

**Weekly Legislative Report**  
**April 28, 2023**

**GOVERNOR:**

**Best State for Business** – On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott celebrated Texas being named the Best State for Business by the nation's leading CEOs in an annual survey conducted by Chief Executive Magazine for a record-shattering 19<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Governor Abbott said, "For the 19<sup>th</sup> year in a row, America's CEOs have voted Texas as the best state for business. Texas is attractive to CEOs and their businesses because we offer the freedom and opportunity that cannot be found elsewhere: no state income tax; a stable, predictable regulatory structure; and a young, educated, and growing workforce ready to take on the jobs of tomorrow. Workers know that in Texas you can find a good home, a great education for your children, and plenty of companies that provide an ample income to support their family. This generation of Texans is driven by freedom, opportunity, and innovation to solve the problems of the next century. We will strive to continue this incredible 19-year winning streak as we build the Texas of tomorrow." In an annual survey conducted by Chief Executive Magazine, the rankings are determined by CEOs' assessments of each state's business climate, workforce, and quality of life. Texas has topped the nation every year since Chief Executive began the ranking in 2001, with this 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive Best State for Business title. Texas was recently awarded the Governor's Cup for a record 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row for attracting the most business relocation and expansion projects in the nation. Governor Abbott also celebrated additional milestones for Texas this year, including:

- Leading the nation with the fastest economic expansion;
- Adding the most jobs over the past 12 months;
- Breaking all previous records for total jobs, total Texans employed, and total Texas labor force; and
- Adding more than 2 million jobs under his leadership.

**2023 Governor's Small Business Summits** – On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott announced the first of the 2023 Governor's Small Business Summits to be held in Temple on Thursday, May 4. The Governor's Small Business Summits aim to help Texas small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs reach new heights by connecting them with the resources and information needed to start, strengthen, and grow a business. Governor Abbott said, "Small businesses have made Texas the economic legend that we are today, and people from across America continue moving to our state in droves to take advantage of the unique freedom and opportunity only offered in our great state. As we kick off the 2023 Governor's Small Business Summits next week in Temple, we will also be

celebrating the spirit of ingenuity and entrepreneurship of millions of Texans whose economic contributions have become the lifeblood of our mighty economy during Small Business Week in Texas. Working together, and by sharing best practices and experiences, we will build the Texas of tomorrow and keep our state the best place in the nation to do business, live, and raise a family." The Governor's Small Business Summit kick-off in Temple will provide Texas small business owners and entrepreneurs key insights on critical business topics and the opportunity to network with other business owners and meet experts who can share timely, relevant, and actionable advice on a multitude of small business topics. The event will be co-hosted by the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office, the Temple Chamber of Commerce, and the Texas Workforce Commission. Upcoming dates for the additional 2023 Governor's Small Business Summits:

- Amarillo – June 1
- The Woodlands – June 15
- Kingsville – June 29
- Arlington – July 13
- Stephenville – July 27
- McAllen – August 10
- Marshall – August 24
- Horizon City – September 7
- Fredericksburg – September 21
- Beaumont – October 5
- San Angelo – October 19
- San Antonio – November 8
- Zapata – December 7

**DPS Makes Major Drug Bust in Austin** – On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott announced that Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Special Agents assigned to the Austin Violent Crimes Task Force seized over 507,000 lethal doses of fentanyl along with other narcotics, guns, ammunition, and several stolen vehicles. Governor Abbott said, "Today marks one month since I directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide assistance to the Austin Police Department to help reduce crime and improve safety in the city, and I am proud to see the hard work of these brave men and women saving innocent lives from being taken due to President Biden's border crisis. The Biden Administration's reckless open border policies pose an imminent danger to communities across Texas and the nation, allowing record levels of deadly drugs and dangerous weapons to pour across our southern border. I commend the Texas Department of Public Safety's world-class Special Agents who investigated a drug deal that lead to over half a million lethal doses of fentanyl being seized - enough to kill over half of all Texans living in Austin - and other dangerous drugs, weapons, and equipment." In the early morning hours of April 27<sup>th</sup>, DPS Special Agents observed a drug deal and made a felony arrest. Using a number of investigative tools and tactics to further the investigation, DPS' SWAT executed a search warrant and was able to seize 507,000 lethal doses of fentanyl - enough to kill

more than half of Austin's current population - along with methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. DPS Special Agents also found six handguns, 10 rifles, two shotguns, thousands of rounds of ammunition, thermal infrared binoculars, three ballistic vests, and one suppressor. Some of the weapons were identified as stolen. Additionally, DPS Special Agents found two stolen motorcycles and three stolen box trailers. Two people were taken into custody and will face federal charges. The defendants indicated the drugs had come from Mexico and the weapons were heading to Mexico later this week. The investigation remains ongoing.

## **SENATE:**

The Senate was in session Monday through Thursday this week.

**Lt. Governor Praises Higher Education Bills Passed by the Senate** – On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick issued a statement saying, “The Texas Senate has now passed the strongest pushback on woke policies in higher education nationwide. For far too long, academia has been poisoned by woke policies and faculty seeking to indoctrinate our students. Professors did not believe we would push back on their advances, but they were wrong. Students should be taught how to think critically, not what to think. The Texas Senate has now drawn a line in the sand and stated loud and clear that these woke policies will not be tolerated in Texas. I look forward to the swift passage of these bills through the Texas House.

1. **SB 15 - Protecting Women's College Sports** by Senator Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would prohibit men from participating in women's college sports in Texas.
2. **SB 16 - Banning Critical Race Theory (CRT)** in Texas Universities, by Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would ban the teaching of CRT at Texas universities.
3. **SB 17 - Banning Discriminatory “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI) Policies** in Higher Education, by Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would ban the establishment or maintenance of DEI offices and hiring practices at Texas universities.
4. **SB 18 - Eliminating Tenure at General Academic Institutions**, by Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would prohibit general academic institutions of higher education from granting an employee tenure or any kind of permanent employment status.

**On Monday**, the Senate passed 21 bills including:

- **SB 543** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would authorize **municipalities** to **transfer an interest in real property** to an entity for use that promotes a public or **economic development** purpose. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 2.*
- **SB 624** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require **renewable energy generation facilities** to obtain a permit from the Public Utility

Commission. *The committee substitute and three floor amendments were adopted and it passed to by a vote of 21 to 9.*

- **SB 893** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would authorize the executive director of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to, at the request of a holder of a **certificate of public convenience and necessity**, to **make a correction** to a certificate. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1051** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the Commissioner of Insurance to establish a **uniform coordination of benefits questionnaire** to be used by all health benefit plan issuers. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1094** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require **cost recovery of purchased power** costs to include administrative costs, financing costs, and financial risk associated with purchased power obligations so that the mark-up is sufficient to ensure that the utility has financial incentives to procure purchased power rather than rely solely on utility-owned generation. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1322** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would authorize the holder of a package store permit to purchase up to 24 bottles of **vintage distilled spirits** from a vintage distilled spirits seller in a 12 month period. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1467** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would allow **sensitive medical test results** to be furnished via an electronic device upon consent of the patient. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1923** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would allow the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board to bring a **counterclaim in an appeal**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 21 to 9. It received final approval by a vote of 22 to 8.*
- **SB 2032** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would allow school districts, junior colleges, universities, and governmental entities to contract with a nonprofit entity to operate an **adult charter school**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 2171** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would provide that in a suit involving a health care **liability claim against a chiropractor**, a person could qualify as an **expert witness** under the same rules that apply to physicians. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
- **SB 2269** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would stop new certifications for the **self-insurance guaranty fund** and would initiate the wind-down process for the fund. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 2294** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require (instead of allow) a student to graduate with a **Texas First high school diploma**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*

- **SB 2315** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would establish the **Task Force on Consolidation of Workforce and Social Services** to develop a plan for the consolidation of workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services programs administered by the Health & Human Services Commission. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SJR 81** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Technical Institution Infrastructure Fund** to provide funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to career and technical education programs offered by the **Texas State Technical College System**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*

They gave preliminary approval to three additional bills including:

- **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. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 11. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 18 to 12.*
- **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**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 11. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 18 to 12.*
- **SB 2509** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would give the attorney general investigative demand authority over **social media platforms**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 11. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 16 to 12.*

**On Tuesday**, the Senate gave final approval to SB 763, SB 1024, and SB 2509 and passed 13 additional bills including:

- **SB 330** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would establish the **Texas Grid Security Commission** administered by Texas Division of Emergency Management to evaluate, using available information on past blackouts in ERCOT, all hazards to the ERCOT electric grid, including threats that can cause future blackouts, and to evaluate the resilience of municipalities in the state. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 532** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would reduce the **mental health** professional student loan **repayment assistance program** to three years (instead of five years). *It passed by a vote of 27 to 3.*
- **SB 1344** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would authorize a dealer to **advertise for sale** a specific **used motor vehicle** even if the vehicle is

- not in the dealer's possession if that information is disclosed. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1371** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would update statutes related to **consumer credit transactions** to comply with federal law. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
  - **SB 1404** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would create a work group to study the benefits of **coal-to-nuclear** generating facility **conversion**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
  - **SB 1615** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would adopt the **Cosmetology Licensure Compact** to provide interstate practices by cosmetologists. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
  - **SB 1866** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would allow **Entergy Texas** to provide **backup electric service** to a nonresidential retail customer through a customer-sited distribution generation facility. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
  - **SB 2112** and **SJR 82** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing to **Texas Power Resiliency Fund** to finance the operation of backup power sources. *The committee substitutes and one floor amendment on each bill were adopted and they passed by a vote of 27 to 3.*
  - **SB 2565** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establish a **high-quality instructional materials** program. *The committee substitute and five floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 22 to 8.*

And, they gave preliminary approval to 5 additional bills including:

- **SB 147** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would **prohibit property ownership** by a governmental entity or a company headquartered in or directly or indirectly controlled by the government of **China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia**. *The committee substitute and three floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 12. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 19 to 12.*
- **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. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 12. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 19 to 12.*
- **SB 1029** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would make health benefit plans, physicians and health care providers liable to a patient for providing a **gender modification procedure or treatment** to the patient and would prohibit use of public money for gender modification procedures and treatment. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 12. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 19 to 12.*
- **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.** *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 12. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 19 to 12.*

- **SB 1705** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require **third-party candidates** for office to participate in a primary election to decide their party's nominees. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 17 to 13. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 17 and 14.*

**About SB 147**, Representative Gene Wu (D-Houston) said, "I am frustrated by the Senate's passage of SB 147 in its current form. Despite continuous assurances that the provisions that discriminate against an entire immigrant class would be removed, the most problematic issue in this bill still remains. The main concern, that we have stated from the very beginning, is the bill's attack on 'individuals' without any suspicion or proof that the individual is a government actor or an agent of a government. Even with the amendments offered, this legislation still takes away the rights of an entire class of people without due process and solely on the basis of their national origin. Under this legislation, the only evidence needed to deny a person their basic civil rights is where they are from. Less discrimination is still discrimination. National security is a serious issue, but if we are concerned about the actions of foreign governments, then legislation should only affect foreign governments and their agents. Labeling every person from a nation as an agent of that government is not only unjust, but is also counterintuitive given the number of asylum-seekers and refugees that our nation welcomes from those same countries. This proposed law would tell lawful immigrants, who were invited by our nation. Our community will continue to work, in the Texas House, to eliminate the unnecessarily discriminatory aspects of this bill.

