is in effect. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 128 to 14. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 117 to 25.*
- **HB 3067** by Venton Jones (D-Dallas) would authorize **school security officers** to install and use **tracking equipment**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 120 to 22. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 77 to 61.*
- **HB 3140** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would make mental health professionals who provide mental health services to students eligible for the **Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 101 to 30. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 104 to 38.*
- **HB 3255** by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would require principals, assistant principals, school marshals, school district peace officers, school resource officers, and school security personnel to complete **emergency response management training**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 90 to 52.*
- **HB 3444** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require Texas Department of Transportation to prescribe criteria for the **classification of transportation districts** as metropolitan, urban, or rural. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 1.*
- **HB 3483** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require the Workforce Commission, in consultation with the Texas Veterans Commission to create and distribute to employers a **veterans benefits and services poster**; and would require employers to display the poster in a conspicuous place in the employer's place of business. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 111 to 33. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 95 to 48.*
- **HB 3553** by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would increase the criminal penalty for **human trafficking** if the offense is committed at an institution of higher education. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 3554** by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would increase the criminal penalty for **human trafficking** if the offense is committed at a shelter or residential treatment facility serving runaway youth, foster children, or the homeless. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 3625** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would waive the **floodplain notice** for rental property for a lease of less than 30 days or a temporary residential tenancy of a buyer who occupies the property before closing. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 120 to 17. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 105 to 39.*
- **HB 3742** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would authorize the Commission on Licensing and Regulation to eliminate **combative sports**

- tournaments; and would grant immunity to **ringside physicians** from civil liability. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*
- **HB 3743** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) is a clean-up bill for Texas **Department of Licensing and Regulation**. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 2.*
 - **HB 3833** by Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would add to **school counselor responsibilities** serving students who are at risk of engaging in harmful or inappropriate behaviors in response to personal or academic problems. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 105 to 35. On Thursday, one floor amendment was adopted and it received final passage by a vote of 107 to 30.*
 - **HB 3929** by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would authorize the Supreme Court to adopt the **Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act** as rules of civil procedure. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 0.*
 - **HB 4082** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would authorize cities and counties to issue **tax anticipation notes** to be issued for transportation, utility, first responder, and parks and recreation expenses. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 129 to 10. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 122 to 20.*
 - **HB 4218** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would provide that in a **civil action**, the duty of care applicable to an owner or operator of a **commercial motor vehicle** involved in an accident does not include a duty to retrofit the vehicle with component parts or equipment that were not required by federal motor vehicle safety standards at the time the vehicle was manufactured. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 119 to 20.*
 - **HB 4354** by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would authorize the **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association** to fund the mitigation and preparedness program using funds from the catastrophe reserve trust fund of up to \$500,000 annually. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 132 to 0\12.*
 - **HB 4539** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would provide that for the **moving image industry incentive program**, the minimum percentage of production crew, actors, and extras required to be Texas residents would be at least 55 (instead of 70) percent. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 122 to 20. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 117 to 27.*
 - **HB 4571** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a **hunger-free campus program** to support institutions of higher education in establishing essential and sustainable solutions to hunger on campuses. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 82 to 60. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 78 to 64.*
 - **HB 4716** by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would require school districts to refer students receiving special education services to a **local**

- intellectual and developmental disability authority** for services or public benefits. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 100 to 46. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 90 to 53.*
- **HB 4811** by Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) would establish the **Texas Energy Efficiency Council** to foster collaboration, coordination, and communication to enhance the state's energy efficiency performance and utilize the state's resources to optimize the benefits of energy efficiency program. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 89 to 45. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 93 to 50.*
 - **HB 4932** by Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would require the **state implementation plan** to account for the amount of foreign emissions (air contaminants emanating from outside the state) in each nonattainment area in the state. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 134 to 4.*
 - **SB 929** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would require municipalities and zoning commissions to provide written notice of each public hearing regarding any proposed adoption of or **change to a zoning regulation or boundary** that could result in a current conforming use of a property becoming a nonconforming use. *SB 929 was substituted for HB 3490 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 136 to 8.*
 - **SB 1332** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Historic Infrastructure Sustainability Trust Fund** to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate, and restore historic sites throughout the state. *SB 1332 was substituted for HB 3051 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
 - **SB 1425** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would change the sunset date for disbursements from the **universal service fund** for small and rural companies from September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2033. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
 - **SB 1469** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would require applicants for employment with a child care facility to sign a pre-employment affidavit **disclosing** whether the applicant has ever been charged with having an **inappropriate relationship with a minor**. *SB 1469 was substituted for HB 3199 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
 - **SB 1603** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would require a **court of appeals** to state the specific **reason** for **declining to accept a permissive appeal**; and would allow the **supreme court** to **review** a court's decision not to accept the appeal under an abuse of discretion standard. *SB 1603 was substituted for HB 1561 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 143 to 1.*
 - **SB 1615** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would adopt the **Cosmetology Licensure Compact** to provide interstate

practices by cosmetologists. *SB 1615 was substituted for HB 4857 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*

- **SB 2171** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) and Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas) would provide that in a suit involving a health care **liability claim against a chiropractor**, a person could qualify as an **expert witness** under the same rules that apply to physicians. *SB 2171 was substituted for HB 1791 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*

On Thursday, The House gave preliminary approval to **HB 5** by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would provide a temporary limited **property tax reduction** for businesses making **large capital investments**. It is one of Speaker Dade Phelan's priority bills. *The committee substitute and 10 floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 118 to 22. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 120 to 24.*

About HB 5, Representative Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) said, "This legislation would give Texas a tool to attract large business investments, ensure grid reliability and security, and encourage job creation. This is a modern, transparent approach to economic development that will help ensure Texas remains the best state in the country for business. I am confident that this legislation will bring investments to this state and create opportunities for our fellow Texans. HB 5 would allow school districts to enter into agreements allowing companies investing in their communities a temporary discount on school Maintenance & Operations taxes limited to 10 years. However, the companies must pay school I&S (interest & sinking) taxes - which districts use for construction and renovation of facilities through the issuance of bonds - on the full value of the project. During the construction period, the company would pay 20 percent of the M&O tax savings to the district. Additionally, during the abatement period, the company would share part of its discount with the district as well. HB 5 would also bring tax relief to the communities who choose to sign agreements. When these properties come on the tax rolls, property tax rates will compress, providing rate relief for homeowners and other property-owners in the community. Over the last year, Texas lost several multibillion-dollar deals, including Rivian to Georgia, Intel to Ohio, and Micron to New York. Texas stands to lose more jobs, more investments, more tax base and more growth if we don't restock our economic development toolbox with a new economic development incentive this legislative session."

About HB 5, Texas Association of Manufacturers CEO Tony Bennett said, "Manufacturers applaud the Texas House for passing Chairman Hunter's Texas Jobs & Security Act (HB 5), which will help Texas bolster our state's economic security by helping to reestablish our global manufacturing dominance, reshore our supply chain, and ensure electric grid reliability. The limited, temporary, school M&O property tax discounts included in the economic development program HB 5 creates are imperative to attract new capital investment and the long-term benefits they bring. Participating companies must still pay all I&S tax (debt service), sales and use, franchise, inventory, payroll and other taxes. The legislation includes provisions that protect the interests of the state and

participating school districts. Projects must be clear ‘wins’ for Texas as the comptroller must find that the project will generate more tax dollars than the amount that will be discounted during the incentive period. Even at the reduced value, the taxable value of the property will be higher than it was prior to the investment, creating a net gain under every circumstance. Companies must also demonstrate the incentive is a determining factor in their decision to invest here. That is, without the incentive, these properties would remain undeveloped. The program also includes strong accountability provisions that require a company to return any tax savings should the project not meet the terms of the agreement. For example, with the exception of electric grid reliability projects, there are mandatory job creation requirements in every agreement. Schools are protected because school finance formulas guarantee the district will receive the same amount of revenue per student with the project and agreement as it would have without. The bill also contains a provision whereby the industry project shares a portion of its tax savings through an incentive formula with the school district. This will ensure that districts are better off financially with the project. As a part of the application fee, the project will pay for a school district to hire school finance experts to do a financial impact statement prior to approval so the district will know ahead of time if it is in its best interest to approve the agreement. HB 5 is a winning proposal for Texas taxpayers, our schools, and our economy.”

About HB 5, a coalition of school districts expressed support. H.D.

Chambers, Executive Director of Texas School Alliance said, "Today, the House of Representatives took crucial action to help secure the economic future of our state by passing HB 5. This bill will ensure the success of our public schools, which depend on the jobs and revenue that business investments bring to their local communities and the state economy. We urge our senators to send this legislation to Governor Abbott’s desk and help Texas create new job opportunities, attract investments, generate tax revenue, support schools and maintain its position as the best place in the country to live and work. While Texas school districts are supportive of including renewable energy in Texas’ economic development program, we appreciate our representatives taking on the broader issue to bolster Texas’ position as a leader in the global marketplace. When school districts have the ability to grant property tax limitations, they can attract new companies to the area, increasing economic development and job opportunities.”

