

**Weekly Legislative Report
May 13, 2023**

GOVERNOR:

Tesla Groundbreaking in Robstown – On May 8th, Governor Greg Abbott celebrated Tesla’s new lithium refining facility and the economic boost it will have for South Texas at a groundbreaking ceremony in Robstown. During the groundbreaking ceremony, Governor Abbott thanked Tesla for choosing Nueces County as the location for the state-of-the-art lithium refinery, noting that the new facility will generate \$375 million in capital investment and bring more than 400 new good-paying jobs to Texans in the region. Governor Abbott said, “Texas is proud to be the home of Tesla, and I thank them for choosing Robstown for their new lithium refinery. Texas will continue to be a hub of innovation, leading the way on the future of technology. With the Port of Corpus Christi nearby and Tesla’s Gigafactory in Austin, the lithium refined here will work its way into Tesla batteries all over the world. I want to thank Judge Scott, Mayor Gomez, and other local leaders for bringing such a great company to this wonderful city. Working together, we will power the Texas of tomorrow.” The governor was joined at the groundbreaking by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Nueces County Judge Connie Scott, Robstown Mayor Gilbert Gomez, and other local, state, and federal leaders. Addressing the crowd of over 100, the governor congratulated economic development leaders at the state and local level for attracting world-renowned innovators to Texas and securing Texas’ own lithium refining production, powering the future of the state for generations to come. The first of its kind in North America, Tesla’s new refinery will produce battery-grade lithium and house battery materials processing, refining, and manufacturing operations for the company’s product line.

Economic Development Week in Texas – On May 9th, Governor Greg Abbott celebrated the significant role local, regional, and statewide economic development organizations play in creating jobs, advancing career development opportunities, and improving the quality of life in communities across Texas by proclaiming May 8-12, 2023 as Economic Development Week in Texas. Governor Abbott said, "This Economic Development Week, we celebrate the more than 700 economic development organizations across Texas and their efforts to bolster communities both large and small. Thanks to economic development partnerships across the state, Texas is an economic juggernaut and remains the premier destination for workers and businesses from all over the world. Since I've been governor, Texas has repeatedly broken historic employment records - including breaking three jobs records just last month - adding more than 2 million jobs and leading all other states with the fastest growing economy in the country. Working together, we will ensure Texas remains

the economic engine of the nation." Under Governor Abbott's leadership, Texas continues to set new records for total employment and jobs. Thanks to dedicated economic development professionals and organizations in every region of the state, Texas has remained the Best State for Business for a record 19 years in a row and been awarded the Governor's Cup for the most job-creating corporate relocation and expansion projects for the last 11 consecutive years. Last month, Texas also broke all previous records for total jobs, total Texans employed, and total Texas labor force and leads all states for jobs added over the last 12 months.

Update on Operation Lone Star – On May 12th, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Texas National Guard are continuing to work together to secure the border; stop the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and people into Texas; and prevent, detect, and interdict transnational criminal behavior between ports of entry. Since the launch of Operation Lone Star, the multi-agency effort has led to over 373,000 illegal immigrant apprehensions and more than 28,000 criminal arrests, with more than 25,000 felony charges reported. In the fight against fentanyl, Texas law enforcement has seized over 402 million lethal doses of fentanyl during this border mission. Governor Abbott said, "Operation Lone Star continues to fill the dangerous gaps left by the Biden Administration's refusal to secure the border. Every individual who is apprehended or arrested and every ounce of drugs seized would have otherwise made their way into communities across Texas and the nation due to President Joe Biden's open border policies." On May 8th Governor Abbott announced the deployment of the new Texas Tactical Border Force to the Texas-Mexico border to respond to the growing border crisis. With Title 42 ending, the governor is enhancing Texas' border security efforts with the tactical deployment of hundreds of Texas National Guard soldiers to join the thousands already deployed as part of Operation Lone Star and serve on the new border force for targeted responses as the nation braces for a spike in illegal immigration. Governor Abbott said, "With the ending of Title 42 on Thursday, President Biden is laying down the welcome mat to people across the entire world, but Texas is deploying our new Texas Tactical Border Force. The Texas National Guard is loading Blackhawk helicopters and C-130s and deploying specially trained soldiers for the Texas Tactical Border Force, who will be deployed to hotspots all along the border to help intercept and repel large groups of migrants trying to enter Texas illegally."

Heart Gallery Event – On May 11th, First Lady Cecilia Abbott hosted a Heart Gallery event with attorney and child advocate Kim Phelan and the Governor's Commission for Women at the Governor's Mansion in Austin for members of the Texas Legislative Ladies and Texas Senate Ladies clubs. Believing one photo can change a life, the foster and adoption outreach Heart Gallery program displays professional portraits in local communities of children and sibling groups who dream of finding a "forever family." First Lady Abbott said, "As adoptive parents, Greg and I know firsthand the immeasurable joy of being a forever

family. That is why we believe so strongly in promoting fostering and adoption. I am pleased to be joined by Kim and members of the Texas legislative family for this special event, especially as we celebrate May as Foster Care Month. To meet the needs of foster children in Texas, our mission requires a Network of Nurture - a community of individuals and families, local leaders, nonprofit organizations, businesses, faith community members, and anyone willing to open their hands, their hearts, or their homes to children and families in need of permanence." The First Lady and the Governor's Commission for Women are proud supporters of the foster and adoption outreach programs of the Heart Gallery. The Heart Gallery portrait displays are hosted by groups, organizations, or businesses throughout communities across Texas to connect families interested in adoption with children in the care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and Child Protective Services (CPS). At the core of the foster and adoption outreach is a simple but powerful portrait of each child that says, "I am here. I am special." The First Lady, Kim Phelan, wife of Speaker Dade Phelan, and their guests also assembled gift bags with summer supplies for Rainbow Rooms across the state. Rainbow Rooms are 24/7 resource centers usually located within local CPS offices that are often the first stop for CPS caseworkers before they visit children whose lives have been turned upside down and are in need of foster care.

Total number of bills sent to the governor this session: 194

Total number of HB's sent to the governor this session: 40

Total number of SB's sent to the governor this session: 154

SENATE:

The Senate was in session Monday through Friday this week.

On Monday, Senator Angela Paxton asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting at the Allen Outlet Mall. Senator Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting at the outlet mall in Allen and the tragedy in Brownsville where the driver of an SUV ran a red light and plowed into a group of people at a bus stop killing several people.

Governor Greg Abbott said, "Our hearts are with the people of Allen, Texas during this unspeakable tragedy. I have been in contact with Mayor Fulk and DPS Director McCraw as well as other state and local leaders and offered the full support of the State of Texas to local officials to ensure all needed assistance and resources are swiftly deployed, including DPS officers, Texas Rangers, and investigative resources."