**On Wednesday**, the Senate gave final approval to SB 147, SB 397, SB 1029, and SB 1031, and they passed 27 additional bills including:

- **SB 410** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require students in grades seven and eight to receive **instruction on fetal development** as part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) health curriculum. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 26 to 5.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 730** by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would prohibit hospitals from denying **hospital privileges to a podiatrist**, on the grounds that the

- applicant is a podiatrist rather than a physician. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 789** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would add to the **student achievement domain** an indicator for students who successfully completed a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program or another **early college high school program**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
  - **SB 813** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would require Texas Commission on Environmental quality to **notify the state representative and state senator** when a penalty is assessed for a violation in the area represented by the legislators. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
  - **SB 840** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would increase the criminal penalty for **assault of hospital personnel**. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
  - **SB 1075** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would authorize Texas Division of Emergency Management, ERCOT, or the executive director of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to designate a power outage as a “**significant power outage**,” and would allow a transmission and distribution utility to provide power to the utility’s distribution customers when a significant power outage is imminent or during a significant power outage. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
  - **SB 1517** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would **prohibit academic boycotts** that would deprive students or faculty members of the ability to study or conduct research in or about a foreign country or to interact with its scholars or representatives; however, an academic boycott would be allowed if the target is a foreign country that is a state sponsor or terrorism. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
  - **SB 1534** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would prohibit a **covenant not to compete for a health care practitioner** unless it provides for a buyout of not greater than the practitioner’s total annual salary and wages upon termination, expires within one year, and limits the radius subject to the covenant to five miles. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
  - **SB 1639** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would prohibit a person from selling, using or causing to be used any method, technology, device, or software in the **sale or resale of event tickets** on a ticket issuer’s or resale ticket agent’s Internet website that functions as a bypass in the ticket purchasing process. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
  - **SB 1932** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would authorize the Alcoholic Beverage Commission to register **wine collectors** and would allow them to lawfully sell wine owned by the collector to restaurants. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 24 to 6.*



- **SB 1990** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would tie the definition of **professional services** in the Water Code with the definition in the Government Code for procurement purposes. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **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. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 10.*
- **SB 2059** by John Huffman (R-Houston) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the Nursing Advisory Committee, to establish a program to award grants to eligible clinical sites to support the use of nurse preceptors in providing **clinical training to nursing students**. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 2136** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require institutions of higher education to allow a person to satisfy the American history requirement by successfully completing **survey courses** that address the **major themes of American history** from the nation’s founding onward. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 26 to 5.*
- **SB 2173** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would require the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to develop and implement a **controlled substance prescription drug safe disposal pilot program** to increase the number of locations where unused controlled substance prescription drugs are collected from the public for safe disposal. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 2325** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would make Circuit of the Americas eligible for the **Major Events Reimbursement Fund**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 3.*

**About SB 2035, Senator Paul Bettencourt** (R-Houston) said, “SB 2035 protects the will of the voters by prohibiting a taxing entity from issuing public debt to finance a voter rejected project within five years of a bond proposition’s rejection. The City of Amarillo should never had gone behind their voters back to finance a project that their voters overwhelmingly voted down. It’s an appalling example of an Elected City Council and Mayor thwarting the will of the voters. In 2020, the City of Amarillo put a \$275 million bond on the ballot to finance a convention center expansion project. The bond was outright rejected, with more than 60 percent of voters against the expansion project. Under current law, the City of Amarillo could have used the three-year moratorium for bringing up the expansion bond again to alter their messaging to present a better case to voters. Instead, in May of 2022, the City Council of Amarillo ignored the will of the voters and continued with the expansion project by issuing a non-voter-approved \$260 million in Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN).”

**About SB 2035 Senator Paul Sparks** (R-Midland) who represents Amarillo said, “SB 2035 prohibits a taxing entity from issuing Certificates of Obligation and TANs to finance a voter rejected project within five years of a bond proposition’s rejection. SB 2035 puts Texas on a path of long-term sustainable growth and

restricts local entities from overriding the will of the voters. For those reasons, I was proud to vote for this bill."

#### **Passed to Third Reading:**

- **SB 561** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would prohibit a political subdivision from **issuing a public security** to purchase or lease tangible personal property if the expected useful life of the property ends before the maturity date of the public security. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 20 to 10. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on April 1<sup>st</sup>.*
- **SB 2069** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would eliminate the requirement that private schools post **signs** regarding **human trafficking penalties**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 21 to 10. On Thursday, one floor amendment was adopted and it received final passage by a vote of 21 to 10.*
- **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 passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Thursday, it received final passage by a vote of 19 to 12.*
- **SB 2335** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would establish the **Texas Higher Education Accreditation Commission** as an independent state agency to identify and approve at least three accrediting agencies best suited to serve as accreditors for institutions of higher education. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 20 to 11. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 20 to 11.*

**On Thursday**, the Senate gave final approval to SB 1705, SB 2069, SB 2208, and SB 2335 and passed 17 additional bills including:

- **SB 471** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to charge a **fee from a person who files a complaint** before the commission investigates the complaint, if the same person has filed at least three previous complaints in the same calendar year that did not result in an enforcement action. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 22 to 9.*
- **SB 577** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would prohibit a county, municipality or public health district from taking disciplinary action against a **food service establishment**, retail food store, mobile food unit, roadside food vendor, or temporary food service establishment for failing to adhere to easily cleanable surface requirements if the surfaces are kept clean. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 1098** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would give **parents with a child in a child-care facility** the right to enter the facility without advance

- notice. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1592** by Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would require the agriculture representative on the **Radiation Advisory Board** to be a licensed veterinarian. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
  - **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. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 21 to 10. It received final approval by a vote of 20 to 11.*
  - **SB 1887** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require **early college high school programs** to enroll students in either an applied associate degree program or an academic associate degree program with an embedded field of study to ensure that students complete a degree that will directly applicable to the workforce or will transfer and count toward a bachelor's degree. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
  - **SB 1970** by Paul Bettencourt (R-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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
  - **SB 2017** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would align Texas law with federal law by allowing **over-the-counter sale of hearing devices**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
  - **SB 2038** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would allow property owners in an **extraterritorial jurisdiction** (ETJ) of a municipality to use petition and election procedures to remove themselves from the ETJ. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 11.*
  - **SB 2124** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require school districts to establish an **opt-out policy** to enroll students into **accelerated math in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade** to improve chances of gaining access to Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
  - **SB 2133** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would require emergency services providers to provide alternative modes of **transportation for dialysis patients** to their dialysis center during a declared disaster. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
  - **SB 2368** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require schools to provide a minimum of 175 **instructional days**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 24 to 7. It received final approval by a vote of 25 to 6.*

They gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 1581** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the Center for Healthcare Data at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston to establish the **Texas Health Insurance Mandate Advisory Committee** to analyze bills that would impose new mandates on health benefit plan issuers including the extent to which the mandate would increase or decrease costs. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 18 to 13. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 1, 2023.*

**Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week: 128**  
**Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 157**  
**Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar: 68**  
**Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 627**  
**Total number of HB's and HJR's passed by the Senate this session: 3**

**Next Week:** The Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023.

#### **HOUSE:**

The House was in session Monday through Friday this week.

**On Monday**, the House passed one Third Reading bill:

- **HB 2473** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require the **Texas Information and Referral Network** to include technology capable of communicating with clients using one-way and two-way electronic text messaging to enhance client access to information and referral services; decrease client wait times; improve customer service; and disseminate information to clients in a timely manner. *On April 21<sup>st</sup>, one floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 115 to 26. On Monday, it received final approval by a vote of 118 to 27.*

They passed two proposed Constitutional Amendments:

- **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**. (the enabling bill is HB 3640) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 2.*
- **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. (the enabling bill is HB 13) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 131 to 9.*

They also gave preliminary approval to 40 bills including:

- **HB 3** by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would establish **school safety** and accountability measures. *The committee substitute and 13 floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 122 to 19. On Third reading, one floor amendment was adopted and it received final passage by a vote of 119 to 25.*
- **HB 13** by Ken King (D-Canadian) would make several requirements related to **school safety**. It would establish allotments and grants to be used for school safety purposes, establish mental health and school safety training requirements for school employees and require multihazard emergency operations plans. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 170) *The committee substitute and 11 floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 125 to 21.*
- **HB 44** by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would prohibit **discrimination** in Medicaid and the Children's Health Plan based on **vaccine status**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 93 to 51. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 93 to 54.*
- **HB 114** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would make it a Class B misdemeanor to possess five or more **e-cigarettes on school property**; and would allow school administrators and school resource or police officers to confiscate and dispose of e-cigarettes and report the student to local law enforcement. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 2.*
- **HB 115** by Lina Ortega (D-El Paso) would apply restriction on **consumption of alcohol** during certain hours to unlicensed public premises (current law applies the restrictions only to licensed premises). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 101 to 47.*
- **HB 386** by Jessica Gonzalez (D-Dallas) would require election officers to designate a parking space at each polling place for accommodating a **voter unable to enter a polling place**. *It passed by a vote of 141 to 6.*
- **HB 390** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require **state agencies** whose budgets exceed \$10 million per year to provide an **internet broadcast** of each open meeting of the governing body. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 609** by Cody Vasut (R-Angleton) would exempt from liability a business owner that does not require employees or contractors of the business to be vaccinated against a **pandemic disease** for **exposure** of an individual to a pandemic disease through an employee or contractor of the business. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 98 to 48. It received final approval on Tuesday by a vote of 104 to 39.*
- **HB 611** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would make it a Class C misdemeanor if a person posts on a publicly accessible website the **residence address or telephone number** of an individual with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the

