

Weekly Legislative Report
April 14, 2023

GOVERNOR:

Houston Region Business Coalition – On April 11th, Governor Greg Abbott highlighted the important role Houston plays in Texas' robust economy and lauded the city's globally-recognized success at a luncheon hosted by the Houston Region Business Coalition. The governor also discussed his priorities for the 88th Legislative Session to continue laying the groundwork for entrepreneurs and businesses to succeed in Texas. Governor Abbott said, "As home of the 2022 World Series Champions and recent hosts of the March Madness Final Four, Houston is the center of the world these days. Businesses are coming to the Houston area in droves because the city has everything they want: a growing and diverse population, a world-class workforce educated by Tier 1 research universities, the world's premier medical center, the Port of Houston, and the freedom and opportunity that people can't find elsewhere. Houston is among the top cities in the entire nation for corporate relocations and expansion projects. This session, we will continue building on that momentum by securing more economic development tools for Texas communities and businesses." During the luncheon, Governor Abbott touted Houston's position as second in the nation for the most population gain between 2000 and 2022 and noted that the region is now home to 24 Fortune 500 company headquarters. The Governor also discussed his economic agenda for this legislative session, which includes providing the largest property tax cut in state history, cutting burdensome red tape, making critical transportation infrastructure improvements, and fortifying the state's power grid.

Operation Lone Star Update – On April 12th, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) seized over 3.1 million lethal doses of fentanyl, or about 14 pounds, during a single Operation Lone Star (OLS) traffic stop in Mission. This seizure marks one of the largest single fentanyl seizures by OLS to date. Governor Abbott said, "Fentanyl is the single greatest drug threat our state and country has ever known, and this record amount of fentanyl seized would have otherwise made its way into communities across Texas and the nation because of President Joe Biden's open border policies. Through Texas' historic Operation Lone Star mission, a DPS trooper prevented 3.1 million lethal doses of fentanyl - enough to kill every Texan in Austin, Dallas, and El Paso combined - from taking more innocent lives during a single traffic stop. I thank our brave DPS troopers, and all Operation Lone Star mission personnel, for their work to secure our border and keep Texans safe." DPS Director Steve McCraw added, "Because of this single seizure, millions of lethal doses of fentanyl will not make their way into communities across our state, and

really our country, and millions of lives are potentially saved. This seizure clearly shows the important work that is happening along our border through the Operation Lone Star mission, and I want to thank Governor Abbott for his continued leadership in the fight against fentanyl." On April 10, a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper stopped a black Cadillac SUV for a traffic violation at the intersection of 43 Street and Gumwood Avenue in Mission and discovered five tape-wrapped bundles containing a white powdery substance. The substance tested positive for fentanyl both in the field and at a DPS crime laboratory. The fentanyl has an estimated street value of around \$312,000.

The driver, Mario Reyna Cantu, 39, of Mexico, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance and taken to the Hidalgo County Jail.

Parent Empowerment Night in McAllen – On April 12th, Governor Greg Abbott advocated for expanded parental rights in their child's education at a Parent Empowerment Night held at Covenant Christian Academy in McAllen. The governor noted that while Texas' per-student funding is at an all-time high, more money does not always mean better outcomes for all students. The governor said, "Many children today are not educated like you and I were when we were kids, inspired by our country's founding and how it stands out from the rest of the world as the beacon of freedom and opportunity. We, as Texans, have an obligation to ensure we educate our children why and how the United States of America became the greatest country in the history of the world. We will not use taxpayer dollars to teach our children to hate our country. Schools should not push woke agendas, period. Schools are for education - not indoctrination. We must reform curriculum to get children back to the basics of learning, and we must empower parents." During his remarks, Governor Abbott highlighted legislative efforts currently under way that would provide more funding for public education and teacher pay raises, while also empowering parents to be the primary decisionmakers in their child's education. The governor emphasized the need to expand school choice options to all Texas students, pointing out that a majority of urban, suburban, and rural Texans support those efforts. The governor was joined by La Féria Independent School District School Trustee Gloria Santillan Casas, Texas Public Policy Foundation Campaign Director Mandy Drogin, Covenant Christian Academy Head of School Milton Gonzalez, and Covenant Christian Academy Principal Dr. Maria Bridwell.

Broken Spoke Gets State Historical Marker – On April 12th, First Lady Cecilia Abbott dedicated the Broken Spoke honky-tonk as a Texas State Historical Marker at a ceremony in Austin. During the ceremony outside of the famed barn-style country music venue, the First Lady celebrated the legendary history of the Broken Spoke and emphasized the importance of keeping Texas history and traditions alive. She said, "For 59 years, the Broken Spoke and the music, stories, and legacies of its artists have delighted and inspired us. Places like the Broken Spoke are crucial touchpoints with our Texas culture, connecting us with our heritage and with each other. We must remember the importance of our legendary Texas dancehalls and the culture, history, and traditions they keep

alive. I am honored to dedicate this historical marker here at the Broken Spoke as we ensure this institution remains a Texas treasure for generations to come." First Lady Abbott was joined at the dedication ceremony by Austin City Council Member Ryan Alter, Travis County Historical Commission Chair Bob Ward, Broken Spoke General Manager Ginny White-Peacock, Texas Music Hall of Famer Monte Warden, author Donna Marie Miller, and other local and music industry leaders. Established in 1964, the Broken Spoke is a bastion for traditional country music and considered one of the "last of the true Texas dancehalls."

SENATE:

The Senate was in session Tuesday through Thursday this week.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed 3 bills to Third Reading:

- **SB 16** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit a faculty member at an institution of higher education from compelling a student to adopt a belief that any race, sex, or ethnicity or **social, political, or religious belief** is inherently superior to any other race, sex, ethnicity, or belief. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Wednesday, one additional floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 12. On Wednesday, one floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 12.*
- **SB 694** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would make a religious organization or **security personnel of a religious organization** immune from civil liability for any act or omission by the security personnel resulting in death, damage, or injury if the security personnel was acting in the course and scope of the security personnel's employment or volunteer duties to provide security to the organization. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 22 to 9. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 21 to 9.*
- **SB 1070** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) 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 passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 18 to 12. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 18 to 12.*

About SB 16, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "Last session, we banned CRT in kindergarten through 12th grade because no child should be taught that they are inferior to others due to their race, sex, or ethnicity. In 2023, this should be common sense but the radical left's drive to divide our society is relentless. This session, there was no question that we would ban the teaching of CRT in Texas universities. Liberal professors, determined to indoctrinate our students with their woke brand of revisionist history, have gone too far. I thank Senator Hughes and the other Texas Senate Republicans for standing with me to ban this divisive and ugly practice in our universities. SB 16, by Sen. Hughes, bans the teaching of CRT at Texas universities."