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "Please join Jan and me in mourning the victims of the unspeakable tragedy in Allen. Please also join us in prayer for the victims' families and friends along with the residents of Allen. We are grateful for our brave first responders who were deployed to stop the shooter and investigate this hideous crime. We are thankful for their bravery and courage."

On Monday, the Senate passed 14 bills including:

- **SB 1217** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would overhaul the administration of **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association**. (TWIA). *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **SB 1268** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would prohibit an insurer **waiving a deductible** owed by a policyholder under a **property insurance policy** from requiring as a condition the policyholder's use of the insurer's preferred or recommended contractor for the claim. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 22 to 9.*
- **SB 1393** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would qualify residential property located within four miles of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association area for coverage under **the FAIR Plan Association**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*
- **SB 1803** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require the State Auditor's Office to conduct an effectiveness and efficiency audit of all **services for the homeless** provided by state agencies. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1804** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require the State Auditor's Office to conduct an effectiveness and efficiency audit of all **services for the homeless** provided by state agencies. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*

They also gave preliminary approval to:

- **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 passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 12. On Tuesday, it received final approval by the same vote.*

On Tuesday, the Senate passed the two Third Reading bills and 16 additional bills including:

- **HB 914** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would make it a Class A misdemeanor to tamper with a **temporary license tag**. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 1595 and HJR 3** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment renaming the National Research University Fund as the **Texas University Fund** to fund public institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as

major research universities. *The committee substitutes and one floor amendment on each bill were adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 2.*

- **HB 1910** by Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) and Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would presume that a person in possession of **money that is forged** intended to obtain a property or service of a value equal to the total purported value of the forged money. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 2559** by Cody Vassut (R-Angleton) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would allow a retired justice of the peace to **administer an oath** in the state. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 2575** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) would allow entities working in partnership with an entity eligible to grant a high school diploma to participate in the **workforce diploma pilot program**. *It passed by a vote of 27 to 4.*
- **HB 2691** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require **state agencies** to notify a person who has **indebtedness or a delinquency** to the state agency that the matter has been reported to the comptroller; and would authorize the comptroller to deduct the amount of the indebtedness or delinquency from any payments the comptroller makes to that person. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1546** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a **special district** from exercising any right or power outside the district's boundaries. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **SB 1557** Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would allow the parent of a **student who was victimized** by a public school employee to transfer the student to another campus or receive funding for the student to **attend private school**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 13 on May 4th. It received final approval by the same vote on May 9th.*

And, they gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 369** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would allow **dis-annexation of areas** from a municipality if full municipal services are not provided to the area. *Three floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 18 to 13. On Wednesday, it received final approval by the same vote.*

On Wednesday, the Senate Congratulated Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) on casting her 70,000th consecutive vote in the Senate. Her streak, which started in 1987, spans 18 sessions.

On Wednesday, the Senate gave final approval to SB 369 and passed 31 additional bills including:

- **HB 4** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would be the **Texas Data Privacy and Security Act** and would authorize

a person to correct personal data and to opt out of the processing of personal data. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*

- **HB 279** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would make **trafficking of a disabled individual** punishable to the same extent as trafficking of a child. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 290** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would subject **multiple employer welfare arrangements** to Insurance Code provisions requiring minimum reserves and asset protection. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 591** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would exempt gas that would have been vented or flared from the **severance tax**. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 624** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) and Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would authorize **emergency medical transport** by fire fighters. *It passed by a vote of 31 to 0.*
- **HB 1535** by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) and Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) is the sunset bill for the **San Antonio River Authority**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1555** by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) and Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) is the sunset bill for the **Upper Guadalupe River Authority**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1706** by Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston) and Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would clarify the right of an insured to enter into a **contract with a licensed insurance adjuster** to help the insured meet the insured's obligations under an insurance policy. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1761** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would provide that a registrant that initiates a **recall of a pesticide** from distribution before the pesticide's registration expires, is not required to continue to register the pesticide after the expiration date. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1845** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would establish qualifications for a **provisional certification program** for a person to operate a **wastewater system** or public water system. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1922** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would abolish **building permit fees** on the 10th anniversary after the date the fee is adopted or reauthorized unless the governing body of the municipality reauthorizes the fee. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 2460** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) 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 30 to 0.*

- **HB 2759** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would establish the **TexMesonet Hydrometeorology Network** to provide a statewide resource for hydrometeorological data and summary information. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
- **HB 2899** by Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas) and Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would require peace officers to impound vehicles used in the commission of an **offense of racing on a highway**, even if the racing does not result in an accident with property damage or personal injury. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
- **HB 3290** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would allow state money to be transferred to the **Next Generation 9-1-1 Service Fund** and allow it to be distributed on a pro-rata basis to each emergency communication districts that do not participate in the state system. *It passed by a vote of 28 to 2.*
- **SB 842** by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would allow retired state employees access to **bariatric surgery** under the state employee group benefits program. *It passed by a vote of 26 to 4.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1342** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would require a third-party health insurer in the **Medicaid** program to accept a **prior authorization** approved by the Health & Human Services Commission. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 1579** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require a governmental body that withholds information that is excepted from **required public disclosure**, based on a good faith determination, to respond to the requestor within 10 business days after the request and include a list of the exceptions, statutes or constitutional provisions applicable to the information being withheld. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 21 to 9. It received final passage by a vote of 20 to 10.*
- **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 passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **SB 2361** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would extend the property tax exemption for **organizations performing a charitable function** until the organization no longer owns the property or the comptroller determines the organization no longer qualifies. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*

They gave preliminary approval to three bills including:

- **HB 609** by Cody Vasut (R-Angleton) and Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) 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 19 to 11. On Thursday, it received final approval by the same vote.*

- **SB 833** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would prohibit an insurer from considering a customer's **environmental, social, and governance score** that is based on measuring a customer's exposure to long-term environmental, social and governance risks; or a customer's consideration of diversity, equity, and inclusion factors in establishing rates. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 20 to 10. On Thursday, it received final approval by the same vote.*

On Thursday, the Senate adopted **SR 557** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) which changed the Senate rules to allow bills to be brought up on the first day they are placed on the Senate Intent Calendar starting on Monday, May 15th (instead of May 19th).