- individual's family or household. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 2.*
- **HB 679** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would prohibit the awarding of certain **construction contracts** based on experience modifiers. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 125 to 19. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 141 to 5.*
  - **HB 711** by James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) would prohibit **health care provider networks** from entering into a provider network contract that includes an all-or-nothing, anti-steering, anti-tiering, gag, or most favored nation clause. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 145 to 0. On Tuesday, it received final passage by a vote of 146 to 0.*
  - **HB 790** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would require the first **request for a designated doctor** to include a request to address extent of injury; would require a carrier to state the specific reasons a claim is denied; would prohibit a carrier from disputing the extent of injury when a claim is not timely paid or disputed; and would allow a party or witness to **attend a hearing by phone** or videoconference for good cause. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
  - **HB 898** by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would increase the penalties for the offense of illegally **passing an emergency vehicle**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 9.*
  - **HB 1130** by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would prohibit **district and county attorneys** from being of **counsel adversely to the state** in any criminal case (instead of any case). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 1.*
  - **HB 1391** by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would allow an applicant for a **license as a residential wireman** to successfully complete a career and technology education program instead of having at least 4,000 hours of on-the-job training under the supervision of a master electrician or residential wireman before passing a residential wireman examination. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 89 to 57. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 101 to 46.*
  - **HB 1575** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to adopt standardized assessment questions to screen for, identify, and aggregate data regarding the nonmedical health-related needs of pregnant women eligible for Medicaid and the **Alternatives to Abortion Program**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 3.*
  - **HB 1859** by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) would add a career and technology education program in **air conditioning and refrigeration contracting** to the definition of certification training program for career and technology education program purposes. *The committee substitute was adopted and*

*it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 94 to 52. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 94 to 51.*

- **HB 1996** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would provide that a **family leave insurance** policy is considered a type of disability income insurance for purposes of the Insurance Code. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 2.*
- **HB 2121** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would eliminate the requirement that a property rendition report must be sworn as true and accurate if the property owner who is rendering **business personal property** has a good faith estimate of the market value of that property that is not more than \$500,000. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 2237** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require the Department of Family & Protective Services to operate a **child first grant program** to award grants to implement, expand, and maintain child first programs in the state based on the program model developed by the Child First National Service Office. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 83 to 61. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 93 to 54.*
- **HB 2504** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would allow scholarship money by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy to fund **scholarships for accounting students** (not just fifth-year accounting students). *It passed by a vote of 138 to 7.*
- **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. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 1.*
- **HB 2804** by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would prohibit the use of an institution's facility, uniform, registered trademark, copyright-protected product, or official logo, mark, or other indicia in connection with a contract for the **use of a student athlete's name, image, or likeness**, unless the student athlete obtains the institution's express permission and the institution is compensated for the use in a manner consistent with market rates. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **HB 2929** by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would remove special education and bilingual education from the list of **continuing education** items for classroom teachers that no more than 25 percent training can include. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 3640** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would provide an ad valorem tax exemption on a portion of the **homestead** of an adult who has an **intellectual or developmental disability**. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 150) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 140 to 6.*
- **HB 4005** by John Raney (R-Bryan) would establish the **Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program** to provide financial assistance to enable eligible students to enroll in competency-based baccalaureate degree programs. *It passed by a vote of 116 to 31.*

- **HB 4101** by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) would limit **binding arbitration requests** to include complying with model hearing procedures prepared by the comptroller. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 4434** by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would require (instead of allow) a student to graduate with a **Texas First high school diploma**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **SB 222** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would establish a **paid parental leave** benefit for state employees following the birth or adoption of a child. *SB 222 was substituted for HB 1580. The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 9.*
- **SB 838** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would require school districts and charters to provide a **panic alert device** that allows for immediate contact with district or school emergency services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments and fire departments in each classroom. *SB 838 was substituted for HB 669. It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **SB 1017** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) and Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would prohibit political subdivisions from adopting an ordinance that limits access to an energy source or that results in the effective prohibition of a wholesaler, retailer, energy producer, or related infrastructure that is necessary to provide **access to a specific energy source**. *SB 1017 was substituted for HB 2374. The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 102 to 30. On Tuesday, it received final passage by a vote of 116 to 30.*

**On Tuesday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills and two proposed Constitutional Amendments:

- **HJR 47** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of **animal feed** held by the owner of the property for sale at retail. (the enabling bill is HB 623) *It passed by a vote of 144 to 2.*
- **SJR 32** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) and Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing conservation and reclamation districts in **El Paso County** to issue **bonds** to fund the development and maintenance of **parks and recreational facilities**. *substituted for HJR 79 It passed by a vote of 111 to 34.*

And they gave preliminary approval to 54 Second Reading bills including:

- **HB 18** by Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville) would be the Securing Children Online Through Parental Empowerment (SCOPE) Act, which would require **online platforms** to obtain parental consent before collecting and processing the data of 13-17 year-olds in Texas. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it*



- passed by a vote of 125 to 20.*
- **HB 87** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would establish a procedure for replacing **presidential electors** that withdraw or are unable to serve. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 5.*
  - **HB 98** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would authorize school districts to contract with a local mental health authority to provide **mental health services** on a campus of the district. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 98 to 49.*
  - **HB 159** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would require **truth-in-taxation information** posted on a taxing unit's home page be in the form prescribed by the comptroller; and be published in a newspaper. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 145 to 0. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 149 to 0.*
  - **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 113 to 35.*
  - **HB 290** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would subject **multiple employer welfare arrangements** to Insurance Code provisions requiring minimum reserves and asset protection, selection of practitioners, direct access to obstetrical and gynecological care, health care employer directories, and utilization review. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 149 to 0.*
  - **HB 527** by Gene Wu (D-Houston) exempting civil actions based on a **legal malpractice claim** from motions to dismiss on basis of constitutional rights. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 121 to 27.*
  - **HB 623** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would provide a property tax exemption for the tangible personal property of **animal feed** that is sale-for-resale. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 47) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 4.*
  - **HB 683** by Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would require institutions of higher education to give a tuition and fee exemption for students enrolled in an **emergency medical services curriculum** who is employed as a paramedic by a political subdivision. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 2.*
  - **HB 833** by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would require the housing and health services coordination council to annual submit to the Department Housing and Community Affairs an evaluation of the 2-1-1 services provided by the **Texas Information and Referral Network** to help inform an expansion of service-enriched housing throughout the state. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 99 to 48.*
  - **HB 964** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would add **improper relationship between an educator and student** to the list of reportable convictions or adjudications that must be reported as part of sex offender registration requirements under the Code of Criminal Procedure. *It passed*

- by a vote of 149 to 0.*
- **HB 1067** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would provide that if the board of trustees of an affected school district fails to adopt a resolution approving or disapproving a **petition requesting the detachment and annexation of territory** within 45 days of receiving the petition, the petition is considered to be disapproved by the board of trustees. *It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
  - **HB 1242** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would qualify an individual for **unemployment benefits** who leaves the workplace to **care for** the individual's **minor child** due to an unexpected illness, accident, or other unforeseeable event if no reasonable alternative care was available. *It passed by a vote of 102 to 47.*
  - **HB 1275** by Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas) would require the Department of Public Safety to adopt procedures to allow a person who is **65 years of age or older** to apply for a **personal identification certificate** online or by phone if the person's driver's license is surrendered. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 136 to 9.*
  - **HB 1394** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would expand the authority of **drug court programs** and allow them to provide services to persons that committed an offense involving use of a firearm or use of force. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 123 to 23. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 109 to 37.*
  - **HB 1535** by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) is the sunset bill for the **San Antonio River Authority**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 1.*
  - **HB 1555** by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) is the sunset bill for the **Upper Guadalupe River Authority**. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 3.*
  - **HB 1598** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would clarify that a **municipal solid waste facility permit** is not required from a local political subdivision as a prerequisite to a permit being issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 122 to 23. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 124 to 23.*
  - **HB 1636** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would allow **South Texas College** to offer up to six (instead of five) **baccalaureate degree** programs. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
  - **HB 1689** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require a county that uses revenue derived from hotel occupancy tax revenue to create, maintain, operate, or administer an **electronic tax administration system**, to allow a person who is required to collect and pay the tax to the county to withhold up to one percent of the amount of the tax for the cost of collecting the tax. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 142 to 4.*
  - **HB 1755** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would establish the **Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund**. *The committee substitute was*

*adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 125 to 15. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 121 to 27.*

- **HB 1971** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would disqualify a member of the board of a **groundwater conservation district** if the member is recused from voting on more than one permit application or fails to attend two consecutive board meetings. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 1989** by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would prohibit districts clerks from charging a fee for a copy of a document relating to an **individual's criminal history**. *It passed by a vote of 143 to 1.*
- **HB 2071** by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would allow a public facility corporation (PFC) or a sponsor (local governmental entity) to finance, own or operate a **multifamily residential development** if the development is located in the area of operation of the sponsor, if the sponsor is a housing authority; or in the jurisdictional boundaries of the sponsor, if it is not a housing authority. *The committee substitute and 8 floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 138 to 4. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 142 to 5.*
- **HB 2194** by Claudia Ordaz Perez (D-El Paso) would require the comptroller to establish criteria for determining whether a product may use **"Made in Texas"** to represent that the product was made in whole or in substantial part in Texas. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 3.*
- **HB 2453** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would **authorize occupational licensing agencies to issue a digital license** if the digital license is in a secure format and readily accessible by the license holder on a wireless communication device; the public is able to view the digital license; and if a vendor issues the digital license, the license is in a verifiable format. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 30*
- **HB 2459** by Hubert Vo (D-Alief) would authorize investigators to assess an administrative penalty against a person who **violates child labor laws** of up to \$10,000 based on the seriousness of the violation and history of previous violations; and would require the Texas Workforce Commission to establish one or more impartial **child labor appeal tribunals** to hear and decide disputed child labor cases. *It passed by a vote of 128 to 19.*
- **HB 2460** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to obtain or develop updated **water availability** models for the Guadalupe, Lavaca, Nueces, San Antonio, San Jacinto and Trinity **river basins**. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 1.*
- **HB 2466** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would establish the **Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Grant Matching Program** to foster job creation and economic development by matching or supplementing money received by a business entity through the federal funding program. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 113 to 31. On Wednesday, it*

