

**Weekly Legislative Report
April 21, 2023**

GOVERNOR:

Parent Empowerment Events:

Parent Empowerment Night in San Antonio – On April 13th, Governor Greg Abbott championed support for school choice and highlighted the educational success in states across the country that have implemented school choice policies during a Parent Empowerment Night held at Saint Mary Magdalen School in San Antonio. The governor also discussed how public schools will remain fully funded for every Texas student with expanded school choice. Governor Abbott said, “Education choice already exists in a majority of states in the United States, and it hasn’t defunded public schools in those areas. Success among other states have shown that school choice does not destroy public schools, it actually improves public schools. States who have implemented school choice now rank among the best for their students, and we want to achieve the very best for our students right here in Texas. This session, we will pass this school choice program while at the same time provide more funding than ever before for public education.” During his speech, Governor Abbott emphasized that he has authorized more funding for public schools and teacher pay raises than any other governor in Texas history. He also noted efforts by the Texas Legislature to empower parents to choose the best education option for their child through expanded Education Savings Accounts for all Texas students. Additionally, Governor Abbott highlighted that a majority of urban, suburban, and rural Texans support giving parents access to school curriculum, school libraries, and what their child is being taught in the classroom. The governor was joined by State Board of Education member LJ Francis, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Saint Mary Magdalen School Principal William Daily, Saint Mary Magdalen School Pastor Reverend William Combs, and other parent empowerment advocates.

Parent Empowerment Day in Fort Worth – On April 19th, Governor Greg Abbott advocated for expanding school choice options to all Texas students and defending parents’ right to be in charge of their child’s education at a Parent Empowerment Day with a packed crowd of over 950 Texans at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. Governor Abbott said, “When it comes to the education of your child, there is a six-word sentence that is paramount: mom and dad are in charge. When we are able to establish that mom and dad are in charge, that automatically puts a child onto a better pathway toward academic excellence. We as a state must put parents front and center as it concerns the future of education in Texas. Parents deserve access to their child’s school curriculum, what books are in their school libraries, and exactly what their children are being taught—and we will achieve that during this legislative session.” The governor mentioned the educational success in states across the

country that have implemented school choice programs, emphasizing that robust school choice policies help improve public education. The governor also noted that a majority of Texans from urban, suburban, and rural areas support increasing parental rights in the education of their child. The governor was joined by Bishop Michael F. Olsen of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Nolan Catholic High School Chaplain Reverend Maurice Moon, Nolan Catholic High School President Kristy Webb, and Nolan Catholic High School Principal Oscar Ortiz.

Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition – On April 17th, Governor Greg Abbott honored the brave men and women serving as sheriffs along the southern border at the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition Annual Spring Cooperative Meeting with the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition in McAllen. During his remarks, the governor thanked the border sheriffs for their many contributions to Texans' public safety, including stepping up to protect the nation from the record number of deadly drugs like fentanyl, lethal weapons, and illegal immigrants flooding across the border. Governor Abbott said, "To serve as a sheriff is to answer a higher calling, and each of you show true courage, dedication, and a strong desire to protect your fellow man. I am proud of the work we have done together to secure our border in this bipartisan coalition. The Biden Administration may not believe our border is in crisis right now, but we set aside political differences to help our border communities and Texans. Thank you for your hard work securing the border and battling the deadly scourge of fentanyl gripping our state and nation." Speaking to the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition and the Southwestern Border Sheriff's Coalition, Governor Abbott highlighted proposed legislation this session that would provide \$350 million to help fund rural sheriff operations and bolster funding for public safety grants to counties participating in Operation Lone Star. The governor also pointed out recent statewide efforts to combat the growing fentanyl crisis impacting Texas and the United States.

SENATE:

The Senate was in session Monday through Thursday this week.

Lt. Governor Gives Update on His Priority Bills – On April 17th, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick applauded the Texas Senate for its hard work in already passing 26 of his 30 priorities bills for the 88th Legislative Session. He said, "At the beginning of this legislative session, I laid out the strongest, most conservative agenda ever brought forward in the Texas Senate. Once again, the Texas Senate is firing on all cylinders and has already passed 26 of my 30 priority bills. Final bills are set to pass this week. Texans should know that their senators are working hard to deliver for them. I am so proud of their work. All credit goes to the Senators. I look forward to the Texas House's swift passage of these needed reforms so Texas can continue to be America's juggernaut for centuries to come."

On Monday, the Senate passed 27 bills including:

- **HB 1** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) is the House version of the **general appropriations** bill. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0. On Friday, Conferees were appointed – Representatives Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood), Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint), Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend), Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston), and Armando Walle (D-Houston); and Senators Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville), Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe), and Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown).*
- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **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 on April 13th. On Monday, it received final approval by a vote of 19 to 12.*
- **SB 357** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would authorize school districts to employ **honorably retired peace officers** as school district security personnel. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 506** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would prohibit **state agency** rules from **imposing taxes or fees** without explicit authority in law. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 510** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would maintain **confidentiality of personal information** of persons holding **occupational licenses** issued by the state or a local governmental entity. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1083** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would require **insurers** to use **original manufacturer’s or distributor’s parts**, products or repair processes to **repair motor vehicle’s** damage if the vehicle has been owned by the insured for 36 months or less and was a new motor vehicle when delivered to the insured, unless the insured opts to use non-original equipment. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 1140** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require the Office of Public Insurance Counsel to monitor the **adequacy of networks**

- offered by managed care plans** for accessibility to covered services. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1158** by John Whitmire (D-Houston) would clarify that each series of games for the World Cup soccer tournament held in a market area designated for that series would be considered a separate, single event under the **major events reimbursement program**. *It passed by a vote of 28 to 3.*
 - **SB 1204** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to establish an **interstate information sharing and analysis organization** to provide a forum for states to share information regarding **cybersecurity threats**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
 - **SB 1397** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) is the sunset bill for **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
 - **SB 1403** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require the governor to develop and execute an **interstate compact for border security** among interested states. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 26 to 5.*
 - **SB 1484** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require Texas Department of Public Safety to establish a **border operations training program** for peace officers employed by local law enforcement agencies. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **SB 1495** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would make **information collected at airport parking garages** including the person's name, e-mail address, phone number, zip code, license plate number, toll tag number, and credit or debit card number confidential. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
 - **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 3.*
 - **SB 1575** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would authorize a member of the State Board of Education to request an **attorney general opinion**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
 - **SB 1599** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require election officers to maintain a **register of ballots to be voted by mail** returned at a polling place including the name of each voter who returns a mail ballot and the ballot's number. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
 - **SB 1663** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would allow a **municipality to alter speed limits** without performing an engineering or traffic investigation if the street is located in a residential area. *It passed by a vote of 23 to 8.*

- **SB 1709** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would add transnational criminal organizations to **organized criminal activity** statutes; and would enhance the punishment for using or exhibiting a deadly weapon during organized criminal activity. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 2144** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to appoint an advisory committee to assess the potential changes to state law to facilitate the implementation of **advanced air mobility technology**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*

The Senate gave preliminary approval to four other bills including:

- **SB 177** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require a health care provider to get informed consent from a patient before administering a **COVID-19 vaccine**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 20 to 11. On Tuesday it received final passage by the same vote.*
- **SB 1060** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit an **insurer** or holding company organized under Texas law to include a **political shareholder proposal** in a proxy statement or implement a political shareholder proposal. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Tuesday it received final passage by the same vote.*
- **SB 1600** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the Secretary of State to prescribe rules that require a person to submit **proof of citizenship** to a voter registrar to determine **voter eligibility**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 20 to 11. On Tuesday, it received final passage by the same vote.*
- **SB 2018** by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would authorize the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety to initiate an action to enforce the **prohibition against public camping**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 23 to 8. On Tuesday it received final passage by a vote of 21 to 10.*

About passage of the Senate Substitute for HB 1, Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston) said, “This budget is a product of months of deliberations and hard work to ensure that the State of Texas continues to have the strongest and most

successful economy in the nation. This budget is balanced, conservative, and funds the vast array of needs of our growing state. To have unanimous approval on such a comprehensive and substantial budget is proof that the Senate is doing great things for the people of Texas. Because of the state's record-breaking surplus and growing needs, this budget has been one of the most challenging in the history of Texas. Over the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House to reach a consensus on the differences between the two chambers, and I look forward to sending the final appropriations bill to Governor Abbott before the legislative session ends."

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "Every session, the Texas House and the Texas Senate alternate sponsorship of the budget. By that tradition, the Texas House will sponsor the 88th Legislative Session's budget. The Senate passed HB 1 with the language of SB 1, the Senate Budget, by Senator Joan Huffman. "The true strength of our state lies within every single Texan and our booming economy is the result of their hard work. Texans must be the ultimate beneficiaries of our conservative budgeting process and I believe the Texas Senate's budget, which passed unanimously, reflects our state's values. Even before the Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate, I have been clear that we must return a significant portion of our unprecedented budget surplus to those who created it: the taxpayers. Some highlights of the Senate's budget include:

- \$16.5 billion for the Senate's property tax relief package, including raising the Homestead Exemption to \$70,000 for all Texans and \$100,000 for seniors 65 and older (40 percent of all homesteads in Texas are seniors);
- \$4.6 billion to continue current support for Operation Lone Star and to build the wall;
- \$10 billion to create a low-interest loan program to fund the construction of desperately-needed new natural gas plants;
- \$350 million to increase pay and training for rural law enforcement; and
- \$3.1 billion in mental health care funding, split between HB 1 and SB 30, the Supplemental Budget.

The Senate's budget funds the largest increase in public education spending in state history, including:

- \$5 billion to address special education services, increased teacher compensation, curriculum, school safety, and school choice;
- \$3.7 billion, in addition to \$1 billion in the Senate's Supplemental Budget, for cost-of-living adjustments for retired educators and a \$7,500 supplemental payment to retired educators aged 75 and older; and
- \$589 million to limit health care premium increases for teachers.

Texas is the 9th largest economy in the world. Writing the budget is a massive undertaking. Senate Finance Committee Chair Joan Huffman has done a fantastic job working with my budget team and I thank her for her enthusiastic work and leadership. The Senate Finance Committee put in long hours of work to craft this budget. Like every budget passed by the Senate since I became Lt. Governor, this budget sits within all constitutional spending limits and does not exceed population times inflation. The Senate's budget secures our conservative

future and will help keep our state prosperous for all Texans for decades to come.”