Also on Thursday the House passed the Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 62 other bills including:

- **HB 33** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would prohibit Texas state agencies and officials from contracting with or providing assistance to any federal agency or official regarding the **enforcement of a federal statute**, order, rule, or regulation **regulating oil and gas** operations if the regulation is not already existing law. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 87 to 51. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 99 to 44.*
- **HB 380** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require local entities to provide the secretary of state (SOS) with **election information** to be posted on the

SOS website. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 115 to 23. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 111 to 34.*

- **HB 636** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would authorize **election judges** who are licensed to carry a handgun to carry a **handgun at a polling place**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 79 to 59. On Friday, one floor amendment was adopted and it received final approval by a vote of 95 to 50.*
- **HB 1105** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would allow **pharmacists** to order or **administer immunizations** or vaccines. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 113 to 28. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 109 to 33.*
- **HB 1680** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would allow a minor who is otherwise eligible for a **home visiting program** to consent to enrollment in and to receive services from a home visiting program. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 87 to 52. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 89 to 56.*
- **HB 1794** by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would authorize formula funding for the **University of Texas at Tyler's school of pharmacy**. *It passed by a vote of 128 to 10.*
- **HB 1833** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would establish the **criminal penalties** for the offense of criminal mischief involving a **public power supply**. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 1.*
- **HB 1879** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would authorize **Medicaid** recipients to select a licensed master social worker or a **licensed professional counselor** associate to provided reimbursed services. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 107 to 30. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 115 to 27.*
- **HB 1896** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add computer-generated intimate visual material that was created using an artificial intelligence application or other computer software to civil and criminal statutes prohibiting **unlawful disclosure of intimate visual material**. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 2.*
- **HB 2231** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would add the Bassmaster Classic, a Federation Equestre Internationale World Cup Final, a Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM World Supercross Championship race, and the Professional Bull Riders World Finals to eligibility for funding under the **major events reimbursement program**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 121 to 20.*
- **HB 2265** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would prohibit a **construction contract** between a governmental entity and a contractor from prohibiting or limiting the award of compensatory damages to a contractor for a delay caused solely by the governmental entity. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 136 to 8.*

- **HB 2291** by Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville) would allow **retired justices and judges** who are licensed to carry a handgun to carry a handgun in otherwise prohibited places. *It passed by a vote of 130 to 15.*
- **HB 2350** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would **prohibit a political subdivision** from adopting an ordinance or regulation that requires a person to possess an **occupational license** with additional or more stringent requirements than those imposed by the state licensing authority. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 89 to 51. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 90 to 54.*
- **HB 2443** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would allow a person with groundwater ownership and rights to petition a **groundwater conservation district** where the property is located to adopt or modify a rule of the district. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 2534** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would **exempt from disclosure** under the Open Records Act, the notes and electronic communications of an Administrative Law Judge conducting a contested case hearing or appeal, drafts of a decision, or drafts of an order. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 2735** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) would require the plaintiff filing **suit against a groundwater conservation district** to post a bond of up to \$100,000. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 100 to 40.*
- **HB 2800** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require **meetings** of a **county election board** to be held in person and open to the public; and would require 48 hours advance notice of the meeting to be posted on the county's Internet website. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*
- **HB 2827** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would require **concentrated animal feeding operations** to maintain results of annual soil tests and make available to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality records related to the amount of manure, litter, or wastewater from the operation that is applied to a third-party waste application field, the location of the application and the name of the third party and the results of annual soil tests. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 77 to 31. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 80 to 53.*
- **HB 3136** by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would require the Department of Housing and Community Affairs to establish procedures for a development owner to prepare and submit a documentation packet to obtain federal Form 8609 in order to receive an **allocation of low-income housing tax credits**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 112 to 31.*
- **HB 3137** by Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) would prohibit local governments from requiring the **owner of a firearm** to obtain **liability insurance** coverage. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 87 to 57. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 84 to 58.*

- **HB 3286** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require a **Medicaid** managed care organization to establish a process through which a **step therapy protocol** exception request can be submitted by a prescribing provider. *The committee substitute and three floor amendments was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 0. On Friday, another floor amendment was adopted and it received final approval by the same vote.*
- **HB 3297** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would eliminate regular **mandatory vehicle safety inspections** for **noncommercial vehicles**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 86 to 39. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 105 to 40.*
- **HB 3323** by Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin) would establish the **Texas Food System Security and Resiliency Planning Council** in the Texas Department to develop a state food system security plan. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 88 to 51. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 92 to 49.*
- **HB 3377** by Venton Jones (D-Dallas) would require a health care provider who takes a sample of an individual's blood as part of a **medical screening for a sexually transmitted infection** to submit the sample for an HIV diagnostic test. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 104 to 39. On Friday, it passed by a vote of 103 to 40.*
- **HB 3418** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would establish a **Vehicle Mileage User Fee Task Force** to develop a vehicle mileage user fee pilot program to assess the potential for mileage-based revenue as an alternative to the current system of taxing highway use through motor fuel taxes. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 102 to 35. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 96 to 46.*
- **HB 3462** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would require the executive commissioner for the Health & Human Services Commission to establish **ombudsman programs** for the health and human services office of the ombudsman; the ombudsman for children and youth in foster care; the ombudsman for managed care assistance, the ombudsman for behavioral health access to care, and the ombudsman for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 3.*
- **HB 3827** by Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) would require registration with the Secretary of State for **earned wage access services** providers. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 91 to 52.*
- **HB 3860** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would prohibit a county tax assessor-collector from being held liable for an offense or damages arising from the misuse of license plates or other **fraudulent activity** related to **vehicle registration and titling**. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 2.*
- **HB 3867** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require the **behavior management plan** for a special education student to provide written

notification to the parent that includes whether a mental and physical health screening was conducted and the results of the screening. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 83 to 60.*

- **HB 4054** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would clarify that an **alcoholic beverage manufacturer** can provide transportation to an educational program at the manufacturer's facility. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 4.*
- **HB 4075** by Ramon Romero (D-Fort Worth) would allow the **Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council** to enter into a reciprocal license agreements with other jurisdictions for license reciprocity. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 141 to 1. On Friday, it received final passage by a vote of 141 to 2.*
- **HB 4246** by Angelia Orr (R-Itasca) would remove the \$2 million cap on the amount of surplus revenue that a nonprofit electric cooperative can contribute to a **scholarship fund for rural students**, to stimulate rural economic development, or provide energy efficiency assistance to members of the cooperative; and would base the cap on a formula of up to 50 percent of the total money reported in a year by the nonprofit cooperative corporations. *It passed by a vote of 138 to 2.*
- **HB 4309** by Victoria Neave Criado (D-Dallas) would prohibit an employment contract that prohibits or limits an employee from **notifying law enforcement** or a regulatory agency of **sexual assault or sexual harassment** committed by another employee or at the employee's place of employment. *It passed by a vote of 111 to 34.*
- **HB 4444** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) would authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to allow a person to **discharge groundwater** into a **watercourse or stream** prior to its beneficial use for subsequent diversion and beneficial use through a bed and banks authorization. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 127 to 17.*
- **HB 4446** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would establish a procedure for counties to issue licenses or permits for a person to own or operate a **game room**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 132 to 6. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 124 to 22.*
- **HB 4447** by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would require the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation to adjust **motor vehicle impoundment fees**, storage fees, and notification fees. *It passed by a vote of 138 to 15.*
- **HB 4635** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would create civil remedies and enforcement actions related to **racketeering** and **unlawful debt collection**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 109 to 29. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 112 to 24.*
- **HB 4779** by Salman Bhojani (D-Euless) would revise the conduct that constituted the offense of **organized retail theft** to ensure that minimal shoplifting is not prosecuted as organized retail theft. *One floor*

amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 95 to 45. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 106 to 35.