On Thursday, the Senate passed HB 609 and SB 833 and 24 additional bills including:

- **HB 242** by Donna Howard (D-Austin) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would provide that a person, including a manufacturer or distributor, is not subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of a **feminine hygiene product donated** in good faith to a **nonprofit organization**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 692** by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) and Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to issue authorization by rule for land application of **dairy waste**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1038** by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) and Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would require the Bond Review Board to report on all **lending programs** and **credit support programs** in the state by December 31st every even-numbered year. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1161** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) and Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would maintain the confidentiality of home address information for **victims of child abduction**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1255** by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would provide that a party may assert a **claim in an arbitration proceeding** after expiration of the application limitations period if the party brought suit for the claim in court before the expiration of the applicable limitations period and the parties to the claim agreed to arbitrate the claim or a court ordered the parties to arbitrate the claim. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1575** by Lacey Hull (R-Houston) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) 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 was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
- **HB 1748** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would authorize the comptroller to use a **facsimile signature** on a **public security** required to be registered by the comptroller. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **HB 1760** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit a persons without a handgun license to carry a **weapon** on the premises of a **school or postsecondary educational institution**. *It passed by a vote of 23 to 7.*
 - **HB 2015** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would increase the minimum age for a **jury exemption** from 70 to 75. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
 - **HB 2209** by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) 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 and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 28 to 2.*
 - **HB 3345** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would impose a fee of not less than \$5 (instead of \$5) per customer of a sexually oriented business as determined in the General Appropriations Act to be allocated to the **sexual assault program fund**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **HB 3651** by Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) and Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would make several changes related to **motor fuel taxes** to prevent fraudulent acquisition of motor fuels. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **HB 4015** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would require fees collected for the **rail safety program** to be deposited to the State Highway Fund instead of the General Revenue Fund. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*
 - **SB 1117** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would exempt **direct-to-home satellite services** from the definition of “video service provider.” *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 20 to 10.*
 - **SB 1438** by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would authorize a fuels tax credit for a fuels tax license holder that paid tax on **diesel fuel used by auxiliary power units** or power takeoff equipment on a motor vehicle. *It passed by a vote of 27 to 3.*
 - **SB 1836** by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would allow vehicles exempt from motor fuel taxes to use a tax-exempt compressed natural gas and **liquefied natural gas refueling facilities** in emergencies and exigent circumstances under an interlocal agreement. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 0.*

The Senate also gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 666** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would prohibit the **Texas Medical Board** from requiring a license holder to respond to a **complaint** filed with the board unless the complaint is in writing and includes the name of the complainant and a sworn affidavit that states that all of the facts asserted in the complaint are true. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 17 to 13. On Friday, it received final approval by the same vote.*

On Friday, the Senate passed 24 bills including:

- **HB 19** by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would establish a **statewide business court** with concurrent jurisdiction with a district court in a derivative action on behalf of a business organization. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 24 to 6.*
- **HB 567** by Rhetta Bowers (D-Rowlett) and Borris Miles (D-Houston) would prohibit a public school or institution of higher education from **discriminating** against a student in dress or grooming policy **based on hair texture** or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
- **HB 796** by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require appraisal districts to maintain a publicly-accessible, searchable **protest hearing internet database** that includes the names of the appraisal review board members, hearing dates and times, appraised value and ARB determinations. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
- **HB 1602** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the Texas Workforce Commission to establish **annual performance requirements** that each entity that receives **adult education and literacy funds** must satisfy to qualify for a continuing award, including the achievement of enrollment targets and performance benchmarks. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*
- **HB 1605** by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establish a **high-quality instructional materials** program. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 22 to 8.*
- **HB 1755** by Angie Chen Button (R-Richardson) and Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would establish the **Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund**. *It passed by a vote of 22 to 8.*
- **HB 1772** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) and Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would require a **timber purchaser** that purchases timber on a pay-per-unit sale to provide documentation proving delivery to a mill, wood yard, transfer yard, or storage yard. *It passed by a vote of 28 to 2.*
- **HB 1809** by Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would establish the **commercial oyster mariculture advisory**

- board** to advise state agencies with regulatory authority over the industry. *It passed by a vote of 27 to 3.*
- **HB 2755** by Angelia Orr (R-Itasca) and Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) 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 by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 2777** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) and Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would allow the **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department** to award a contract to any qualified vendor who meets the requirements of the original solicitation if the executive director determines that competitive bids are not available. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 3060** by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would exclude **recyclable plastic** monomers, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, or chemical feedstocks and other basic hydrocarbons from the definition of solid waste. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 3273** by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **property tax data** to be posted on each taxing unit's website and provide instructions on how a property owner can register to have notifications regarding updates to the property tax database delivered by e-mail. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 3437** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) and Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would remove the financial threshold (\$50,000 or less up or down) for authorization to change contracts for construction, repair, or renovation of **water district facilities**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 3507** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) and Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would increase the contract threshold from \$75,000 to \$250,000 for the competitive bid requirement for construction of **conservation and reclamation district facilities**. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 4018** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) 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 by a vote of 28 to 2.*
 - **HB 4422** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) and Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to study the public safety, border security, and modernization of transportation infrastructure from **Texas-Mexico border crossings** onto the state highway system related to commercial vehicle connectivity. *It passed by a vote of 30 to 1.*
 - **HB 4553** by Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) and Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would expand the list of **entities eligible to purchase services and commodity items** through the Department of Information Resources. *It passed by a vote of 29 to 1.*

- **SB 666** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would prohibit the **Texas Medical Board** from requiring a license holder to respond to a **complaint** filed with the board unless the complaint is in writing and includes the name of the complainant and a sworn affidavit that states that all of the facts asserted in the complaint are true and based on personal knowledge of the physician's care of a patient identified in the complaint. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed by a vote of 17 to 13.*
- **SB 1195** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would authorize the **attorney general** to prosecute offenses under the **Elections Code**. *It passed by a vote of 17 to 13.*

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week: 222
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 111
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar: 0
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 664
Total number of HB's and HJR's passed by the Senate this session: 88

Next Week: The Senate adjourned until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023.

HOUSE:

The House was in session Monday through Friday this week.

House Expelled Representative Bryan Slaton – On Tuesday, the House voted 147-0 to expel Representative Bryan Slaton (R-Royce City) upon the recommendation of the House Investigating Committee that found that he had an inappropriate sexual encounter with a 19-year-old intern who was in his employment and then attempted to cover it up. That created a vacancy in House District 2.

House Speaker Dade Phelan said, "Members, expulsion of a member of this body is a rare and serious action. Mr. Slaton's predatory behavior merits such a consequence. I am proud of my colleagues for holding each other accountable. I hope the action we've taken here today sends the message that inappropriate workplace conduct and sexual harassment will not be tolerated. And to those who work in this building, I hope it is a reminder that it only takes one voice to make a difference. I thank Chairman Murr and the members of the General Investigating Committee for working diligently and decisively. I thank the members for their respect of the process. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I thank those who came forward and those who cooperated with the investigation. The Texas House and all those who serve this body owe you a sincere debt of gratitude."

House Republican Caucus issued a statement saying, "The Texas House Republican Caucus holds its membership to the highest degree of integrity and honor. Today, we upheld those principles by voting to expel Representative Bryan Slaton from the Texas House of Representatives. We do not take today's events lightly but were compelled to do so based on the severity of these

circumstances. Harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct have no place in the workplace, and the actions of Representative Slaton do not properly reflect the Texas House. We hope the victims of this complaint can find peace after today's vote, and that the staff in this building know that we stand with them in protecting our workplace."