On Tuesday, the Senate gave final approval to SB 177, SB 1060, SB 1600, and SB 2018; and they passed 21 bills:

- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 553** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would allow the Texas Facilities Commission to use up to \$20,000 for a ceremony to **dedicate a new state building**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 926** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would authorize the holder of a **mixed beverage permit** to temporarily sell wine, malt beverages or alcohol during a **motor vehicle racing event** sponsored by a professional motor racing association. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1212** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would allow an owner or operator of a **distributed energy resource** to provide energy or ancillary services in the wholesale market in the ERCOT power region if the owner or operator is registered with the Public Utility Commission as a power generating company. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1243** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would exclude federal grants for **broadband development** from the franchise tax. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1445** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) is the sunset bill for **Texas Commission on Law Enforcement**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1659** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would set the schedule for state agencies to undergo **sunset review**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1730** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would authorize district clerks to sell and distribute **money orders** for **passport application** payments. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1750** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require counties with a population over 1 million (Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis Counties) to have their **elections administered** by the **county clerk**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 11.*

- **SB 1861** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would implement the recommendations from the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 3.*
- **SB 1893** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would prohibit the installation or use of **the TikTok social media application** (or any other application subject to an order by the governor) on any device owned or leased by a governmental entity. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 2021** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) 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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 2284** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would allow the holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit to sell two 750 milliliter bottles or the equivalent of each **distilled spirits product** that permit holder produces to the same consumer within a 30-day period (instead of a total of two bottles of distilled spirits). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 24 to 6.*

They gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 220** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the secretary of state to appoint a **state election marshal**, who would appoint election marshals for Department of Public Safety regions to enforce election laws. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12, and received final approval by the same vote.*
- **SB 1807** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would establish civil penalties for **election** or elected **officials** who fail to **conduct** their **elections** according to the Texas Election Code after being advised by the Secretary of State on how to correct the violation. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12, and received final approval by the same vote.*
- **SB 2275** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the **Texas Supreme Court** to file with the Secretary of State, at the time the **court files a rule**, a list of each article or section of general law or each part of an article of section that is repealed or modified. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 21 to 10. On Wednesday, it received final passage by the same vote.*

On Wednesday, the Senate passed SB 220, SB 1807, and SB 2275. The Senate also passed 20 bills including:

- **SB 11** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would make several changes related to **school safety**. *The committee substitute and three floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*

- **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**. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 19 to 12.*
- **SB 785** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would clarify that the landowner owns the **geothermal energy** and associated resources below the surface of the landowner's land as real property. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 874** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would add competitions sanctioned by the International Cricket Council, USA Cricket, or Major League Cricket to the list of projects that qualify for the **Major Events Reimbursement Program**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
- **SB 1244** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) 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**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1698** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would designate commissioned officers employed by the Health & Human Services Commission's office of inspector general as **peace officers**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1710** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would clarify the **Voice Over Internet Protocol services** are subject to the uniform assessment charge on phone bills for the Texas Universal Service Fund. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1711** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would create a cause of action by a person or student organization against an institution of **higher education** alleging a **violation of expressive rights**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 26 to 5.*
- **SB 1720** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require **confidentiality** of the identity of a public school employee who **reports a potential threat** to a school's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1938** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would extend the ability of the Secretary of State to withhold funds to a voter registrar that fails to timely perform a duty regarding the approval, change, or **cancellation of a voter registration**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 11.*
- **SB 2451** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require the Secretary of State to prescribe instructions to be printed on **mail ballot materials** for marking the ballot envelope correctly. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 21 to 10.*

- **SJR 70** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would propose a constitutional amendment making it a **fundamental right for a parent** to direct the upbringing of his/her child. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 3.*

About SB 11, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "Texans have been reminded far too often that evil exists and that we live in a broken world. SB 11 is a top priority of mine and of all 31 Senators because it represents a blueprint for our schools to use to harden their facilities moving forward. This is the most robust school-based response framework that Texas has ever designed and is the product of a year's worth of bipartisan committee research and planning. SB 11 adopts a new structure for schools to increase security. The bill provides additional ongoing resources to schools for hardening, including money to purchase school safety equipment and hiring regionally embedded school safety experts. SB 11 streamlines our school safety response structure and requires superior communication within the school system and with parents relating to school safety. In addition, SB 11 creates the Office of School Safety and Security within the Texas Education Agency to help school districts eliminate vulnerabilities for intrusion and to systematically improve the safety and security of our schools."

About SB 17, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "Texans have some of the best higher educational opportunities available nationwide, right here at home. However, DEI hiring practices have caused division and must be stopped. Texas universities improve and the educational environment is enhanced when we recruit the best faculty based on merit and equal opportunity, not arbitrary quotas based on equity. The woke left's drive to divide Texans is never-ending. Today, the Texas Senate passed SB 17 to ban divisive DEI offices and hiring practices at our universities to make sure that individual merit and achievement are rewarded. SB 17 bans the establishment or maintenance of DEI offices and hiring practices at Texas universities."

About SB 17, Senator Borris Miles said, "SB 17 would prohibit Texas colleges and universities from establishing and maintaining Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) offices. We do not live in a perfect world where everyone has been treated equally and color-blind hiring has been the norm. DEI policies and offices stem from efforts by colleges to correct years of historical discrimination against underrepresented minorities, and that mission is still important today. The banning of DEI will diminish the progress made by these policies and offices; we will see a significant drop in women, people of color and other minorities in positions of power at our universities. There is no logic in the belief that you increase diversity by removing the policies and offices that work to promote it. I voted against SB 17 because this bill will do all harm and no good. Far too many times, legislation is brought on this floor that adversely affects minorities and the voices of minority members go unheard about what affects our communities. SB 17 will not move us forward but backward. This bill is bad for our universities, students, faculty and all of Texas."

About SB 17, the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus said, “Today, Senate Democrats stood united in opposition to S.B. 17, which if passed, would prohibit diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and policies at Texas’ public institutions of higher education. SB 17 has severe sanctions for non-compliance. Professors could face unpaid leave, lose tenure or be fired over violations of these policies. Universities would lose all state funding and face fines of up to \$1 million if the OAG determines they are in violation. The history of DEI initiatives stretches back to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Antidiscrimination efforts remain important today as Texas’ diverse population is still not proportionately represented in our institutions of higher education. DEI programs provide resources to students who are from historically excluded or underserved populations – like students of color, women, first-generation students, low-income students, students with disabilities, and veterans – to enable them to succeed. DEI programs result in student success. SB 17 would negate these important gains and advances, which we have struggled to achieve over the preceding decades. DEI programs are built into nearly all federal grant mechanisms, including those from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. In FY 2020, Texas public universities and health related institutions had \$5.44 billion in external research expenditures, with \$4.1 billion of that from non-state sources. In 2020-21, Texas A&M alone had \$1.3 billion in external research expenditures. In 2020-21, UT Austin’s budget for research expenditures was \$3.37 billion. Further, federal grants tied to industry workforce development also require a ‘holistic perspective on workforce regarding diversity and equitable access to STEM career paths and education.’ SB 17 does nothing to improve higher education in Texas. It will instead have broad-ranging negative consequences for not only those who currently study or work at our universities, but also for our state’s workforce and the future prosperity of our state.”

On Thursday, the Senate passed 31 bills including:

- **SB 18** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would **prohibit** institutions of higher education from **granting tenure** or any type of permanent employment after September 1, 2023. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 11.*
- **SB 55** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study to determine best practices for **assisting students with autism spectrum disorder** who are enrolled at institutions of higher education. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 317** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would allow an applicant for service from a **water supply or sewer service corporation** to appeal to the utility commission for a determination of whether the regular membership fee or tap fee is consistent with the tariff of the water supply or sewer service corporation. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*

- **SB 695** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would allow the **University of Texas at Tyler’s School of Pharmacy** to receive state funding. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 958** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would **prohibit a public agency** from requiring an individual to provide **personal affiliation information** about a non-profit affiliation to the agency. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 990** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would eliminate the **county-wide polling** place program. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 17 to 12.*
- **SB 986** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would prohibit a municipality or county from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that prohibits, restricts, or delays delivery of a **notice to vacate** or filing a suit to recover possession of the premises. *It passed by a vote of 18 to 11.*
- **SB 1000** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would **decrease the sales tax rate** by one-half cent. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 24 to 5.*
- **SB 1047** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would repeal Section 109.205(c) of the Education Code, which prevents the **Texas Produced Water Consortium** at Texas Tech University from receiving state funding. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 1170** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would allow (instead of require) a **municipally owned utility** to delegate the authority to designate the provider or **providers of last resort** to the Public Utility Commission. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 1252** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **bond ballot language** to include “THIS IS A TAX INCREASE.” *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 9.*
- **SB 1340** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would rename the Chapter 380 and 381 Agreement Database as the **Local Development Agreement Database** and require economic development agreements of municipalities, counties, and school districts to be included in the database. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 1396** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would establish a procedure for **Bible study and prayer in public schools**; would create a cause of action against an entity, attorney, or law firm that unsuccessfully challenges a school district’s program; and would prohibit a state court from declaring or pronouncing the statute unconstitutional. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 17 to 12.*
- **SB 1431** by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would exclude **personal information** on a current or former **administrative law judge** for the State Office of Administrative Hearings from public information laws. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*

- **SB 1446** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit **investment agents for public funds** from using **environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG)** factors in investment decisions; would limit decisions to financial factors; and would prohibit a public entity from retaining an investment agency with a history of taking ESG factors into account. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 25 to 4.*
- **SB 1515** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would require schools to **display the Ten Commandments** in each classroom.
- **SB 1629** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require money recouped from the existing nursing facility **Direct Care Staff Rate Enhancement Program** are reinvested directly into the program. *It passed by a vote of 17 to 12.*
- **SB 1648 and SJR 74** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **centennial parks conservation fund** administered by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. *For SB 1648. the committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 26 to 3.*
- **SB 1732** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would direct the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in consultation with Texas Department of Transportation to adopt standards for **electric vehicle charging stations**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 25 to 4.*
- **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. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 19 to 10.*
- **SB 2232** by Morgan LaMantia (E-South Padre Island) would allow the **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association** to establish requirements for insurance agents offering policies through the association. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 2233** by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would require the **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association** to establish a process for automatic renewal of a residential property (instead of any property). *It passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*
- **SB 2381** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to compile information on **pregnancy-related resources** and create a comprehensive searchable website with the information. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 9.*
- **SB 2433** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would authorize the employment of the **Harris County Elections Administrator** to be **suspended**, with or without pay, or terminated for good and sufficient cause on the three-fifths vote, rather than four-fifths vote of the county election commission and approval of that action by a majority vote of the

commissioners court. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 17 to 12.*

- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 0.*

About SB 18, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, “Tenured university professors are the only people in our society that have the guarantee of a job. Over the past year, it has become abundantly clear that some tenured faculty at Texas universities feel immune to oversight from the legislature and their respective board of regents. These professors claim ‘academic freedom’ and hide behind their tenure to continue blatantly advancing their agenda of societal division. It is shocking that these professors, who live inside a bubble, genuinely believe they are not accountable to anyone. That is not how the real world works. Of course, they are accountable to the Texas Legislature and their board of regents. This behavior must not be tolerated. SB 18 prohibits general academic institutions of higher education from granting an employee tenure or any kind of permanent employment status.”