About SB 16, Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) said, “College campuses have become increasingly hostile to intellectual disagreement. Rather than fostering good-faith debate, many professors and administrators are forcing students to align their intellectual and moral beliefs with regressive leftist ideology. This bill prohibits public institutions of higher education from compelling a student to adopt a belief that any race or sex is inherently superior to another. This divisive doctrine of Critical Race Theory is a tool of discrimination that does not belong in Texas higher education. In Texas, we will protect a student’s right to think for herself without fear of retaliation, and we will continue to promote intellectual diversity and academic freedom. Texas universities are for open thought, not close-minded indoctrination.”

About SB 16, Senator Borris Miles (D-Houston) said, “SB 16 was portrayed as a critical race theory bill for college campuses. It’s worse. It’s a broad attack on the freedom of speech on college campuses. Our higher education institutions should be the place where young adults are able to have open discussions and learn about our history, the whole history. College professors should be free to challenge their students, and students should have the opportunity to listen to different viewpoints. I voted against SB 16 because dictating what can be taught on a college campus is a step too far. It stifles our universities’ ability to fully educate students and a mere accusation can put a professor’s job at risk. SB 16 takes us on a slippery slope to roll back the hands of time and hide the dark parts of our history. We learn about history so that we do not make the same mistakes of the past.”

And, the Senate passed 12 bills including:

- **SB 19 and SJR 5** by 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. *The committee substitutes were adopted. One floor amendment was also added to SJR 5. They passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **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. *Three floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 294** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) 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**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 784** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would give the state exclusive jurisdiction over the **regulation of greenhouse gas emissions**, preempting political subdivision regulation. *It passed by a vote of 26 to 5.*
- **SB 838** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require school districts and charters to provide a **panic alert device** that allows for immediate

contact with district or school emergency services. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*

- **SB 950** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would clarify that the **attorney general** has authority to **defend a district or county attorney** in federal court if the cause of action relates to enforcement of a state statute and the county or district attorney requests assistance in the defense. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 3.*
- **SB 1424** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) is the sunset bill for the **State Soil and Water Conservation Board** and the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1427** by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would increase criminal penalties for criminal conduct and organizations that threaten the **security of the state**, its residents, and **borders**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SJR 32** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing conservation and reclamation districts in **El Paso County** to issue **bonds** to fund the development and maintenance of **parks and recreational facilities**. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*

About SB 19, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "As Texas' economy and population continue to grow rapidly, so do our workforce needs. Cutting-edge research and innovation are occurring at Texas universities, adding fuel to our economic engine. The new Texas University Fund will provide funding for our non-Permanent University Fund (PUF) universities so we can continue powering the Texas and American economy forward for decades to come. Currently, only the University of Texas and Texas A&M University and their system schools are eligible for the PUF, which has an endowment of nearly \$32 billion. SB 19, by Sen. Huffman, creates the Texas University Fund (TUF). The TUF will provide funding for research expenditures for non-PUF-eligible research universities.

About SB 19, Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston) said, "I know this is a significant investment in higher education institutions in Texas, but the state must continue to support institutions that do not have alternative sources of revenue to further achieve national prominence as major research universities."

Higher Education Commissioner Harrison Keller said, "The intent would be to create a new fund that would grow over time so that if we look out decades, Texas would have another fund that would enable those institutions that don't qualify for the PUF to be able to be nationally competitive. The fund is expected to pay out \$240 million to qualifying universities in the next biennium."

On Wednesday, the Senate passed the Third Reading bills and passed 11 additional bills including:

- **SB 62** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require counties to post upcoming **real property sales** or auctions on the county's website. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 767** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require **municipalities** with a **proposed budget** that includes a new or increased fee to provide a

- notice on the cover page saying, “This budget includes estimated revenue from the following new or increased fees: (and include a description of the fee). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 975** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require the procedures adopted by the Texas Department of Transportation for the issuance of a **personal identification certificate** to a person who surrenders the person’s driver’s license to require that the person issued a personal identification certificate be provided a voter registration form to update the person’s voter registration information to include the identification number of the newly-issued certificate. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 989** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would require health plan coverage for **biomarker testing**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 26 to 4.*
 - **SB 1002** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would prohibit an electric utility or transmission and distribution utility from providing retail electricity charging service from an **electric vehicle charging station**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1054** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would require a trial in the **contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment** to be between 45 and 180 days after the date of the contested election, although it could be earlier than 45 days at the request of the contestant. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1413** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would allow a **fire department to remove personal property from a roadway** or right-of-way if the fire department determines that the property blocks the roadway or endangers public safety. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1464** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would prohibit a **retail seller of a motor vehicle** from increasing the price of the motor vehicle for a buyer who purchases a motor vehicle with a loan from a third-party lender. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 3.*
 - **SB 1568** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would authorize a substitute trustee to exercise the power of sale under the terms of a security instrument in a **contract lien on real property**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1727** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) is the sunset bill for the **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*

The Senate also passed two bills to Third Reading:

- **SB 853** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would give **utility ratepayers in the City of Austin** the ability to have the rates that are set by Austin City Council to be reviewed by the Public Utility Commission. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it*

passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 11. On Thursday, it passed by a vote of 19 to 11.

- **SB 2424** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would create a new **state crime for illegally entering** the State of Texas from a foreign nation; and would authorize state law enforcement to arrest and prosecute individuals who illegal cross the border anywhere in the state. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 12. On Thursday, one additional floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 12.*

About SB 2424, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, “Since the federal government has abdicated its constitutional responsibility to secure our border, Texas must step into the breach. The Texas Senate has allocated over \$4 billion in its base budget to continue Operation Lone Star, but I believe that more must be done to secure our border and keep Texans safe. SB 2424 will allow Texas to take matters into our own hands and make illegal entry into Texas a state crime. This bill makes it abundantly clear to all who enter illegally that Texas is serious about enforcing our border. SB 2424 creates a new state crime for entering Texas illegally. SB 2424 authorizes Texas law enforcement to arrest and prosecute all people who cross the border illegally anywhere in Texas. Punishment starts with up to 1 year in jail for a first-time offender, two years in state jail for a second-time offender and up to life in prison for convicted felons who illegally cross the border.”

