

SENATE – The Senate was in session Monday through Friday of this week.

This week, the Senate passed numerous bills including:

- **SB 1879** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **local governmental entities** to report expenditures made related to **lobbying activities** to the Texas Ethics Commission and require the entity to receive a majority vote of the governing body in an open meeting as a stand-alone item before lobbying expenditures could be made. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1428** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would exclude **disasters caused by an epidemic** from provisions allowing a taxing unit to exceed the no new taxes rate without voter permission in areas subject to a disaster. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*
- **SB 2202** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would specify the elements that the State Board of Education must consider when adopting **essential knowledge and skills** that develop a student's **civic knowledge** in the social studies curriculum. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 18-13.*
- **HB 1585** by Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) is the sunset bill for the **Teacher Retirement System of Texas**. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 746** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would require parents to provide the **student's address, phone number, and e-mail address** to the school district within two weeks of the beginning of the school year and within two weeks after the date the information changes. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1776** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require school districts and charters to offer a high school **elective course** for one-half credit on the **founding principles of the United States**. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 2158** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require the Texas Education Agency to provide in-home fingerprint and DNA **child identification kits** to school districts and charters for distribution to the parents of students in kindergarten, elementary and middle school. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 741** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would authorize **school marshals** to carry a concealed handgun on the premises of a school. *It passed to Third Reading in the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week: 91
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar: 124
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 191
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 584

Next Week: The Senate will reconvene on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

HOUSE: The House was in session Monday through Friday this week.

This week, the House gave preliminary approval to numerous bills including:

- **HB 363** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would require operators that possess any **private student data** to use the unique identifier established by the Texas Student Data System. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 143-0.*
- **HB 1468** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would authorize school districts to develop procedures and curriculum to provide instruction through **virtual courses** or programs **for students in the district.** *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 135-9.*
- **HB 2120** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would require the **complaints process of school districts** to include an initial administrative hearing and an opportunity to appeal the administrative decision following the initial hearing. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 143-0.*
- **HB 3938** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would establish the **industry-based certification advisory council** to advise the Texas Workforce Commission regarding the alignment of public high school career and technology education programs with current and future workforce needs. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 332** by James Talarico (D-Round Rock) would allow compensatory education allotment funding to be used to pay costs associated with implementing **social and emotional learning** programs. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 89-56.*
- **HB 781** by Scott Sanford (R-McKinney) would allow school public **junior college marshals** to carry a **concealed handgun** on school property. *It passed the House by a vote of 104-43.*
- **HB 2030** by Chris Turner (R-Grand Prairie) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to administer a competitive grant program to eligible **regional postsecondary education collaboratives** to improve postsecondary educational outcomes for low-income students. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 99-48.*
- **HB 3643** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would establish the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education.** *It passed the House by a vote of*

103-41.

- **SB 1438** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) allow a taxing unit, other than a special taxing unit, to calculate the **voter-approval tax rate** in the same manner as a special taxing unit if it was located in a declared disaster area during the tax year and the disaster caused physical damage to property. *Three floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 103-43.*
- **HB 1068** by Alma Allen (D-Houston) would entitle school district employees that have available **personal leave** to use the leave for compensation for a day designated as a school holiday for which the employee would not otherwise receive compensation. *It passed the House by a vote of 118-11.*

Before adjourning for the weekend, the House adopted HR 880 by Representative Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) allowing members of the capitol press corps back on the House floor. *It was adopted by a vote of 100-26.*

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week:	230
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Consent Calendar:	92
Total number of bills passed by the House this week:	242
Total number of bills passed by the House this session:	636

Next Week: The House will reconvene on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The House is expected to be in session Monday through Saturday next week. The next Local & Consent Calendar has been scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2021.