- received final approval by a vote of 113 to 31.*
- **HB 2544** by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would join the **Physician’s Assistant Licensure Compact** allowing a licensee from another participating state to practice as a physician assistant in Texas. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 135 to 11.*
  - **HB 2664** by Carl Tepper ((R-Lubbock) would allow **municipally owned utilities** to disclose customer account information to another entity as necessary to facilitate the transition of customers among retail electric providers. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
  - **HB 2681** by Frederick Frazier (R-McKinney) would allow a **fire department to remove personal property from a roadway** or right-of-way if the fire department determines that the property blocks the roadway or endangers public safety; and would authorize them to be reimbursed by the owner of the personal property that is removed for any reasonable cost of removal. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
  - **HB 2871** by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require the University of Texas at Austin to design and implement a program connecting local education agencies and institutions of higher education with evidence-based and accredited **computer science professional development resources**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 109 to 37. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 104 to 42.*
  - **HB 2891** by James Talarico (D-Austin) would allow school districts to maintain a supply of **undesignated glucagon medications** that treat low blood sugar and allow the school nurse to administer it. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
  - **HB 3053** by Jay Dean (R-Longview) would establish a **procedure for an election to dis-annex** an area for which a municipal annexation was finalized between March 3, 2015 and December 1, 2017. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 95 to 46.*
  - **HB 3060** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would exclude **recyclable plastic** monomers, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, or chemical feedstocks and other basic hydrocarbons from the definition of solid waste. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
  - **HB 3993** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would add students completing a nontraditional secondary education to the **Top 10 percent automatic admissions** statute. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 113 to 31. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 106 to 40.*
  - **HB 4018** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would add agreements with private entities for **carbon sequestration** using nature-based solutions on lands under the jurisdiction of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 118 to 25. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 126 to 18.*

- **HB 4140** by John Lujan (R-San Antonio) would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to provide services on **federal military property**. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 2.*
- **SB 349** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) and Charles “Doc” Anderson (R-Waco) would require a housing authority policy that permits **tenant ownership of a pet** to comply with all applicable county or municipal restrictions on dangerous dogs. *SB 349 was substituted for HB 1159. It passed by a vote of 142 to 4.*
- **SB 423** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) and Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would authorize **Texas military forces** to use **unmanned aircraft**. *SB 423 was substituted for HB 1516. It passed by a vote of 142 to 4.*
- **SB 483** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) and Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would prohibit the issuance of a **massage therapy** license to **person convicted** of kidnapping, **indecentcy** or prostitution in another state or under federal law (current law applies the prohibition only to a conviction under state law). *SB 483 was substituted for HB 1433. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **SB 1003** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) and John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would require **health care provider directories** maintained by health benefit plans to include nurse midwives, surgical assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and any other specialty identified by the Commissioner of Insurance. *SB 1003 was substituted for HB 1902. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 2.*
- **SB 1008** by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) and Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would require students to establish **residency in a school district’s** residency zone within 90 days (instead of 10 days) after the date of a military order. *SB 1008 was substituted for HB 1955. It passed by a vote of 140 to 1.*
- **SB 1055** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) would abolish Stephen F. Austin State University and require the **University of Texas System** to establish a **new university in Nacogdoches**. *SB 1055 was substituted for HB 2639. It passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*

**On Wednesday**, the House passed the Third Reading Bills and two constitutional amendments:

**HJR 107** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would propose a constitutional amendment raising the mandatory **retirement age for judges** from 75 to 79. *It passed by a vote of 141 to 5.*

**HJR 125** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would propose a constitutional amendment creating the **Broadband Infrastructure Fund** to finance projects relating to the development of broadband and telecommunications services. (the enabling bill is HB 9) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 137 to 7.*

They also gave preliminary approval to 54 additional bills including:

- **HB 9** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would establish the **Broadband Infrastructure Fund** to finance projects relating to the development of broadband and telecommunications services. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 125) *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 139 to 7. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 140 to 8.*
- **HB 11** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would make several changes to the **school finance** system including Teacher Incentive Allotment, Teacher Residency Partnerships, and Mentor Program Allotment. *The committee substitute and 6 floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 139 to 4. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 145 to 3.*
- **HB 55** by Julie Johnson (D-Farmers Branch) would increase the criminal penalty for re-offenders of **indecent assault**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 100** by Ken King (D-Canadian) would make several changes to the **school finance** system increasing the Basic Allotment and requiring 10 percent of the increase for teacher salary increases. *The committee substitute and 14 floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 3.*
- **HB 218** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would make **possession** of one ounce or less of **marihuana** a Class C (instead of a Class B) misdemeanor punishable by a citation (not an arrest); and would make other changes to the controlled substance statutes. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 87 to 59.*
- **HB 357** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would remove the requirement that a voter provide an address to access the **online tracker** for **mail-in ballots**. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 906** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would require institutions of higher education to provide all entering students (not just full-time students) information about **available mental health and suicide prevention services** offered by the institution and early warning signs and appropriate intervention for a person who may be considering suicide. *It passed by a vote of 149 to 0.*
- **HB 1000** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) is the **redistricting** bill for **Texas House** Districts. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 85 to 64. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 87 to 59.*
- **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. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 123 to 23.*
- **HB 1302** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas to use **unmanned aircraft** to inspect and **examine an oil or gas site** or facility, including a well, tank, or disposal or injection

- site; a pipeline facility, or a surface mining site. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 3.*
- **HB 1554** by Richard Raymond (D-Laredo) would allow a funeral director who has obtained written consent from an heir of the decedent to designate the **funeral home** as a **beneficiary in a life insurance policy** to receive disclosure from a life insurer of the designated beneficiaries. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 119 to 15. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 129 to 16.*
  - **HB 1626** by Alma Allen (D-Houston) would prohibit a school district from refusing to admit a student based on the **student's criminal, juvenile, or disciplinary history**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 95 to 53.*
  - **HB 1826** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require the comptroller to appoint an **organized retail theft task force** to study and make recommendations related to preventing organized retail theft. The task force would include representatives of physical retail locations, online retailers, and law enforcement. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 143 to 5.*
  - **HB 1905** by James Talarico (D-Austin) would require school districts to make **school safety training courses** available to employees of **child-care facilities** and other organizations providing out-of-school-time care to children who reside in the district. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 115 to 32.*
  - **HB 1950** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would add Professional Bull Riders World Finals to the list of events that may participate in the **major events reimbursement program**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 105 to 28. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 117 to 32.*
  - **HB 2012** by Tom Olverson (R-Cypress) would require public schools and institutions of higher education to allow the **display of the national motto** "In God We Trust" in classrooms. *It passed by a vote of 130 to 14.*
  - **HB 2014** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would increase **juror reimbursement** from \$6 to \$20 for the first day and from \$40 to \$58 for each day thereafter. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*
  - **HB 2195** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would increase the penalties for attaching or **displaying** on a motor vehicle a **license plate that has wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured** if it is shown at the trial that the person has been previously convicted of a similar offense. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 1.*
  - **HB 2404** by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would require Medicaid reimbursement for **functional family therapy services** (an intensive, short-term, family-based therapeutic treatment program for at-risk youth designed to improve family dynamics, communication, and support). *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 93 to 48. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 83 to 63.*

- **HB 2638** by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would require Medicaid reimbursement for **multisystemic therapy services**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 54. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 88 to 59.*
- **HB 2727** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would require health care providers to establish a plan of care that includes outcome measures for each patient who receives **home telemonitoring services** under the Medicaid program and to share the plan and measures with the patient's physician. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 131 to 11. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 138 to 11.*
- **HB 2774** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would require the income tax benefit related to an expense of a **water and sewer utility** to be included in the utility rate base to reduce the rates. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 1.*
- **HB 2908** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would allow an **appraisal district** to finance the purchase or construction of improvements necessary for its **facilities**. *It passed by a vote of 127 to 21.*
- **HB 2983** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require the executive commissioner of the Health & Human Services Commission to seek a **Medicaid waiver** to implement a five-year pilot project to demonstrate the cost effectiveness and improved health care outcomes of recipients who are provided **medical nutrition assistance** in six service delivery areas. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 125 to 21. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 127 to 19.*
- **HB 3156** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would provide that a professional entity that provides services as a **consultant** or subconsultant of **Texas Department of Transportation** to monitor and inspect the progress of work on a **transportation or maintenance project** performed by a private contractor is not liable to a claimant for personal injury, property damage, or death arising from an action performed in the course and scope of the entity's consulting duties. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 122 to 24.*
- **HB 3574** by Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) would be the **Texas Money Services Modernization Act**. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*
- **HB 3651** by Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) would make several changes related to **motor fuel taxes** to prevent fraudulent acquisition of motor fuels. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 3756** by Lulu Flores (D-Austin) would apply the same liability standard for **removal of a domestic animal from a locked motor vehicle** as currently applies to the removal of a vulnerable individual. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 100 to 45. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 91 to 57.*
- **HB 3803** by Charles Cunningham (R-Humble) would authorize **parents** to **elect for a student to repeat any course or grade** the student was enrolled in during the previous school year unless the school or charter



determines the student has met all of the requirements for graduation. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 1.*