On Monday, the House passed 25 Third Reading bills and passed two proposed constitutional amendments including:

- **HJR 141** by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would propose a constitutional amendment expanding the definition of **farm production inputs** for ad valorem tax purposes. (the enabling bill is HB 3241) *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 120 to 2.*
- **HJR 169** by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Texas Water Fund** to make grants and loans for water infrastructure projects. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 127 to 5.*

They gave preliminary approval to an additional 63 bills including:

- **SB 371** by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) and Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require students to complete one year of ROTC training for each year that a student is enrolled in a degree or certificate program (up to four years) to qualify for the **Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program**. *SB 371 was substituted for HB 1192 and it passed by a vote of 131 to 12.*
- **SB 380** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would clarify that a party who files a statement of **inability to afford to pay court costs**, is not required to pay for an **interpreter** (for a party with limited English proficiency) unless the statement has been contested in court and the party has been ordered to pay. *SB 380 was substituted for HB 3544 and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 115 to 18. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 113 to 30.*
- **SB 502** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would provide that a person who generated **drill cuttings** and transfers the drill cuttings in an arm's length transaction to an unaffiliated third party under a contract that requires the drill cuttings to be used for a beneficial use or disposed of properly is not liable for consequences of subsequent use or disposal if the person who generates the drill cuttings has the legal and contractual right to transfer the drill cuttings. *SB 502 was substituted for HB 618 and it passed by a vote of 146 to 1.*
- **SB 702** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock) would require a contract entered into by the Texas Department of Transportation to allow for the establishment of a range of premium embossed **specialty license plates** to be sources, marketed, and sold by the vendor. *SB 702 was substituted for HB 3187 and it passed by a vote of 146 to 1.*

- **SB 763** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) and Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would authorize school districts to employ a **chaplain instead of a school counselor** to perform duties required of a school counselor. *SB 763 was substituted for HB 3614. Four floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 84 to 54. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 89 to 58.*
- **SB 1243** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would exclude federal grants for **broadband development** from the franchise tax. *SB 1243 was substituted for HB 2859 and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 120 to 10. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 132 to 12.*
- **SB 1732** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) and Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would direct the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in consultation with Texas Department of Transportation to adopt standards for **electric vehicle charging stations** that require them to be equipped with a standard electric vehicle charging connector that is widely compatible with as many vehicles as practicable. SB 1732 was substituted for HB 5120. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 124 to 8. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 134 to 11.*
- **SB 1766** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would void a provision in a **contract for appraisal services** between a governmental agency and a provider of appraisal services that requires the provider to defend the government agency or to indemnify the agency for the agency's sole or concurrent negligence. *SB 1766 was substituted for HB 2584 and it passed by a vote of 140 to 0.*
- **SB 1887** by Royce West (D-Dallas) and 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. *SB 1887 was substituted for HB 3486 and it passed by a vote of 106 to 25.*
- **SB 1893** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) and Charles "Doc" Anderson (R-Waco) would prohibit the installation or use of **the TikTok social media application** (or any other application subject to an order by the governor) on any device owned or leased by a governmental entity. *SB 1893 was substituted for HB 3289. The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 0.*
- **SB 2158** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) and Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require the **firefighters** who receive a **tuition and fee exemption** to be a member in good standing of a volunteer fire department registered with the Texas A&M Forest Service and responds to 9-1-1 emergency calls in a designated area and attend at least 20 hours of annual training. *SB 2158 was substituted for HB 4921 and it passed by a vote of 142 to 1.*

On Tuesday, the House passed 121 bills on the Local & Consent Calendar and gave final approval to 71 Third Reading bills and one proposed constitutional amendment.

- **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. (the enabling bill is HB 3757, which was on the House Calendar on Tuesday but not reached and carried over to Wednesday's Calendar) *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 134 to 10.*

In addition, the House gave preliminary approval to 25 bills including:

- **SB 490** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Caroline Harris (R-Round Rock) would require a **health care provider** that requests payment from a patient for a health care service to submit with the request a written, **itemized bill of charges** for all health care services and supplies provided to the patient. *SB 490 was substituted for HB 1973. The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 136 to 6.*
- **SB 602** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) and Sam Harless (R-Spring) would clarify that a **border patrol agent** of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection is not a peace officer, but has the **powers of arrest and search and seizure** under state and federal laws. *SB 602 was substituted for HB 884 and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 96 to 48. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 99 to 43.*
- **SB 622** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and John Smithee (R-Amarillo) would require **health benefit plans** that cover prescription drugs to specify the **prescription drugs covered** under the plan. SB 622 was substituted for HB 1754. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 133 to 6. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 133 to 7.
- **SB 1403** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would require the governor to develop and execute an **interstate compact for border security** among interested states. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 88 to 58. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 95 to 49.*

They debated **HB 20** by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler), which would establish the **Border Protection Unit** to defend the southern border. It was killed on a point of order by Representative Rafael Anchía. Representative Victoria Neave Criado, Chairwoman of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus said, "This radical legislation would have deputized unqualified vigilantes to patrol our neighborhoods and set up checkpoints in cities across Texas with anyone they perceive to be a migrant to potentially deter, repel or arrest them. Building on the discriminatory 'Show Me Your Papers' law passed in 2017, HB 20 would have created a hostile and dangerous situation for people of color across Texas. Our caucus and allies locked arms to stop passage of House Bill 20 and its

dangerous ramification for our whole state. We fought to defeat HB 20 because we know that all Texans deserve the freedom to thrive and build a life for their families free from fear or intimidation. All Texans are safer because we worked together to stop HB 20. We put a stop to the threat of civilian vigilantes harassing our neighbors and have ensured that any new Border Protection Unit is limited in its scope to protect the fundamental rights of all Texans. While some extremist lawmakers would rather stoke fear than address the real issues facing our state, members of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus will continue to work to deliver for Texans.”

On Wednesday, the House passed 26 bills including three proposed Constitutional Amendments:

- **HJR 134** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would propose a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of **County Treasurer of Galveston County**. *It passed by a vote of 106 to 32.*
- **HJR 146** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would propose a constitutional amendment granting **the right** of people to own hold, and use a **mutually agreed upon medium of exchange** including cash, coin, bullion, digital currency, or privately issued scrip. *It passed by a vote of 139 to 2.*
- **HJR 172** by David Cook (R-Mansfield) would propose a constitutional amendment allowing a court to grant a **commutation of punishment** to individuals serving a term of imprisonment. *It passed by a vote of 130 to 13.*

They gave preliminary approval to two additional constitutional amendments:

- **HJR 102** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would propose a constitutional amendment legalizing **sports betting**. (the enabling bill is HB 1942) *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 97 to 44. It received final approval on Thursday by a vote of 101 to 42.*
- **HJR 155** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would propose a constitutional amendment creating the **Texas Gaming Commission**, authorizing **sports wagering**, requiring a license to conduct **casino gaming**, requiring the imposition of casino gaming and sports wagering taxes, and authorizing Tribal-State compacts related to gaming. *The committee substitute and six floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 51. But, it needed 100 votes on Third Reading and the author did not bring it up before the deadline, so it is DEAD.*