- **HB 4843** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would increase the punishment from a Third Degree to a Second Degree felony for the offense of **unlawful possession of a firearm** by a person convicted of a felony. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 125 to 16. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 103 to 35.*
- **HB 5174** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Semiconductor Innovation Consortium** to leverage the expertise and capacity of institutions of higher education, industry and non-profit stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to ensure ongoing semiconductor innovation. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 130 to 9. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 128 to 17.*
- **HB 5264** by Rheta Andrews Bowers (D-Rowlett) would require the Texas Workforce Commission to adopt a set of performance indicators to measure and evaluate the quality of learning and achievement of students enrolled in **career school or college programs**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 118 to 25.*
- **SB 1021** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would authorize district engineers to handle **bids for highway projects** involving less than \$1 million (instead of \$300,000). *SB 1021 was substituted for HB 3889 on the House Calendar. The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 153 to 0.*
- **SB 1023** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would allow the Texas Department of Transportation to post a **notice related to maximum loads permitted on bridges** if the notice is posted in accordance with federal law. *SB 1023 was substituted for HB 3887 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **SB 1210** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) and Bobby Guerra (R-McAllen) would require the Railroad Commission to designate a person who has an interest in the **geothermal resources of an orphaned oil or gas well** as the operator of that well. *SB 1210 was substituted for HB 3131 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **SB 1286** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) and Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would allow the Commissioner of Insurance to authorize an **extension of prompt payment deadlines** due to a **catastrophic event**. *SB 1286 was substituted for HB 3196 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 142 to 2.*
- **SB 2193** by Morgan LaMantia (South Padre Island) and James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) would establish the **Federally Qualified Health Center Primary Care Access Program** to increase primary care services for low-income or at-risk Texans at federally qualified health centers. *SB 2193 was substituted for HB 3317 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*

On Friday, the House passed the 63 Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 46 bills including:

HB 102 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would allow the estate of a deceased worker to recover **exemplary damages** following a **work-related death**. *It passed by a vote of 134 to 0.*

HB 233 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require new **mental health care workers** to receive at least eight hours of training and require four hours of continuing in-service training for **identifying abuse**, neglect, and illegal, unprofessional, and unethical conduct in health care facilities. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 138 to 0.*

HB 351 by Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would allow workers' compensation carriers to contract with an accident and health insurance company to offer one policy which includes both **workers' compensation** insurance and a **group accident and health insurance** policy. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 95 to 40. On Saturday, one Third Reading amendment was adopted and it received final approval by a vote of 89 to 49.*

HB 1301 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would allow a property owner to **appeal an appraisal review board order** to district court. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 0. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 136 to 0.*

HB 1649 by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would require health benefit plan coverage for **fertility preservation services**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 119 to 23. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 104 to 31.*

HB 1740 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to **waive the park entrance fee** for **first responders** and active-duty members or veterans of the **armed services**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 134 to 2.*

HB 1926 by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would repeal Section 29.050 of the Education Code, which sunsets the **supplemental special education services and instructional materials program** on September 1, 2024. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 103 to 40. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 86 to 51.*

HB 1956 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would change the limitation on reasonable **attorney's fees** to a prevailing property owner in a property tax appeal. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 139 to 2. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 136 to 1.*

HB 2084 by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would increase the **penalty for racing on a highway** from a Class B misdemeanor to a first degree felony if it is shown on the trial that the offense resulted in two or more individuals suffered serious bodily injury or death. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 140 to 4. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 132 to 6.*

HB 2262 by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would require the Railroad Commission to approve a **certification** process for **gas that has a lower carbon content** than natural gas; and designate a gaseous fuel as an alternative gas if the fuel has a lower carbon content than natural gas. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 138 to 0.*

HB 2493 by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would add a data dictionary to the definition of public information for purposes of the **public information law**; and would require a person responding to a request to provide an electronic copy of the requested **electronic public information** in the searchable or sortable format requested. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 0. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 137 to 0.*

HB 2767 by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would allow the State Board of Pharmacy and the Health & Human Services Commission to **share data** necessary to meet the standards of a **qualified prescription drug monitoring program**. *It passed by a vote of 136 to 1.*

HB 2879 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would provide that a venue provision in a **contract for an improvement to real property** that requires an action involving a contractor, subcontractor, or materialman who is a Texas resident, to be brought outside the state is void as a matter of public policy. *It passed by a vote of 129 to 8.*

HB 3033 by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would require the attorney general to rule on **public information requests** within 30 (instead of 45) business days; and would require governmental bodies to produce the information within 15 days after the attorney general's authorization. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 145 to 0. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 134 to 1.*

HB 3046 by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would allow the authority responsible for preparing ballots to omit the **name of a deceased candidate** from the ballot. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 138 to 4. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 134 to 4.*

HB 3104 by Charles "Doc" Anderson (R-Waco) would expand qualifications for the sales tax exemption for equipment necessary to operate a **data center**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 123 to 19. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 113 to 23.*

HB 3374 by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would waive the qualified employee requirement for businesses participating in the **enterprise zone program** during the **COVID relief period** (March 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 128 to 10.*

HB 3501 by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would require employees of a **tattoo or body piercing studio** to complete training on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 130 to 12. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 129 to 8.*

HB 4185 by Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) would establish a pilot program to award grants for personalized treatment protocols for **veterans** diagnosed with **post-traumatic stress disorder**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 0. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 137 to 0.*

HB 4337 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would classify a license, certificate, permit, seal, title, letter of patent, or similar document issued by a foreign government as a governmental record for purposes of the offense involving

tampering with a governmental document. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 137 to 0.*

HB 4477 by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would repeal Section 33.0812 of the Education Code, which prohibits **University Interscholastic League** competitions on Monday through Thursday of the school week. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 99 to 40. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 97 to 34.*

HB 4702 by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would require Medicaid coverage of **peer support services.** *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 102 to 38. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 90 to 45.*

HB 4856 by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would grant Texas Commission on Environmental Quality exclusive jurisdiction over injection of **recycled fluid oil and gas waste** that has been treated to a standard approved by the commission. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 136 to 1.*

HB 5066 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would establish criteria for determining the electric need for **transmission projects** in underserved areas. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 135 to 0.*

SB 271 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) and Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would require **local governmental entities to report security incidents** and comply with the same procedures as state agencies involving security incidents. *SB 271 was substituted for HB 712 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 134 to 2.*

SB 294 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) and Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require the commissioner of state health services to establish an advisory committee to examine and review the administration by school districts, charters, and institutions of higher education of **medication for respiratory distress.** *SB 294 was substituted for HB 920 on the House Calendar. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 135 to 0.*

SB 699 by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) and Donna Howard (D-Austin) would extend the **health care provider participation program** in hospital districts in a county with a population of more than 800,000 that was included in the boundaries of a hospital district before September 1, 2003 from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2027. *SB 699 was substituted for HB 2146 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 82 to 56.*

SB 1322 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) and Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would authorize the holder of a package store permit to purchase up to 24 bottles of **vintage distilled spirits** from a vintage distilled spirits seller in a 12 month period. *SB 1322 was substituted for HB 3350 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 134 to 3.*

SB 1484 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would require Texas Department of Public Safety to establish a **border operations training program** for peace officers employed by local law enforcement agencies. *SB 1484 was substituted for HB 1675 on the House Calendar. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 53. On Saturday, it received final approval by a vote of 96 to 40.*

SB 1500 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Terry Canalas (D-Edinburg) would allow a **port commission to make emergency purchases** for routine purchases if necessary to respond to an emergency related to a supply chain disruption or shortage or other disruptions or stoppages of the operations of the district without competitive bidding. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 135 to 3.*

SB 1577 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) and Ken King (R-Canadian) would eliminate transition language and conform statutes related to the **Texas Real Estate Research Center**, the Real Estate Research Advisory Committee, the Texas Real Estate Commission, and the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board. *SB 1577 was substituted for HB 3878 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 137 to 0.*

SB 1839 by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria) would allow a business or restaurant to **process a shark carcass into steaks** or fillets only if the steaks and fillets do not contain any portion of a shark fin and each of the shark’s fins is destroyed and discarded immediately. *SB 1839 was substituted for HB 4692 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 131 to 1.*

SB 1866 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would allow **Entergy Texas** to provide **backup electric service** to a nonresidential retail customer through a customer-sited distribution generation facility. *SB 1866 was substituted for HB 4287 on the House Calendar. It passed by a vote of 137 to 0.*

On Saturday, the House passed the Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 27 additional bills including:

HB 1457 by Jon Rosenthal (D-Houston) would require entities that provide **mental health services to veterans** to receive training on military informed care or military cultural competency. *It passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 1460 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would authorize a **vehicle transporting aggregates** to operate at an axle weight that is not heavier than the weight equal to the maximum allowable axle weight plus a tolerance allowance of 15 percent of that allowable weight. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 1696 by Brad Buckley (R-Waxahachie) would prohibit a **managed care plan** from denying **participation of an optometrist**, therapeutic optometrist or ophthalmologist if the provider meets the plan’s credentialing requirements and agrees to the plan’s contractual terms. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 124 to 4.*

HB 1803 by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would require entities that offer **Medicare supplement benefit plans** to individuals 65 years of age or older to offer the same coverage to individuals younger than 65 who are eligible for Medicare by reason of disability or end state renal disease. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 2302 by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would require the local plans of **local workforce development boards** to establish specific goals, objectives and

performance measures for individuals between the ages of 16 and 25. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 97 to 23.*