About SB 1396 and SB 1515, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, “I will never stop fighting for religious liberty in Texas. Allowing the Ten Commandments and prayer back into our public schools is one step we can take to make sure that all Texans have the right to freely express their sincerely held religious beliefs. I believe that you cannot change the culture of the country until you change the culture of mankind. Bringing the Ten Commandments and prayer back to our public schools will enable our students to become better Texans.”

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week:	180
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week:	192
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar:	89
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session:	498

Next Week: The Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023.

HOUSE:

The House was in session Monday through Friday this week.

On Monday, the House gave preliminary approval to 28 bills including:

- **HB 54** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would increase the increase **personal needs allowance** for Medicaid recipients in long-term care facilities from \$60 to \$85 per month. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 105 to 30. It received final passage on Tuesday by a vote of 117 to 29.*
- **HB 73** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would provide that a landowner or lessee is not liable for damages arising from an **incident or accident involving livestock** due to an act or omission of a firefighter or a peace

- officer who has entered the landowner's property with or without permission; an act or omission by a trespasser; or due to wildlife, acts of God or by other causes beyond the control of the landowner. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 92** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would prohibit a city, county or property owners association from adopting an ordinance that prohibits growing fruits and vegetables, raising or keeping domestic fowl, installing a solar wind-powered energy device, an underground shelter, rain barrels or a rainwater harvesting system, or a standby electric generator on a **residential property**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 131 to 9. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 137 to 11.*
 - **HB 465** by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to establish a pilot program to provide medical assistance reimbursement for **doula services** in the Medicaid program. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 113 to 25. On Tuesday, it passed by a vote of 121 to 25.*
 - **HB 473** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) 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 passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
 - **HB 540** by Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) would allow the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to provide **library construction grants** to encourage the establishment of new public libraries or the improvement of existing public libraries. *It passed by a vote of 106 to 41.*
 - **HB 916** by Claudia Ordaz Perez (D-El Paso) would require health benefit plans that provide **benefits for a contraceptive drug** to provide for an enrollee to obtain up to a three-month supply for the first time the enrollee obtains the drug; and a 12-month supply for an enrollee that obtains the same drug on an ongoing basis. *It passed by a vote of 136 to 9.*
 - **HB 1038** by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would require the Bond Review Board to report on all **lending programs** and **credit support programs** in the state by December 31st every even-numbered year. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 1. On Tuesday, it received final passage by a vote of 147 to 1.*
 - **HB 1287** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would provide for an annual adjustment for inflation to the maximum amount of the fair market value of a motor vehicle that may be excluded from the resources of an applicant's household used in determining the applicant's eligibility for **supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 117 to 21. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 108 to 38.*
 - **HB 1323** by James Talarico (D-Austin) would require the **outreach program for foster students** to receive free higher education tuition and

- fees to be provided to all residential child-care facilities, foster parents and caregivers and school districts, charters and private schools offering grades 9-12. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
- **HB 1415** by Richard Raymond (D-Laredo) would clarify that a **high-mounted stoplamp** is considered to comply with federal standards for **lighting equipment requirements** for motor vehicles. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 134 to 7. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 139 to 6.*
 - **HB 1595 and HJR 3** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) 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. *HB 1595's committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 131 to 9. On Tuesday, it passed by a vote of 136 to 11. HJR 3's committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 133 to 9.*
 - **HB 1662** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would require **school districts** to post on the district's website the **employment policy** adopted by the district's board of trustees including compensation plans, employee leave conditions and procedures, and professional development requirements. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
 - **HB 1760** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would prohibit a persons without a handgun license to carry a **weapon** on the premises of a **school or postsecondary educational institution**. *It passed by a vote of 100 to 47.*
 - **HB 1846** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would require the **skills test results** administered to a person who holds a **commercial learner's permit** issued by another state to be sent to the state or jurisdiction that issued the person's commercial learner's permit. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 140 to 0. On Tuesday, it received final passage by a vote of 145 to 0.*
 - **HB 1898** by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would establish a grant program providing grants to children's hospitals to support and expand **mental and behavioral health services to children**.
 - **HB 1912** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would increase the student union and buildings fee at the **University of Texas at Dallas** from \$60 per semester to \$100 per semester. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 115 to 25. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 128 to 16.*
 - **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 137 to 3. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 146 to 2.*

- **HB 2416** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require the comptroller to establish the **Gulf Coast Protection Trust Fund** to develop infrastructure for protecting the gulf coast within the territory of the Gulf Coast Protection District. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 6.*
- **HB 3059** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) would limit **fees** charged by a **groundwater conservation district** to 20 cents for each thousand gallons of water exported from the district, and would increase by three percent per year. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 120 to 20. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 117 to 27.*
- **HB 3805** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require the Texas Transportation Commission to include a category in the Unified Transportation Program for projects related to border security and establishing **international trade corridors**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 4422** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to study the public safety, border security, and modernization of transportation infrastructure from **Texas-Mexico border crossings** onto the state highway system related to commercial vehicle connectivity. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **SB 240** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require hospitals and nursing facilities to establish a healthcare workplace violence prevention committee to develop a **workplace violence prevention plan**. *SB 240 was substituted for HB 112. The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*

On Tuesday, the House passed the Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 28 bills including:

- **HB 105** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would **exclude** the furnishing of an **academic transcript** from the **sales tax** on information services. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 147 to 0. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 579** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would allow parents or guardians of **students with significant cognitive disabilities** to request that the student be exempted from the administration of an alternative assessment instrument; and would require the student's admission, review and dismissal committee to determine if the student should be exempted. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 821** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would allow a state agency in charge of state property, including a state park, to enter into an agreement authorizing a charging provider to place and maintain **electric vehicle charging equipment** on the property. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 112 to 36. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 117 to 29.*

- **HB 1106** by Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin) would authorize the medical board to certify a person as an **acudetox specialist** if the person is a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed marriage and family associated, licensed physician assistant or other licensed or certified professional approved by the medical board and has successfully completed a training program in auricular acudetox. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **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. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 1. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 139 to 6.*
- **HB 1255** by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would provide that a party may assert a **claim in an arbitration proceeding** after expiration of the application limitations period if the party brought suit for the claim in court before the expiration of the applicable limitations period and the parties to the claim agreed to arbitrate the claim or a court ordered the parties to arbitrate the claim. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 1381** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would require a **zoning commission** to hold at least one public hearing before submitting a final zoning report to the governing body. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 4.*
- **HB 1500** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) is the sunset bill for the **Public Utility Commission** of Texas. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 1.*
- **HB 1565** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) is the sunset bill for the **Texas Water Development Board**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 4.*
- **HB 1646** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) would allow water withdrawn from the **Edwards Aquifer** to be used within the geographic area of a certificate of convenience and necessity that extends beyond the boundaries of the authority if a portion of which existed within the boundaries of the authority on June 28, 1996. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 1704** by Armando Lucio Walle (D-Houston) would establish the **workforce housing capital investment fund** to increase the development of workforce housing for households that earn between 30 and 80 percent of the area median income. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 53. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 116 to 31.*
- **HB 1737** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would entitle a person to nondisclosure of **criminal history record information** upon dismissal and discharge of deferred adjudication community supervision. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 1922** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would abolish **building permit fees** on the 10th anniversary after the date the fee is adopted or reauthorized unless the governing body of the municipality reauthorizes

- the fee. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 145 to 0. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 1925** by Sam Harless (R-Spring) would extend the **Health Care Provider Participation Program** of the Harris County Hospital District from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2025. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 134 to 9.*
 - **HB 2016** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would prohibit a person convicted of a sexual offense from holding a license as a **massage therapist** or holding a license as a massage establishment or school. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
 - **HB 2127** by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would prohibit **municipalities and counties** from **adopting ordinances** related to agriculture, finance, insurance, labor, natural resources or occupations unless explicitly authorized by statute. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 55. On Wednesday, it received final approval by the same vote.*
 - **HB 2556** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require the Texas Medical Board to **license physician graduates**, would allow them to practice medicine under a supervising practice agreement, and would allow a patient to select a physician graduate to provide care under the insured's health insurance policy. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
 - **HB 2802** by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would allow Medicaid **managed care organizations** to communicate with recipients through electronic means. *It passed by a vote of 120 to 27.*
 - **HB 3115** by Eddie Morales (D-Eagle Pass) would require a former or retired judge, to be eligible for the list of **visiting judges**, to certify that during the 15 years preceding assignment the judge has **not been publicly reprimanded** by the Commission on Judicial Conduct (CJC). *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 101 to 43. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 92 to 54.*
 - **HB 3211** by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would add a campus of the **Texas State Technical College System** in Denton County. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
 - **HB 4015** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would require fees collected for the **rail safety program** to be deposited to the State Highway Fund instead of the General Revenue Fund. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*

Failed to Pass to Third Reading:

- **HB 596** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would allow a county to provide a homestead exemption of up to 50 percent for a physician who provides pro bono health care services to **Medicaid and indigent patients**. *HB 596 failed to pass to Third Reading by a vote of 61 to 84.*

On Wednesday, the House passed the 28 Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 31 bills including:

- **HB 16** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would promote the **diversion of youth from confinement in state facilities**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 113 to 31. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 121 to 26.*
- **HB 26** by Claudia Ordaz (D-El Paso) would require applicants for **medical waste facilities** to notify the state senator, state representative, county commissioners, city leaders, school boards and tribal councils who represent the area in which the facility is to be located within 30 days of filing the application. *It passed by a vote of 117 to 29.*
- **HB 681** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would remove the sunset date on provisions allowing a **teacher certification** candidate to satisfy certification requirements through an internship that provides the candidate employment as a teacher for courses offered through a local remote learning program or the state virtual school network. It would also remove the sunset dates for **student remote learning options**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 3.*
- **HB 890** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would require the process through which a **school district** conducts **hearing of complaints** by personnel, students and parents to include an initial administrative hearing and an opportunity to appeal. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 143 to 0. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 900** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would require **book vendors to rate** and identify books that contain **sexually relevant or explicit material** before selling copies to public schools; and would require parents to provide written consent before their child could access material with a sexually relevant rating. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 95 to 53. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 95 to 52.*
- **HB 999** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would require health benefit plans that cover prescription drug to apply any third-party payment, financial assistance, **discount**, product voucher, or other reduction in out-of-pocket expenses made by or on behalf of an enrollee for a prescription drug to the **enrollee's deductible** or copayment. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 5.*
- **HB 1114** by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would expand the **Blinn Junior College District** service area to include the part of the Waller Independent School District that is located in Harris County. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 1212** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would prohibit school districts from requiring documentation from a clergy member of other religious leader for purposes of excusing a student from attending school to observe a **religious holy day**. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 1277** by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would repeal Section 552.006(b) of the Transportation Code which provides that if a sidewalk is not provided, a **pedestrian walking on a highway** shall, if possible, walk on