The House also gave preliminary approval to 57 bills including:

- **HB 1942** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would legalize **sports betting**. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 102) *Three floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 84 to 52. On Thursday, one additional floor amendment was adopted and it received final approval by a vote of 82 to 51.*

- **SB 68** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Andrew Murr (R-Junction) would require school districts to excuse a student from attending school for a **career investigation day**. *SB 68 was substituted for HB 131 and it passed by a vote of 139 to 4.*
- **SB 820** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would require **vision support organizations** to register annually with the Secretary of State. *SB 820 was substituted for HB 2081. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 133 to 7.*
- **SB 855** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) and Lacey Hull (R-Houston) would require at least one of the 12 hours mandated for **training for judges** to be dedicated to the dynamics of and **effects on victims of family violence**, with an additional two hours of training for judges of courts having primary responsibility for family law. SB 855 was substituted for HB 3519. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 134 to 6.*
- **SB 1319** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) would require health authorities and law enforcement agencies to report overdose information to the computerized database for **mapping overdose locations**. *SB 1319 was substituted for HB 3480 and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 118 to 21. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 126 to 12.*
- **SB 1499** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) and Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require the Texas Department of Transportation to use money in the **Port Access Account Fund** to fund port development and infrastructure. *SB 1499 was substituted for HB 2605 and it passed by a vote of 131 to 9.*

On Thursday, the House worked until midnight – the deadline for the House to pass House Bills and House Joint Resolutions on Second Reading. They passed 57 bills and two proposed constitutional amendments:

- **HJR 25** by Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood) would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the portion of the assessed value of a person's property that is attributable to the **installation of rainwater collection**. (the enabling bill is HB 40) *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 110 to 27.*

They gave preliminary approval to 86 additional bills including:

- **SB 543** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) and Claudia Ordaz (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. *SB 543 was substituted for HB 1492 and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 96 to 41. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 106 to 37.*
- **SB 773** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) would require the Commissioner of State Health Services to

designate the medical conditions considered to be severe chronic diseases for purposes of **eligibility for compassionate use access to investigational drugs**, biological products and devices. *SB 773 was substituted for HB 638. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 135 to 5.*

- **SB 784** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) and Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa) would give the state exclusive jurisdiction over the **regulation of greenhouse gas emissions**, pre-empting political subdivision regulation. *SB 784 was substituted for HB 2211 and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 96 to 43. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 99 to 42.*
- **SB 1860** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would require municipalities to receive approval of a **climate charter** from the state agency with proper jurisdiction to propose a climate charter for a municipality. *SB 1860 was substituted for HB 4930. One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 101 to 41.*

On Friday, the House passed 86 Third Reading bills and 135 bills on the Local & Consent Calendar. They also spent several hours debating:

- **SB 14** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) and Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would prohibit medical professionals from providing **gender transitioning medical interventions to a child** under 18. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 92 to 48.*

Note: the proposed constitutional amendments and SB's that passed the House are listed above. The other HB's that passed the House are in the issue categories below.

House Bill Deadline – At the stroke of midnight on Thursday, the deadline for the House to pass Second Reading HB's and HJR's on the Major or General State calendars, there were still **141 bills left on the House Calendar to die**. That compares to:

2021 – 186 bills left on the House Calendar at the midnight deadline
2019 – 74 bills left on the House Calendar at the midnight deadline
2017 – 228 bills left on the House Calendar at the midnight deadline
2015 - 222 bills left on the House Calendar at the midnight deadline
2013 - 128 bills left on the House Calendar at the midnight deadline
2011 – 30 bills left on the House Calendar at the midnight deadline.

In addition, **185 House bills and House Joint Resolutions died in the House Calendars Committee**. That compares to:

2021 – 278 HB's and HJR's died in House Calendars Committee
2019 – 569 HB's and HJR's died in House Calendars Committee
2017 – 332 HB's and HJR's died in House Calendars Committee
2015 – 261 HB's and HJR's died in House Calendars Committee
2013 – 342 HB's and HJR's died in House Calendars Committee

2011 – 320 HB’s and HJR’s died in House Calendars Committee
2009 – 328 HB’s and HJR’s died in House Calendars Committee
2007 – 272 HB’s and HJR’s died in House Calendars Committee

Other Statistics:

- 2,866 HB’s and HJR’s died in House committees without getting a hearing - 51 percent
- 560 HB’s and HJR’s were heard and left pending in House committees (not voted/reported out) – 10 percent
- 122 HB’s and HJR’s were voted out of committee but did not make it to the Calendars Committee before the deadline.

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week: 308
Total number of bills passed by the House this week: 523
Total bills passed this week on the Local & Consent Calendar 256
Total number of bills passed by the House this session: 1500
Total number of SB’s and SJR’s passed by the House this session: 217

Next Week: The House adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2023.

BUDGET:

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

HB 1038 by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) and Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would require the Bond Review Board to report on all **lending programs** and **credit support programs** in the state by December 31st every even-numbered year. *It was reported favorably. It passed the SENATE on Thursday, May 11, 2023.*

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

SB 1446 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit **investment agents for public funds** from using **environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG)** factors in investment decisions; would limit decisions to financial factors; and would prohibit a public entity from retaining an investment agency with a history of taking ESG factors into account. *It was left pending.*

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

HB 2230 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) and Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would repeal Section 316.092 (b) and Sections 316.093 (c) and (d) removing the expiration dates on transfers of money from the **economic stabilization fund** to the **state highway fund**. *It was reported favorably as substituted.*

HB 4510 by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) and Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require **state agencies** to submit their **annual financial reports** by November 1st (instead of November 20th) each year, including institutions of

higher education; and would require state agencies that obtain an audited financial report to submit it in place of the annual report. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Passed the House:

HB 3258 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would require the Legislative Budget Board to report the amount of **dedicated revenue** that is used to certify the budget. *It passed by a vote of 145 to 0.*

ELECTIONS:

Senate State Affairs Committee:

On Monday, the Senate State Affairs Committee took up:

HB 87 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would establish a procedure for replacing **presidential electors** that withdraw or are unable to serve. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2629 by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) and Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require reports of **direct campaign expenditures** by political committees to include the name of each candidate or officeholder for whom a direct campaign expenditure was made to support or oppose. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

On Thursday, the Senate State Affairs Committee took up:

HB 357 by John Bucy (D-Austin) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would remove the requirement that a voter provide an address to access the **online tracker** for **mail-in ballots**. *It was left pending.*

HB 1631 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) and Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would remove the time limit (five continuous hours) on the hours an **election watcher** can observe an election. *It was left pending.*

HB 1632 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) and Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) 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 left pending.*

Passed the House:

HB 315 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would require **mail ballot applications** to contain a statement prescribed by the secretary of state explaining the benefits of furnishing a telephone number including how it assists the early voting clerk. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 824 by Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) would authorize **political subdivisions** to move the **date of their elections** to the November uniform election date through December 31, 2024 (the previous deadline was December 31, 2016). *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1299 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would require **signatures on a carrier envelope** for a mail ballot to be in ink on paper, and electronic signature or

photocopied signature would not be permitted. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 86 to 48. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 91 to 48.*

HB 1848 by Emilio “Mano” DeAyala (R-Houston) would require the Secretary of State to study the feasibility of conforming each **central counting station** with the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) standards promulgated by the federal government. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 91 to 50. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 91 to 50.*

HB 2626 by Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock) would require the governing body of a **political subdivision** to make **campaign finance reports** filed with the political subdivision available to the public within five business days after the report is filed. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3159 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would allow a voter with a disability to cast a ballot using an **accessible absentee mail system**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 138 to 3.*

HB 3537 by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would prohibit a **candidate** from filing for a place on the ballot with **more than one political party** in the same voting year. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

HB 3613 by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would require **municipalities** with single-member districts to hold an election of the entire governing body after **reapportionment**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 3749 by Lulu Flores (D-Austin) would require the voter registrar to identify which section or sections of an **application for voter registration** resulted in rejection of an application. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4621 by Salman Bhojani (D-Euless) would authorize the authority that ordered an **election on a ballot proposition** to remove the measure from the ballot up to 90 days before an election. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4780 by Reggie Smith (R-Sherman) would allow a voter to provide a signature sheet in lieu of completing the carrier envelope certificate when **submitting a mail ballot**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 141 to 0.*

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 passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HIGHER EDUCATION:

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

SB 17 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would **prohibit** institutions of higher education from requiring or giving **preferential consideration** for certain **ideological oaths or statements** that undermine academic freedom and open inquiry and impede the discovery, preservation, and

transmission of knowledge, including students, applicants for admission, employees, or contractors. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 18 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and John Kuempel (R-Seguin) would **prohibit** institutions of higher education from **granting tenure** or any type of permanent employment after September 1, 2023. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 25 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would allow part-time nursing faculty to be eligible for the **Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program**; would extend the **Nursing Innovation Grant Program** until 2027 and remove the matching fund requirement. *It was left pending.*

SB 526 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require prior approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for an institution of higher education to offer a **degree or certificate program** to **persons who are incarcerated** or subject to involuntary civil commitment. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 646 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would authorize formula funding for distance education provided by **Lamar State College–Orange** students who reside in another state that is contiguous to the county in which the college is located. *It was voted out favorably.*

Senate Education Committee:

On Wednesday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

HB 1114 by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would expand the **Blinn Junior College District** service area to include the part of the Waller Independent School District that is located in Harris County. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

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

HB 3287 by Charles “Doc” Anderson (R-Waco) and Morgan LaMantia (D-South Padre Island) would change location requirements for campuses of **Texas State Technical College System** from cities to counties (Harlingen becomes Cameron County; Sweetwater becomes Nolan County; Abilene becomes Taylor County; Brownwood becomes Brown County; Breckenridge becomes Stephens County; Marshall becomes Harrison County; Waco becomes McLennan County; and Red Oak becomes Ellis County). *It was left pending.*

On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

HB 4005 by John Raney (R-Bryan) and Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) 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 was reported favorably.*

HB 4363 by John Kuempel (R-Seguin) and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would establish the **Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program** to recruit,

prepare, and retain a talented and diverse workforce of career teachers by providing assistance for tuition, mandatory fees, and other usual and customary costs of attendance. *It was left pending.*

Passed the House:

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). *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 134 to 9.*

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. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed by a vote of 118 to 25.*

HB 3371 by Ann Johnson (D-Houston) would authorize institutions of higher education to offer **higher education health benefits**; and would specify that the benefits are not health insurance. *It passed by a vote of 115 to 26.*

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 passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2123 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would allow the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler to participate in the **Joint Admission Medical Program**. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

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

SB 9 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establish an **educator bill of rights**; and would establish a grant program to reimburse school districts and charters that hire a teacher who retired before September 1, 2022. *It was left pending.*

SB 163 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would remove the expiration date on provisions in the Education Code requiring **parental approval for human sexuality instruction**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1630 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require school districts and charters to adopt and implement an **attendance policy** to inform students and parents regarding the importance of regular attendance and provide appropriate supports to students who fail to regularly attend. *It was left pending.*

SB 1720 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require **confidentiality** of the identity of a public school employee who **reports a potential threat** to a school's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team. *It was left pending.*

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

SCR 9 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would designate the first full week in April as **Gifted and Talented Students Week**. *It was left pending.*

Senate Education Committee:

On Wednesday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

HB 114 by Ed Thompson (R-Pearland) and Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would make it a Class B misdemeanor to possess five or more **e-cigarettes on school property**. *It was left pending.*

HB 579 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would allow parents or guardians of **students with significant cognitive disabilities** to request that the student be exempted from the administration of an alternative assessment instrument; and would require the student's admission, review and dismissal committee to determine if the student should be exempted. *It was left pending.*

HB 621 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to provide for the issuance of a **temporary teaching certificate** to a person who has served in the **armed services**. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 1212 by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would prohibit school districts from requiring documentation from a clergy member of other religious leader for purposes of excusing a student from attending school to observe a **religious holy day**. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 15, 2023.*

HB 1225 by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require **assessment instruments** to be administered in **paper format** to any student whose parent or guardian requests the assessment to be administered in paper format. *It was reported favorably.*

HB 1416 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) and 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.*

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. *Vote failed in the Senate Education Committee.*

HB 1789 by Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) and Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would exempt school **bus drivers** from nepotism prohibitions. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 1959 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) and Phil King (R-Weatherford) would authorize a **peace officer** to request a transfer of the officer's student to another school district or district campus. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2012 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require public schools and institutions of higher education to allow the **display of**

the national motto “In God We Trust” in classrooms. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2892 by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) and Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require school districts to transfer a student to another district or campus upon require of a **military parent** who is a member of the U.S. military or Texas National Guard. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2929 by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) and Royce West (D-Dallas) 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. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee took up:

HB 3 by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would establish **school safety** and accountability measures. *It was left pending.*

HB 11 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would make several changes to the **school finance** system including Teacher Incentive Allotment, Teacher Residency Partnerships, and Mentor Program Allotment. *It was left pending.*

HB 900 by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require **book vendors to rate** and identify books that contain **sexually relevant or explicit material** before selling copies to public schools. *It was left pending.*

HB 1002 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) 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 was left pending.*

HB 2729 by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would provide different qualifications for a **prekindergarten program supervisor** (must be a certified teacher) than for a prekindergarten teacher (have child development certification or child care or prekindergarten classroom experience). *It was reported favorably as substituted.*