On Thursday, the Senate gave final approval to SB 853 and SB 2424 and 22 additional bills including:

- **SB 13** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would make several changes related to **school library material**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 12.*
- **SB 26** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would establish an innovation grant program to **expand mental health capacity**; and would prescribe a methodology for transitioning patients out of State Hospitals. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 422** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require state agencies that issue licenses that have a residency requirement to adopt a procedure for an applicant who is a **military service member or military spouse** to establish residency. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 786** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would grant the Railroad Commission of Texas jurisdiction over **closed-loop geothermal injection wells**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 902** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would establish the **Texas Leadership Scholars Program** to assist Top 10 Percent students who are economically disadvantaged. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 2.*
- **SB 930** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would prohibit a court from issuing a **per curiam opinion** (an opinion issued in the name of the court

- rather than a specific judge). *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 25 to 5.*
- **SB 956** by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would repeal the **Coordinated Strategic Plan for Health and Human Services**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1039** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would establish a procedure for the county clerk to investigate **complaints of voting irregularities** with appeals going to the secretary of state. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 12.*
 - **SB 1133** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would require the attorney general to establish a grant program to compensate landowners who suffer **property damage on agricultural land** by a trespasser as a result of criminal activities related to human trafficking, resisting arrest, or substance abuse. *The committee substitute and five floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1213** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would establish the **Mold Assessment and Remediation Advisory Board** at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to advise the department on technical matters related to mold remediation, standards or performance. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 3.*
 - **SB 1222** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would update statutes regulating **property tax appraisers**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1364** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would provide that a **vehicle** that is powered by an engine fueled primarily by **natural gas** or powered primarily by **electric battery power** may exceed the **gross weight limitation** by up to 2,000 pounds. *It passed by a vote of 24 to 6.*
 - **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 passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1562** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would make it an offense for a person to engage in **child grooming** - to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a child younger than 18 to engage in conduct that would make the child a party in a criminal act. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1577** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) 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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 12.*

- **SB 1933** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would allow the Secretary of State (SOS) to conduct an **election audit** in randomly selected counties if the SOS completes the required audits of two small counties by the end of the two-year election cycle. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 19 to 11.*
- **SB 2289 and SJR 87** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem tax the **tangible personal property** held by a manufacturer of **medical or biomedical products**. *One floor amendment was adopted for each bill and they passed by a vote of 28 to 2.*

About SB 13, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, “Texas parents have an expectation that when their child goes to their school library, they are doing so for educational purposes. Some of the books that have infiltrated our school libraries are obscene and have no place in an educational environment. These obscene books, which contain graphic sexual content, must not be tolerated. Students should be absorbing content that is grade, age, and developmentally appropriate. SB 13 states that books in school libraries must not be harmful, indecent or profane. SB 13 builds off the idea of School Health Advisory Councils (SHAC) to allow local communities to make decisions that are reflective of their values and ensure parental involvement in school library content. In addition, SB 13 requires parental notice whenever their child checks out a school library book.”

About SB 26, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, “As I traveled rural Texas last year, I listened closely as Texans from all regions of our state explained the need for improved mental health care access. As Lt. Governor, I have already invested more in mental health care than any Lt. Governor in Texas history. This historic legislation builds upon what we have done in the last 8 years in the area of mental health. This investment is a responsible use of our unprecedented budget surplus, and I am proud that the Senate has come together as one to support this important and historic endeavor. SB 26 creates an ‘Innovation Grant’ program to direct state funding to improve mental health bed capacity and services across Texas. SB 26 also increases accountability and transparency for local mental and behavioral health authorities to better assess services provided and ongoing treatment needs and directs the establishment of statewide discharge planning from state hospitals to community placement options.”

They also gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 260** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require voter registrars to deliver a voter a written confirmation notice requesting **confirmation of the voter’s current address** if the voter’s residence address is a commercial post office box or similar location that does not correspond to a residence. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 12.*

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week: 71

Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week:	122
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar:	72
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session:	316

Next Week: The Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023.

HOUSE:

The House was in session Monday through Friday this week.

On Monday, the House passed two constitutional amendments:

- **HJR 126** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing **the right to engage in farming**, ranching, timber production and wildlife management. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HJR 135** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the Mental Health and **Brain Research Institute of Texas** to research all forms of mental health human brain disease and disorders. (the enabling bill is HB 15) *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 118 to 18.*

The House also gave preliminary approval to 16 bills including:

- **HB 15** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would establish the **Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas** to expedite innovation in mental health and brain research. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 135) *The committee substitute was adopted by a vote of 116 to 29.*
- **HB 242** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would provide that a person, including a manufacturer or distributor, is not subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of a **feminine hygiene product donated** in good faith to a **nonprofit organization**. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 362** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would legalize possession and use of **testing equipment** used to identify the presence of **fentanyl**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 135 to 7. On Wednesday it passed by a vote of 143 to 2.*
- **HB 450** by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would authorize a person to bring bad faith cause of action overriding a **royalty interest** in an **oil and gas lease**. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*
- **HB 914** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would make it a Class A misdemeanor to tamper with a **temporary license tag**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 1382** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would authorize an **auction** using **online bidding** and **sale of real property** taken in execution of a judgment. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*

- **HB 1488** by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would require health care services provided under a managed care plan to recipients diagnosed with sickle cell disease to align with national clinical practice guidelines and protocols for **sickle cell disease treatment**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 107 to 33.*
- **HB 1699** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) would authorize the **Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District** to impose an export fee on water transferred out of the district of up to 150 percent of the maximum wholesale water rate charged by the San Antonio Water System. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 124 to 18. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 118 to 26.*
- **HB 1748** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would authorize the comptroller to use a **facsimile signature** on a **public security** required to be registered by the comptroller. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
- **HB 1750** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would clarify that a **governmental requirement of a city** does not apply to an **agricultural operation** located outside the corporate boundaries of the city; and only applies to an agricultural operation located in the corporate boundaries of the city that was established after the governmental requirement took/takes effect. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 3.*
- **HB 1789** by Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) would exempt school **bus drivers** from nepotism prohibitions. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 2308** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) 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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 1.*