- **HB 4777** by Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas) would require the training for school district peace and resource officers to include the effects of **mental health conditions**, including grief and trauma, on student behavior. *It passed by a vote of 90 to 59.*
- **HB 5052** by Stan Gerdes (R-Smithville) would require **groundwater conservation districts** to consider whether the wells that are exempt from permitting under statute or district rules before granting a permit. *It passed by a vote of 141 to 3.*
- **SB 505** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require an **additional** registration or renewal **fee for electric vehicles** of \$400 for the registration of a new electric vehicle; or \$200 for the registration or renewal of an annual inspection. *SB 505 was substituted for HB 2199. It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 142 to 4. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **SB 1333** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Texas State Buildings Preservation Endowment Fund** to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate and restore the buildings and grounds over which the State Preservation Board has authority. *SB 1333 was substituted for HB 3050. It passed by a vote of 143 to 0.*

**On Thursday**, the House passed the 54 Third Reading bills and one proposed Constitutional Amendment:

- **HJR 20** by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for exceptions to the requirement that a **home equity loan** be closed only at the office of the lender, an attorney, or a title company. *It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*

They gave preliminary approval to 52 additional bills including:

- **HB 6** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would set the **criminal penalties** for **manufacturing or delivery** of less than one gram of **fentanyl**; and would enhance the penalty if an individual dies from a fentanyl overdose. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 121 to 24. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 124 to 21.*
- **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**. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 55. On Friday it received final approval by a vote of 97 to 51.*
- **HB 134** by Diego Bernal (D-San Antonio) would require health plans to cover **childhood cranial remolding orthosis**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 114 to 32.*

- **HB 173** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would institute licensing requirements for **genetic counselors**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 116 to 26. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 118 to 26.*
- **HB 272** by Julie Johnson (D-Carrollton) would replace all statutory references to “admission, review, and dismissal committee” with the words “**individualized education program team**.” *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 131 to 15.*
- **HB 276** by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would prohibit a municipality or a property owners’ association from adopting an ordinance that prohibits on a single-family **residential lot growing fruits and vegetables** or raising or keeping six or fewer domestic fowl or adult rabbits. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 107 to 34.*
- **HB 663** by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would authorize the Department of State Health Services to allow voluntary and **confidential reporting** of pregnancy-associated and **pregnancy-related deaths** by health care professionals. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 132 to 11. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 124 to 24.*
- **HB 841** by Claudia Ordaz Perez (D-El Paso) would require the Texas Judicial Council to gather **judicial statistics** including case-level information on the amount and character of the business transacted by the courts. *It passed by a vote of 132 to 14.*
- **HB 915** by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would require employers to post a notice to employees of the **workplace violence hotline**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 128 to 20.*
- **HB 1236** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would add “regardless of the final diagnosis of the conditions” to the **definition of emergency care** for purposes of health benefit plans. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 1243** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would change the penalty for **illegal voting** from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 83 to 63. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 88 to 60.*
- **HB 1290** by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would prohibit a facility from confiscating or misappropriating an **eligible federal payment** made to a resident who is a Medicaid recipient. *It passed by a vote of 142 to 4.*
- **HB 1540** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) is the sunset bill for the **San Jacinto River Authority**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 145 to 2.*
- **HB 1673** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would require training for staff members of **assisted living facilities** providing care to persons with **Alzheimer’s disease**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 131 to 14.*
- **HB 1707** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require **political subdivisions** to consider an **open-enrollment charter school** a school

district for purposes of zoning, project permitting, and other local regulations. *Five floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 98 to 37. On Friday, one floor amendment was adopted and it received final approval by a vote of 101 to 45.*

- **HB 1759** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would allow **charitable raffle tickets** to be sold at the home venue of the professional sports team or through digital interactive media provided by the professional sports team associated with the foundation conducting the raffle. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 84 to 59. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 94 to 53.*
- **HB 2209** by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would establish the **Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program** to incentivize and support multidistrict, cross-sector, rural college and career pathway partnerships that expand opportunities for underserved students to succeed in school and life while promoting economic development in rural areas. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 118 to 21. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 108 to 38.*
- **HB 2337** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would allow Medicaid reimbursement for **intensive outpatient services** and **partial hospitalization services** including individual, group and family counseling; motivational enhancement training; and relapse prevention, drug refusal, and coping skills training. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 118 to 24. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 124 to 23.*
- **HB 2478** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require the Department of State Health Services to report to the governor and legislature on **newborn screening program capacity** and what resources would be needed to implement additional newborn screening tests to screen for a disorder to screen for a disorder included in the list of core conditions. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 148 to 0.*
- **HB 2488** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would provide that the **burden of proof** in a trial de novo **appeal of the appraised value of property** is on the chief appraiser and the appraisal district to support an increase in the appraised value of the property. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 147 to 0. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 145 to 0.*
- **HB 2555** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would require **transmission and distribution resiliency plans** to explain the systemic approach the utility will use to carry out the plan during at least a three-year period; and would require the Public Utility Commission to approve or deny the plans submitted within 180 days after the electric utility files the plan. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HB 2669** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would require certificates of public convenience and necessity for **transmission** projects to be

- approved or denied by the Public Utility Commission within 180 days, instead of one year. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **HB 2670** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would add a representative of the Department of Family and Protective Services, an adult survivor of child sexual abuse and a survivor of adult sexual assault to the **Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 109 to 36.*
  - **HB 2957** by Ben Bumgarner (R-Flower Mound) would require political subdivisions to offer a no-cost **cancer screening** during the seventh year of employment for all **firefighters** and every three years thereafter. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 1.*
  - **HB 3075** by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) would make it an offense for a person to intentionally or knowingly operate an **unmanned aircraft** over a correctional or **detention facility** unless it is higher than 400 feet above ground level. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
  - **HB 3192** by John Lujan (R-San Antonio) would provide that if a toxicology examination reveals a detectable amount of fentanyl poisoning, the death certificate must include **"fentanyl poisoning"** in the cause of death. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 132 to 11.*
  - **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**. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
  - **HB 3359** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would require insurers to credit a **cost-sharing payment** on behalf of an insured for services furnished by an out-of-network provider to any out-of-pocket maximum applying to the insured. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
  - **HB 3414** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would prohibit the **statewide all payor claims database** from requiring the submission of data that is not included in a standard insurance claim form. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 1.*
  - **HB 3461** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would dedicate and rededicate revenue for use in **certifying the budget**. *It passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
  - **HB 3466** by Liz Campos (D-San Antonio) would establish the **Community Collaboratives Fund** to provide grants to establish and expand community collaboratives. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 105 to 38. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 96 to 50.*
  - **HB 3550** by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to establish minimum standards for reimbursement rates for **prescribed pediatric extended care centers**. *The committee*

*substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 109 to 33.*

- **HB 3837** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would change the definition of “**advanced clean energy projects**” to include facilities that received a standard permit between January 1, 2020 and September 1, 2023 and facilities that capture at least 90 percent of the carbon dioxide in the portion of the mission stream associated with the project. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 321 to 13. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 141 to 6.*
- **HB 4041** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) is the **miscellaneous claims and judgments** against the state bill. *It passed by a vote of 144 to 2.*
- **HB 4885** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would make new light-duty electric motor vehicles eligible for a \$4,000 incentive through the **Texas Emissions Reduction Plan**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 114 to 32.*
- **SB 60** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Ken King (R-Canadian) would allow the holder of a **distiller’s and rectifier’s permit** to enter into an operating agreement with another holder of a distiller’s and rectifier’s permit allowing the permit holder to manufacture distilled spirits and sell bulk alcohol produced by the permit holder. *SB 60 was substituted for HB 3656. It passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*
- **SB 861** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Ken King (R-Canadian) would require a health benefit plan to reimburse for all **eye care expenses** covered under the plan after a claim for eye care expenses is initially submitted; and would prohibit coordination of benefits. *SB 861 substituted for HB 1322. It passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **SB 926** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) 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. *SB 926 was substituted for HB 1542. It passed by a vote of 134 to 14.*
- **SB 1047** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Carl Tepper (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; and would require the consortium to select a pilot program and report to the legislature by October 1, 2024 on the status of the pilot project. *SB 1047 was substituted for HB 2757. It passed by a vote of 145 to 3.*
- **SB 1375** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Ken King (R-Canadian) would allow the holder of a **distiller’s and rectifier’s permit** to conduct **samplings or tastings** at a civic of distilled spirits festival, farmer’s market, celebration, or similar event. *SB 1375 was substituted for HB 3171. It passed by a vote of 137 to 11.*
- **SB 2144** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and David Cook (R-Mansfield) 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** in the state and develop a statewide plan, including a timeline, for the implementation of advanced air mobility technology. *SB 2144 substituted for HB 2678. It passed by a vote of 126 to 20.*

**On Friday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills, passed 102 bills on the Local & Consent Calendar and passed two proposed Constitutional Amendments:

- **HJR 2** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide on-time ongoing benefit **enhancements to annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 147 to 0.*
- **HJR 138** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** for the conservation of, restoration of, or public access to land, water, or natural resources. (the enabling bill is HB 3165) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 139 to 3.*

The House had 52 bills on Friday's Second Reading Calendar, but stopped around 2:00 due to expected inclement weather and carried several bills forward to Monday's calendar. They gave preliminary approval to 18 bills including:

- **HB 71** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require Texas Department of Public Safety to establish a program for the issuance of **digital identification** by February 1, 2024. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 121 to 17.*
- **HB 400** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would establish the **Psychiatric Specialty Innovation Grant Program** to provide incentive payments to medical schools that administer innovative adult psychiatric training programs. *It passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **HB 2926** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require insurance carriers to automatically **reprocess denied COVID claims** by October 31, 2023 that were not previously reprocessed; would allow beneficiaries entitled to the workers' compensation presumption laws; and would create violations for carriers that fail to apply a statutory presumption or when carriers deny a presumption claim without obtaining a medical opinion. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **HB 3390** by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would allow ERCOT and the Public Utility Commission to require utility service providers to provide information about **distributed generation facilities**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **HB 3447** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Texas Space Commission** to strengthen the state's leadership in civil, commercial, and military aerospace activities and to promote innovation in

the field of space operations and commercial aerospace opportunities, including integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the Texas economy. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 129 to 15.*