HB 3803 by Charles Cunningham (R-Humble) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) 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 was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

House Select Committee on Health Care Reform – On Thursday, the House Select Committee on Health Care Reform took up:

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

Passed the House:

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 passed by a vote of 125 to 13.*

HB 1614 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would make **free prekindergarten** for children who are at least three years of age if the school district or charter partners with a community-based child-care provider. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third reading by a vote of 88 to 44. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 86 to 59.*

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 passed by a vote of 143 to 3.*

HB 2102 by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) would allow charter holders to provide written **notice** of the establishment of a **new open-enrollment charter school campus** up to 36 months (instead of 18 months) before the date on which the campus is anticipated to open. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 103 to 25. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 106 to 39.*

HB 2164 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) would require Texas Education Agency to adopt rules providing for robust monitoring of **bilingual education** and **special language programs**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 104 to 29.*

HB 2234 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require the written notice to parents of **special education students** about **video cameras** activated in a self-contained classroom to be provided at least within the first ten days of activation of the video camera. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 131 to 9.*

HB 3708 by Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would provide an annual **allotment** of \$1,500 for each **student who is not enrolled** in the school district **but is allowed to participate** in the University Interscholastic League (**UIL**) **activities** of the district. *It passed by a vote of 117 to 21.*

HB 3991 by Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) would designate the first Friday in April as **Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day** in public schools to promote awareness of the health benefits of fruits and vegetables. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4372 by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would allow **private schools** to **commission peace officers** to enforce state and local law on a campus of the school. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4402 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would establish **standardized testing** and **performance indicators** provisions. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 126 to 11. On Tuesday, one floor amendment was adopted and it received final approval by a vote of 128 to 17.*

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

it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 96 to 44. On Friday, it received final approval by a vote of 89 to 51.

SB 1506 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) would require Texas Education Agency to adopt a form to be completed by the parent or physician of a student with a seizure disorder to report a **seizure management and treatment plan** for the care of the student. *SB 1506 was substituted for HB 3610 and passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

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 6th grade** to improve chances of gaining access to Algebra I in 8th grade. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2294 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require (instead of allow) a student to graduate with a **Texas First high school diploma**. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

STATEWIDE:

Senate State Affairs Committee:

On Monday, the Senate State Affairs Committee took up:

HB 907 by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would allow a current, former, or retired federal or state judge to perform a **marriage ceremony**. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 15, 2023.*

On Thursday, the Senate State Affairs Committee took up:

HB 1759 by John Bucy (D-Austin) and Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would allow **charitable raffle tickets** to be sold at the home venue of the professional sports team or through digital interactive media provided by the professional sports team associated with the foundation conducting the raffle. *It was left pending.*

HB 2138 by Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would authorize a nonprofit **wildlife conservation association** to use the organization’s website to sell charitable raffle tickets. *It was left pending.*

HB 3223 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require the chair of the Emergency Management Council to appoint a chair of each **disaster district committee** based on the declared disaster and phase of disaster response. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

SB 129 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would update **child pornography** laws to reflect current technologies; and would increase penalties if the person was in an official position of caring for the child at the time of the exploitation. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 467 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would increase the criminal penalty to a Third Degree felony for the offense of criminal mischief involving **impairment of a motor fuel pump**. *It was voted out favorably.*

SB 1346 by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would make it illegal to attempt to engage in **illegal dumping** even if the illegal dumping did not actually occur. *It was voted out favorably.*

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

SB 12 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit a municipality from authorizing a **sexually oriented performance** on public property or in the presence of a child; and would prohibit a sexually oriented performance on the premises of a commercial enterprise in the presence of a child (younger than 180). *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 29 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would prohibit **governmental entities** from implementing or enforcing a **vaccine mandate**, mask requirement; and would **prohibit the closure of a school or a private business** to prevent the spread of COVID-19. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 2035 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a governing body from putting a new **bond proposition** for a project on the ballot for five years (instead of three years) after the voters rejected the project. *It was left pending.*

Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee – On Friday, the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee took up:

HB 3222 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would give political subdivisions 30 (instead of 15) days after a disaster to submit an application for a loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's **community disaster loan program**. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3323 by Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin) and Royce West (D-Dallas) would establish the **Texas Food System Security and Resiliency Planning Council** in the Texas Department to develop a state food system security plan. *It was reported favorably.*

Passed the House:

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

HB 603 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would prohibit a civil action against a **person who reports suspicious activity** of another person to an appropriate law enforcement authority if the person acted as a reasonable person would in the same or similar circumstances and with a reasonable belief that the suspicious

activity constituted or was in furtherance of a crime, including an act of terrorism. *It passed by a vote of 123 to 22.*

HB 800 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would increase the penalties for **human smuggling** and operating a **stash house**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 89 to 56. On Wednesday, it passed by a vote of 94 to 52.*

HB 1181 by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would require owners of an **Internet website** including a social media site to include a mechanism on the website that **prevents** a user from **accessing pornographic material** unless the user verifies that the user is 13 years of age or older. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 135 to 5. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 141 to 0.*

HB 1348 by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would prohibit municipalities from regulating the practice of **veterinary medicine**. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 106 to 34. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 109 to 27.*

HB 1487 by Stan Gerdes (R-Smithville) would establish the **Rural County Law Enforcement Agency Grant Program** to pay for costs for recruitment of personnel, salaries and wages of jailers and other personnel. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 144 to 1.*

HB 2193 by Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas) would automatically **expunge** the **misdemeanor records** of a person who has been placed under a custodial or noncustodial arrest for an offense that is entitled to expunction within 30 days after the date the person becomes entitled to expunction. *It passed by a vote of 100 to 45.*

HB 2313 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require **transportation network companies** to annually provide **human trafficking awareness** and prevention training materials to their drivers. *It passed by a vote of 97 to 40.*

HB 2382 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require a dealer who sells or buys **items of crafted precious metal** to report transactions to an online database that is used by law enforcement agencies to investigate offenses related to crafted precious metal and other property. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 2650 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would remove the sunset date (September 1, 2023) on the **Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force**; and would require training for peace officers on responding to reports of child sexual abuse and adult sexual assault. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed by a vote of 96 to 35.*

HB 3031 by Julie Johnson (D-Farmers Branch) would require the Texas Military Department to establish a **grant program** to assist members of the **Texas military forces** who experience financial hardship caused by a federal withholding error in connection with compensation paid to members who served in Operation Lone Star. *It passed by a vote of 132 to 6.*

HB 3782 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would establish the **Border Security Advisory Council** to advise the governor on homeland security issues. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed*

to Third Reading by a vote of 103 to 43. On Wednesday, it received final approval by a vote of 93 to 52.