On Tuesday, the House passed their Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 16 bills including:

- **HB 8** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would implement the recommendations of the **Texas Commission on Community College Finance**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 1.*
- **HB 25** by James Talarico (D-Austin) would establish the **wholesale prescription drug importation** program to make prescription drugs that are available at a lower cost outside the United States available to consumers in Texas at lower costs. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
- **HB 90** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would provide line-of-duty **death benefits** of \$500,000 to surviving families of **Texas National Guard members under State Active Duty orders**. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 165** by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would increase the penalty for a

- mass shooting** to a First Degree felony and would allow the stacking of sentences. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*
- **HB 178** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require **testing laboratories** to test for **fentanyl** if evidence that it may be a controlled substance is submitted to the laboratory for testing. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 1.*
 - **HB 367** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would allow the of State Commission on Judicial Conduct to accept complaints, conduct investigations, and take other action with respect to a **judicial candidate**. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
 - **HB 728** by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would establish the **Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council** to ensure a strategic statewide approach to interagency aging services. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 52. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 97 to 47.*
 - **HB 1337** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would allow a health benefit plan that covers prescription drugs to treat a **serious mental illness** to implement a **step therapy** protocol requiring a trial of a generic or pharmaceutical equivalent as a condition of continued coverage only once in a plan year and only if the equivalent drug is added to the plan's drug formulary. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 1.*
 - **HB 1422** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would require the state observe **daylight saving time** year-round. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 136 to 5. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 138 to 5.*
 - **HB 1805** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would expand the use of **medical cannabis** to include a condition that causes chronic pain for which a physician would otherwise prescribe an opioid and a debilitating medical condition designated by the Department of State Health Services. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 121 to 23. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 127 to 19.*
 - **HB 1825** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would allow consumption, possession and **sale of alcoholic beverages at performing arts facilities** owned by **school districts** in a county in which two or more stadiums with a capacity of at least 40,000 people are located. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 106 to 38. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 105 to 39.*
 - **HB 2970** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would require municipalities to allow the placement of **HUD-code manufactured homes** in all zoning classifications that allow detached residential single-family or duplex dwellings. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 114 to 32. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 107 to 36.*

About HB 25, Representative James Talarico (D-Austin) said, "HB 25 is the Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program. It allows for the safe importation of cheap prescription drugs from Canada by Texans. Texans are having to choose between their medications and their rent. They're having to choose between their medications and their groceries. Six states - including

Florida, Vermont, New Mexico and Colorado - have already implemented wholesale drug import programs with Canada, a door opened by the Trump administration in 2020, under the Department of Health & Human Services led by current District 10 Representative Brian Harrison (R-Midlothian), another of HB25's sponsors. Housed under the state Health & Human Services Commission, HB 25 would work thusly: Licensing Canadian suppliers, developing a pathway to get those FDA-tested Canadian drugs to Texas pharmacies, setting prices list for those medications, and establishing an outreach and marketing plan to publicize the program."

On Wednesday, the House passed the Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 19 additional bills including:

- **HB 14** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would streamline the approval process for **property development projects** and building reviews, requiring cities and counties that fail to complete such projects in a timely manner to utilize third-party reviewers. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 1.*
- **HB 166** by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would allow educational representatives to be appointed for **students with disabilities**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 9.*
- **HB 567** by Rhetta Bowers (D-Rowlett) would prohibit a public school or institution of higher education from **discriminating** against a student in dress or grooming policy **based on hair texture** or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 5.*
- **HB 659** by David Cook (R-Burleson) would provide specialty license plates for recipients of the **Commendation Medal**. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 697** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would add fuel gas piping that is black iron pipe, copper or corrugated stainless steel tubing to **seller disclosure requirements** in residential property sales. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 6.*
- **HB 699** by James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) would require the **University Scholastic League** to use the same **student enrollment calculation** formula for a school that allows a non-enrolled student to participate in a league activity as the formula used to determine the student enrollment of a school that does not allow a non-enrolled student to participate in the league activity. *It passed by a vote of 130 to 17.*
- **HB 842** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would prohibit the Texas Department of Public Safety from extending the period a person's driver's license is suspended for a conviction of **driving while a driver's license is suspended**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 866** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would prohibit a municipal planning commission or a municipality from requiring a person to fulfill any prerequisites or conditions to obtain approvals before the person files a

copy of the plan or plat with the **municipal planning commission** or governing body. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 136 to 10.*

- **HB 1263** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would prohibit a local authority from adopting or enforcing an order that prohibits or precludes the designation of a **school crossing zone** or school crosswalk at a high school campus located in a municipality with a population of two million or more. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 7.*
- **HB 1590** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would establish the **Texas Leadership Scholars Program** to assist Top 10 Percent students who are economically disadvantaged. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 126 to 21.*
- **HB 1615** by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would require the Texas Workforce Commission to establish and administer a **prekindergarten partnership program** to assist Texas Rising Star program providers in partnering with local school districts and charters to provide the required prekindergarten classes. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 126 to 21.*
- **HB 1730** by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would increase the penalty for a second **offense of indecent exposure** from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor; and would increase the penalty for a third or consecutive offense(s) of indecent exposure to a state jail felony. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 2015** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would increase the minimum age for a **jury exemption** from 70 to 75. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 3. On Thursday, it passed by a vote of 138 to 9.*
- **HB 2138** by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would authorize a nonprofit **wildlife conservation association** to use the organization's website to sell charitable raffle tickets. *It passed by a vote of 125 to 21.*
- **HB 2314** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would allow parties to file **claims for death benefits** with the insurance carrier. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*

On Thursday, the House passed their Third Reading bills and passed one constitutional amendment including:

- **HJR 1** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would propose a constitutional amendment imposing a five percent **appraisal cap** on all real property. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 9.*

They also gave preliminary approval to 12 other bills including:

- **HB 2** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would **compress the school property tax rate** by 15 cents; and would impose a five percent **appraisal cap** on all real property. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 140 to 9. On Friday, it passed by a vote of 139 to 5.*

