

STATEWIDE:

Bill Filing Deadline – The deadline for legislators to file bills to be considered by the Texas Senate and House this session was 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2019. The filing deadline does not apply to local bills, concurrent resolutions or simple resolutions. A total of 4,773 HB's/HJR's and 2,508 SB's/SJR's were filed for a total of 7,281 bills. 2,830 were filed in the last week. That compares to:

2019 bills filed by the deadline – 7,281 (up 627 over 2017)

2017 bills filed by the deadline – 6,654

2015 bills filed by the deadline – 6,107

2013 bills filed by the deadline – 5,665

2011 bills filed by the deadline – 5,672

2009 bills filed by the deadline – 7,136

SENATE:

The Senate was in session Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. On Wednesday, they recessed until Thursday for first reading and referral of bills to committees.

Lt. Governor's Priorities – On Monday, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick announced the bills he has selected as his top priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session. Lt. Governor Patrick said, "Today I am announcing 30 priority bills for the Texas Senate for the 2019 Legislative Session. **SB 1**, at the top of the list, is a conservative Texas budget that includes \$800 million for border security, funding for property tax reform and an across-the-board teacher pay raise. **SB 2**, property tax reform, is my top policy priority. **SB 3**, the across-the-board teacher pay raise, has already unanimously passed the Texas Senate. True school finance reform starts with paying our teachers more. Aside from a parent, nothing has more impact on the future success of a child than a teacher. The remaining bills are not only my priorities, they are also priorities of the majority of the Texas Senate and the conservative majority of Texas. They strengthen our support for life, liberty and Texas values, increase protections for taxpayers, and ensure that our democracy remains strong and our economy will continue to grow and create jobs. I am proud to support this legislation and look forward to working with the senators who have authored these bills to get them passed and signed into law."

The 30 priorities include:

- **SB 1** - State Budget by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)
- **SB 2** - Property Tax Reform by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston)
- **SB 3** - Across-the-Board Pay Raise for Teachers by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)
- **SB 4** - School Finance Reform by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood)
- **SB 5** - Increase the Homestead Exemption by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston)

- **SB 6** - Disaster Response Act by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
- **SB 7** - Flood Disaster Plan and Matching Fund by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe)
- **SB 8** - Statewide Flood Plan by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock)
- **SB 9** - Enhance Election Security by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola)
- **SB 10** - Student Targeted Mental Health by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)
- **SB 11** - School Safety by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood)
- **SB 12** - Retired Teachers' Security Act by Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
- **SB 13** - Ethics Reform by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe)
- **SB 14** - Expand Rural Broadband by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville)
- **SB 15** - Protecting Local Free Markets by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe)
- **SB 16** - Police College Loan Forgiveness by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills)
- **SB 17** - Protecting Religious Liberties by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock)
- **SB 18** - Protecting Campus Free Speech by Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
- **SB 19** - Protecting Second Amendment Rights by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola)
- **SB 20** - Stop Human Trafficking by Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
- **SB 21** - Raise the Smoking Age to 21 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
- **SB 22** - Defund Abortion Providers by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels)
- **SB 23** - Texas Born-Alive Infant Protection Act by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
- **SB 24** - Alternatives to Abortion Information Act by Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville)
- **SB 25** - Higher Education Credit Transfer by Royce West (D-Dallas)
- **SB 26** - Honoring State Parks Commitment by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
- **SB 27** - Stop Government Overreach by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola)
- **SB 28** - Stop Frivolous Government Lawsuits by Joan Huffman (R-Houston)
- **SB 29** - Stop Taxpayer Funded Lobbying by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood)
- **SB 30** - Taxpayers Right to Know and Bond Transparency by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury)

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this session: 70
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 3
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 5

Next Week: The Senate will reconvene at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019.

HOUSE:

The House was in session on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week

conducting routine business. On Wednesday, they had a Congratulatory and Memorial Resolutions calendar.