HB 2553 by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would allow **physical therapists** to receive direct care to a patient without a referral. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 2675 by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would allow a **justice court clerk** to deposit **registry funds** into court registries in the same manner as a county or district clerk. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 134 to 0.*

HB 2684 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would allow Texas Department of Transportation to issue a **special permit** to an oversize or **overweight vehicle** or load that can be easily dismantled or divided and will be used only to **deliver agricultural commodities** during an emergency or disaster. *It passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 3026 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to develop a prescription drug assistance program to increase access to prescription drugs for uninsured individuals through a **prescription drug manufacturer patient assistance program**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 114 to 12.*

HB 3039 by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would adopt the **Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact** to facilitate the interstate practice of dentistry and dental hygiene. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 3162 by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would grant immunity from civil liability to a physician or health care provider acting under the direction of the physician for conducting a tracheostomy or percutaneous gastrostomy for purposes of transferring a patient to another physician who is willing to comply with the **patient's advance directive**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 3443 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would add a **designation** on a person's **driver's license** or commercial driver's license indicating that the person is **licensed to carry a handgun**. *It passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 3485 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would prohibit a **contractor** or subcontractor from proceeding with additional **work for a governmental entity** if the contractor or subcontractor has not received a written change order and the aggregate value of the additional work plus any additional work plus previous additional work exceeds 10 percent of the original contract. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 3599 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would allow a **non-profit food bank** to claim a refund on gasoline and diesel taxes paid. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 119 to 2.*

HB 3657 by Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) would make it a Class A misdemeanor for **notary public** to knowingly perform a notarization when the person for whom the notarization is performed did not personally appear before the notary public at the time of the notarization. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a voice vote.*

HB 3771 by Julie Johnson (D-Farmers Branch) would require the Workforce Commission to establish the **Employer Child-Care Contribution Partnership Program** to support families in accessing high-quality child care by incentivizing eligible employers to contribute to employee child-care costs and providing a state match for funds contributed by eligible employers. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 84 to 47.*

HB 3843 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to conduct a study comparing toll operations, error rates, customer complaints, speed of processing and billing practices of **toll project entities**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 128 to 0.*

HB 4181 by Sergio Munoz, Jr. (D-Palmview) would expand the qualification of a residence homestead of a surviving spouse to a member of the military killed in the line of duty to qualifying military service member including a **military technician**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 126 to 7.*

HB 4419 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would allow Texas A&M University at College Station and Texas State University to each establish a **virtual film production institute** to provide educational opportunities for students interested in studying virtual film production. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 110 to 23.*

SB 604 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would exclude “other energy services” payments from a **landman’s franchise tax** total revenue calculation. *SB 604 was substituted for HB 1915 on the House Calendar. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*

SB 840 by Royce West (D-Dallas) and Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) would increase the criminal penalty for **assault of hospital personnel**. *SB 840 was substituted for HB 3548 on the House Calendar. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*

SB 1013 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would move the **historic structures franchise tax credit** to its own chapter in the Tax Code (Chapter 172). *SB 1013 was substituted for HB 3709. It passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week:	472
Total number of bills passed by the House this week:	626
Total bills passed this week on the Local & Consent Calendar	305
Total number of bills passed by the House this session:	1,256
Total number of SB’s and SJR’s passed by the House this session:	117

Next Week: The House adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 8, 2023.

BUDGET:

Senate Finance Committee:

On Monday, the Senate Finance Committee took up:

HB 2674 by Stan Kitzman (R-Pattison) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would authorize an application for **designation as a state depository** to be sent to the comptroller electronically. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2691 by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require **state agencies** to notify a person who has **indebtedness or a delinquency** to the state agency that the matter has been reported to the comptroller; and would authorize the comptroller to deduct the amount of the indebtedness or delinquency from any payments the comptroller makes to that person. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement) .*

On Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee took up:

HB 1595 and HJR 3 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment renaming the National Research University Fund as the **Texas University Fund** to fund public institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities. *They were reported favorably as substituted. They are on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement).*

House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee – On Wednesday, the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee took up:

HB 4324 by Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would allow members of the **Texas military forces** to purchase service credit in the Employees Retirement System. *It was left pending.*

SB 1854 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program to offer an **optional plan** that covers **dental care** and a plan covering **vision care** for retirees, dependents, surviving spouses, and surviving dependent children. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 3813 by Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would allow individuals **retiring** from **Windham ISD** to participate in the Texas Employees Group Insurance Program. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4510 by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would require **state agencies** to submit their **annual financial reports** by November 1st (instead of November 20th) each year, including institutions of higher education; and would require state agencies that obtain an audited financial report to submit it in place of the annual report. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

SB 538 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Richard Raymond (D-Laredo) would allow the **Texas Military Department** to use appropriated money to recruit or

retain service members, employees, or other personnel. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee.*

SB 1246 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would allow the comptroller to invest funds generated by a state agency's **investment in repurchase agreements**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee.*

ELECTIONS:

Senate Jurisprudence Committee – On Wednesday, the Senate Jurisprudence Committee took up:

SB 1195 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would authorize the **attorney general** to prosecute offenses under the **Elections Code**. *It was reported favorably.*

House Elections Committee – On Thursday, the House Elections Committee took up:

SB 477 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require (instead of allow) an **election officer** to accept a **person with a mobility problem** to vote before accepting others to vote at the polling place. *It was left pending.*

SB 924 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) and Richard Hayes (R-Denton) would allow counties with a population between 150,000 and 1.2 million to **consolidate precincts** (of up to 10,000 active voters) if the polling place will adequately serve the voters of the consolidated precinct. *It was left pending.*

SB 1039 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would establish a procedure for the county clerk to investigate **complaints of voting irregularities** with appeals going to the secretary of state. *It was left pending.*

SB 1089 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would repeal Sections 2.56 and 124.003(e) of the Election Code which allows a separate ballot listing for **unopposed candidates** and declares them elected. *It was left pending.*

SB 1599 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require election officers to maintain a **register of ballots to be voted by mail** returned at a polling place including the name of each voter who returns a mail ballot and the ballot's number; and would establish a procedure for **correcting a defect in a mail ballot** and for tracking mail ballots. *It was left pending.*

SB 1807 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) and Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would establish civil penalties for **election** or elected **officials** who fail to **conduct** their **elections** according to the Texas Election Code after being advised by the Secretary of State on how to correct the violation. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1911 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would increase the penalty for the intentional **failure to deliver election supplies timely**, intentionally obstructing the distribution of election supplies, and unlawfully revealing how a candidate or measure is doing or if a voter has or has not voted in an election. *It was left pending.*

HB 4621 by Salman Bhojani (D-Euless) would authorize the authority that ordered **an election on a ballot proposition** to remove the measure from the ballot up to 90 days before an election. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 374 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would allow an applicant for early voting **ballot by mail** for the main election to request not to receive a ballot for a resulting run-off election. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1208 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow **children under that age of 14** to accompany the child's parent to a voting station and to **read or mark a ballot** at the direction of the parent. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1217 by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would remove the population threshold (a county with a population of 55,000 or more) to provisions related to **hours for early voting**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1356 by Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston) would add to the list of acceptable forms of **voter identification** a Transportation Worker identification credential issued by the Transportation Security Administration. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2954 by Ben Bumgarner (R-Flower Mound) would set the **office hours of an election authority** as a day on which the main business office of the county, city, or other political subdivision is regularly open for business (current law bases it on the school district's main office). *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3372 by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would require a **political candidate** or officeholder who accepts a political **contribution made using a credit card** to report the full amount as a political contribution including any amount deducted from the contribution by the credit card issuer as a processing fee. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4047 by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would require counties with a population over 1 million (Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis Counties) to have their **elections administered** by the **county clerk**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 5180 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would require the general custodian of election records to provide **public access** to anonymous **voted ballots** 60 days after the election. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 315 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would require **mail ballot applications** to contain a statement prescribed by the secretary of state explaining the benefits of furnishing a telephone number including how it assists the early voting clerk. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 453 by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would provide that if a **school district** fails to make a **building** available as a **polling place** if requested by the county; the district would be prohibited from designating the building as a polling place for a school board election or school district bond election for five years. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 824 by Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) would authorize **political subdivisions** to move the **date of their elections** to the November uniform election date through December 31, 2024 (the previous deadline was December 31, 2016). *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 2626 by Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock) would require the governing body of a **political subdivision** to make **campaign finance reports** filed with the political subdivision available to the public within five business days after the report is filed. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4636 by Angellia Orr (R-Itasca) would require county chairs of political parties to appoint a **precinct chair** if a vacancy occurs. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 4780 by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would allow a voter to provide a signature sheet in lieu of completing the carrier envelope certificate when **submitting a mail ballot**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

SB 1070 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would require the **interstate voter registration crosscheck program** to identify voters who have been convicted of a felony or who are registered to vote in more than one state. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Elections Committee.*