HB 4366 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) would repeal provisions that suspend a child's Medicaid eligibility while the **child** is placed in a **juvenile justice facility**; and would require them to be assessed for eligibility for STAR Health managed care program. *It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 74 to 62. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 78 to 60.*

HB 4918 by Jon Rosenthal (D-Houston) would allow (instead of prohibit) a state agency to authorize a person to manufacture a product containing **hemp for smoking**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed by a vote of 84 to 59.*

HB 5202 by Victoria Neave Criado (D-Dallas) would require the Department of Public Safety to maintain a central **database of offenders** who have committed **family violence**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

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

SB 1598 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) and Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would add one Senate member and one House member to the **Homeland Security Council**. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2057 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would allow Texas Historical Commission (THC) to enter into a contract with the nonprofit entity that owns the **Iwo Jima Monument and Museum** to transfer the operation and management of the monument and museum to THC. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

Texas Facilities Commission – On May 8th, Governor Greg Abbott named Brian A. Bailey as chair of the Texas Facilities Commission for a term to expire annually. The commission builds, maintains, and supports state buildings and property across the State of Texas. In addition, the commission is responsible for the construction of Texas' border wall along the southern border.

Brian A. Bailey of Austin has served on the Texas Facilities Commission since May 2019. He is a member of the Greater Austin Crime Commission and The University of Texas Chancellor's Council Executive Committee. Bailey received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston.

TAX:

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

SB 539 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) and Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would require taxing units to indicate on each **delinquent tax roll** that a delinquent tax included on the roll is deferred or abated on the residence

homestead of elderly, disabled or veteran homesteads. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1252 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **bond ballot language** to include "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE." *It was left pending.*

SB 1340 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would rename the Chapter 380 and 381 Agreement Database as the **Local Development Agreement Database** and require economic development agreements of municipalities, counties, and school districts to be included in the database. *It was reported favorably.*

SB 1998 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **electronic forms** related to the **calculation of ad valorem tax rates** to be capable of including a hyperlink to a document that evidences the accuracy of the entry. *It was left pending.*

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

HB 1911 by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would require **confidentiality** of home address information from ad valorem tax appraisal records of current or former employees of a university **health care provider at correctional facilities.** *It was left pending.*

Senate Local Government Committee - On Friday, the Senate Local Government Committee took up:

HB 456 by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) and Phil King (R-Weatherford) would institute a property tax exemption of **royalty interests** owned by a charitable organization. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 2334 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) 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.*

HB 300 by Donna Howard (D-Austin) and John Huffman (R-Houston) would exempt **diapers for children and adults, baby wipes, baby bottles and feminine hygiene products** from the sales tax. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 1454 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow a property owner to request a reappraisal of a residence **homestead** that is owned and occupied that is completely **destroyed by a casualty.** *It was left pending.*

HB 260 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would require the chief appraiser to take into consideration for land defined as **wildlife or livestock disease or pest area**, the effect that the pest or the designation of the area has on the net income from the land. *It was voted out favorably.*

HB 1285 by Hugh Shine (R-Belton) and Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would authorize the central appraisal district board to appoint one or more deputy taxpayer liaison officers to assist the taxpayer liaison officer; and would establish that the **taxpayer liaison officer** is the taxpayer assistance officer for the district. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2121 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) and Drew Springer (R-Muenster) 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 was reported favorably as substituted and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2354 by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) and Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would provide that ownership of land appraised as **qualified open-space land** for ad valorem tax purposes would not be considered to have changed ownership if the land is transferred from the former owner to the surviving spouse or a surviving child of the former owner. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 15, 2023.*

HB 2488 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) and Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) 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. *It was left pending.*

HB 4101 by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would limit **binding arbitration requests** to include complying with model hearing procedures prepared by the comptroller. *It was reported favorably and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Passed the House:

HB 654 by Ernest Bailes (R-Shepherd) would exempt **hospitals** from the **diesel fuel tax**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 1613 by Hugh Shine (R-Belton) would lower to 1 percent (from the current 2 percent) the threshold of lost property tax revenue to be eligible for the **disabled veterans local government assistant fund** (funded by the proceeds from taxes inside the boundaries of a military base). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 135 to 9. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 136 to 9.*

HB 3127 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would extend the time to file a petition protesting the school district **property value study** from the 40th to the 50th day after the comptroller's findings are certified. *It passed by a vote of 135 to 6.*

HB 3364 by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would make several changes to taxpayer notifications, options, and **rights under property tax appeals**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 137 to 1. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 146 to 0.*

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 passed by a vote of 146 to 0.*

HB 3757 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would extend the optional **tax freeze** on homesteads of disabled or over-65 to all taxing units. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 153, which passed on Tuesday) *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 132 to 12. On Thursday, it received final approval by a vote of 131 to 14.*

HB 3857 by Kronda Thimesch (R-Lewisville) would require the chief appraiser to distinguish between the degree of intensity required for various agricultural production methods to qualify for **open-space land valuation**. *It passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4456 by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would change the **no-new-revenue maintenance and operations tax rate** to an amount that would provide the same funding available to the district in the preceding school year. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

HB 4772 by Shawn Thierry (D-Houston) would set the tax rate for **e-cigarettes** and alternative nicotine products. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed to Third Reading by a vote of 128 to 11. On Tuesday, it received final approval by a vote of 111 to 29.*

HB 4865 by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would tax remote sellers outside the state selling **cigars or pipe tobacco** to a consumer in this state. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

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

SB 1191 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) would require the chief appraiser to accept an **application for appraisal of land as open-space land** following the death of the owner of the land if the application is filed before the delinquency date by the surviving spouse or child of the former owner or the executor of the estate of the former owner. *SB 1191 was substituted for HB 2398 and passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1381 by Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin) would allow the **surviving spouse** of a person with a **homestead exemption** to not have to apply for a homestead exemption when the spouse dies if the surviving spouse is otherwise eligible for the exemption. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1420 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would update statutes related to municipal and county **hotel occupancy taxes**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1801 by Drew Springer (R-Muenster) would require chief appraisers to develop a program for the **periodic review** (at least every five years) of residence **homestead exemptions** granted by the district to confirm that the

recipient of the exemption still qualifies. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 2355 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would remove the requirement that a **request for binding arbitration** and required deposit be filed with the **appraisal district**, but would allow them to be filed directly with the comptroller. *It passed the HOUSE on the Local & Consent 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 began to kick in Monday, May 8, 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 19, 2023 – First day the Senate can consider bills and resolutions the first day they are posted on the Intent Calendar (130th Day). **NOTE: This rule was changed this week to allow the Senate to consider bills the first day they are posted on the Intent Calendar to May 15, 2023.**

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

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

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

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

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

KEY DATES:

Key Dates – 88th Legislative Session:

88th Legislative Session Began: January 10, 2023

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

Bill Filing Deadline: March 10, 2023

88th Legislative Session Ends: May 29, 2023

Governor's Veto Deadline: June 18, 2023

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

www.senate.state.tx.us

www.house.state.tx.us

www.capitol.state.tx.us