- the left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway facing oncoming traffic. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 3. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 142 to 2.*
- **HB 1416** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would provide **accelerated and supplemental instruction** for students who fail to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
 - **HB 1518** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would require a person who examines the work of appraisers performing appraisal services for an **appraisal management company** to be knowledgeable of appraisal practice. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
 - **HB 1666** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would prohibit a **digital asset provider** from comingling customer funds with funds belonging to the digital asset provider. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 147 to 0. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 148 to 0.*
 - **HB 2060** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would establish the **Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council** to study and monitor artificial intelligence systems developed, employed or procured by state agencies and assess the need for a state code of ethics for artificial intelligence systems in state government. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 137 to 10.*
 - **HB 2217** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would allow **public accountant's license expiration notices** to be delivered electronically. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
 - **HB 2224** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would allow a **municipality to alter speed limits** without performing an engineering or traffic investigation if the street is located in a residential area. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 81 to 50. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 96 to 46.*
 - **HB 2411** by James Talarico (D-Austin) would require the Commissioner of State Health Services to establish an advisory committee to examine and review the **administration of opioid antagonists** to a person experiencing an apparent opioid-related drug overdose. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 1.*
 - **HB 2719** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would authorize the Texas Historical Commission to acquire by purchase or gift real property to become a **designated historic site**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
 - **HB 2741** by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would add a juvenile family drug court program to the **Specialty Courts Advisory Council**. *It passed by a vote of 142 to 1.*
 - **SB 1016** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would require regulatory authorities, when establishing an **electric utility's rates**, to presume that employee compensation and benefits expenses are reasonable and necessary if the expenses are consistent with market compensation

studies. *SB 1016 substituted for HB 2713 and it passed by a vote of 141 to 1.*

On Thursday, the House passed the Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 31 bills including:

HB 12 by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would extend **Medicaid** benefits to new mothers for **12 months postpartum**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 125 to 11.*

On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 132 to 8.

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 passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 1.*

HB 1285 by Hugh Shine (R-Belton) would authorize the central appraisal district board to appoint one or more deputy taxpayer liaison officers to assist the taxpayer liaison officer; and would establish that the **taxpayer liaison officer** is the taxpayer assistance officer for the district. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 125 to 14.*

HB 1442 by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would make the offense of obstructing a highway or passageway if committed while operating a motor vehicle and engaging in a **reckless driving exhibition** subject to an enhanced criminal offense; and would make the property used in the offense subject to asset forfeiture. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 127 to 14. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 127 to 13.*

HB 1631 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would remove the time limit (five continuous hours) on the hours an **election watcher** can observe an election. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 0.*

HB 1647 by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would require health benefit plan coverage for chronic, complex, rare, or life-threatening medical conditions requiring **clinician-administered drugs**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 1.*

HB 1772 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would require a **timber purchaser** that purchases timber on a pay-per-unit sale to provide documentation proving delivery to a mill, wood yard, transfer yard, or storage yard. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 0.*

HB 1841 by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would require a justice court to report cases involving a **dispute between a landlord and tenant** including eviction suits, suits involving the disconnection of utilities, repair and remedy suits, suits involving security deposits, suits involving unlawful lockouts, and suits involving the provision of security and safety devices. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 88 to 55. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 76 to 65.*

HB 2024 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require a person to bring a **claim** arising out of the design, planning, or inspection or a **new residence**, an alteration of **or**

repair or addition to an existing residence against a registered or licensed architect, engineer, interior designer, or landscape architect no later than eight years after the completion of the improvement. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 100 to 40.*

HB 2196 by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would allow a **revocable trust** to qualify for a homestead exemption. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

HB 2636 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would limit liability of a **recreational vehicle park or campground** for personal injury, death, or property damage of a participant in park or campground activities if the park posts a warning sign, except for negligence. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

HB 2674 by Stan Kitzman (R-Pattison) would authorize an application for **designation as a state depository** to be sent to the comptroller electronically. *It passed by a vote of 140 to 0.*

HB 2691 by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would require **state agencies** to notify a person who has **indebtedness or a delinquency** to the state agency that the matter has been reported to the comptroller; and would authorize the comptroller to deduct the amount of the indebtedness or delinquency from any payments the comptroller makes to that person. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

HB 4797 by Ramon Romero (D-Fort Worth) would establish training requirements for **toll project** entities and their employees that **treat a roadway during icy or snowy weather**. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

HJR 144 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the **state highway fund** to be used for acquiring rights-of-way, constructing, and maintaining roadways for seaports, airports, spaceports, land ports of entry and international bridges. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*

SB 159 by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would require **applicants to take** the uniform **CPA examination** to have completed at least 120 (instead of 150) semester hours in board-recognized courses including at least 24 semester hours of accounting. *SB 159 was substituted for HB 797. The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 0.*

SB 497 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would institute regulations on the processing and sale of kratom or **kratom products** (any part of the leaf of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*). *SB 497 was substituted for HB 861. It passed by a vote of 125 to 14.*

SB 500 by Royce West (D-Dallas) and Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would increase the cap on the **value of a residential dwelling** that can be offered or awarded as a **prize at a charitable raffle** from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. *SB 500 was substituted for HB 1024. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 109 to 30.*

On Friday, the House passed the Third Reading bills. They also hosted former House members for a House Member's Reunion.

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week:	276
Total number of bills passed by the House this week:	166
Total bills passed this week on the Local & Consent Calendar	46
Total number of bills passed by the House this session:	328

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

BUDGET:

Senate Version of the Budget - The Senate's version of CSHB 1 appropriates \$308 billion in All Funds and \$141.3 billion in General Revenue. Highlights of CSHB 1 include:

- Funding to support the Senate's \$16.5billion property tax relief plan contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- \$1.8 billion for an across-the-board state employee pay raise to address the state workforce crisis, the highest across-the-board salary increase in over 40 years;
- \$10 billion set aside to support the construction and operation of electric generating facilities, contingent upon the passage of SB 6 and voter approval;
- \$5 billion in additional funding to support public education priorities, including teacher compensation; special education services; curriculum reform; school safety; and school choice, contingent upon the passage of legislation;
- \$3.7 billion, in addition to \$1billion included in SB 30, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to retired educators and a \$7,500 supplemental payment to TRS retirees over 75 contingent upon the passage of SB 10;
- \$589 million in additional funding for TRS Active Care to contain health care premium increases for teachers;
- \$931.2 million to eliminate all unfunded liability and cover normal costs for both the Law Enforcement & Custodial Officer Retirement Fund and the Judicial Retirement Fund;
- \$4.6 billion to continue current support for Operation Lone Star, the state-sponsored effort to secure our southern border;
- \$772.1 million increase to the Department of Public Safety to meet critical needs including bolstering communications capacity and intelligence efforts, funding 50 new state trooper positions and four recruit schools, and upgrading the Williamson County Training Academy Facility for the benefit of DPS recruits, troopers, special agents, Texas Rangers, and local law enforcement;
- \$380.8 million to bolster rural law enforcement and criminal justice efforts through a contingency for county law enforcement, additional training resources, and a new regional training facility;

- \$40.4 million in significant security investments at the Department of Criminal Justice to expand and enhance the use of body worn and fixed surveillance cameras, digital radios and related equipment, and to procure body scanners and metal detectors;
- \$367.9 million in new investments in the juvenile justice system, including additional staff salary increases to further stabilize the workforce, programmatic increases to expand capacity for committed youth, and resources to construct two new secure state juvenile facilities with mental health capacity;
- \$37.4 million in additional funding to invest in election integrity, business transactions, and filings at the Secretary of State;
- \$10.5 billion to fund enrollment at higher education institutions through the formulas;
- \$2.5 billion set aside for a higher education endowment fund, contingent on the passage of SB 19 and voter approval;
- \$750 million to a fund to support capital needs for career and technical education programs at Texas State Technical Colleges, contingent upon the passage of SJR 81 and voter approval;
- \$650 million to reform community college funding formulas to prioritize student outcomes, pending legislation;
- Over \$900 million in new funding for mental health care, including additional funds to address workforce challenges at state facilities, expand community-based services, and address the statewide mental health professional workforce shortage – in addition to \$2.3 billion included in the supplemental bill to increase inpatient mental health capacity and address waitlists;
- \$73.9 billion to cover Medicaid, including fully funding projected case load growth;
- \$2.3 billion increase for Medicaid community attendant wages to raise the base wage from \$8.11/hour to a minimum of \$11.00/hour;
- \$164.7 million increase for an additional 1,772 Medicaid Waiver slots to provide enhanced community services and avoid inappropriate institutionalization;
- \$427.2 million to bring funding for women’s health programs to a new all-time high, including an increase of \$140.1 million to provide additional prenatal and postpartum care, and expand screening, referral, and treatment of maternal mental health;
- \$151.7 million increase for Community-based Foster Care, including funding to expand into four new geographic areas;
- \$37.4 billion to address the state’s transportation needs, including over \$32 billion dedicated for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance; \$150 million for port capital improvement projects; and \$400 million to capitalize the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund;
- \$1 billion in new funding to invest in the state’s water infrastructure, contingent upon the passage of SB 28 and voter approval;

- \$500 million reserved to support new park development, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- Up to \$500 million in new funding for Gulf Coast Protection District projects;
- \$500 million for broadband development, contingent on the passage of legislation and voter approval; and
- \$400 million in new funding to complete the restoration, development, and maintenance of the Alamo Complex.