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this session: 45
Total number of bills passed by the House this session: 0

Next Week: The House will reconvene at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019. The House will start taking up bills next week. Tuesday's calendar has nine bills, and Wednesday's calendar has eight bills.

BUDGET:

Passed the Senate:

SB 500 by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) is the **supplemental budget** bill. It would provide \$6 billion in state dollars to cover supplemental needs, \$4.3 billion of which comes out of the Economic Stabilization Fund. It includes:

- more than \$3 billion for Harvey-related expenses;^[L]_[SEP]
- \$2.1 billion to address the Medicaid shortfall;^[L]_[SEP]
- \$100 million for school safety, with a Senate floor amendment that gives districts greater flexibility on the type of safety equipment they can buy);
- \$300 million to improve state hospital facilities;
- \$542 million to address pension liabilities for the Teacher Retirement System and provide retired teacher's a 13th check up to \$500;
- \$211 million to pay obligations of the Texas Tomorrow Fund;
- \$160 million to address the Correctional Managed Health Care shortfall; and
- \$100 million to refill the Governor's Disaster Fund to help rebuild from natural disasters.

The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed unanimously.

HEALTH:

On Wednesday, the **House Public Health Committee** took up:

HB 18 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would add positive behavior interventions and support into each school district's improvement plan; increase training and curriculum requirements on mental health issues; and expand school counseling programs for **students with mental health conditions**. *It was left pending.*

HB 19 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would require local mental health authorities to employ a non-physician **mental health professional** to serve as a mental health and substance use **resource for school districts**; and would require the authority to collaborate with local regional education service centers. *It was left pending.*

HB 906 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would establish the **Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services** to evaluate mental health services to students, parents or family members or school or school district employees. *It was left pending.*

HB 1070 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would require additional reporting regarding the number of school district employees receiving **mental health first aid training**. *It was left pending.*

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

On Tuesday, the **House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee** took up:

HB 293 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would exempt **school district** chief financial officers or investment officers from **investment training requirements** if the school district does not invest district funds or only deposits those funds in interest-bearing deposit accounts or certificates of deposits. *It was left pending.*

Also on Tuesday, the **House Public Education Committee** took up:

HB 3 by Dan Huberty (R-Humble), a comprehensive **school finance reform** bill. *It was left pending.*

On Wednesday, the **House Public Education Committee** took up:

HB 233 by Matt Krause (R-Fort Worth) would prohibit school districts from having a **school start date** before Labor Day and require school districts to end the school year between May 15th and Memorial Day, unless the district operates a year-round system. These requirements would also apply to districts of innovation. *It was left pending.*

HB 340 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would require students in pre-kindergarten through third grade to participate in an **unstructured daily recess period** of at least 30 minutes that is in addition to any required period of moderate or vigorous physical activity. *It was left pending.*

HB 684 by Travis Clardy (R-Nacogdoches) would require **school nurses** and other school district employees to complete an agency-approved online course on managing **students with seizures**, seizure recognition and related first aid. *It was left pending.*

HB 692 by James White (R-Hillister) would prohibit a **homeless student** from being placed in out-of-school suspension. *It was left pending.*

HB 808 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would provide that public schools with at least 1,000 African American males to be evaluated on **campus performance** based only on the performance of **African American males**. *It was left pending.*

HB 880 by Gina Callani (D-Katy) would prohibit a school district's board of trustees from making a **severance payment to a superintendent** in an amount greater than one year's salary under the superintendent's terminated contract. *It was left pending.*

HB 1051 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would make an **adult education program** provided under a high school diploma and **industry certification charter** school a permanent program instead of a pilot program and would be expanded to include adult students, regardless of the student's age. *It was left pending.*

HB 1093 by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) would prohibit the Commissioner of Education from establishing a shorter period for filing a due process complaint

alleging a **violation** of state or federal **special education** laws than the maximum timeline allowed under federal law. *It was left pending.*