- **HB 3741** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to implement a program for landowners with property adjacent to the state highway system to allow the planting or replacement of existing **vegetation in the right-of-way** affecting their property. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **HB 3772** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to establish an **Anti-Trafficking Unit**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **HB 4390** by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would update the **Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program** by allowing the commission to certify industry-recognized apprenticeship programs (instead of the U.S. Department of Labor); and would require the commission to establish which occupations are recognized as an apprenticeable occupation. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **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**. *It passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*
- **SB 10** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would **increase the monthly annuity for Teacher Retirement System members**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading on a voice vote.*

<b>Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week:</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>Total number of bills passed by the House this week:</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>Total bills passed this week on the Local &amp; Consent Calendar</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Total number of bills passed by the House this session:</b>	<b>633</b>
<b>Total number of SB's and SJR's passed by the House this session:</b>	<b>35</b>

**Next Week:** The House adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023.

#### **BUDGET:**

##### **Passed the House:**

**SB 1509** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would repeal Section 814.109 of the Government Code which allows a **state employee to retire** without separating from a position in that class if the member is at least 60 years old and has accrued enough service credit in the class to receive the maximum annuity. *SB 1509 was substituted for HB 3493. It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**Reported from Committee:**

**SB 729** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would allow **military service** to be credited under the **Employees Retirement System of Texas**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE State Pension, Investments & Financial Services Committee.*

**SB 1332** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Historic Infrastructure Sustainability Trust Fund** to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate, and restore historic sites throughout the state. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee.*

**SB 1831** by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) would grant exclusive authority of the **Employees Retirement System** over the **purchases of goods and services** related to the operations of its home office facilities unless the purchases are made with General Revenue money. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**ELECTIONS:**

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

**HB 4782** by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would prohibit **exit polling** within 100 feet of a polling place. *It was left pending.*

**SB 221** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a petition requesting a ballot proposition from containing **misleading ballot language**. *It was left pending.*

**SB 747** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would provide that **if a run-off candidate withdraws** from the election early enough to be replaced on the ballot, the candidate who received the third highest number of votes in the primary election is entitled to a place on the runoff ballot. *It was left pending.*

**SB 825** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would extend the **deadline for submitting a recount petition** to the third (instead of second) day after canvassing and provide that if the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next regular business day. *It was left pending.*

**SB 994** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would allow the Secretary of State (in addition to party officers) to **declare a candidate ineligible** on the basis of failure to pay a filing fee or submit a petition in lieu of a filing fee. *It was left pending.*

**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. *It was left pending.*

**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**. *It was left pending.*



**Passed the House:**

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

**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 passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**Reported from Committee:**

**HB 246** by Valoree Swanson (R-Spring) would require the secretary of state to establish a pilot program requiring a county to use a **video recording** device to record **ballot counting activity** in at least 20 percent of precincts in the county. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

**HB 1208** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would allow **children under that age of 14** to accompany the child's parent to a voting station and to **read or mark a ballot** at the direction of the parent. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 1632** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require the secretary of state to provide a **standardized training program** in election law and procedure for presiding or alternate **election judges**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

**HB 2770** by Mano DeAyala (R-Houston) would exempt **legal actions** to enforce a provision of the **Election Code** from Chapter 27 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code related to actions involving the exercise of constitutional rights. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.*

**HB 3159** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would allow a voter with a disability to cast a ballot using an **accessible absentee mail system**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee.*

**HB 3372** by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would require a **political candidate** or officeholder who accepts a political **contribution made using a credit card** to report the full amount as a political contribution including any amount deducted from the contribution by the credit card issuer as a processing fee. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 4053** by Julie Johnson (D-Farmers Branch) would require a candidate's **personal financial statement** that includes real property to list the name of a person with an interest in the property that holds a mortgage on the property. *It was reported favorably from the House State Affairs Committee.*

**HB 5180** by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would require the general custodian of election records to provide **public access** to anonymous **voted ballots** 60 days after the election. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Elections Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**SB 1052** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) and 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.*

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION:**

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

**HB 1509** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would require institutions of higher education to annually report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the **financial support**, including through the purchase of a membership, sponsorship, or advertising services, that the institution provided to a **nonprofit media organization** during the preceding state fiscal year, including a list of all the organizations and the amount of financial support provided. *It was left pending.*

**HB 1574** by Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock) would require institutions of higher education that provide **early registration** for courses or programs for any group of students, to provide early registration to **parenting students**. *It was left pending.*

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

**HB 2594** by Lina Ortega (D-El Paso) would require medical schools to include training regarding the importance of student, resident, and physician mental and physical health in the required **curriculum for a medical degree**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 2596** by Frederick Frazier (R-McKinney) would provide a **tuition and fee exemption** for members of the **Texas National Guard** or the Texas Air National Guard who have served on active duty for more than 180 days. *It was left pending.*

**HB 3619** by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) 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.*

**HB 3930** by John Bryant (D-Dallas) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the Nursing Advisory Committee, to establish a program to award grants to eligible clinical sites to support the use of nurse preceptors in providing **clinical training to nursing students**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4315** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler to participate in the **Joint Admission Medical Program**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4487** by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would establish a **student loan repayment assistance** program for **prosecutors** and criminal lawyers practicing in **rural counties**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4722** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would eliminate Pell grant funding from covering the difference in the **Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program** and the actual amount of tuition and fees. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4778** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require the board of regents of Texas Southern University to directly oversee the general management of the **Thurgood Marshall School of Law**. *It was left pending.*

**House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee** – On Thursday, the House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee took up:

**HB 4617** by Ben Bumgarner (R-Flower Mound) would require the Veterans' Commission to ensure the **electronic system** it maintains related to **Hazelwood tuition and fee exemptions** at institutions of higher education includes copies of any documents required from an individual attending an institution for the receipt of benefits for the semester. *It was left pending.*

**Passed the House:**

**HB 2158** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would provide a tuition and fee exemption for **fire fighters with a volunteer fire department** that responds to 9-1-1 emergencies in a designated area and attends at least 20 hours of annual training. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**Passed the Senate:**

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

**SB 1565** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require institutions of higher education to establish a policy framework that addresses **research security**; and to designate a person to serve as a research security officer responsible for classified information, controlled unclassified information, and foreign influence reporting. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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

**Reported from Committee:**

**HB 1960** by Eddie Morales (D-Eagle Pass) would change the name of Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College to **Sul Ros State University Middle Rio**

**Grande Region** and would allow it to offer all higher educational courses (instead of upper-level courses). *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

**HB 3124** by Suleman Lalani (D-Sugar Land) would require institutions of higher education to **prohibit the use of** cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or smokable **tobacco products** on the grounds of the institution's campus. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

**HB 3486** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require **early college high school programs** to enroll students in either an applied associate degree program or an academic associate degree program with an embedded field of study to ensure that students complete a degree that will directly applicable to the workforce or will transfer and count toward a bachelor's degree. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Higher Education Committee.*

**HB 4419** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would allow Texas A&M University at College Station and Texas State University to each establish a **virtual film production institute** to provide educational opportunities for students interested in studying virtual film production. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee.*

**HB 4827** by Terri Leo-Wilson (R-Galveston) would add private and independent institutions of higher education and career schools or colleges to the list of places where **carrying a weapon** is prohibited. *It was reported favorably from the House Select Committee on Community Safety.*

**SB 518** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require institutions of higher education in nonautomatic **admissions decisions** to consider an applicant's **performance on a standardized test** appropriate for undergraduate admissions, but the standardized test could not be used as the sole or primary criterion for consideration of the applicant. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 696** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would increase the student union and buildings fee at the **University of Texas at Dallas** from \$60 per semester to \$100 per semester. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**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 reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**SB 1987** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would remove the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools** from the definition of "recognized accrediting agency" for purposes of accreditation of postsecondary educational institutions. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee.*

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION:**

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

**HB 34** by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would require public primary and secondary schools to establish a **classroom safety review committee** to investigate students who engage in violent criminal conduct, including assaultive conduct. *It was left pending.*

**HB 316** by Diego Bernal (D-San Antonio) would authorize a social worker to provide **social work services** to students and families in a school district. *It was left pending.*

**HB 1678** by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would authorize school districts and charters to operate a local **remote learning program** to offer virtual courses outside the state virtual school network to **students at risk of dropping out** of school. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 2962** by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would make it a criminal offense to **trespass on or near a school** or day care center (a Class A misdemeanor). *It was left pending.*

**HB 3263** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require the essential knowledge and skills (TEKS) for the health curriculum to address topics relating to **firearm safety** that focus on accident prevention, promote the safety and protection of students; and emphasize how students should respond when encountering a firearm. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 4165** by Frederick Frazier (R-McKinney) would make it a Class A misdemeanor for a person to possess a **knife, knuckles, or a switchblade** on the grounds of or in the building of a school. *It was left pending.*

**HB 5118** by Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin) would require counties impacted by Operation Lone Star to have **emergency radio infrastructure** that allows **inter operable communication** between all other public safety entities; and would require the Department of Public Safety to **train** law enforcement entities on **responding to a mass shooting event**. *It was left pending.*

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

**HB 1206** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would include recapture in determining a school district's **ratio of assets to liabilities** under the public school financial accountability rating system. *It was left pending.*

**HB 3127** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would extend the time to file a petition protesting the school district **property value study** from the 40<sup>th</sup> to the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the comptroller's findings are certified. *It was left pending.*

**HB 3349** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would establish a **high school playoff schedule** for 6A schools that requires the University Interscholastic League to place schools located in a county of less than 500,000 in one bracket and schools located in a county of more than 500,000 in another separate bracket. *It was left pending.*

**HB 3716** by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would allow school districts, junior colleges, universities, and governmental entities to contract with a nonprofit entity to operate an **adult charter school**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 3829** by James Talarico (D-Austin) would establish a **fine arts allotment** for fine arts students of 1.3 for a student in grades 608, 1.2 for a student in grades 9-