- **HB 53** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would exempt from **vehicle registration fees** commercial motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers used by a **nonprofit disaster relief organization**. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 113** by Lina Ortega (D-El Paso) would authorize **Medicaid** managed care organizations to categorize services provided by a **community health worker** as a quality improvement cost instead of an administrative expense. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 130 to 18. On Friday, it passed by a vote of 110 to 34.*
- **HB 279** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would make **trafficking of a disabled individual** punishable to the same extent as trafficking of a child. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 513** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would **increase the penalties** for manufacture or delivery of a **controlled substance** or marihuana if the substance caused the death or serious bodily injury to the person to whom the substance was delivered. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 2.*
- **HB 591** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would exempt gas that would have been vented or flared from the **severance tax**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 1.*
- **HB 1515** by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) is the sunset bill for the **Governor's Office of Economic Development & Tourism**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 132 to 12.*
- **HB 1550** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) is the sunset bill for the **Office of State-Federal Relations**. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*
- **HB 1910** by Rafael Anchia (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 value of the forged money. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 1.*
- **HB 2484** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) 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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 147 to 0. On Friday it passed by a vote of 139 to 4.*
- **HB 3013** by Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville) would exempt **contracts** for services necessary to **respond to a natural disaster** from procurement notice requirements. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 3.*

On Friday, the House passed the 12 Third Reading bills and passed 65 bills on its first Local & Consent Calendar of the session.

About the passage of HB 2 and HJR 1, Speaker Dade Phelan said, "These measures will contribute to more than \$17 billion of property tax relief for Texans and allow for other historic investments in the state, including billions of new state dollars toward public education and a cost-of-living adjustment for retired Texas

teachers. HB 2 provides 15 cents of school district tax rate compression, which when combined with HB 1, the chamber’s proposed two-year state budget, results in an over 25-cent compression and a 28 percent reduction in school property taxes. The legislation will also increase the state’s share of public education to more than 50 percent for the first time in 13 years and reduce recapture payments, or dollars sent from school districts back to the state for redistribution, by \$4.5 billion. Additionally, under HB 2, a 5 percent annual appraisal limit will apply to all real property in Texas, benefitting homeowners, small business owners, land owners and renters. The owner of a \$350,000 home will see an average savings of more than \$1,200 over the next two years, with that amount growing so long as that homeowner maintains ownership of the property. Members of the Texas House have sent an unequivocal message that they hear the concerns from fellow Texans about delivering lasting property tax relief and addressing skyrocketing appraisal values. HB 2 and HJR 1 will create relief and predictability for all Texas property owners, and I thank Chair Morgan Meyer for his work in authoring this legislation. The Texas House is ready to work with the Texas Senate on these issues and looks forward to doing so in the coming weeks.”

House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) said, “HB 2 and HJR 1 will provide the most property tax relief to the most Texans. The Texas House is focused on delivering real results, and I thank my colleagues for supporting these two measures that address the needs of Texans and invest in the future of our state.”

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) said, “In addition to property tax relief, HJR 1 is essential for other significant investments in our state, such as funding more than \$5 billion in additional state dollars when combined with HB 1 and 100 to increase both the basic and special education allotments in our school finance system. HJR 1 will also make possible a \$3.5 billion investment in a cost-of-living adjustment and one-time check for our retired teachers through HB 600, along with a \$1 billion investment in four-year public universities to ensure affordability and several other critical funding items for our public and higher education systems.”

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week:	129
Total number of bills passed by the House this week:	132
Total bills passed this week on the Local & Consent Calendar	65
Total number of bills passed by the House this session:	162

Next Week: The House adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023.

BUDGET:

House Administration Committee – On Wednesday, the House Administration Committee took up:

HB 377 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would establish a joint select committee to **study** the feasibility and sustainability of providing a **cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers**. *It was left pending.*

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

HB 1 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) is the House version of the **general appropriations** bill. *It was reported favorably as substituted. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 17, 2023.*

SJR 56 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would propose a constitutional amendment increasing the **cap** on the **economic stabilization fund** from 10 percent to 15 percent of general revenue in the preceding biennium. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 1246 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would allow the comptroller to invest funds generated by a state agency's **investment in repurchase agreements**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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 passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 1 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) is the House version of the **general appropriations** bill. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Finance Committee.*

SB 1232 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would continue the statute requiring **budget surplus** amounts to be transferred to the economic stabilization fund and the state highway fund from the current expiration date of December 31, 2034 to December 31, 2042. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Finance Committee.*

Next Week:

Monday, April 17, 2023 – House Appropriations Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. in E1.030 of the capitol extension to take up:

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**.

HB 3345 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would impose a fee of not less than \$5 (instead of \$5) per customer of a sexually oriented business as determined in the General Appropriations Act to be allocated to the **sexual assault program fund**.

HB 3461 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would dedicate and rededicate revenue for use in **certifying the budget**.

HB 4041 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) is the **miscellaneous claims and judgments** against the state bill.

HCR 47 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would extend the duty of the comptroller to deposit tax revenue to the **state highway fund** to August 31, 2042. (

ELECTIONS:

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

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 left pending.*

HB 1208 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow **children under the 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. *It was left pending.*

HB 1243 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would change the penalty for **illegal voting** from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony. *It was left pending.*

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 was left pending.*

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 left pending.*

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 left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

Passed the Senate:

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

Reported from Committee:

HB 232 by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would increase the **filing fee** for state representative candidates from \$750 to \$1,250. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 357 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would remove the requirement that a voter provide an address to access the **online tracker** for **mail-in ballots**. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 386 by Jessica Gonzalez (D-Dallas) would require election officers to designate a parking space at each polling place for accommodating a **voter unable to enter a polling place**. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 2351 by Hubert Vo (D-Alief) would require **volunteer deputy registrars** to receive notice of when their appointment expires and receive a renewal application. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 2384 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require a **judicial candidate's ballot application** to include the candidate's bar number; whether the candidate has been sanctioned or censured or disciplined in Texas or another state; and disclose the nature of the candidate's practice, legal specialization, and courtroom experience. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.*

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. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

SB 2071 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would establish the process for an **automatic recount** if a candidate or ballot measure for the **approval of bonds** is approved or defeated by 0.5 percent. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate State Affairs Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 17, 2023 (first placement).*

HIGHER EDUCATION:

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

HB 906 by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would require institutions of higher education to provide all entering students (not just full-time students) information about **available mental health and suicide prevention services** offered by the institution and early warning signs and appropriate intervention for a person who may be considering suicide. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 1960 by Eddie Morales (D-Eagle Pass) would change the name of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College to **Sul Ros State University Middle Rio Grande Region** and would allow it to offer all higher educational courses (instead of upper-level courses). *It was left pending.*

HB 2158 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would provide a tuition and fee exemption for **fire fighters with a volunteer fire department** that responds to 9-1-1 emergencies in a designated area and attends at least 20 hours of annual training. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 2504 by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would allow scholarship money by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy to fund **scholarships for accounting students** (not just fifth-year accounting students). *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 2871 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) 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 voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 2920 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require the information maintained by the Texas Education Agency regarding **postsecondary education and career opportunities** to include information to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program or other credential program. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3124 by Suleman Lalani (D-Sugar Land) would require institutions of higher education to **prohibit the use of** cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or smokable **tobacco products** on the grounds of the institution's campus. *It was left pending.*

HB 3486 by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would allow **early college high school programs** to provide for an academic associate degree; would require **reports of nontransferable credit** to be submitted to the coordinating board by May 1st (instead of March 1st) each year and include whether the institution complied with the dispute resolution process; and would require institutions that adopt a field of study curriculum to post the set of courses with the associated course numbers under the **common course numbering system**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3993 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would add students completing a nontraditional secondary education to the **Top 10 percent automatic admissions** statute. *It was voted out favorably.*

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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 was left pending.*

HJR 201 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Technical Institution Infrastructure Fund** to provide funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to career and technical education programs offered by the **Texas State Technical College System**. *It was left pending.*

Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education – On Thursday, the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education took up:

SB 427 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require colleges or universities receiving state support that do not offer at least three semester credit hours or the equivalent in **Texas History** to undergraduate students to enter into an agreement with another postsecondary educational institution to offer the courses to the institution's students. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

SB 601 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) 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 was left pending.*

SB 696 by 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.*

SB 865 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require the Texas Workforce Commission to adopt a plan to allow **nonprofit service providers** to apply for **workforce training funding** directly from the commission if the local workforce development board is nonresponsive. *It was left pending.*

SB 969 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would provide a tuition and fee exemption for students who are employed as **correctional officers or jailers**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1350 by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would require institutions of higher education to give a tuition and fee exemption for students enrolled in an **emergency medical services curriculum** who is employed as a paramedic by a political subdivision. *It was left pending.*

SB 1442 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would locate a campus of the **Texas State Technical College System** in Denton County. *It was left pending.*

SB 1517 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would **prohibit academic boycotts** that would deprive students or faculty members of the ability to study or conduct research in or about a foreign country or to interact with its scholars or representatives; however, an academic boycott would be allowed if the target is a foreign country that is a state sponsor of terrorism. *It was left pending.*

SB 1565 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require institutions of higher education to establish a policy framework that addresses **research security**; and to designate a person to serve as a research security officer responsible for classified information, controlled unclassified information, and foreign influence reporting. *It was left pending.*

SB 1876 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require an institution of higher education that admits a **student transferring** from another institution of higher education to **award** the student **academic credit** toward the student's degree program for each course the student completed at the sending institution. *It was left pending.*

SB 1887 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would allow **early college high school programs** to provide for an academic associate degree; would require **reports**

of nontransferable credit to be submitted to the coordinating board by May 1st (instead of March 1st) each year and include whether the institution complied with the dispute resolution process; and would require institutions that adopt a field of study curriculum to post the set of courses with the associated course numbers under the **common course numbering system**. *It was left pending.*

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 was left pending.*

SB 2059 by John Huffman (R-Houston) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the Nursing Advisory Committee, to establish a program to award grants to eligible clinical sites to support the use of nurse preceptors in providing **clinical training to nursing students**. *It was left pending.*

SB 2136 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require institutions of higher education to allow a person to satisfy the American history requirement by successfully completing **survey courses** that address the **major themes of American history** from the nation’s founding onward; and would establish the **American History and Civics Project** to strengthen American history and civics education at public high schools and institutions of higher education, and encourage the development of high-quality digital content and professional development materials. *It was left pending.*

SB 2335 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would establish the **Texas Higher Education Accreditation Commission** as an independent state agency to identify and approve at least three accrediting agencies best suited to serve as accreditors for institutions of higher education. *It was left pending.*

SB 2538 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would repeal Section 51.803(k) of the Education Code which allows institutions to not offer admissions under the **top 10 percent rule** if a final court order overturns **affirmative action policies**. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 750 by Jay Dean (R-Longview) would allow a public **junior college library to donate library materials** if they have little or no monetary value, duplicate library materials that are part of the library’s collection, or are no longer appropriate for inclusion in the library’s collection due to age, condition or obsolete content. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 2132 by Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock) would establish a campus of the **Texas State Technical College System** in Williamson County. *It was reported favorably from the House Higher Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2415 by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would take **Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium** or improvements related to the stadium out of the capitol

view corridor. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 2639 by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) would abolish Stephen F. Austin State University and require the **University of Texas System** to establish a **new university in Nacogdoches**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 2804 by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would prohibit the use of an institution's facility, uniform, registered trademark, copyright-protected product, or official logo, mark, or other indicia in connection with a contract for the **use of a student athlete's name, image, or likeness**, unless the student athlete obtains the institution's express permission and the institution is compensated for the use in a manner consistent with market rates. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 3120 by Sergio Munoz (D-Palmview) would set the **voter-approval tax rate** for a **special junior college district** at 1.03 plus the current debt rate. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

SB 17 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would **prohibit** institutions of higher education from requiring or giving **preferential consideration** for certain **ideological oaths or statements** that undermine academic freedom and open inquiry and impede the discovery, preservation, and transmission of knowledge, including students, applicants for admission, employees, or contractors. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 200 by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) would allow institutions of higher education considering **students applying for an academic fresh start** to consider academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant five (instead of 10) or more years before the starting date the student seeks to enroll. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 526 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require prior approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for an institution of higher education to offer a **degree or certificate program to persons who are incarcerated** or subject to involuntary civil commitment. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 532 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would reduce the **mental health** professional student loan **repayment assistance program** to three years (instead of five years). *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1055 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would abolish Stephen F. Austin State University and require the **University of Texas System** to establish a **new university in Nacogdoches**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

Next Week:

Monday, April 17, 2023 – House Higher Education Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. in E2.010 of the capitol extension to take up:

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.