SB 2208 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would allow **election offenses** classified as a felony to be prosecuted in a judicial district adjoining the judicial district in which the offense occurred; a misdemeanor offense could be prosecuted in a county adjoining the county in which the offense occurred. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

HIGHER EDUCATION:

House Higher Education Committee – On Monday, the House Higher Education Committee took up:

HB 3296 by John Raney (R-Bryan) would require **data related to students** at two-year public institutions of higher education to be provided to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and would require the board to maintain that data in a manner that allows for public inspection. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3371 by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would authorize institutions of higher education to offer **higher education health benefits**; and would specify that the benefits are not health insurance. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4666 by Jay Dean (R-Longview) would extend the Hazelwood **tuition and fee exemption** to all persons who were honorably discharged from the **Armed**

Forces Reserve Components or Texas National Guard, having served a minimum of 20 years and who otherwise do not qualify. *It was left pending.*
SB 15 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require a student of a public institution of higher education who competes in **intercollegiate athletic competitions** to do so based on the student's **biological sex**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 1429 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would prohibit a standardized examination prepared by a private entity from being a graduation requirement for a **nursing education program**. *It was left pending.*

Senate Education Committee – On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

HB 584 by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the Department of Information Resources to enter into an agreement with a public junior college district to offer a program leading to a **state information technology credential** to address shortages in the state information resources workforce. *It was left pending.*

HB 1912 by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) and Royce West (D-Dallas) would increase the student union and buildings fee at the **University of Texas at Dallas** from \$60 per semester to \$100 per semester. *It was left pending.*

HB 2871 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the University of Texas at Austin to design and implement a program connecting local education agencies and institutions of higher education with evidence-based and accredited **computer science professional development resources**. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 1211 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add **licensed specialists in school psychology** to the list of mental health professionals for whom higher education **repayment loan assistance** is available. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1361 by Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston) would require institutions of higher education to designate at least one employee to act as a **liaison officer** for current or incoming **students who are the parent or guardian of a child** younger than 18 years of age to provide the students information regarding support services and other resources available to the students at the institution. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2108 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would remove the adoption date threshold (if adopted on or after September 1, 2009) for former **foster students** to qualify for a tuition and fee exemption at public institutions of higher education. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2177 by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would require the Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a **digital textbook and learning materials subscription pilot program**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4251 by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would allow Texas Department of Corrections to contract with public and nonprofit institutions of higher education to provide postsecondary **education and training** programs to **inmates** of a correctional facility. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 5148 by John Raney (R-Bryan) would establish the **Texas Students with Disabilities Scholarship Program** to provide tuition and fee assistance for students with disabilities to attend institutions of higher education. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 412 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring a **pregnant or parenting student** to take a leave of absence or withdraw from the student's degree or certificate program. *SB 412 was substituted for HB 1474 and it passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1758 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) and Stan Gerdes (R-Smithville) would allow the **University of Texas System** to use **land donated** to the system by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in Bastrop County for any purpose consistent with the mission of the system. *It passed on the HOUSE Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 518 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require institutions of higher education in nonautomatic **admissions decisions** to consider an applicant's **performance on a standardized test** appropriate for undergraduate admissions, but the standardized test could not be used as the sole or primary criterion for consideration of the applicant. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 2171 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would establish the **Texas Center for Rural Health Education** at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to perform an assessment of rural health education in the state, develop appropriate performance metrics to measure improvement in rural health education outcomes, research best practices and underserved rural areas; and develop recommendations regarding allocation of funding. *It was reported favorably from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 3631 by Suleman Lalani (D-Sugar Land) would require institutions of higher education to provide entering students with a campus map identifying any location at which **mental health services** are provided to students. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 3790 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would allow students at private or independent institutions of higher education to participate in the **Joint Admission Medical Program**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

SB 371 by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) and Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require students to complete one year of ROTC training for each year that a

student is enrolled in a degree or certificate program (up to four years) to qualify for the **Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Higher Education Committee.*

SB 2029 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would transfer administration of the **Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program** to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (instead of a junior college and an advisory board). *It was reported favorably from the Senate Higher Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2123 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler to participate in the **Joint Admission Medical Program**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Higher Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2158 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require the **firefighters** who receive a **tuition and fee exemption** to be a member in good standing of a volunteer fire department registered with the Texas A&M Forest Service and responds to 9-1-1 emergency calls in a designated area and attend at least 20 hours of annual training. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Corrections Committee.*

Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board – On May 2nd, Governor Abbott appointed Sarina Davidson to the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board for a term set to expire February 1, 2029. The board oversees the Texas Tuition Promise Fund and the Texas College Savings Plan.

Sarina Lora Davidson of Fort Worth is the director of Special Events at the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She is president of the University of North Texas Alumni Association Tarrant County Steering Committee, member for The University of North Texas College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Advisory Board, and a board member for Casa Mañana Theatre, and the Immunization Collaboration of Tarrant County. She is chair of the Red Shoe Society of Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth Marketing Executive Committee, member of the Fort Worth Bike Sharing Advisory Committee and Leadership Fort Worth Marketing Committee, a founding board member Sunhouse Arts – The Work Project, and founding ambassador of the Young Women's Preparatory Network of Dallas. Davidson received a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Studies with a focus in Business Management, Communication, and Criminal Justice from The University of North Texas.

UT Earned Global Ranking for Patents Granted – On May 1st, The University of Texas System announced that its institutions are among the most innovative in the world and for the sixth consecutive year have earned a top-five global ranking for most patents granted from the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Having received 225 U.S. utility patents, UT institutions rank No. 4 in the latest NAI listing, increasing total number of patents granted in 2022 from 203 the previous year. UT System Chancellor James B. Milliken said. "From the development of FDA-approved COVID vaccines to accelerating transitions to clean energy, UT

inventors are not only keeping Texas at the forefront of discovery, but they also demonstrate that universities are the epicenter for research and innovation and improve lives globally. I congratulate all the entrepreneurs and inventors who consistently place UT System institutions among the best places in the world to conduct their important work.” The top 5 universities worldwide in 2022, in order of ranking, are: The University of California System, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, The University of Texas System and Purdue University. In addition to its success in securing patents, the UT System set an all-time high in fiscal year 2022 with \$3.8 billion in research expenditures across UT’s 13 academic and health institutions. With more than \$1.7 billion in federally-sponsored research expenditures – a widely-recognized benchmark for research success – the UT System ranks No. 1 in Texas and No. 2 in the nation. Published annually since 2013, the NAI Report ranks the top 100 universities named as the first assignee on utility patents granted by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the 2022 calendar year.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Senate Finance Committee – On Monday, the Senate Finance Committee took up:

SB 1972 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require revocation of the license of an educator convicted of an offense under Section 43.24 of the Penal Code prohibiting distribution or **display of harmful material to a minor**. *It was left pending.*

House Public Education Committee – On Tuesday, the House Public Education Committee took up:

HB 1281 by Jolanda Jones (D-Houston) would require schools and charters to **notify** parents if a **school does not have a nurse** present at the student’s school for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year. *It was left pending.*

HB 2677 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would require school district employment policies to include anti-bullying measures to address bullying in the workplace, including provisions to address the **bullying of a teacher by a parent**. *It was left pending.*

HB 2694 by Venton Jones (D-Dallas) would require schools and charters that do **not have a full-time nurse, school counselor, or librarian** assigned to be present at the school for more than 30 consecutive instructional days to provide **written notice** to the **parents** of each student enrolled in the school. *It was left pending.*

HB 4199 by Lulu Flores (D-Austin) would require schools to make **menstrual products** available free of charge in each restroom designated for female students. *It was left pending.*

HCR 34 by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would designate February 10th as **Crossing Guard Appreciation Day**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1515 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would require schools to **display the Ten Commandments** in each classroom. *It was left pending.*

Senate Education Committee – On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

HB 473 by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) and Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would provide that before a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team may conduct a **threat assessment of a student**, the team must notify the parent of the student regarding the assessment and provide an opportunity for the parent to participate in the assessment and submit information to the team regarding the student. *It was left pending.*

HB 1297 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would allow **vision screening** for public and private school students using an electronic eye chart as a substitute for a printed eye chart to assess visual acuity. *It was left pending.*