House Appropriations Committee:

On Monday, the House Appropriations Committee took 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**. *It was voted out favorably.*

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**. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

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

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. *It was left pending.*

On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee took up:

HB 3258 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require the Legislative Budget Board to report the amount of **dedicated revenue** that is used to certify the budget. *It was voted out favorably.*

House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee – On

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

HB 445 by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would prohibit a **county or municipality** from spending an amount of **bond proceeds** on a project that is greater than the amount stated on the ballot for the project or transfer bond proceeds from one project to another. *It was left pending.*

HB 451 by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would prohibit a political subdivision from **issuing a public security** to purchase or lease tangible personal property if the expected useful life of the property ends before the maturity date of the public security. *It was left pending.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 1119 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require the Legislative Budget Board to study **buildings and facilities owned**, leased, or otherwise occupied

by the state including how much money the state is spending on leased space and the possibilities of moving personnel out of leased space into existing state-owned space. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Next Week:

ELECTIONS:

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

HB 315 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would require **mail ballot applications** to contain a statement prescribed by the secretary of state explaining the benefits of furnishing a telephone number including how it assists the early voting clerk. *It was left pending.*

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

HB 862 by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would require voter registrars to **cancel a voter's registration** immediately on receipt of a list of persons excused or disqualified from jury service because of citizenship status. *It was left pending.*

HB 1140 by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would require an **early voting ballot application** to include a driver's license (current law), election identity certification card (instead of an election identification certificate), and a personal identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety (current law). *It was left pending.*

HB 1299 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would require **signatures on a carrier envelope** for a mail ballot to be in ink on paper, and electronic signature or photocopied signature would not be permitted. *It was left pending.*

HB 1671 by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would allow the aggrieved party in a **vote harvesting services case** to recover a penalty of \$25,000 plus attorney fees and court costs. *It was left pending.*

HB 2809 by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would require the **interstate voter registration crosscheck program** to identify voters who have been convicted of a felony or who are registered to vote in more than one state. *It was left pending.*

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

HB 3449 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would require the general custodian of election records to preserve an image of a the voter's signature on the carrier envelope and early voting ballot application for at least six years and require those copies to be delivered to the **early voting ballot board**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3537 by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would prohibit a **candidate** from filing for a place on the ballot with **more than one political party** in the same voting year. *It was left pending.*

HB 3732 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require **electronic voting systems** to produce a paper receipt verifying the accuracy of voter information databases. *It was left pending.*

HB 3736 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require the Secretary of State to conduct a study regarding the accuracy of the statewide **computerized voter registration list** and related database. *It was left pending.*

HB 3749 by Lulu Flores (D-Austin) would require the voter registrar to identify which section or sections of an **application for voter registration** resulted in rejection of an application. *It was left pending.*

HB 4701 by Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would require a political subdivision seeking to hold an election on a **ballot proposition**, to submit the language to the attorney general for approval. *It was left pending.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 1044 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would make it a criminal offense to create or distribute **misleading images and videos** with intent to injure a candidate or **influence an election**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1661 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit a central counting station from purchasing or using a **ballot scanner** unless the scanner is only capable of using a storage device that can only be used once. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1846 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would prohibit a manufacturer of **voting systems** from entering into a contract for software development services with an entity or individual located in China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, or Russia. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2451 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require the Secretary of State to prescribe instructions to be printed on **mail ballot materials** for marking the ballot envelope correctly. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 87 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would establish a procedure for replacing **presidential electors** that withdraw or are unable to serve. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee. It is set on the House Calendar for April 25th.*

HB 153 by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would allow voters the opportunity to select **"I choose not to vote in this race"** instead of voting for the candidates appearing on the ballot or the list of write-in candidates for each race. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 371 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would set the date of **run-off elections** on the sixth Saturday after the date of the main election. *It was reported favorably as*

substituted from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.

HB 380 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require local entities to provide the secretary of state (SOS) with **election information** to be posted on the SOS website. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 703 by Jessica Gonzalez (D-Dallas) would allow **election judges** to be compensated for two (instead of one) hour of work before the polls open. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1003 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would prohibit a person who has been convicted of a first or second degree felony or an offense in connection with conduct directly attributable to an election from serving as a **poll watcher**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 1848 by Emilio “Mano” DeAyala (R-Houston) would require the Secretary of State to study the feasibility of conforming each **central counting station** with the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) standards promulgated by the federal government. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 2629 by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would require reports of **direct campaign expenditures** by political committees to include the name of each candidate or officeholder for whom a direct campaign expenditure was made to support or oppose. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee and is set on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

HB 2979 by Josey Garcia (D-San Antonio) would require would require **voter registration certificates** to include an indication that a **voter is a veteran** if the voter served in active military service. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Defense and Veterans’ Affairs Committee.*

HB 3046 by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would allow the authority responsible for preparing ballots to omit the **name of a deceased candidate** from the ballot. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 5053 by Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would allow **election offenses** classified as a felony to be prosecuted in a judicial district adjoining the judicial district in which the offense occurred; a misdemeanor offense could be prosecuted in a county adjoining the county in which the offense occurred. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

HB 5131 by Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would allow the Secretary of State (SOS) to conduct an **election audit** in one randomly selected small county if the SOS completes the required audits of two small counties by the end of the two-year election cycle. *It was reported favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

SB 397 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would require the presiding election judge to **print the tape** to show the number of votes cast for each candidate or ballot measure for **each voting machine** on the last day of early voting. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate State Affairs Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 24th (first placement).*

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

HIGHER EDUCATION:

House Higher Education Committee – On Monday, the House Higher Education Committee took 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. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

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

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3140 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would make mental health professionals who provide mental health services to students eligible for the **Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3338 by Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would require institutions of higher education to implement a policy providing for the availability of **opioid antagonists** at each residence hall and the training off resident advisors in the proper use of those devices. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3631 by Suleman Lalani (D-Sugar Land) would require institutions of higher education to provide entering students with a campus map identifying any location at which **mental health services** are provided to students. *It was left pending.*

HB 3790 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would allow students at private or independent institutions of higher education to participate in the **Joint Admission Medical Program**. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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**. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 5148 by John Raney (R-Bryan) would establish the **Texas Students with Disabilities Scholarship Program** to provide tuition and fee assistance for students with disabilities to attend institutions of higher education. *It was voted out favorably.*

House Business & Industry Committee – On Monday, the House Business & Industry Committee took up:

HB 4246 by Angelia Orr (R-Itasca) would remove the \$2 million cap on the amount of surplus revenue that a nonprofit electric cooperative can contribute to a **scholarship fund for rural students**, to stimulate rural economic development, or provide energy efficiency assistance to members of the cooperative; and would base the cap on a formula of up to 50 percent of the total money reported in a year by the nonprofit cooperative corporations. *It was voted out favorably.*

House Appropriations Committee – On Monday, the House Appropriations Committee took up:

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. *It was left pending.*

House Corrections Committee – On Monday, the House Corrections Committee took 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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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

HB 1794 by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would authorize formula funding for the **University of Texas at Tyler’s school of pharmacy**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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

HB 1495 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require the Texas Facilities Commission to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of **leasing** available space in **state buildings** or property **to artists for practicing the performance of their arts**; and would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a similar study related to available space in buildings or **property at institutions of higher education**. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

SB 429 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would remove the threshold (property valuation of \$6 billion or more in the preceding year) in order for **junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees**. *It was left pending.*

SB 692 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would allow **South Texas College** to offer up to six (instead of five) baccalaureate degree programs. *It was left pending.*

SB 1489 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would **prohibit** Permanent University Fund, National Research University Fund, or money held by public **institutions of higher education** from investing in entities that **boycott Israel, energy companies, or firearms or ammunition makers**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1537 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require institutions of higher education to annually report to the coordinating board on **funding received** by the institution from a **foreign entity** during the preceding year; and would require researchers at institutions of higher education to complete training on the prevention of **espionage and intellectual property theft**. *It was left pending.*

SB 2029 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would transfer administration of the **Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program** to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (instead of a junior college and an advisory board). *It was left pending.*

SB 2240 by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) 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. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 1604 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to report on **enrollment and success** in higher education for **students with disabilities**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2100 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would make **mental health professionals** eligible for student loan repayment assistance. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2132 by Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock) would establish a campus of the **Texas State Technical College System** in Williamson County. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3287 by Charles “Doc” Anderson (R-Waco) would change location requirements for campuses of **Texas State Technical College System** from cities to counties. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4997 by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would add a campus or campuses in Comal and Guadalupe Counties to the **Texas State Technical College System**. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 336 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would expand the **compliance programs** at public institutions of higher education to include agents, contractors, subcontractors, or other persona acting on behalf of an institution of higher education. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 646 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would authorize formula funding for distance education provided by **Lamar State College–Orange** students who reside in another state that is contiguous to the county in which the college is located. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 867 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would allow **opioid antagonists** to be provided to **institutions of higher education**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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

SB 2123 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would allow the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler to participate in the **Joint Admission Medical Program**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2158 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would require the **firefighters** who receive a **tuition and fee exemption** to be a member in good standing of a volunteer fire department registered with the Texas A&M Forest Service and responds to 9-1-1 emergency calls in a designated area and attend at least 20 hours of annual training. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 989 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require the Department of State Health Services to develop a state plan for preventing and treating **human papillomavirus** and the health problems caused by the infection among students enrolled at **institutions of higher education**. *It was reported favorably from the House Higher Education Committee.*

HB 1474 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring a **pregnant or parenting student** to take a leave of absence or withdraw from the student's degree or certificate program or limit the student's studies. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2672 by Frederick Frazier (R-McKinney) would expand eligibility for student loan repayment assistance under the **math and science scholars loan repayment program** to include persons who agree to teach mathematics or science for a specified period in any public school (not just schools that receive federal funding under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965). *It was reported favorably from the House Higher Education Committee.*

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 reported favorably from the House Higher Education Committee.*

SB 1969 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would increase the penalty for **sexual offenses** if the offense is committed within 1,500 feet of a day-care center, school, or institution of higher education. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

University of Houston System – On April 17th, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Gregory C. King to the University of Houston System Board of Regents for a term set to expire on August 31, 2023.

Gregory King of San Antonio is a managing partner of EnCap Flatrock Midstream (EFM). Prior to joining EFM in 2015, he spent nearly 15 years at Valero Energy, serving in various roles including, president, chief operating officer, and general counsel. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, former board chairman of Focus on the Family, emeritus director of the University of Houston Law Foundation, and a former board member of United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County and the Alamo Area Council Boy Scouts of America. King received a Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from The University of Houston Law Center.