BUDGET:

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

HJR 82 by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would propose a constitutional amendment creating the **Grow Texas Fund** composed of 12 percent of the amount of funds scheduled for transfer to the Economic Stabilization Fund up to \$250 million. The Legislature could appropriate Grow Texas Fund money only for use in areas of the state from which oil and gas are produced and only to address infrastructure needs. *It was left pending.*

SB 1336 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would limit the **growth in general revenue** to population growth plus inflation. *It was left pending.*

SB 1605 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) is the miscellaneous **claims and judgements** against the state bill. *It was left pending.*

Budget Conference Committee - On April 26th, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick appointed Senate Conferees for **SB 1**, the general **appropriations bill**. They are Senators

Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Lois Kolkhorst,(R-Brenham), Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville), and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood). Lt. Governor Patrick said, "I know that these senators will make sure our state budget reflects our commitment to conservative principles including keeping the budget within population growth times inflation. Their continued hard work will ensure that the Texas economy remains one of the strongest in the United States and a force in the rest of the world." On April 27th, Speaker Dade Phelan appointed House conferees. They are Representatives Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood), Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller), Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint), Armando Walle (D-Houston), and Terry Wilson (R-Granite Shoals).

Here is a comparison of the Senate and House versions of SB 1:

- **General Revenue Funds** – Senate-\$117,941.6; House-\$118,052.9 (in millions) – Difference is \$111.3 million
- **General Revenue-Dedicated Funds** – Senate-\$6,327.7; House \$6,175.1 (in millions) – Difference is \$152.5 million
- **Federal Funds** – Senate-\$86,665.0; House \$83,389.1 – Difference is \$3,275.8 (in millions)
- **Other Funds** – Senate-\$39,769.7; House \$38,283.2 (in millions) – Difference is \$486.4 million
- **All Funds** – Senate-\$250,703.9; House-\$246,900.4 (in millions) – Difference is \$3,803.5 (in millions)

General Government:

- Senate provided \$80.0 million in additional disaster funds to the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor and \$33.6 million to the State Preservation Board for major repair projects.
- House added \$32.3 million with the Comptroller of Public Accounts and \$45.1 million for information technology (IT) security projects within the Department of Information Resources.

Health & Human Services:

- Senate added \$266.4 million in all funds (AF) for IT modernization project and \$71.4 million AF for state hospital operations. House added funding for behavioral health services (\$198.0 million AF), rural hospitals (\$123.5 million AF) and day habilitation transition (\$90.5 million AF).
- The difference of about \$3.3 billion in all funds relates to Medicaid federal funding assumptions, that will be aligned to the approved Medicaid state funds in the final version of the bill.

Public Education:

- House added \$100.0 million in FY 2022 for tax compression funding and \$45.0 million for retiree health insurance.

Higher Education:

- Senate added \$48.6 million for GME expansion and \$19.5 million for the Child Mental Health Consortium through the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB).
- House provided \$110.0 million for additional student financial aid at the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Public Safety & Criminal Justice:

- Senate included \$34.1 million for a 3% pay increase for Correctional Officers on maximum-security units and \$63.6 million for major safety and security repair projects at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
- Senate included \$39.1 million for Capitol security funding at the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). House added \$14.0 million to DPS for bulletproof windshields.

Next Week:

Monday, May 3, 2021

2:00 p.m. Comptroller Glenn Hegar will issue a revision to the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) on Monday, May 3. Hegar’s revision will update his original January BRE and is based on changes in estimated revenue collections and updated Legislative Budget Board estimates of the state obligations for Foundation School Program (FSP) funding.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

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

HB 1417 by Sam Harless (R-Spring) would require **campus improvement plans** to include goals and methods for bullying prevention and dropout deterrence, including providing a research-based teacher development program that provides teachers continuing education in **creating a nurturing classroom environment**.

It was left pending.

HB 3880 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would change statutory references to special education services to **specially designed instruction**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

HB 4023 by Armando “Mando” Martinez (D-Weslaco) would establish the **Life Skills Counselor Pilot Program** with a campus in each high school in a selected border county to address emotional and mental health concerns of students. *It was left pending.*

SB 28 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would make several changes regarding **open-enrollment charter schools**. *It was left pending.*

SB 179 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) and Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require **school counselors** to spend at least 80 percent of their total work time on direct counseling program services. Time spent in administering assessment instruments would not be considered a direct counseling service. *It was left pending.*

SB 203 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require the **University Interscholastic League** to select **locations** for statewide competitions in extracurricular activities using a statewide request for proposals process. *It was left pending.*

SB 289 by Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) would allow school districts to excuse a **student** who is 15 years of age or older from attending school to **visit a driver’s license office** to obtain a driver’s license or learner license of no more than one day for each license. *It was left pending.*