HB 2484 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) and Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would ban spectators, including parents of a student participant, from attending future **University Interscholastic League competitions** if the spectator engages in conduct that intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to a person serving as a referee or official. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 2495 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would require **athletic trainers** to obtain continuing education related to concussions. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2510 by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would require school districts to disclose (on the district's Internet website) contracts for which the district did not use **competitive bidding** to select a vendor. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3623 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow school districts and charters to enter into a memorandum of understanding between schools authorizing the **school marshals** of each school to provide services at an event at which both schools participate. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3639 by Christina Morales (D-Houston) would require **active shooter response training** for school district peace officers and school resource officers at least once every two years. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3648 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add a school district's director of special education services to the board of the **Texas School Safety Center**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3654 by Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas) would require **automatic suspension** of a student who engages in conduct on or off school property against a school employee or volunteer that is **deliberately violent or threatens** their health or

safety. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3832 by Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would remove the requirement for school districts must notify the Commissioner of Education of any **instructional material** the district or school **disposes of**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3917 by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would require a county, justice, or municipal court to dismiss a charge against a **parent alleged to have contributed to truancy of a student** if the parent completes the terms of an agreement with the school district and the child attends school. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4210 by John Lujan (R-San Antonio) would increase the terms from two to three years for **board members of military reservation school districts**; and would allow a board member who retires from active duty or civilian service to continue to serve on the remainder of their term on the board. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4342 by Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas) would require the one-half credit in economics required for graduation to include **personal financial literacy**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4656 by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would establish a **temporary teaching certificate** for classroom teachers certified by other states. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4882 by Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would require school districts to submit a preliminary **multi-hazard emergency operations plan** to the School Safety Center and request provisional feedback from the center regarding the plan; and to make adjustments as necessary before submitting the final plan. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 5167 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would extend educational opportunities for **military-connected students** to children of veterans up to four years after retirement if the veteran returns to home of record on military orders. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 133 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would **prohibit physical restraint** or use a chemical irritant spray on a **student ten years of age or younger** unless the student poses a serious risk of harm to the student or another person. *SB 133 was substituted for HB 459 and it passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 1471 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would grant private schools access to the **registry of persons who are not eligible for employment in public schools**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1506 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require Texas Education Agency to adopt a form to be completed by the parent or physician of a student with a seizure disorder to report a **seizure management and treatment plan** for the care of the student. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2304 by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would require school districts and charters to provide information regarding the **Texas Driving with Disability Program** to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and who receive special education services. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2403 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require school districts to include data related to the district's **gifted and talented program** in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS); and would require the comparison provided by Texas Education Agency to include a comparison of college, career, and military readiness achievement between students served in the gifted and talented program and students served in other programs. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 1572 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would provide instructional **facilities funding** for open-enrollment **charter schools**. *It was reported favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 1614 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would make **free prekindergarten** for children who are at least three years of age if the school district or charter partners with a community-based child-care provider. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee. It is set on the House Calendar on May 8th.*

HB 2102 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would allow charter holders to provide written **notice** of the establishment of a **new open-enrollment charter school campus** up to 36 months (instead of 18 months) before the date on which the campus is anticipated to open. *It was reported favorably from the House Public Education Committee. It is on the House Calendar on May 8th.*

HB 2164 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require Texas Education Agency to adopt rules providing for robust monitoring of **bilingual education** and **special language programs**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee. It is on the House Calendar on May 8th.*

HB 2273 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to include skills that develop each student's civic knowledge including an **understanding of political ideologies**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 2923 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require a school district to contract with a **community-based child-care provider** to provide **prekindergarten** classes if a district election to issue bonds for construction of prekindergarten classroom facilities has filed in the previous 24 months or the district is unable to adequately staff the prekindergarten class. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 3908 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would require school districts to annually provide at least 10 hours of research-based instruction related to **fentanyl prevention** and **drug poisoning awareness** to students in grades 6 through 12. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3931 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would define **chronically absent student** as a student who is absent from school for 10 percent of the school's required instructional time; and would make truancy a Class C misdemeanor. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 3991 by Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) would designate the first Friday in April as **Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day** in public schools to promote awareness of the health benefits of fruits and vegetables. *It was reported favorably as from the House Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4007 by Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville) would allow **uniformed school marshals** to openly carry a handgun. *It was reported favorably from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee.*

HB 4116 by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would require school districts and charters to post **information regarding parental rights** on its Internet website homepage. *It was reported favorably from the House Public Education Committee.*

HB 4679 by Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston) would prohibit a toll project from charging a toll to **public school buses**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Transportation Committee.*

HB 4870 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require school districts to establish an **opt-out policy** to enroll students into **accelerated math in the 6th grade** to improve chances of gaining access to Algebra I in 8th grade, to increase the number of students completing advanced math in high school propelling them for college and workforce readiness. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

SB 979 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would add **rhabdomyolysis** to the list of injuries or conditions required for safety training programs related to extracurricular activities. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2428 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would allow, but not require, a student to be removed from class and placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for possession or **use of an e-cigarette**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

STATEWIDE:

House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee – On Tuesday, the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee took up several local bills and:

HJR 99 by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would propose a constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail to persons arrested for an **offense resulting in the death** or serious bodily injury to a **minor**. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 23 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would establish a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence for the **use of a firearm** in the commission of the most severe **felony offenses**. *It was left pending.*

SB 947 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would make it a **criminal offense** for a person to intentionally or knowingly damages, destroys, vandalizes, or **impairs the function of any critical infrastructure facility** that causes an extended power outage. *It was left pending.*

SB 1653 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and David Cook (R-Mansfield) would enhance the penalty for **promotion of prostitution** if the actor engages in conduct involving a person younger than 18 years of age. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1518 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would require the Department of Public Safety to establish a **terrorist offender registry** and require the department to supervise those terrorist offenders. *It was left pending.*

SB 1717 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would clarify and expand the evidence admissible for the prosecution of the **offense of stalking**. *It was left pending.*

House Urban Affairs Committee – On Tuesday, the House Urban Affairs Committee took up:

HB 3613 by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would require **municipalities** with single-member districts to hold an election of the entire governing body after **reapportionment**. *It was voted out favorably.*

Senate Business & Commerce Committee – On Tuesday, the Senate Business & Commerce Committee took up:

HB 1550 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) and Drew Springer (R-Muenster) is the sunset bill for the **Office of State-Federal Relations**. *It was left pending.*

HB 1748 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would authorize the comptroller to use a **facsimile signature** on a **public security** required to be registered by the comptroller. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Senate Criminal Justice Committee – On Tuesday, the Senate Criminal Justice Committee took up:

HB 279 by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would make **trafficking of a disabled individual** punishable to the same extent as trafficking of a child. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement).*

HB 1910 by Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) and Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would presume that a person in possession of **money that is forged** intended to obtain a property or service of a value equal to the total purported valued of the forged

money. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement).*

House State Affairs Committee – On Wednesday, the House State Affairs Committee took up:

HB 1882 by Salman Bhojani (D-Fort Worth) would add All Saints Day, Diwali, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr, Passover, Vaisakhi, and Vesak to the list of **optional state holidays**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 2426 by Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) would require the **lobby registration** form to include a list of each country for which the registrant is or is required to be **registered as a foreign agent**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1900 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) and Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would prohibit a **foreign terrorist organization** from purchasing or acquiring title to real property in Texas. *It was voted out favorably.*

Senate Jurisprudence Committee – On Wednesday, the Senate Jurisprudence Committee took up:

HB 2559 by Cody Vassut (R-Angleton) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would allow a retired justice of the peace to **administer an oath** in the state. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement).*

Senate Border Security Committee – On Thursday, the Senate Border Security Committee took up:

HB 4422 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to study the public safety, border security, and modernization of transportation infrastructure from **Texas-Mexico border crossings** onto the state highway system related to commercial vehicle connectivity. *It was left pending.*

Senate Special Committee on Redistricting – On Thursday, the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting took up:

HB 1000 by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) is the **redistricting** bill for **Texas House** Districts. *It was reported favorably. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement).*

HB 4559 by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would update **statutory population brackets** to reflect the 2021 census figures. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Passed the House:

HB 2499 by Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would designate June 28th as **Special Forces Day** in honor of the men and women who have served in the special operations forces of the United States armed forces. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2660 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require a law enforcement agency **responding to a missing child or person report** to electronically submit to

each municipal or county law enforcement agency within 200 miles of the report any information that may help determine the location of the child or person within 48 hours. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3222 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would give political subdivisions 30 (instead of 15) days after a disaster to submit an application for a loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's **community disaster loan program**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3223 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would require the chair of the Emergency Management Council to appoint a chair of each **disaster district committee** based on the declared disaster and phase of disaster response. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 281 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) would authorize designation of more than one **state musicians** including a musician for the classical genre and a musician for the nonclassical genre. *It passed on the HOUSE Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1527 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would update **human trafficking** and prosecution of compelling and solicitation of prostitution statutes. *SB 1527 was substituted for HB 3451 and it passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1852 by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would require **peace officers** to have completed an **active shooter training** program. *SB 1852 was substituted for HB 3362 and it passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1985 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would establish a committee to study the formation of a **Texas Bicentennial Commission**. *SB 1985 was substituted for HB 5093 and it passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 496 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, in consultation with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, to conduct a study to identify potential improvements to **training** provided to **9-1-1 emergency service call takers** and dispatchers. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1011 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would increase the penalty for **human trafficking** if the actor recruited the trafficked person from a correctional facility while the actor was confined in the facility or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeded the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of the trafficked person by applying pressure to the person's throat or neck or by blocking the person's nose or mouth. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1267 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would enhance the penalties of **operating a stash house** and increase them even more if the offense leads to an individual becoming a victim of sexual assault or suffered serious bodily injury or death. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1388 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would make it an offense for a person to knowingly operate or supervise a **drug consumption site** (any facility or

premises operated or intended to provide an environment for the unlawful use of a controlled substance). *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*
SB 2142 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require the attorney general to establish a process to identify and report **foreign-related transactions** in the state that are not already reported to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 65 by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would increase the punishment for **illegal immigration** to a third-degree felony. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 82 by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would allow the governor to seek Congressional approval of the **Interstate Compact for Border Security**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 139 by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require the **notice of state agency rules** to include the bill number for the legislation that enacted the statutory authority under which the rule is proposed to be adopted. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 608 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would authorize counties to allow the **sale of fireworks** during the five days preceding the Hindu religious **holiday of Diwali**. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Local Government Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 791 by Brian Harrison (R-Waxahachie) would require a state agency's **review of a rule** to include an assessment of any cost imposed on regulated persons. *It was reported favorably from the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.*

HB 1076 by Victoria Neave Criado (D-Dallas) would allow police departments to hire **peace officers** if they are not a U.S. citizen but are **legal permanent residents**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee.*

HB 1078 by Armando "Mando" Martinez (D-Weslaco) would allow a person to elect to participate in the **disaster identification system** activated in an area subject to a state of disaster declaration; and would require the system to authorize the use of an **illuminated display** to communicate with disaster relief personnel. *It was reported favorably from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1600 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would make it a criminal offense for **illegal entry into Texas from Mexico** by persons who are not citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 2127 by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would prohibit **municipalities and counties** from **adopting ordinances** related to agriculture, finance, insurance, labor, natural resources or occupations unless

explicitly authorized by statute. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Business & Commerce Committee.*

HB 2843 by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would authorize, license, and regulate **casino gaming and sports wagering**; and would establish the **Texas Gaming Commission** to regulate casino gaming activities, sports wagering and other gambling and ensure it is conducted fairly and in compliance with the law. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 3012 by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would add to statutes prohibiting the **trafficking of persons** directing two or more individuals to enter or remain in a park, open space, natural, area, or cultural resource site. *It was reported favorably from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 3031 by Julie Johnson (D-Farmers Branch) would require the Texas Military Department to establish a **grant program** to assist members of the **Texas military forces** who experience financial hardship caused by a federal withholding error in connection with compensation paid to members who served in Operation Lone Star. *It was reported favorably from the House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee.*

HB 4642 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would create a stand-alone felony offense of **lethal opioid poisoning** and would establish a fentanyl offenses enforcement training program. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 5202 by Victoria Neave Criado (D-Dallas) would require the Department of Public Safety to maintain a central **database of offenders** who have committed **family violence**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HJR 155 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would propose a constitutional amendment creating the **Texas Gaming Commission**, authorizing **sports wagering**, requiring a license to conduct **casino gaming**, requiring the imposition of casino gaming and sports wagering taxes, and authorizing Tribal-State compacts related to gaming. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

SB 736 by John Whitmire (D-Houston) and May Ann Perez (D-Houston) would require the **City of Houston** and the **Houston Firefighters** to submit to **binding arbitration** if they reach an impasse in collective bargaining and are unable to settle. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Urban Affairs Committee.*

SB 943 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would require the Texas Press Association to **publish** on it's Internet website **notices** it receives from printed newspapers. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE State Affairs Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1414 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) and Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) is the **sunset bill** for **veterinary medicine practice** by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the HOUSE Agriculture & Livestock Committee.*

SB 1527 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would update **human trafficking** and prosecution of compelling and solicitation of prostitution statutes. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1598 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) and Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add one Senate member and one House member to the **Homeland Security Council**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2057 by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would allow Texas Historical Commission (THC) to enter into a contract with the nonprofit entity that owns the **Iwo Jima Monument and Museum** to transfer the operation and management of the monument and museum to THC. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

TAX:

House Ways & Means Committee – On Monday, the House Ways & Means Committee took up:

HB 654 by Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) would exempt **hospitals** from the **diesel fuel tax**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 2655 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would prohibit an increase in property value for two years on property **value that was lowered by an appeal**. *It was left pending.*

HB 2993 by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would prohibit property tax abatements for **wind turbines** within 25 nautical miles of military aviation facilities. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3003 by Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) would expand the sales tax exemption for **aircraft repair and maintenance** to repair, remodeling, and maintenance services to aircraft; machinery, tools, supplies, and equipment used or consumed exclusively in the repair, remodeling, or maintenance of aircraft; and tangible personal property that is permanently affixed or attached as a component part of an aircraft. *It was left pending.*

HB 3389 by Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) would prescribe the circumstances in which a seller who is required to collect **motor vehicle sales tax** can claim a refund of **sales taxes paid on a bad debt**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3691 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would change the term “handicapped” to “**person with disabilities**” in the Tax Code; and would authorize an ad valorem tax exemption for charitable organizations that provide housing and services to **elderly persons**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 4257 by John Raney (R-Bryan) would increase the sales tax **timely filer discount** from 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent. *It was left pending.*

HB 4463 by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) would allow a property owner that has had an erroneous **exemption canceled** to apply for that exemption within seven years of the appraised canceling the exemption. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 348 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would allow **appraisal districts to post an arial photograph**, a street level photograph only of the exterior of a building, a field record or over-head sketch, the outline of one or more buildings on the property, the general landscape features, and the dimensions of or distances between buildings of a residential property on the district's Internet website. *It was left pending.*

SB 1439 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would allow an **appraisal district** to finance the purchase or construction of improvements necessary for its **facilities**. *It was left pending.*

Senate Finance Committee – On Monday, the Senate Finance Committee took up:

HB 591 by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) and Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would exempt gas that would have been vented or flared from the **severance tax**. *It was reported favorably as substituted.*

SB 1438 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would authorize a fuels tax credit for a fuels tax license holder that paid tax on **diesel fuel used by auxiliary power units** or power takeoff equipment on a motor vehicle. *It was left pending.*

SB 1836 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would allow vehicles exempt from motor fuel taxes to use a tax-exempt compressed natural gas and **liquefied natural gas refueling facilities** in emergencies and exigent circumstances under an interlocal agreement. *It was left pending.*

Senate Local Government Committee – On Monday, the Senate Local Government Committee took up several local bills and:

HB 349 by John Bucy (D-Austin) and Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would authorize a municipality to exempt property from **drainage charges** if the property is the residence of an individual who is disabled, 65 years of age or older, a veteran, or a member of the armed services of the United States on active deployment. *It was left pending.*

HB 796 by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require appraisal districts to maintain a publicly-accessible, searchable **protest hearing internet database** that includes the names of the appraisal review board members, hearing dates and times, appraised value and ARB determinations. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3273 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **property tax data** to be posted on each taxing unit's website and provide instructions on how a property owner can register to have notifications regarding updates to the property tax database delivered by e-mail. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1546 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a **special district** from exercising any right or power outside the district's boundaries. *It was reported*

favorably as substituted and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th (first placement).

Passed the House:

HB 2397 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would provide that ownership of land appraised as **qualified open-space land** for ad valorem tax purposes would not be considered to have changed ownership if the land is transferred from the former owner to the surviving spouse or a surviving child of the former owner. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4077 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would allow a person who will become 65 years of age in the next tax year to file a **homestead exemption application**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4980 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would remove the requirement that a **request for binding arbitration** and required deposit be filed with the **appraisal district**, but would allow them to be filed directly with the comptroller. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 1766 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would void a provision in a **contract for appraisal services** between a governmental agency and a provider of appraisal services that requires the provider to defend the government agency or to indemnify the agency for the agency's sole or concurrent negligence. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 2859 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would exclude federal grants for **broadband development** from the franchise tax. *It was reported favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee. It is on the House Calendar on May 8th.*

HB 3207 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would remove the residency requirement to serve on the **agricultural advisory board** of an appraisal district. *It was reported favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3487 by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would clarify that costs associated with rehabilitation of **historic structures** by institutions of higher education are tax exempt. *It was reported favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3621 by James Talarico (D-Austin) would authorize the legislature to provide an ad valorem tax exemption for **property used to operate a child-care facility**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

HB 3745 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would prohibit a chief appraiser from requiring a landowner to file a report on the **implementation of a written management plan** more than once during each five-year period. *It was reported favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