Next Week:

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

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

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. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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

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. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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

House Public Education Committee:

On Tuesday, the House Public Education Committee took 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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 2102 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would allow charter holders to provide written **notice** of the establishment of a **new open-enrollment charter**

school campus up to 36 months (instead of 18 months) before the date on which the campus is anticipated to open. *It was voted out favorably.*

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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

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. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 2808 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would provide that an **accountability rating** assigned to a school district or charter is that school's final rating and may not be challenged. *It was voted out favorably.*

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**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3315 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would establish a procedure for school districts to handle complaints concerning a violation of **parental rights**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3908 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would require school districts to annually provide at least 10 hours of research-based instruction related to **fentanyl prevention** and **drug poisoning awareness** to students in grades 6 through 12. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3991 by Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) would designate the first Friday in April as **Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day** in public schools to promote awareness of the health benefits of fruits and vegetables. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4070 by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would eliminate the requirement that private schools post **signs** regarding **human trafficking penalties**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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

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. *It was voted out favorably.*

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. *It was left pending.*

HB 4477 by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would repeal Section 33.0812 of the Education Code, which prohibits **University Interscholastic League** competitions on Monday through Thursday of the school week. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

HB 4716 by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would require school districts to refer students receiving special education services to a **local intellectual and developmental disability authority** for services or public benefits. *It was voted out favorably.*

On Thursday, the House Public Education Committee took up:

HB 83 by Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood) would authorize school districts to use a **writing portfolio assessment** to assess writing performance as an alternative to administering a reading assessment or English I or English II end-of-course assessment instrument. *Vote failed in committee.*

HB 651 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would include **Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs** in career and technology education programs and the indicator of achievement for military readiness under the public school accountability system. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 1572 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would provide instructional **facilities funding** for open-enrollment **charter schools**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 1804 by Terri Leo-Wilson (R-Galveston) would add additional **instructional material** responsibilities of the State Board of Education. *It was left pending.*

HB 2615 by Gary Gates (R-Rosenberg) would allow school districts to offer a vocational education program where students could receive a **vocational high school diploma**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3028 by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would **reduce** the amount of **recapture** owed by a school district by **four percent** if the school district pays the total amount by February 15th of the school year in which the agreement is in effect. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3141 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would implement the recommendations from the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3610 by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) would require Texas Education Agency to adopt a form to be completed by the parent or physician of a student with a seizure disorder to report a **seizure management and treatment plan** for the care of the student. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3614 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would authorize school districts to employ a **chaplain** instead of a **school counselor** to perform duties required of a school counselor. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 3708 by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would provide an annual **allotment** of \$1,500 for each **student who is not enrolled** in the school district **but is allowed to participate** in the University Interscholastic League (**UIL**) activities of the district. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3832 by Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would remove the requirement for school districts must notify the Commissioner of Education of any **instructional material** the district or school **disposes of**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3928 by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would require school districts to obtain parental consent before **evaluating a student for dyslexia** and related disorders. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 4210 by John Lujan (R-San Antonio) would increase the terms from two to three years for **board members of military reservation school districts**; and would allow a board member who retires from active duty or civilian service to continue to serve on the remainder of their term on the board. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4358 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would include **digital teaching** in the **micro-credential certification** program as an option in the continuing education process for teachers. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4402 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would eliminate the requirement to perform satisfactorily on **end-of-course exams** in order to graduate; and would provide that a person no longer attending a public school who failed to graduate solely due to failure to perform satisfactorily on an end-of-course but otherwise met all applicable requirements for graduation to receive a high school diploma. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 4514 by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would require the Commissioner of Education to incorporate a **school and student safety and climate survey** as an indicator for the student achievement domain and the closing the gaps domain. *It was left pending.*

HB 4520 by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would require revocation of the license of an educator convicted of an offense under Section 43.24 of the Penal Code prohibiting distribution or **display of harmful material to a minor**. **HB 4522** by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would require **school bond propositions** that would require the district to increase taxes to would require the statement "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE." *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4656 by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would establish a **temporary teaching certificate** for classroom teachers certified by other states. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 4870 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would authorize **Medicaid eligibility** for "dreamers." *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 5167 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would extend educational opportunities for **military-connected students** to children of veterans up to four years after retirement if the veteran returns to home of record on military orders. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee – On Wednesday, the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee took up:

HB 5290 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would recognize a parental cause of action against a school district or charter for violations of student and **parental rights**. *It was left pending.*

House Licensing & Administrative Procedures – On Wednesday, the House Licensing & Administrative Procedures took up:

HB 3583 by Jolanda Jones (D-Houston) would require Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to license and regulate **youth sports programs**. *It was left pending.*

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

HB 158 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would make **personal information about an educator** that is maintained by Texas Education Agency **confidential** including home address, telephone number, emergency contact information, date of birth, or social security number. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

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

SB 418 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow **transfer and assignment of students between school districts** (current law requires the school districts to be adjoining). *It was left pending.*

SB 595 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require parental consent for psychological or **psychiatric examination or treatment of a student** conducted by a school district employee. *It was left pending.*

SB 668 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require school districts to make **school safety training courses** to employees of **child-care facilities** and other organizations providing out-of-school-time care to children who reside in the district. *It was left pending.*

SB 1064 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require the comptroller's **property value study** for a school district to use a margin of error that does not exceed 10 percent, instead of the current 5 percent. *It was left pending.*

SB 1471 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would grant private schools access to the **registry of persons who are not eligible for employment in public schools**. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 1557 Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would allow the parent of a **student who was victimized** by a public school employee to transfer the student to another campus or receive funding for the student to **attend private school**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1567 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require school districts and charters to maintain at least one **physical copy** of each **instructional material** selected by the district or school for each subject. *It was left pending.*

SB 1954 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would add curriculum on the structure of the court system and the **role of the judicial branch of government** into the civic knowledge curriculum in the essential knowledge and skills (**TEKS**) for the foundation curriculum. *It was left pending.*

SB 2117 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require **school bond propositions** to include the statement, "THIS AUTHORIZES THE DISTRICT TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL DEBT." *It was left pending.*

SB 2141 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require the essential knowledge and skills for the **technology applications curriculum** to include Internet safety and keyboard use. *It was left pending.*

SB 2205 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require **school bond propositions** that would require the district to increase taxes to would require the statement "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE." *It was left pending.*

SB 2304 by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would require school districts and charters to provide information regarding the **Texas Driving with Disability Program** to students who have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and who receive special education services. *It was left pending.*

SB 2403 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require school districts to include data related to the district's **gifted and talented program** in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). *It was left pending.*

SB 2428 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would allow, but not require, a student to be removed from class and placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for possession or **use of an e-cigarette**. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

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

HB 1297 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would allow **vision screening** for public and private school students using an electronic eye chart as a substitute for a printed eye chart to assess visual acuity. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1558 by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would establish a procedure for extending or amending **restrictions for older subdivisions** including removal of any restrictions relating to race, religion, or national origin that is void and unenforceable under the U.S. Constitution. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1959 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would authorize a **peace officer** to request a transfer of the officer's student to another school district or district campus. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2892 by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would require school districts to transfer a student to another district or campus upon require of a **military parent** who is a member of the U.S. military or Texas National Guard. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 68 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require school districts to excuse a student from attending school for a **career investigation day** for up to two days during the student's junior and senior years of high school to determine the student's interest in pursuing a career in the professional's field. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 163 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would remove the expiration date on provisions in the Education Code requiring **parental approval for human sexuality instruction**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 164 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require public **schools to display the founding documents** of the United States including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and Essays 10 and 57 of the Federalist Papers. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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

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 and narrowly tailored using the least restrictive means to achieve that compelling state interest. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1630 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require school districts and charters to adopt and implement an **attendance policy** to inform students and parents regarding the importance of regular attendance and provide appropriate supports to students who fail to regularly attend. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2139 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) 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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2147 by Josey Garcia (D-San Antonio) would waive fees for the administration of a **bilingual education certificate examination**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2372 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require local health advisory councils to make recommendations regarding the curriculum on the **dangers of opioids** and addiction. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 3 by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) is an omnibus **school safety** bill. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and is on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

HB 13 by Ken King (D-Canadian) would make several requirements related to **school safety**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and is on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

HB 100 by Ken King (D-Canadian) would make several changes to the **school finance** system including increasing the basic allotment, 50 percent must go for teacher compensation; and adjusting minimum salary schedule. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.*

HB 114 by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would make it a Class B misdemeanor to possess five or more **e-cigarettes on school property**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee and is set on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

HB 185 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would include **chronically absent students** (students absent more than 10 percent of school days) as students at risk of dropping out of school. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and is set on the House Calendar on April 25th.*

HB 1238 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would establish the **School Health and Related Services Program Advisory Council** to advise Texas Education Agency and the Health & Human Services Commission on administering the school health and related services program. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Human Services Committee and set on the House Calendar on April 26th.*

HB 2090 by Ray Lopez (D-San Antonio) would allow school districts and charters to offer students in grade 12 an **elective course on community safety**, firearm safety, and mental health. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 2269 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would authorize school districts to employ **security personnel** through a memorandum of understanding with a county or municipality that is the employing political subdivision of commissioned peace officers. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 2812 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would allow **school safety training** to be provided by a private religious academy or school that is accredited by an organization approved by the Texas Education Agency for private school accreditation. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 2857 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would allow, but not require, a student to be removed from class and placed in a **disciplinary alternative education program** for possession of marijuana or a controlled substance. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 2976 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow school districts to offer an **elective course in firearms safety** to high school students. *It was reported favorably from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 3255 by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would require principals, assistant principals, school marshals, school district peace officers, school resource officers, and school security personnel to complete **emergency response management training**. *It was reported favorably from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 4058 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would require school districts, charters and institutions of higher education to designate a trained person to administer opioid antagonists to a **person experiencing an apparent opioid-related drug overdose**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Health Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HJR 170 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would propose a constitutional amendment creating the **State School Safety Fund** to provide financial support for projects that enhance the safety of schools. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and is set on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

SB 763 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would authorize school districts to employ a **chaplain instead of a school counselor** to perform duties required of a school counselor. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 24th.*

SB 1024 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would **prohibit** an elementary or secondary **school** from **requiring** a student, as a condition of admission to the school to be **vaccinated against COVID-19**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 24th.*

SB 1031 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would **prohibit school districts** from conducting or permitting a third party to conduct a study or **survey** on a **child's sexual behavior**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*

SB 1475 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would terminate a **school marshal** if the marshal is required to hold an occupational license and the license is suspended or revoked. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2407 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would terminate a **school marshal's** status as a school marshal if the person's **license to carry a handgun is revoked**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 24th.*

SB 1966 by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would establish the **School-Based Health Care Grant Program** for health care organizations to implement, maintain and expand school-based health care initiatives for underserved students and to provide those students with preventative, primary, and behavioral health care. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.*

SB 2565 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establish a **high-quality instructional materials** program. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 24th.*

Next Week:

STATEWIDE:

Senate Business & Commerce Committee – On Tuesday, the Senate Business & Commerce Committee took 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. *It was left pending.*

SB 1579 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require a governmental body that withholds information that is excepted from **required public disclosure**, based on a good faith determination, to respond to the requestor within 10 business days after the request and include a list of the exceptions, statutes or constitutional provisions applicable to the information being withheld; and provide all information that is not excepted from disclosure including partially redacted information with the redacted portions clearly marked and labeled with the exceptions the governmental body relied on to redact the information. *It was left pending.*

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. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 1248 by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would add to statutes prohibiting the **trafficking of persons** directing two or more individuals to enter or remain in a public park or recreational area. *It was reported favorably as substituted and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1969 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would increase the penalty for **sexual offenses** if the offense is committed within 1,500 feet of a day-care center, school, or institution of higher education. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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

HB 2178 by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would require the Texas Press Association to **publish** on it's Internet website **notices** it receives from printed newspapers. *It was left pending.*