SB 338 by Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) and Eddie Lucio, III (D-Brownsville) would authorize school districts to adopt uniform general conditions adopted by the Texas Facilities Commission to be incorporated in all of the **school district building construction contracts**. *It was left pending.*

SB 481 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would allow a **student** enrolled in a school district that offers only virtual instruction for any part of a school year to **transfer** for that school year to another **school district that offers in-person instruction**. *It was left pending.*

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

SB 123 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would require the State Board of Education to integrate **social and emotional skills** into the essential knowledge and skills adopted for kindergarten through grade 12. *It was reported out favorably as substituted.*

SB 180 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to specify what each **educator seeking certification** is expected to know and be able to do, particularly with regard to **students with disabilities**. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 325 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would allow school health care programs to provide **mental health services**. *It was reported out favorably.*

SB 393 by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would require the closing the gaps domain **indicators for effectiveness** to include the use of disaggregated data to demonstrate the differentials among students from different racial and ethnic groups, including African American and Hispanic students considered as a whole and disaggregated by sex. *It was left pending.*

SB 971 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would allow workforce development boards to allow a child care provider with whom the board contracts to identify and refer to the board children who could be eligible for **subsidized child care services**. *It was left pending.*

SB 1109 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require the State Board of Education to adopt rules requiring students to receive **instruction on the prevention of child abuse**, family violence, and dating violence as part of the essential knowledge and skills for the health curriculum. *It was reported favorably.*

SB 1792 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require a school district to provide one day of personal leave per district employee in a **leave pool** (in addition to all other days of leave provided). *It was reported favorably.*

SB 2023 by Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) would establish the **Texas Tutor Corps Program**; and would require the Commissioner of Education to establish the **COVID-19 Learning Loss and Student Acceleration Pilot Program**. *It was voted out favorably as substituted.*

SB 2081 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would authorize a school district to apply to the Commissioner of Education for an exemption from complying with the **student/teacher ratio** in a **prekindergarten class**. *It was reported out favorably as substituted.*

Reported/Voted From Committee:

HB 2860 by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require **school districts that hold an election** and maintain an internet website to post on the website the date of the next election, the location of each polling place, and each candidate or measure on the ballot no later than 21 days before election day. *It was voted out favorably from the House Elections Committee.*

SB 123 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would require the State Board of Education to integrate **social and emotional skills** into the essential knowledge and skills adopted for kindergarten through grade 12. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 168 by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would require school districts and charters to adopt a policy on active shooter drills and provide notice to parents of an active shooter drill before the district can conduct an **active shooter drill**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 348 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would entitle parents to observe any virtual instruction and review any teaching materials, instructional materials, or other teaching aids provided to the parent's child while the parent's child is participating in **virtual or remote learning**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

SB 1082 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would entitle parents to review **curriculum** materials used in any **human sexuality instruction** provided to their child. *It was reported favorably from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1171 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would make several changes related to **electronic administration of assessment instruments**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1232 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Permanent School Fund Investment Management Organization**. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the Senate Education Committee.*

Bills Passed:

SB 215 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would establish the **Office of Inspector General at the Texas Education Agency**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 279 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would require high school and higher education **student identification cards** to include contact for a **suicide prevention hotline**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 560 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would require the Texas Education Agency to develop a strategic plan that sets tangible **goals** and establishes timelines to **increase the number of educators certified in bilingual education**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 776 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would require the University Interscholastic League to ensure **students with disabilities** have an opportunity to participate in team athletic activities by establishing an **adaptive sports program**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 879 by Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville) would reduce the eligible age for a **dropout recovery school** from 17 to 16 years of age. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1277 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require an agreement between a school district and an institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to designate at least one employee of the district or institution as responsible for providing **academic advising to a student who enrolls in a dual credit course**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1351 by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would prohibit a **school district** from **donating food** that must be maintained at a certain temperature for safety unless the food has been maintained at the required temperature. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1888 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would repeal the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program and replace it with the **Texas First Early High School Completion Program**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 1955 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would be the **Learning Pod Protection Act**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2050 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require (instead of allow) a student to be removed from class and placed in a disciplinary alternative education program or expelled if the **student engages in bullying**. *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