10, and 2.2 for a student in grades 11-12 with at least 25 percent of the funds allocated for grades 6-8 to be used for students eligible for the compensatory education allotment. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4116** by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would require school districts and charters to post **information regarding parental rights** on its Internet website homepage. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4148** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require school districts to admit each **eligible transfer applicants** until enrollment at the campus reaches capacity. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4944** by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would require the Commissioner of Education to adopt **cybersecurity controls and requirements** for school districts, charters, and district and school vendors in consultation with the Department of Information Resources; and would require school districts and charters to implement the requirements. *It was left pending.*

**SB 11** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would make several changes related to **school safety**. *It was left pending.*

**SB 798** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would prohibit the qualifications for certification as a **school counselor** from including a requirement that a candidate for certification have experience as a classroom teacher. *It was left pending.*

**House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee** – On Tuesday, the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee took up:

**HB 4007** by Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville) would allow **uniformed school marshals** to openly carry a handgun. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 4470** by Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) would require a **volunteer school marshal** to either be an honorably discharged veteran, a peace officer, a reservist, or a retired peace officer. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

**HB 4789** by Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) would allow replacing school buses with electric school buses to qualify for the **clean school bus grant program**. *It was left pending.*

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

**SB 165** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require school districts to obtain **written consent of a student's parent** before they conduct a **social or psychological experiment** involving the child that seeks to investigate how a person's behavior influences the behavior of a group or the internal states of members of a group, such as attitude or self-concept; and would require parental consent before the district can provide instruction involving visual **material that contains violence**, profanity,, illegal substance, use, nudity, or sexual content. *It was left pending.*

**SB 979** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would add **rhabdomyolysis** to the list of injuries or conditions required for safety training programs related to extracurricular activities. *It was left pending.*

**SB 1148** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would limit terms for members of the state executive committee of the **University Interscholastic League** to two consecutive terms. *It was left pending.*

**SB 2068** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the information maintained by the Texas Education Agency regarding **postsecondary education and career opportunities** to include information to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program or other credential program. *It was left pending.*

**SB 2140** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require school districts to obtain parental consent before **evaluating a student for dyslexia** and related disorders. *It was left pending.*

**SB 2422** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would provide that **information** regarding a current, former, or prospective applicant of a **student** held by the **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board** for the purpose of providing assistance with access to post-secondary education shall be considered **confidential** and not subject to disclosure under open records laws. *It was left pending.*

#### **Passed the House:**

**HB 1002** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would allow chiropractors and physical therapists to the list of persons that a school district or charter can include on a **public school concussion oversight team**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 2361** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would allow local mental health authorities that are unable to fill an open position for a non-physician **mental health professional for schools** due to a shortage of qualified applicants to receive a waiver from the executive Commissioner of Health & Human Services to employ a licensed master social worker or a licensed professional counselor. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 2920** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require the information maintained by the Texas Education Agency regarding **postsecondary education and career opportunities** to include information to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program or other credential program. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

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

**Passed the Senate:**

**SB 1087** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would authorize school districts to reimburse students and teachers for career and technology **certification examination fees**. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 1144** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require school districts before expelling a student to consider the feasibility of enrolling the student in a full-time virtual education program through the state **virtual school network**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**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 passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 1887** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require **early college high school programs** to enroll students in either an applied associate degree program or an academic associate degree program with an embedded field of study to ensure that students complete a degree that will directly applicable to the workforce or will transfer and count toward a bachelor's degree. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on 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 passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**Reported from Committee:**

**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 reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 1605** by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would establish a **high-quality instructional materials** program. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

**HB 2111** by Steve Allison (R-San Antonio) would authorize school districts to employ current or former licensed **federal law enforcement agents** who are authorized to carry a weapon while on duty as the school district's security personnel. *It was reported favorably from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

**HB 2126** by Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin) would require school district that permit **corporal punishment** as a method of student discipline to provide and e-mail notice to parents that includes a statement of the person's right to prohibit the use of corporal punishment against the student. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

**HB 2162** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would eliminate instructional practices that are not aligned to the **science of teaching reading** and providing for



**reading interventions** to struggling students. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Public Education Committee.*

**HB 2946** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would change the instructional time required for **juvenile justice alternative education programs** from seven hours per day and 180 days per year to 43,200 minutes of instructional time. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee.*

**HB 3623** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would allow school districts and charters to enter into a memorandum of understanding between schools authorizing the **school marshals** of each school to provide services at an event at which both schools participate. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 3648** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add a school district's director of special education services to the board of the **Texas School Safety Center**. *It was reported favorably from the House State Affairs Committee.*

**HB 3833** by Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would add to **school counselor responsibilities** serving students who are at risk of engaging in harmful or inappropriate behaviors in response to personal or academic problems. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety.*

**HB 4906** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would add sworn law enforcement officers commissioned as **school security officers** to the list of peace officers authorized to obtain **search warrants**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.*

**SB 472** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require **political subdivisions** to consider an **open-enrollment charter school** a school district for purposes of zoning, project permitting, and other local regulations. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 588** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to propose rules providing for the issuance of a **temporary certificate to military service members and first responders** who meets all other eligibility requirements for certification. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**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 reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**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 reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**SB 1072** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require **local school health advisory councils** to recommend the policies, procedures and circumstances in which a school district employee may discuss matters of human sexuality with students and a campus may host an extracurricular event related to human sexuality, subject to approval by the school board. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**SB 1261** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would provide flexibility and local control for schools to design **accelerated instruction** for students recovering from COVID learning loss. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**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 reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 1474** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish the **Retired Special Education Teacher Grant Program** to reimburse school districts and charters for the costs of employing a retired teacher to teach special education. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**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 reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**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 reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**SB 1567** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require school districts and charters to maintain at least one **physical copy** of each **instructional material** selected by the district or school for each subject. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 1647** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would allow **dropout recovery education programs** to be operated by an accredited education management organization and be offered in person, remotely, or through a hybrid option. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**SB 1664** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require Texas Education Agency to establish the **school safety technical advisory committee** to advise the agency regarding the **school safety accountability program**; and would require the agency to establish a school safety accountability program to ensure school district and charter campuses provide safe and secure environments. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

**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 reported favorably from the*

*Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**STATEWIDE:**

**House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee** – On Tuesday, the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee took up:

**HB 3384** by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would enhance the penalty for **promotion of prostitution** if the actor engages in conduct involving a person younger than 18 years of age. *It was left pending.*

**SB 1318** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would enable counties to integrate their **jail records management systems** and case management systems with the Office of Court Administration’s public safety report system; and would create an offense for **violating a condition of bond** which would be punishable at various penalty levels or if the person violated the condition of bond by possessing a firearm. *It was left pending.*

**SJR 44** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the **denial of bail** to a person accused of a violent or sexual offense or of continuous trafficking of persons. *It was left pending.*

**House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee** – On Tuesday, the House Homeland Security & Public Safety took up:

**HB 1078** by Armando “Mando” Martinez (D-Weslaco) would allow a person to elect to participate in the **disaster identification system** activated in an area subject to a state of disaster declaration; and would require the system to authorize the use of an **illuminated display** to communicate with disaster relief personnel. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

**SB 1011** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would increase the penalty for **human trafficking** if the actor recruited the trafficked person from a correctional facility while the actor was confined in the facility or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeded the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of the trafficked person by applying pressure to the person’s throat or neck or by blocking the person’s nose or mouth. *It was reported favorably as substituted and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 1266** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would increase the penalties for offenses committed in a **disaster or evacuated area**. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 1, 2023 (first placement).*

**SB 1267** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would enhance the penalties of **operating a stash house** and increase them even more if the offense leads to an individual becoming a victim of sexual assault or suffered serious bodily injury or death. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 1, 2023 (first placement).*

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

**HB 139** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require the **notice of state agency rules** to include the bill number for the legislation that enacted the statutory authority under which the rule is proposed to be adopted. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

**HB 2698** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would require state agencies to prominently post on the agency's Internet website the phone number for the 988 **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** and the Veterans Crisis Line. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 3262** by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would require notice of a **permit for a mass gathering** to be provided to the local health authority; and would prescribe a procedure for a permitting authority to revoke a permit. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4440** by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) would establish the **Pandemic Disaster Legislative Oversight Committee** to review and terminate orders issued by the governor or a local entity; and would prohibit local entities from requiring businesses to close or limit operation capacities. *It was left pending.*

**HB 4903** by Mark Dorazio (R-San Antonio) would require the comptroller to establish a **digital currency** that is backed by gold so that each unit of the digital currency issued represents a particular fraction of a troy ounce of gold held in trust. *It was left pending.*

**House Redistricting Committee** – On Thursday, the House Redistricting Committee took up:

**SB 375** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) is the redistricting bill for **Texas Senate districts**. *It was left pending.*

**Passed the House:**

**HB 907** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would allow a current, former, or retired federal or state judge to perform a **marriage ceremony**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 1677** by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would establish a process for a **homeless individual** to be issued a birth certificate, driver's license or **personal identification certificate**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**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; the request is made on or after the adopted person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; a supplementary birth certificate was issued for the adopted person, and the person requesting the original birth certificate provides proof of the person's identity. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 2091** by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would allow applicants for a **marriage license application** to request confidentiality of marriage license records if either applicant has been a victim of family violence, dating violence,

sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 2755** by Angelia Orr (R-Itasca) would deposit funds received from the **boater education program** courses to be credited to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to be used for enforcement of water safety laws. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 4183** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would allow justices of the peace to waive the waiting period for a **marriage ceremony**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

#### **Passed the Senate:**

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

**SB 1219** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would exclude from the public information law, information in the custody of a governmental body that relates to **fraud detection** and deterrence measures or counterterrorism measures. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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

**SB 1985** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would establish a committee to study the formation of a **Texas Bicentennial Commission**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

#### **Reported from Committee:**

**HB 1004** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would make **trafficking a person with a disability** punishable in the same way as trafficking a child. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.*

**HB 1163** by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would enhance the penalty for **boating while intoxicated** if the watercraft is occupied by a passenger who is younger than 15 years of age. *It was reported favorably from the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.*

**HB 1667** by Jacey Jetton (R-Fort Bend) would require employees of state-licensed facilities to **report child abuse or neglect** within 48 hours after the hour the professional first has reasonable cause to believe the child has been abused or neglected. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Human Services Committee.*