HB 4012 by Stan Kitzman (R-Pattison) would require the comptroller to operate the **electronic state business daily** for state agencies and other eligible entities to advertise pre-solicitation notices, solicitations, and contract awards. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

SB 1481 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would give the Texas Facilities Commission **eminent domain** authority for purposes of acquiring real property for the **construction of a border wall**. *It was left pending.*

SCR 29 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would declare an invasion by **transnational cartel terrorists**. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 2559 by Cody Vassut (R-Angleton) would allow a retired justice of the peace to **administer an oath** in the state. *It passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

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

SB 999 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would prohibit a person from providing **active shooter training** to students or school employees unless the person is certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to provide active shooter training. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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 passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1973 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require a criminal background check of people seeking appointment by the court that assesses the **eligibility or amount of bail** for a criminal defendant. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2057 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would allow Texas Historical Commission (THC) to enter into a contract with the nonprofit entity that owns the **Iwo Jima Monument and Museum** to transfer the operation and management of the monument and museum to THC. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 17 by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would add to the definition of “incompetency” for **district and county attorneys** to adopt a policy **prohibiting** or limiting the **enforcement of a criminal offense**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.*

HB 1000 by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) is the **redistricting** bill for **Texas House** Districts. *It was reported favorably from the House Redistricting Committee and is set on the House Calendar on April 26th.*

HB 1740 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to **waive the park entrance fee** for **first responders** and active-duty members or veterans of the **armed services**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee.*

HB 1927 by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would require a peace officer who takes a minor into custody to use **age-appropriate trauma-informed practices** in responding to the situation. *It was reported favorably from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

HB 1942 and HJR 102 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would propose a constitutional amendment legalizing **sports betting**. *They were reported favorably from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 2006 By Cody Harris (D-Palestine) would require the state registrar to provide a **person who was adopted** a copy of the person’s **original birth certificate** if the adopted person was born in this state. *It was reported favorably from the House Public Health Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2142 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would exempt a fantasy or simulated game or contest from the definition of “bet” for purposes of **gambling offenses**. *It was reported favorably from the House State Affairs Committee.*

HB 3501 by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would require employees of a **tattoo or body piercing studio** to complete training on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking. *It was reported favorably from the House Public Health Committee.*

HB 3835 by Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would allow Texas Historical Commission (THC) to enter into a contract with the nonprofit entity that owns the **Iwo Jima Monument and Museum** to transfer the operation and management of the monument and museum to THC. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4918 by Jon Rosenthal (D-Houston) would allow (instead of prohibit) a state agency to authorize a person to manufacture a product containing **hemp for smoking**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Agriculture & Livestock Committee.*

HB 5093 by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would re-establish the **Texas Bicentennial Commission**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 242 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require the attorney general to report monthly on rules adopted by a federal government agency related to an issue that violates **rights guaranteed by the US Constitution**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate State Affairs Committee.*

SB 569 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would allow a municipality that receives a request for production of a **record related to a civil action** to which the municipality is not a party to impose a fee for production or certification of the record. *It was reported favorably from the Senate State Affairs Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 643 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would limit authorized organizations to hold no more than 48 temporary **charitable bingo** licenses during a 12-month period; and would limit aggregate prizes awarded on a single bingo occasion to \$5,000 (instead of \$2,500). *It was reported favorably as substituted from the HOUSE Licensing & Administrative Procedures Committee.*

SB 943 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require the Texas Press Association to **publish** on its Internet website **notices** it receives from printed newspapers. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Business & Commerce Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1884 by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would require the Secretary of State to report **foreign nationals** the secretary determines to have knowingly engaged in actions that **undermine the security and sovereignty of the state** or corruption if the person's home country. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate State Affairs Committee.*

SB 1985 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would establish a committee to study the formation of a **Texas Bicentennial Commission**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Texas Racing Commission – On April 14th, Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Robert C. Pate to the Texas Racing Commission for a term set to expire February 1, 2029. The commission oversees pari-mutuel wagering on horse and greyhound racing.

Robert C. Pate of Corpus Christi is an attorney and a Senior District Judge, having previously served Texas as the presiding Judge of the 28th Judicial District Court and the 148th Judicial District Court in Nueces County. In addition to his law license and membership in the State Bar of Texas, he is also a licensed certified public accountant. Governor Abbott first appointed him to the Texas Racing Commission on April 4, 2019. He will continue to serve as the chairman of the Commission. Pate received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Professional Accounting in taxation from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University.

Texas Facilities Commission – On April 14th, Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Eddy Betancourt to the Texas Facilities Commission for a term set to expire on January 31, 2029. The commission controls state buildings, grounds,

or property and responsibility for maintenance, repair, and construction of state buildings for the State of Texas.

Eddy Betancourt of Mission is president of R&B General Construction Co Inc., co-owner and president of National Tire and Wheel, LLC, and a general retail partner manager for E2H Investments. He is a member of the McAllen Board of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. Additionally, he is member of the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors and ENACTUS Advisory Board. Betancourt received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and International Business Studies from The University of Texas Pan American.

State Preservation Board – On April 18th, Governor Abbott reappointed Alethea Swann Bugg to the State Preservation Board for a term set to expire on February 1, 2025.

Alethea Swann Bugg of San Antonio is active as a community volunteer, having served in numerous capacities including member and former chair of the Blood and Tissue Center Foundation and board president of the Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell. Additionally, she is incoming board chair of Mission Road Ministries, a member of the Charity Ball Association of San Antonio, and a former board member of the KLRN Endowment Fund. Bugg received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Sewanee: University of the South and a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

39th Annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards – On April 19th First Lady Cecilia Abbott hosted the 39th Annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards at the Texas Governor’s Mansion in Austin. As honorary chair of the Governor’s Volunteer Awards, the First Lady honored 14 recipients from across the state who dedicated their time and talents to serving their communities in 2022. First Lady Abbott said, “The true strength of the Lone Star State is found in the hearts of its people. Each awardee here tonight is a powerful testament to the exceptional character of Texas and demonstrates what it truly means to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your hard work and selfless dedication to your communities. Together, we are building a brighter tomorrow for every Texan.” First Lady Abbott was joined at the awards ceremony by Senators Boris Miles and Charles Perry; Representatives Tom Craddick, Mano DeAyla, Carrie Issac, Mihaela Plesa, Carl Tepper, Ed Thompson, and Steve Toth; OneStar Foundation President and CEO Chris Bugbee; and other local philanthropists and leaders. Presented in conjunction with OneStar Foundation, the annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards recognize the exceptional service and volunteerism of individuals and organizations making a significant impact in their communities across Texas. The recipients of the 39th Annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards are:

Harriet Marmon Helmle (San Antonio): Governor’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award - Harriet Marmon Helmle has dedicated most of her life to improving education, helping the homeless and disabled, improving medical care for all, and giving girls and women the tools needed to succeed. Over the past four decades, she has raised tens of millions of dollars for San Antonio-area

nonprofits. In 1984, Harriet founded San Antonio Youth Literacy to reach high-risk high school students and their families in disadvantaged neighborhoods that now serves over 900 students on 75 campuses.

Mindy Gross (Fort Bend): Governor's Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award - Mindy Gross has worked with the Fort Bend Women's Center since the late 1990s to assist domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and their children in achieving safety and self-sufficiency. Mindy's countless volunteer hours and continued commitment have enhanced the Richmond community, volunteers, and staff. In various leadership roles, Mindy has worked with Child Advocates of Fort Bend County and the United Way. She also founded the STARS volunteer auxiliary in 2004, co-founded and served as inaugural co-chair for their annual Girlfriends Giggle benefit, and raised more than \$1 million for Fort Bend Women's Center's programs and services.

Rose Wilson (Lubbock): Governor's Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award - Rose Wilson continues to leave an outstanding legacy in Lubbock with decades of volunteer service that spans fighting food insecurity, mentoring students, and advancing social justice causes. At 95 years old, Rose continues engaging in new volunteer opportunities, helping organize events, and serving on boards. Rose has been active with the Lubbock NAACP since the 1960s, becoming the first African American woman to be elected president in 1978 and remaining president for 30 years. She continues to serve on the executive board of the Lubbock NAACP, helping with membership drives and fund development and serving on the finance committee.

Catherine Bai (Houston): First Lady's Rising Star Award - After seeing the loneliness experienced by many nursing home residents, Catherine Bai started an Adopt a Senior program for residents rarely visited by family members. She soon realized the power of music therapy to help people with dementia and founded the Pearland branch of WeCareAct, a student volunteer organization to involve youth in community service in the Greater Houston area. So far, the group has more than 100 volunteers, 1,000 hours dedicated, nine formal holiday concerts organized, and 900 seniors and community members served. Catherine presented her music community service project to the 2022 Future Problem Solving International Conference to raise awareness of the elderly in need.

Vedha Vaddaraju (Dallas): First Lady's Rising Star Award - Vedha Vaddaraju co-founded Letters of Gold, a Texas nonprofit with the mission of uplifting Texas residents and individuals around the world with letters of light in times of darkness. Letters of Gold delivers more than 3,000 letters to different groups in need every month, primarily in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. As a senior in high school, Vedha leads a team of almost 100 youth volunteers throughout Texas and has chapters of her organization in nearly 10 schools in the DFW area. Having the opportunity to speak in global conferences for the past two years and featured on various news sources in Texas, Vedha uses her skills to empower those around her to write letters and offers monthly training sessions for youth to encourage them to act in their community.

Elizabeth Watkins (Frisco): Volunteer of the Year Award - Elizabeth Watkins founded Refresh Frisco in 2019 to provide hygiene products to students in need.

With the mission in mind that proper hygiene is critical for a child's health and self-esteem, Elizabeth set out to ensure that every child in her community has access to personal hygiene items. As an example of their rapid growth, Refresh Frisco served around 150 students in November 2019 and, by May 2022, had expanded to serve over 1,400 children in K-12 in Frisco ISD. She has recently expanded to Refresh Little Elm, serving more than 300 Little Elm ISD students and growing.

Dr. Gary Beach (Austin): Volunteer of the Year Award - Dr. Gary Beach began volunteering with the Volunteer Healthcare Clinic in 2008 and has improved the lives of countless uninsured patients. As a Vietnam veteran, Gary received the Meritorious Mast from the U.S. Marine Corps and went on to become an acclaimed physician for more than 42 years. He has repeatedly won Top Doctor awards in both Texas Monthly and Austin Monthly. Gary also uses his volunteer time at VHC to mentor the next generation of healthcare providers. He has supported and taught many pre-med students who have gone on to medical schools such as Dell, Southwestern, McGovern, Baylor, University of Texas Medical Branch, Texas A&M, and Stanford.