HB 1132 by Lina Ortega (D-El Paso) would authorize a **school district** that holds **election of its officers** on a date other than the November uniform election date to change the date of its election to the November uniform election date if the date change is made before the end of 2014. *It was left pending.*

HB 1133 by Jonathan Stickland (R-Bedford) would change the **class size limitation** of 22 students per class for kindergarten through fourth grade to a campus-wide average of 22 students in each of those grades. *It was left pending.*

HB 1276 by Jon Rosenthal (D-Houston) would apply to school districts with an enrollment of 5,000 or more students, and would provide that a student in first through sixth grade attending an elementary school could not be assigned for two consecutive school years to a **teacher who has less than one year of teaching experience** and is not certified. *It was left pending.*

Next Week:

Tuesday's House Calendar:

HB 92 by Eddie Rodriguez (D- Austin) would allow a **campus turnaround plan** to operate as a **community school** that provides strategies and programs to coordinate academic, social, and health services that reduce barriers to learning.

HB 109 by Armando "Mando" Martinez (D-Weslaco) would apply the statute **prohibiting classes on Memorial Day** to open-enrollment charter schools.

HB 111 by Mary Gonzalez (D-El Paso) would require **training for school employees** to include **prevention of sexual abuse**, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children with significant cognitive disabilities in both educational and non-educational settings. (*committee substitute*)

HB 330 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would exclude students who have suffered a condition, injury or illness that requires substantial medical care and leaves the student unable to attend school from the **dropout and completion rate calculations**.

HB 403 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require **training** for school **superintendents and trustees** regarding **sexual abuse**, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.

HB 1244 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would require school districts to administer a **civics test** to a student in the foundation high school program and make it a **requirement for high school graduation**. The civics test would consist of all of the questions on the civics test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as part of the naturalization process.

Wednesday's House Calendar:

HB 396 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would prohibit money in the **instructional materials and technology fund** to be used to pay the expenses associated with intrastate freight and shipping; and would allow funding to be used to pay for inventory of software or systems for storing and accessing instructional materials.

HB 422 by Alma Allen (D-Houston) would require school boards to annually certify to the Texas Education Agency that the board has established the required district- and campus-level **planning and decision-making committees**.

The **House Public Education Committee** will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in E2.036 of the capitol extension to take up:

HB 462 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would require the legislature to set the **basic allotment** and the guaranteed level of state and local funds per weighted student at the amounts necessary for the state funds portion to comply with the minimum constitutional requirements or greater.

HB 548 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) would require school districts and charters to report **truancy information** through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

HB 735 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would allow a school district that has held a successful **Tax Ratification Election** since 2006 to lower its maintenance and operations tax rate to raise it back up in a subsequent year to the previously approved rate without holding another election.

HB 1160 by Jarvis Johnson (D-Houston) would allow **compensatory education allotment funding** to be used for a district's school guidance and counseling program or for **counseling or social work services** provided by a licensed social worker or licensed professional counselor.

HB 1182 by Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin) would require school districts to provide a one-half credit **course in personal financial literacy** that includes instruction on completing the application for federal student aid (current law requires school districts to offer it as an elective).

HB 1199 by Rick Miller (R-Sugar Land) would require the Texas Education Agency to audit and monitor school districts to ensure they are complying with **dyslexia screening and testing requirements**.

HB 1388 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would add **students who successfully complete a coherent sequence of career and technology courses** to the evaluation criteria for school districts and campuses.

HB 1453 by Diego Bernal (D-San Antonio) would require one of the four teacher members of the State Board of Educator Certification to be a teacher who is certified in special education with classroom experience; and it would prescribe the required educator training on instruction for **students with disabilities**.

HB 1556 by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would require **purchases of goods and services by school districts** to be through competitive bidding (current law requires competitive bid for services but not for goods); and would eliminate the \$25,000 requirement threshold.

HB 1597 by Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) would allow a **student whose parent or guardian is an active-duty military member** to establish **residency in a school district** by providing a copy of a military order requiring the parent's transfer to a military installation in or adjacent to the district's attendance zone.