SB 2066 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would change the statutory references from “students of limited English proficiency” to “**emergent bilingual students**.” *It passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

Leadership Announces Federal Funding Going to Schools – On April 28th, Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dade Phelan announced the release of \$11.2 billion in new federal funds to help public schools address student learning loss and costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These one-time funds are intended to support a comprehensive learning recovery effort in Texas over the next three years. Due to federal requirements, two-thirds of the funds are available immediately under grants administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), with the final one-third to be distributed contingent on approval by the U. S. Department of Education. Given the complicated nature of the federal maintenance of effort requirements and the enormity of the education challenge ahead, the decision to release these new funds was reached with the important input of Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, House Appropriations Chair Greg Bonnen, Senate Education Chair Larry Taylor, and House Public Education Chair Harold Dutton. This funding builds upon the roughly \$2.2 billion in federal funding already allocated to

Texas to help public schools respond to COVID-19 and comes on the heels of the largest single-year increase in funding for Texas public education in the history of the state. The Texas legislature passed the transformative legislation HB 3 in 2019, and during the 2019-20 school year, state funding for public education increased by more than \$5 billion from the year prior. More funds for Texas public schools will be coming soon. As part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act, Texas was allotted more than \$5 billion in funds for public education. However, both CRRSA and other legislation passed by Congress came with significant strings attached. As the Texas Education Agency is working through these issues with the Department of Education, the state will continue to support school districts as they have over the past year. That includes holding the districts harmless for decreases in enrollment, funding learning devices through Operation Connectivity, and reimbursing school districts for their COVID-19 related costs during the spring 2020 semester. Legislators pledged to continue to work alongside the TEA to ensure that all outstanding questions on CRRSA funds are resolved by the end of the 87th Legislative Session so schools have clarity on the final round of supplemental funds they will receive.

Governor Greg Abbott said, "The State of Texas is ensuring that our public schools have the necessary resources to help Texas students recover from learning loss related to COVID-19. Two years ago, the legislature passed, and I signed historic school finance legislation to ensure education funding was more equitable and that we fund schools in part on their ability to ensure students are ready for higher education or a career. To ensure this pandemic does not become a generational education crisis, we expect, and students deserve, for this funding to be used to remediate the progress lost due to the pandemic. This will ensure that Texas students will be ready to fill the jobs created in and attracted to this state."

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "Throughout the challenges of the pandemic over the last year, I have worked to ensure the state maintains the funding commitment we made to our schools in HB 3 in 2019, including teacher pay raises and the school finance reforms. These additional federal funds now will allow educators to help our students recover from the negative impact of long months out of the classroom. My goal is to ensure that Texas schools - like the rest of our state - come back stronger than ever,"

Speaker Dade Phelan said, "These resources will help close the gap for our students who have fallen behind as a result of COVID-19. Now more than ever, our state must work in unison to ensure our students remain competitive and have the tools they need to succeed. Texas is committed to our children and our public education system, and these funds and our efforts this session will underscore that commitment."

Senator Jane Nelson (Flower Mound), chair of the Senate Finance Committee said, "Helping students who are falling behind is the most critical mission in public education right now and likely for months to come. These funds will help our schools plan for an aggressive summer school effort. These additional

resources will help address COVID learning loss and get students back on track with their academic pursuits.”

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina said, “The Texas State Teachers Association is pleased that our members’ demands are beginning to pay off for Texas school children and applaud state officials for releasing \$11.2 billion of the federal stimulus money earmarked for public education in Texas. Now, we urge the state to consult with educators and do whatever is necessary to free up the remainder of the stimulus funds that the federal government has allocated to Texas schools and release it to school districts. The total was \$17.9 billion. TSTA also will closely monitor the remainder of the Legislature’s budget-setting process to ensure that there will be absolutely no reduction in state funding to public education to offset even part of these federal funds. Our school districts need this additional funding to operate safely during the remainder of this health emergency and recoup some of their extra pandemic-driven expenses.”