Diana & Glen Egley (New Danville): Volunteer Family of the Year Award - Diana and Glen Egley are committed volunteers at New Danville, a rural nonprofit community in Willis for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Diana is president of Legally Authorized Representative Alliance, an organization that sponsors activities and supports New Danville's day program clients and residents, where Glen also volunteers. The family is central to the annual Christmas Market where clients shop for free gifts to give to their family and friends, and they are also key volunteers for theater productions performed by New Danville clients. The Egleys also volunteer for Love Fosters Hope, a nonprofit that serves children and teens in foster care who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned.

LGI Homes (Fort Bend, Harris & Montgomery Counties): Corporate Volunteering Champion Award - LGI Homes has made a tremendous impact by planning, completing, and funding a \$25,000 project for SIRE, a nonprofit that supports individuals with special needs through therapeutic horsemanship. More than 40 LGI Homes employees provided over 500 hours of volunteer labor for the organization, constructing 10 stalls and outfitting a building for saddles and equipment. In October 2022, LGI Homes also oversaw the completion of a new 4,500-square-foot education and visitors center, valued at \$1.2 million, which provides classroom space for SIRE programs, meeting space for local organizations serving people with disabilities, and office space for SIRE staff. LGI Homes is also very involved with Habitat for Humanity in Montgomery County and has employees serving on the board of directors at both SIRE and Habitat for Humanity.

Midland High School Football (Midland): Innovation in Volunteerism Award - The Midland High School Football program has developed a reputation of being the go-to for volunteers in Midland. Head coach Thad Fortune has built the MHS football program to include intentional and service leadership-based volunteer programming. It starts with his "Path of the Bulldog" principles given to every

football player and parent beginning in 7th grade through 12th grade, reaching more than 600 students. MHS Football players are led by Coach Thad in intentional and coordinated volunteer service, including summer trash pickups in partnership with Keep Midland Beautiful and “Books and Bulldogs” summer reading programs with the Midland YMCA.

Unite & Inspire (Houston): Innovation in Volunteerism Award - Unite & Inspire is a youth-led nonprofit with a mission to unite and inspire children, youth, and adults into giving back to their communities through volunteering and to share resources that cultivate their growth as responsible global citizens. Their volunteer projects include disaster relief campaigns, STEAM education, cause-related internships, services for children and seniors, and medical and health support for cancer patients, first responders, and military. During Winter Storm Uri, they provided 500 families with hot meals, essential supplies, and recovery care packages.

Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (Aransas, Bee, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties): Excellence in Disaster Volunteerism Award - Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG) is an established network of business, nonprofit, faith-based, private sector, and government organizations partnering to support long-term disaster recovery in 11 counties of the Coastal Bend. In response to Hurricane Harvey, CBDRG rebuilt 81 homes, replaced 79 manufactured homes, and completed 181 major repairs at a cost of \$8.5 million. CDBRG provided disaster case management for 1,282 clients, with 450 of the clients fully recovered from the disaster. In Winter Storm Uri, they helped 133 clients restore basic water service that was lost due to freezing pipes.

Texas Search and Rescue (Statewide): Excellence in Disaster Volunteerism Award - Texas Search and Rescue (TEXSAR) is composed of volunteers who are dedicated Texans serving Texans with a spirit of “service above self” during times of emergency, loss, disaster, and pain. TEXSAR makes itself available as a resource to all 254 counties in the state when requested by local, state, or federal agencies. Though “search and rescue” is part of the organization’s name, TEXSAR has played particularly significant roles in disasters of various sorts, ranging from floods to fires to pandemics to winter storms. TEXSAR volunteers are valuable additions to the efforts of law enforcement, fire, and other agencies because of their spirit, dedication, training, empathy, professionalism, and preparedness—all of which adds up to excellence at times when Texans need it most.

Samiksha Deme (Houston): National Service “Make a Difference” Award - Samiksha 'Sami' Deme joined Sewa International’s Disaster Preparedness Group as an AmeriCorps Outreach Specialist. With her educational knowledge and skillset in environmental science, Sami is transforming critically needed disaster preparedness training for underserved and often marginalized communities. Sami’s preparedness trainings are centered on environmental justice, healthcare equity, and the crossroads between natural and human-made disasters. Sami also takes on volunteer projects outside her service

responsibilities—from vaccine clinics to clothing drives for Afghan refugees to personal essentials for the homeless.

TAX:

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

HB 2327 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would provide that an **agricultural and timber tax exemption registration number** issued to or held by a person who is 65 years of age or older would not expire and would not be required to be renewed. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3104 by Charles “Doc” Anderson (R-Waco) would expand qualifications for the sales tax exemption for equipment necessary to operate a **data center**. *It was left pending.*

HB 3209 by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would require **marketplace vehicle rental providers** to collect gross rental receipts taxes; and would require marketplace rental providers to report and remit the taxes to the municipality, county and comptroller as required unless the owner of the motor vehicle rented through a marketplace rental provider elects to report and pay the tax. *It was left pending.*

HB 3241 and HJR 141 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would propose a constitutional amendment expanding the definition of **farm production inputs** for ad valorem tax purposes. *They were voted out favorably.*

HB 3242 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow the **surviving spouse** of a person with a **homestead exemption** to not have to apply for a homestead exemption when the spouse dies if the surviving spouse is otherwise eligible for the exemption. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3769 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would disallow the **owner of heavy equipment** to collect the unit property tax from the lessee or renter or line item the tax on an invoice if the renter is an agency of the United States. *It was left pending.*

HB 3857 by Krona Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would require the chief appraiser to distinguish between the degree of intensity required for various agricultural production methods to qualify for **open-space land valuation**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 3894 by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) would exempt **battery energy storage systems** from the sales tax. *It was left pending.*

HB 4094 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would provide a sales tax refund for the purchaser of an **aircraft** that leases the aircraft to provide **flight instruction**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4130 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow **electric coops** to be valued based on the presumptive appraised value, which is the value equal to 20 percent of the net book value. *It was left pending.*

HB 4478 and HJR 171 by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would propose a constitutional amendment extending the school **property tax freeze** for homeowners over 65 or disabled to counties. *They were left pending.*

HB 4602 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would set the **motor vehicle** rental tax for a motor vehicle rented through a **marketplace rental provider** at 10 percent (instead of 6.25 percent) if the vehicles rented for 30 days or less if the owner of the motor vehicle rents at least five motor vehicles within a 12-month period. *It was left pending.*

HB 4645 by Lulu Flores (D-Austin) would allow a property tax exemption for improvements made by an organization that leases land to provide **low-income housing**. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 4809 by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would provide a **strong families franchise tax credit** for tax-exempt organizations that provide mental health services, parenting services, and financial empowerment services. *It was left pending.*

HB 4901 and HJR 184 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) 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**. *They were left pending.*

HB 5047 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would require an election to annex area from an **emergency services district** into a municipality to include language indicating that a portion of sales taxes previously collected by the emergency services district will instead be collected by the municipality. *It was left pending.*

HB 5089 by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would provide that the sale of a taxable item occurs within the municipality or county in which the **sale is consummated**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

Senate Local Government Committee – On Tuesday, the Senate Local Government Committee took up:

SB 138 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require a chief appraiser to appraise a **dealer's motor vehicle inventory** if the dealer holds a wholesale motor vehicle dealer general distinguishing number issued by Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. *It was left pending.*

SB 719 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would include an ad valorem tax exemption for **charitable organizations** providing services for placing children in **foster or adoptive homes** or providing support for women who are pregnant and considering placing their unborn child for adoption. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1771 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would allow **electric coops** to be valued based on the presumptive appraised value, which is the value equal to 20 percent of the net book value. *It was left pending.*

SB 2005 by Morgan La Mantia (D-South Padre Island) would require the comptroller to prescribe a form for **appraisal review boards** to use in making a **written order**. *It was voted out favorably.*

Passed the House:

HB 3273 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would require **property tax data** to be posted on each taxing unit's website and provide instructions on how a property

owner can register to have notifications regarding updates to the property tax database delivered by e-mail. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Passed the Senate:

SB 539 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require taxing units to indicate on each **delinquent tax roll** that a delinquent tax included on the roll is deferred or abated on the residence homestead of elderly, disabled or veteran homesteads. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1215 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the comptroller to prescribe a form to request a **property tax refund** and would require tax assessors to deliver the refund. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1487 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would allow a property owner to elect to make **electronic property tax communications** between the owner and tax officials. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1512 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would make an entity liable for the property owner's attorney's fees if the entity fails to **disclose all appraisal reports** produced or acquired by the entity relating specifically to the owner's property in the 10 years preceding the date of the offer. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1649 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would allow a **revocable trust** to qualify for a homestead exemption. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1998 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **electronic forms** related to the **calculation of ad valorem tax rates** to be capable of including a hyperlink to a document that evidences the accuracy of the entry. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Reported from Committee:

HB 2584 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would void a provision in a **contract for appraisal services** between a governmental agency and a provider of appraisal services that requires the provider to defend the government agency or to indemnify the agency for the agency's sole or concurrent negligence. *It was reported favorably from the House County Affairs Committee.*

HB 2981 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow the comptroller to serve **notice of permit revocation** hearings electronically. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3640 and HJR 150 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide an ad valorem tax exemption on a portion of the **homestead** of an adult who has an **intellectual or developmental disability**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Ways & Means Committee and is set on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

HB 4101 by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) would limit **binding arbitration requests** to include complying with model hearing procedures prepared by the comptroller. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee and is set on the House Calendar on April 24th.*

SB 1999 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would provide a calculation transitioning from a rate-based unused increment calculation to a **dollar-based unused increment calculation**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Local Government Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2035 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a governing body from putting a new **bond proposition** for a project on the ballot for five years (instead of three years) after the voters rejected the project. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Local Government Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 24th.*

Sales Tax Holiday for Emergency Preparation Supplies - With the severe weather season approaching, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminded Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 24. Comptroller Hegar said, "While we can't know in advance when the next flood, tornado or hurricane may strike, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies. This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stocking up for emergency situations. Don't wait for disaster to strike. Take the time now to get prepared." The comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save nearly \$2 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015. There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;
- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and
- portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax-free during the holiday. For example, if you purchase a rescue ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Purchases that do not qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves and camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

Governor Greg Abbott said, "One of the best ways for Texans to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their property in the event of severe weather is

to have an appropriate stock of emergency supplies on hand. This weekend, I encourage all Texans to take advantage of tax-free purchases on emergency supplies, like first aid kits and fire extinguishers, so that they can be prepared for any potential severe weather threats that may come their way." Signed into law by Governor Abbott in 2015, SB 905 established Texas' annual Emergency Supplies Sales Tax Holiday Weekend to allow Texans to purchase certain emergency preparation supplies tax free either online or in person.

[View the list of tax-exempt items.](#)

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