**HB 2139** by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would prohibit a **court** when **interpreting a statute** from inquiring into what members of the legislature intended or hoped to accomplish, but would require them the enforce the statutory text as written. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.*

**HB 2499** by Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would designate June 28<sup>th</sup> as **Special Forces Day** in honor of the men and women who have served in the special

operations forces of the United States armed forces. *It was reported favorably from the House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 2603** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would increase the penalties for **human trafficking** on the premises of a juvenile detention facility, secure correctional facility or a residential child-care facility. *It was reported favorably from the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.*

**HB 2660** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require a law enforcement agency **responding to a missing child or person report** to electronically submit to each municipal or county law enforcement agency within 200 miles of the report any information that may help determine the location of the child or person within 48 hours. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee.*

**HB 2668** by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would require **victims of sexual assault** to receive at the time of a forensic medical exam information regarding compensation available to victims of crime including costs that may be compensated include for prescribed continuing medical care provided to the victim during the 30-day period following that examination. *It was reported favorably from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee.*

**HB 3033** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would require the attorney general to rule on **public information requests** within 30 (instead of 45) business days; and would require governmental bodies to produce the information within 15 days after the attorney general's authorization. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

**HB 3362** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would require **peace officers** to have completed an **active shooter training** program. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 3451** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would update **human trafficking** and prosecution of compelling and solicitation of prostitution statutes. *It was reported favorably from the House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 3579** by Ben Bumgarner (R-Flower Mound) would require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to issue an emergency order to halt the operation of a **massage establishment** if TDLR learns that a law enforcement agency is investigating or has reasonable cause to suspect the establishment for a **human trafficking offense**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Licensing & Administrative Procedures Committee.*

**HB 4337** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would classify a license, certificate, permit, seal, title, letter of patent, or similar document issued by a foreign government as a governmental record for purposes of the offense involving **tampering with a governmental document**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House State Affairs Committee.*

**HB 5125** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would outline the duties of the House and Senate **Administration Committees**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Administrative Committee.*

**SB 281** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Stan Lambert would authorize designation of more than one **state musicians** including a musician for the classical genre and a musician for the nonclassical genre. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**SB 922** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Angelia Orr (R-Itasca) would give Texas Parks & Wildlife Department **peace officers** the same legislative leave as state troopers. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee.*

**SB 1388** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would make it an offense for a person to knowingly operate or supervise a **drug consumption site** (any facility or premises operated or intended to provide an environment for the unlawful use of a controlled substance). *It was reported favorably from the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 1579** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require a governmental body that withholds information that is excepted from **required public disclosure**, to respond to the requestor within 10 business days and include a list of the exceptions, statutes or constitutional provisions applicable to the information being withheld. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.*

**SB 1730** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would authorize district clerks to sell and distribute **money orders** for **passport application** payments. *It was reported favorably from the House County Affairs Committee.*

**Texas Racing Commission** – On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Margaret Martin and Michael “Mike” Moore to the Texas Racing Commission for terms set to expire on February 1, 2027 and February 1, 2029, respectively. The commission oversees pari-mutuel wagering on horse and greyhound racing.

**Margaret Martin** of Boerne is an independent international businesswoman, rancher, and wildlife natural resource entrepreneur who specializes in bringing companies and individuals together in business development, energy, oil and gas, and natural resources. She is a member of Infragard and the FBI San Antonio Citizens Academy Alumni Association. She was appointed to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2007 and served there until 2015. Martin was first appointed to the Texas Racing Commission in 2015. Martin received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Laredo State University and she is certified in international protocol.

**Michael “Mike” Moore** of Fort Worth is an attorney in private practice and has practiced law with the same firm since 2003. He was first appointed to the Texas Racing Commission in 2019. Moore received a Bachelor of Science from Texas Christian University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

#### **TAX:**

**House Ways & Means Committee** – On Monday, the House Ways & Means

Committee took up:

**HB 391** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would **repeal the franchise tax** effective January 1, 2024. *It was left pending.*

**HB 1027** by Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville) would repeal the **tax penalty** (the “rollback tax”) on **agriculture land** when it is converted to non-agricultural use. *It was left pending.*

**HB 1301** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would allow a property owner to **appeal an appraisal review board order** to district court. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 1956** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would change the limitation on reasonable **attorney’s fees** to a prevailing property owner in a property tax appeal. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 2420** by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) would allow teachers to serve on an **appraisal review board**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 2714** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) would allow a recalculation of a **truth-in-taxation rate** for a **municipality** after receipt of the certified appraisal roll. *It was left pending.*

**HB 2987 and HJR 129** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would propose a constitutional amendment **exempting tangible personal property** (TPP) from the property tax. *They were left pending.*

**HB 3355** by Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would expand the **pollution control equipment sales tax exemption** to include items and facilities used for the purpose of capturing, storing, sequestering, using, reusing, gathering or transporting **carbon dioxide emissions**. *It was left pending.*

**HB 3487** by Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would clarify that costs associated with rehabilitation of **historic structures** by institutions of higher education are tax exempt. *It was voted out favorably.*

**HB 3599** by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would allow a **non-profit food bank** to claim a refund on gasoline and diesel taxes paid. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

**HB 3757 and HJR 153** by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would propose a constitutional amendment extending the optional **tax freeze** on homesteads of disabled or over-65 to all taxing units. *They were voted out favorably as substituted.*

**HB 4950 and HJR 187** by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would propose a constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to exempt from property tax appraisals the installation of an **energy efficiency-related improvement**. *They were left pending.*

**HB 5070** by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would exclude **services** provided by a **marketplace provider** from the definition of data processing services for sales tax purposes. *It was left pending.*

**HB 5100** by Salman Bhojani (D-Euless) would provide a one-time ad valorem tax credit to **first-time home buyers**. *It was left pending.*



**HB 5133** by Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia) would allow a property owner to submit a copy of an **appraisal** performed within 180 days after the hearing that **supports the market value asserted** by the property owner; and require the review board to determine the protest in favor of the property owner. *It was left pending.*

**SB 1122** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would exempt **workers' compensation-related medical exams** from the sales-taxable insurance service. *It was left pending.*

**SB 1614** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would clarify that a business whose principal business activity is **television or radio broadcasting** would be treated the same as a taxable entity whose principal business is film or television production for purposes of computing cost of goods sold. *It was left pending.*

**SB 2091** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would allow a taxing unit to sell **seized or foreclosed property** that is landlocked or is a narrow strip of land that cannot be used independently under its current zoning classification ordinance to an abutting property owner, without the need for a public sale. *It was left pending.*

**Senate Local Government Committee** – On Thursday, the Senate Local Government Committee took up 16 local bills and:

**SB 334** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would authorize **emergency service districts** to provide preventive health care services to reduce reliance on 9-1-1 transports. *It was left pending.*

**SB 480** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would provide that the **charitable exemption** for organizations providing **support for orphans or handicapped children** does not apply to real property consisting of rental housing constructed, rehabilitated, or purchased with money awarded through a program administered by the General Land Office. *It was left pending.*

**SB 976** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would establish a procedure for a valid **petition** to require an election to **reduce a tax rate**. *It was left pending.*

**SB 977** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would redefine debt for the calculation of **truth-in-taxation property tax rates**. *It was left pending.*

**SB 978** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require a **petition requiring an election to determine whether to reduce the tax rate** adopted for the current year to state that it is intended to require an election on the question of reducing the district's adopted tax rate for the current tax year, be signed by three percent of the registered voters of the district and be submitted within 90 days after the date on which the board adopts the tax rate for the current year. *It was left pending.*

**SB 1187** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would authorize the **TexAmericas Center** to operate a manufacturing operation in the boundaries of the center or on a military base located in the same county. *It was voted out favorably.*

**SB 1251** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a school district from adopting a **tax rate** under the **special authority for disaster response** for a tax year in which the district previously adopted a tax rate that exceeded the voter-approval tax rate and the proposition to approve the rate failed. *It was left pending.*

**SB 1916** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require municipalities and counties that adopt a **public improvement district service plan** to post the plan on its Internet website within seven days of the assessment. *It was left pending.*  
**SJR 64** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide an ad valorem tax exemption for **property used to operate a child-care facility**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*  
**HB 1382** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) would authorize an **auction** using **online bidding** and **sale of real property** taken in execution of a judgment. *It was left pending.*

#### **Passed the Senate:**

**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 passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**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 passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**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 passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

**SB 2350** by Paul Bettencourt would clarify that once the **voter-approval tax rate** is adopted by the taxing entity, that rate and the truth-in-taxation worksheets may not be changed or adjusted. *It passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

#### **Reported from Committee:**

**HB 1915** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would exclude “other energy services” payments from a **landman’s franchise tax** total revenue calculation. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Energy Resources Committee.*

**HB 3727** by Charles “Doc” Anderson (R-Waco) would update statutes related to municipal and county **hotel occupancy taxes**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**HB 4082** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would authorize cities and counties to issue **tax anticipation notes** to be issued for transportation, utility, first responder, and parks and recreation expenses. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee.*

**HB 4181 and HJR 165** by Sergio Munoz, Jr. (D-Palmview) would propose a constitutional amendment expanding the qualification of a residence homestead of a surviving spouse to a member of the military killed in the line of duty to qualifying military service member including a **military technician**. *They were reported favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee.*

**HB 4980** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would remove the requirement that a **request for binding arbitration** and required deposit be filed with the **appraisal district**, but would allow them to be filed directly with the comptroller. *It was reported favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

**SB 1222** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would update statutes regulating **property tax appraisers**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Licensing & Administrative Procedures Committee.*

**SB 1766** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would void a provision in a **contract for appraisal services** between a governmental agency and a provider of appraisal services that requires the provider to defend the government agency or to indemnify the agency for the agency's sole or concurrent negligence. *It was reported favorably as from the Senate Business & Commerce Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

### **SLOW-DOWN RULES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **KEY DATES:**

##### **Key Dates – 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:**

88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Began: January 10, 2023

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

Bill Filing Deadline: March 10, 2023

88<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.senate.state.tx.us)

[www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us)

[www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us)