Texas AFT also commented saying, “Finally, districts are able to start the process for getting federal aid to our classrooms. This is a positive first step in getting the funds our schools need. It’s unfortunate that it took nearly two months of pushing the governor to get to this point. Many districts that have been contemplating cuts related to pandemic expenses can now implement plans to help students catch up. As educators, we pushed hard for this release to be as fast as possible, because we see the need daily. And we fought to ensure the state didn’t use these funds for existing budget holes, which happened with the first aid package last year. It’s clear that our legislators were listening to our calls to release the funds. Texas House members rallied behind a state budget amendment by Rep. Eddie Rodriguez last week requiring the state to release the funds and prohibiting it from using the money for existing budget needs. Rodriguez’s amendment and overwhelming support from legislators spurred the governor to take action. We have one opportunity to respond to this pandemic, so we have got to get this right.”

Next Week:

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

8:00 a.m. House Public Education Committee will meet in E1.004 of the capitol extension to take up:

HB 1411 by Gary Gates (R-Rosenberg) would allow **transportation allotment** funds to be used to transport career and technology education students to the location of the class including providing a prepaid fuel care to **CTE students**.

HB 4064 by Terry Meza (D-Irving) would require the comprehensive developmental guidance programs implemented by school counselors to include management of **conflicts involving** bullying or **harassment** (not just bullying).

SB 226 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would add **virtual learning** and virtual instruction to the required minimum academic qualifications for **teacher certification**.

SB 347 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would include local **school health advisory councils** as governmental bodies for purposes of the **open meetings** and public information laws.

SB 462 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would authorize the **transportation allotment** to be used for transporting a meal or instructional materials to a student's residence.

SB 797 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would **require** public schools and institutions of higher education **display** in each building a copy of the United States national motto, "**In God We Trust**" on a poster with a representation of the United States and Texas flags.

SB 1063 by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would allow the one-half credit in economics required in the high school curriculum to be on **personal financial literacy and economics** with one-third of the time allocated for economics and two-thirds in personal financial literacy.

SB 1522 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would authorize the Commissioner of Education to adjust the **average daily attendance** of a school district for the amount of instructional days during the **semester in which a calamity occurs**.

REDISTRICTING:

House Redistricting Committee – On Saturday, the House Redistricting Committee met to hear invited and public testimony from experts and members of the public on the 2021 legislative redistricting process. The hearing focused on the Central Texas region, but took testimony about any region of the state.

US Census Bureau Announced Apportionment Count – On April 26th, the U.S. Census Bureau released apportionment data that determines the number of representatives a state receives in the United States Congress and Electoral College based on population changes over the last decade. This count revealed that Texas will add two new Congressional districts due to its rapidly growing population. This means Texas will have 38 Congressional districts.

STATEWIDE – COVID-19 RESPONSE:

DSHS Weekly Vaccine Distribution Update – On April 23rd, the Department of State Health Services issued its weekly update on Vaccine distribution in Texas for the week of April 26th. It said, "More than 1.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be shipped to providers across Texas the week of April 16th. The Texas Department of State Health Services is allocating 708,460 first doses to 928 providers in 129 counties (*compared to 733,090 first doses to 381 providers in 119 counties last week*). DSHS is ordering 570,520 second doses (*compared to 686,640 second doses last week*) for people vaccinated a few weeks ago. An estimated 470,000 additional first and second doses are expected to be available to pharmacy locations, federally-qualified health centers and dialysis centers as allocated directly by the federal government. With the Johnson & Johnson vaccine again recommended for use in the United States, the federal government is expected to make doses of that vaccine available to states as early as this

week. If that occurs, DSHS will update its allocation once new orders are placed. Additional information provided:

- Texas has now administered more than 16.8 million doses of vaccine.
- Almost 10.5 million people have received at least one dose, and about 7 million are now fully vaccinated.
- 47 percent of all eligible Texans have gotten a COVID-19 shot, and 31 percent are fully vaccinated.
- Among Texas seniors, three-quarters have gotten one dose, and six in 10 are fully vaccinated.

Vaccine continues to be available across the state at large vaccine hubs, community vaccination providers, and special clinics operated by the DSHS public health regions, local health departments and Texas Military Forces. Many of the large vaccine providers have reduced their vaccine requests as shots become more widely available at smaller, more convenient locations around the state like pharmacies and doctors' offices.