HB 3757 and HJR 153 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would propose a constitutional amendment extending the optional **tax freeze** on homesteads of

disabled or over-65 to all taxing units. *They were reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

HB 4429 by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would authorize **local** economic development **property tax incentives** under Chapter 312 of the Tax Code for **power system reliability projects**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

HB 4602 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would set the **motor vehicle** rental tax for a motor vehicle rented through a **marketplace rental provider** at 10 percent (instead of 6.25 percent) if the vehicles rented for 30 days or less if the owner of the motor vehicle rents at least five motor vehicles within a 12-month period. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

HB 4772 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would set the tax rate for **e-cigarettes** and alternative nicotine products. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee. It is on the House Calendar on May 8th.*

HJR 141 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would propose a constitutional amendment expanding the definition of **farm production inputs** for ad valorem tax purposes. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee. It is set on the House Calendar on May 8th. (Note: the enabling bill is HB 3241, which is also set on the House Calendar on May 8th)*

SB 61 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow the comptroller to serve **notice of permit revocation** hearings electronically. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Ways & Means Committee.*

SB 65 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would **exclude** the furnishing of an **academic transcript** from the **sales tax** on information services. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1251 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a school district from adopting a **tax rate** under the **special authority for disaster response** for a tax year in which the district previously adopted a tax rate that exceeded the voter-approval tax rate and the proposition to approve the rate failed. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Local Government Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 8th.*

SB 1801 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) and Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would require chief appraisers to develop a program for the **periodic review** (at least every five years) of residence **homestead exemptions** granted by the district to confirm that the recipient of the exemption still qualifies. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2361 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would extend the property tax exemption for **organizations performing a charitable function** until the organization no longer owns the property or the comptroller determines the organization no longer qualifies. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Local*

April Sales Tax Revenue - On May 1st, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$4.09 billion in April, 6.7 percent more than in April 2022. The majority of April sales tax revenue is based on sales made in March and remitted to the agency in April. That compares to:

- March 2023 collections were \$3.57 billion, 5.9 percent more than March, 2022;
- February 2023 collections were \$3.68 billion, 14.2 percent more than February, 2022
- January 2023 collections were \$4.11 billion, 6.6 percent more than January, 2022;
- December 2022 collections were 3.93 billion, 10.5 percent more than December 2021;
- November 2022 collections were \$3.96 billion, 11.2 percent more than November 2021;
- October 2022 collections were \$3.82 billion, 11.9 percent more than October 2021;
- September 2022 collections were \$3.69 billion, 17.2 percent more than September 2021;
- August 2022 collections were \$3.77 billion, 13 percent more than August 2021;
- July 2022 collections were \$3.88 billion, 14.7 percent more than July 2021;
- June 2022 collections were 3.68 billion, 16.5 percent more than June 2021;
- May 2022 collections were \$3.69 billion, 8.6 percent more than May 2021;
- April 2022 collections were \$3.83 billion, 12.8 percent more than April 2021;
- March 2022 collections were \$3.37 billion, 28.5 percent more than in March 2021; and
- February 2022 collections were \$3.23 billion, 28.6 percent more than in February 2021.

Comptroller Hegar said, “April sales tax revenue growth, moderately in excess of general price inflation, suggests economic expansion continues in spite of higher interest rates and fears of a recession. The strongest growth continues to be from sectors primarily driven by business spending. Receipts from the oil and gas mining sectors once again showed the strongest growth among all sectors compared with the same month a year ago, with remittances approaching a 50-percent gain for the fourth straight month. Receipts from the construction and manufacturing sectors were up by double digits, while receipts from wholesale trade slowed and dipped below the year-ago level, as building materials prices have come down from the peak reached last year. Remittances from the retail trade sector were positive in April compared with the same month the previous year, after falling in March for the first time in 12 months. Within the sector,

receipts from electronic shopping and grocery stores both showed double-digit increases compared with April 2022, and collections from general merchandise were up again after falling last month. Restaurant receipts increased in line with the inflation rate for food away from home in March.” Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in April 2023 was up 8.8 percent compared with the same period a year ago. Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 56 percent of all tax collections. Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes - \$507 million, down 3 percent from April 2022;
- motor fuel taxes - \$319 million, down 5 percent from April 2022;
- oil production tax - \$453 million, down 32 percent from April 2022;
- natural gas production tax - \$203 million, down 40 percent from April 2022;
- hotel occupancy tax - \$83 million, the highest monthly collections on record, up 9 percent from April 2022; and
- alcoholic beverage taxes - \$163 million, the highest monthly collections on record, up 7 percent from April 2022.

SLOW-DOWN RULES:

House End-of-Session Slow-Down Rules - Rules that institute deadlines in the House prior to the end of the legislative session begin to kick in Monday, May 8, 2023, **but the practical deadline is much sooner because it has been taking between five and 14 days from the time a bill is voted out of committee in the House until it reaches the House Calendars Committee.**

May 8, 2023 – Last day for House committees to report House Bills and House Joint Resolutions (119th day).

May 9, 2023 – Last House Daily Calendar with House Bills and House Joint Resolutions must be distributed by 10:00 p.m. due to the 36-hour layout rule for calendars (120th day).

May 10, 2023 – Last House Local and Consent Calendar with Consent House Bills must be distributed by 9:00 a.m. due to the 48-hour layout rule for Local and Consent calendars (121st day).

May 11, 2023 – Last day (midnight deadline) for the House to consider Second Reading House Bills and House Joint Resolutions on the regular calendar (122nd Day).

May 12, 2023 – Last day (midnight deadline) for House to consider consent House Bills on Second and Third Reading and all Third reading House Bills and House Joint Resolutions on the regular calendar (123rd Day).

May 17, 2023 – Last House Local and Consent Calendar with local House Bills must be distributed by 9:00 a.m. due to the 48-hour layout for Local and Consent calendars (128th day).

May 19, 2023 – Last day for the House to consider local House Bills on Second and Third Reading (130th Day).

May 20, 2023 – Last day for House Committees to report Senate Bills and Senate Joint Resolutions (131st Day).

May 21, 2023 – Last House Daily Calendar with Senate Bills and Senate Joint Resolutions must be printed and distributed (10:00 p.m. deadline) due to the 36-hour layout rule for regular calendars (132nd Day).

May 22, 2023 – Last House Local and Consent Calendar with Senate Bills must be distributed by 9:00 a.m. due to the 48-hour layout rule for Local and Consent calendars (133rd Day).

May 23, 2023 – Last day for the House to consider Second Reading Senate Bills and Senate Joint Resolutions on the regular calendar (134th Day).

May 24, 2023 – Last day for the House to consider local and consent Senate bills on Second and Third Reading and to consider all Third Reading Senate bills and Senate Joint Resolutions on the regular calendars (135th Day).

May 25, 2023 – All Senate amendments must be distributed in the House before midnight due to the 24-hour layout rule (136th Day).

May 26, 2023 – Last day for the House to act on Senate amendments. Senate copies of conference committee reports on tax, general appropriations and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed before midnight due to the 48-hour lay-out rule (137th Day).

May 27, 2023 – In the House, all conference committee reports must be printed and distributed by midnight due to the 24-hour layout rule (138th Day).

May 28, 2023 – Last day for the House to adopt conference committee reports and to discharge conference committees and adopt Senate amendments (139th Day).

May 29, 2023 – Corrections only in the House. Last day of the session with midnight deadline to adjourn *Sine Die* (140th Day).

Senate End-Of Session Slow-Down Rules – Rules that institute deadlines in the Senate prior to the end of the legislative session begin to kick in Friday, May 19, 2023:

May 19, 2023 –First day the Senate can consider bills and resolutions the first day they are posted on the Intent Calendar (130th Day).

May 24, 2023 –Last day for the Senate to consider all bills and joint resolutions on Second or Third Reading (135th Day).

May 26, 2023 – Senate copies of CCRs on tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed – 48-hour layout (137th Day)

May 27, 2023 – In the Senate, all conference committee reports must be printed and distributed (other than those required to be printed the 137th day) before midnight due to the 24-hour lay-out rule (138th Day).

May 28, 2023 –Last day for the Senate to adopt conference committee reports or concur in House amendments (139th Day).

May 29, 2023 – Corrections only in the Senate. Last day of the session with midnight deadline to adjourn *Sine Die* (140th Day).

KEY DATES:**Key Dates – 88th Legislative Session:**

88th Legislative Session Began: January 10, 2023

Inauguration of Governor and Lt. Governor – January 17, 2023

Bill Filing Deadline: March 10, 2023

88th Legislative Session Ends: May 29, 2023

Governor's Veto Deadline: June 18, 2023

State Websites - Additional information can be obtained via the Senate, House, and capitol websites:

www.senate.state.tx.us

www.house.state.tx.us

www.capitol.state.tx.us