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.

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.

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** to award grants to participating lower-division institutions of higher education to provide financial assistance to eligible students for the cost of subscribing to the digital textbook and learning materials subscription program.

HB 2642 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require institutions of higher education to distribute to students in the fall semester by e-mail information regarding **women's health programs** administered by the Health & Human Services Commission including information about eligibility for the programs and the enrollment procedure.

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**.

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 of resident advisors in the proper use of those devices.

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.

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**.

HB 3851 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would **prohibit academic boycotts** that would deprive students or faculty members of the ability to study or conduct research in or about a foreign country or to interact with its scholars or representatives; however, an academic boycott would be allowed if the target is a foreign country that is a state sponsor or terrorism.

HB 4578 by Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) would repeal Section 51.803(k) of the Education Code which allows institutions to not offer admissions under the **top 10 percent rule** if a final court order overturns **affirmative action policies**.

HB 4631 by Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) would establish the **Opportunity High School Diploma pilot program** in up to five public junior colleges to offer an alternative competency-based high school diploma program for adult learners.

HB 5146 by John Raney (R-Bryan) would establish the **Building Better Futures Program** to facilitate the delivery of higher education and occupational skills training opportunities and support services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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.

Monday, April 17, 2023 – House Business & Industry Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in E2.012 of the capitol extension to take up:

Higher Education:

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.

Monday, April 17, 2023 – House Appropriations Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. in E1.030 of the capitol extension to take up:

Higher Education:

HB 881 by 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.

Monday, April 17, 2023 – House Corrections Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in E2.028 of the capitol extension to take up:

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.

Monday, April 17, 2023 – House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety will meet at 11:30 a.m. in E2.026 of the capitol extension:

HB 1537 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would allow a law enforcement agency that determines that an individual who is a **student** in a primary or secondary school has **experienced a traumatic event** to submit a **“handle with care” notice** to the superintendent or other designated school employee at the school at which the student is enrolled; and would require Texas Education Agency to establish a one-hour training course regarding handle with care notices.

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.

HB 3788 by Josey Garcia (D-San Antonio) would require school districts to adopt and implement a policy on **dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment** and provide a comprehensive training program

for counselors, teachers, nurses, administrators and other staff with information on identifying and preventing dating violence and sexual offenses.

HB 4449 by Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City) would establish a **task force to study disciplinary practices** and policies in public schools.

HB 4625 by Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City) would allow school district and charter employees to prevent or mediate instances or cultures of **bullying or harassment**, including cyberbullying that occur due to a victim's race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, gender, religion, disability status, or association with a person or group with one or more those characteristics.

HB 4845 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a **bullying prevention pilot program** to help reduce incidents of bullying in public schools.

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.

HB 5284 by Stan Kitzman (R-Pattison) would require the Texas School Safety Center to develop safety and **security recommendations** for **day-care centers**.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety – On Monday, the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety took up:

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 2725 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would allow school districts to refer a student to truancy court without imposing **truancy prevention measures** if the district previously imposed prevention measures on the student in a previous school year. *It was left pending.*

HB 3570 by Nate Schatzline (R-Fort Worth) would create a **cause of action** against a commercial entity that knowingly or intentionally publishes or distributes material on an Internet website, including a **social media platform**, more than one-third of which is **sexual material harmful to minors**, and that fails to verify that the user is 18 or older. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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. *It was left pending.*

HB 3800 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would prohibit a managed care health plan from denying participation of a **campus-based mental health professional** as a participating provider in the health plan. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3898 by Armando “Mando” Martinez (D-Weslaco) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a **life skills counselor pilot program** as a strategy for addressing emotional and mental health concerns of students. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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 was left pending.*

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 left pending.*

HB 4777 by Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas) would require the training for school district peace and resource officers to include the effects of **mental health conditions**, including grief and trauma, on student behavior. *It was reported out favorably.*

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

HB 619 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would provide premium tax credits for contributions to educational assistance organizations to award scholarships and assistance through the **Scholarship and Educational Expense Assistance Program**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3781 by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would make several changes to administration of **special education**. *It was left pending.*

HB 4340 by James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) would require the comptroller to establish the **Education Savings Account Program** to provide 90 percent of the state average maintenance and operations revenue to a parent of a student whose household income is at or below 200 percent of the income guidelines to qualify for free or reduced-price lunch program or a student with a disability to pay for the student to attend a private school. *It was left pending.*

HB 4807 by Brian Harrison (R-Midlothian) would establish the **Texas Parental Empowerment Program**; would provide premium tax credits for contributions to educational assistance organizations to award scholarships and assistance for qualifying educational expenses to eligible students who demonstrate the greatest financial and academic need and enroll in a nonpublic school. *It was left pending.*

HB 4969 by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would require the Texas Education Agency to establish a **parent-directed grant program** for public school students through which a parent may purchase supplemental services and supplemental instructional materials for the parent’s student. *It was left pending.*

HJR 182 by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting state regulation of **private educational settings**. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 1157 by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would require **excused absences** for a student to attend an appointment with a **mental health professional**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1358 by Sam Harless (R-Spring) would require **campus improvement plans** to include goals and methods for violence and **bullying prevention** and for **dropout deterrence**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 195 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require the **individualized education program** of students with disabilities to include a any necessary accommodations that the student will need during a disaster or emergency situation. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 459 by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) 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. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1142 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would add **students who are homeless** to the duties of the liaison officer to assist students who are or were in foster care. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 1905 by James Talarico (D-Austin) would require school districts to make **school safety training courses** available to employees of **child-care facilities** and other organizations providing out-of-school-time care to children who reside in the district. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 2209 by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would establish the **Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program** to incentivize and support multidistrict, cross-sector, rural college and career pathway partnerships that expand opportunities for underserved students. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

SB 357 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would authorize school districts to employ **honorably retired peace officers** as school district security personnel. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 544 by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would authorize a **teaching certificate** to be issued to applicants with at least two semesters' experience as instructors for the **Community College of the Air Force**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 562 by 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 reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1396 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would establish a procedure for **Bible study and prayer in public schools**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1556 Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would codify the **right** of a **school district** or charter employee to engage in **religious speech or prayer** while on duty may not be infringed on by the district or charter unless the infringement is necessary to further a compelling state interest. *It was reported favorably from the Senate State Affairs Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1861 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would implement the recommendations from the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 2294 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require (instead of allow) a student to graduate with a **Texas First high school diploma**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 2482 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require Texas Education Agency to review the implementation of **Holocaust Remembrance Week** at each school district and allow the agency to partner with the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission to assist school districts. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SJR 29 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing a **parent's right to direct the education of the parent's child**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

Next Week:

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – House Public Education Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. in E2.036 of the capitol extension to take up:

HB 1149 by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would require **parental consent** for a school district employee to conduct a **psychiatric exam** or provide psychological or psychiatric treatment on a student.