HB 1632 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would add to the definition of students at risk of dropping out (and qualifying them to receive **compensatory, intensive and**

accelerated instructional services) students: with dyslexia or related disorder; that are educationally disadvantaged; that have enrolled in two or more schools in the preceding or current year; or that have ten or more absences in a school year.

HB 1639 by Armando “Mando” Martinez (D-Weslaco) would allow **school districts** to hold **election for its officers** on the November uniform election date and to transition the terms of office to three- or four-year staggered terms.

HB 1664 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would clarify that school superintendents are not required to report an **allegation of misconduct by an educator** to the State Board for Educator Certification if the superintendent completes an investigation into the alleged incident and determines that the educator did not engage in the alleged incident of misconduct.

HB 1679 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) would authorize **student loan repayment assistance for school counselors** with at least a master’s degree in counseling, are certified as a school counselor and have completed from one to five consecutive years of employment by a school district located in a federally designated mental health care health professional shortage area or a school that receives federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

HB 1773 by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require school districts that utilize a **relocatable educational facility** to move the district’s administrative offices to the relocatable education facility and convert the administrative office building into classrooms for student instruction.

HB 1823 by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would change the heading of Section 46.009 of the Education Code from “Payment of School Facilities Allotments” to “Reduction of School District Property Taxes as Result of **School Facility Allotment.**”

HB 2116 by James White (R-Hillister) would add **students who have been incarcerated** or have a parent or guardian who has been incarcerated to the definition of students at risk of dropping out.

HB 2210 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would exempt **students receiving residential services in a state hospital** whose parents do not reside in the school district from the district’s accountability ratings.

HB 2424 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to establish a program to issue **micro-credentials** in fields of study related to an educator’s certification class.

HJR 24 by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) would propose a constitutional amendment **requiring the state to pay at least 50 percent** of the cost of maintaining and operating the **public school system.**

The **Senate Education Committee** will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in E1.28 of the capitol extension to take up:

SB 54 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would exempt a student in a regional **day school program for the deaf** whose parent does not reside in the school district from the district’s accountability rating classification.

SB 213 by Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) would eliminate the sunset date (September 1, 2019) on statutes authorizing the use of **individual graduation committees** and alternative methods to satisfy high school graduation requirements.

SB 316 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the **attorney general to defend a teacher** in a civil action brought against the teacher if the teacher acted in good faith within the scope of the teacher's duties.

SB 364 by Kirk Watson (D-Austin) would require Texas Education Agency to develop **model policies on the recess period** during the school day that encourages constructive, age-appropriate outdoor playtime that maximizes the effectiveness of outdoor physical activity; and would require school districts to adopt a recess policy based on the model policies. (the companion is HB 455)

SB 372 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would authorize an open-enrollment **charter school** to employ **security personnel** and commission peace officers and to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a law enforcement agency to assign a school resource officer to the school.

SB 435 by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) would require local school health advisory councils to recommend appropriate grade level **curriculum** for instruction regarding **opioid addiction** and abuse and methods for administering an opioid antagonist.

SB 458 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would require **training** for school **superintendents and trustees** regarding **sexual abuse**, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. (the companion is HB 403)

SB 522 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the **individualized education program for a student with a visual impairment** to include instruction in braille unless the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee determines that braille is not an appropriate literacy medium for the student.

SB 933 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would establish a Texas Education Agency **Office of the Inspector General** to carry out investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse on behalf of the Commissioner of Education.

SB 1230 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **private schools** to **report** to the State Board for Educator Certification information on **educators** that have a **criminal record**; that were terminated and there is evidence that the educator abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor or was involved in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor; or resigned and there is evidence that the educator engaged in similar misconduct.

SB 1256 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would clarify that statutes relating to employing, terminating and reporting the **misconduct of public school personnel** apply to charter schools and districts of innovation.