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.

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.

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.

HB 2125 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require a representative of a student in an **individualized education program facilitation** to complete a special education law training course; and would require Texas Education Agency to contract with the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities to offer the training course on special education law.

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**.

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.

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.

HB 3202 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would grant private schools access to the **registry of persons who are not eligible for employment in public schools**.

HB 3303 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require the State Board for Educator Certification to establish a dual language immersion **bilingual education teaching certificate**.

HB 3315 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would establish a procedure for school districts to handle complaints concerning a violation of **parental rights**.

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.

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.

HB 4070 by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would eliminate the requirement that private schools post **signs** regarding **human trafficking penalties**.

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

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.

HB 4460 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would prohibit the **University Interscholastic League** from penalizing or sanctioning a student for transferring to a school district for an athletic participation purpose.

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.

HB 4690 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would establish the **grievance procedure** for schools to process complaints by students and parents.

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.

STATEWIDE:

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

HB 7 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow the commissioners court of a county located in a border region to establish a **border protection court program**. *It was left pending.*

HB 20 by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would establish the **Border Protection Unit** to defend the southern border. *It was left pending.*

HB 65 by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would increase the punishment for **illegal immigration** to a third-degree felony. *It was left pending.*

HB 82 by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would allow the governor to seek Congressional approval of the **Interstate Compact for Border Security**. *It was left pending.*

HB 800 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would increase the penalties for **human smuggling** and operating a **stash house**. *It was left pending.*

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 left pending.*

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 left pending.*

HB 3782 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would establish the **Border Security Advisory Council** to advise the governor on homeland security issues. *It was left pending.*

House Administration Committee – On Wednesday, the House Administration Committee took up:

HB 771 by Alma Allen (D-Houston) would require the Department of Public Safety to establish eligibility requirements for **expedited access** to the **State Capitol** for persons disqualified based on a criminal conviction that takes into account the amount of time that has passed since the criminal conviction and evidence of good standing in the community. *It was left pending.*

HB 5125 by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would outline the duties of the House and Senate **Administration Committees**. *It was left pending.*

HCR 63 by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would request the Lt. Governor and Speaker to create a joint interim committee to **study suicide prevention** in Texas including in Texas correctional institutions. *It was left pending.*

HCR 64 by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would request the Lt. Governor and Speaker to create a joint interim committee to **study domestic violence**. *It was left pending.*

HCR 65 by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would request the Lt. Governor and Speaker to create a joint interim committee to **study suicide prevention** in Texas including in Texas correctional institutions. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 943 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require the Texas Press Association to **publish** on it's Internet website **notices** it receives from printed newspapers. *It was left pending.*

SB 1984 by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would authorize governmental entities to enter into **public/private partnerships** using design-build methods to construct, finance and deliver a qualifying project. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 1928 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow **supplemental pay** for members of **Texas military forces** (not just Texas National Guard) for people who suffer an economic hardship as a result of serving on military duty. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 600 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would institute minimum penalties for the **smuggling of persons**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 667 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would establish the state historical marker program to **honor African Americans** who served in the **Texas Legislature** during Reconstruction. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1509 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would repeal Section 814.109 of the Government Code which allows a **state employee to retire** without separating from a position in that class if the member is at least 60 years old and has accrued enough service credit in the class to receive the maximum annuity. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1527 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would update **human trafficking** and prosecution of compelling and solicitation of prostitution statutes. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1717 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would clarify and expand the evidence admissible for the prosecution of the **offense of stalking**. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1820 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would prohibit the order, purchase, or **sale of a lottery ticket** by telephone or digitally by a mobile device including via a mobile application or website. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 16 by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would promote the **diversion of youth from confinement in state facilities**, returning children closer to their homes and

slowing admissions to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 836 by Richard Raymond (D-Laredo) would allow the **Texas State Guard** to place on retired status an officer or enlisted service member who is physically disabled as a result of their service. *It was reported favorably from the House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee.*

HB 837 by 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 as substituted from the House Defense & Veterans' Affairs 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 1759 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would allow **charitable raffle tickets** to be sold at the home venue of the professional sports team or through digital interactive media provided by the professional sports team associated with the foundation conducting the raffle. *It was reported favorably from the House Licensing & Administrative Procedures Committee.*

HB 3756 by Lulu Flores (D-Austin) would apply the same liability standard for **removal of a domestic animal from a locked motor vehicle** as currently applies to the removal of a vulnerable individual. *It was reported favorably from the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.*

SB 855 by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would require at least one of the 12 hours mandated for **training for judges** to be dedicated to the dynamics of and **effects on victims of family violence**, with an additional two hours of training for judges of courts having primary responsibility for family law. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1518 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would require the Department of Public Safety to establish a **terrorist offender registry** and require the department to supervise those terrorist offenders. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Border Security Committee.*

SB 1653 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) 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 reported favorably from the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1659 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would set the schedule for state agencies to undergo **sunset review**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Business & Commerce Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1852 by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would add a minimum of 16 hours of **active shooter training** provided by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) active shooter training center to the basic **peace officer training** course. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate*

Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.

SB 1960 by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would prohibit an establishment serving the public from restricting an honorably **retired peace officer** from carrying a firearm on the establishment's premises. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Next Week:

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – Senate Business & Commerce Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. in E1.012 of the capitol extension to take up:

SB 1320 by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would require a state agency's **review of a rule** to include an assessment of any cost imposed on regulated persons.

SCR 4 by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) would direct the Texas Facilities Commission to name the Capitol Complex Child Development Center "**Emma's Garden**" in honor of Emma Barrientos.

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