

GOVERNOR:

Governor Prohibits Governmental Entities from Mandating Masks – On May 18th, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas - including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials - from requiring or mandating mask wearing. Public schools may continue to follow current mask-wearing guidelines through June 4th. After June 4th, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus. Beginning May 21st, local governments or officials that attempt to impose a mask mandate or impose a limitation inconsistent or conflicting with the Executive Order can be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. Governor Abbott said, "The Lone Star State continues to defeat COVID-19 through the use of widely-available vaccines, antibody therapeutic drugs, and safe practices utilized by Texans in our communities. Texans, not government, should decide their best health practices, which is why masks will not be mandated by public school districts or government entities. We can continue to mitigate COVID-19 while defending Texans' liberty to choose whether or not they mask up." Exempt from the executive order are state-supported living centers, government-owned or operated hospitals, Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, Texas Juvenile Justice Department facilities, and county and municipal jails. [Here](#) is a link to the executive order.

Governor Abbott to Put Federal Recovery Funds on Special Session

Agenda – On May 21st, Governor Greg Abbott sent a letter to Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Dade Phelan, Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), House Appropriations Committee Chair Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood), Senate Finance Committee Vice-Chair Eddie Lucio Jr., (D-Brownsville) and House Appropriations Committee Vice-Chair Mary González (D-Clint) saying, "The Texas legislature has crafted a conservative and balanced budget that will secure a more prosperous future for Texas. This budget will meet the needs of Texans and keeps government spending under control. As everybody knows, I will be calling a special session for redistricting in the fall, and I am committed to placing the allocation of the nearly \$16 billion in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief federal funds on the same special call so the entire legislature can participate in the allocation process in a way that best serves all Texans."

Secretary of State Announces Resignation – On May 21st, following nearly two years of service to the people of Texas, Secretary of State Ruth Ruggero Hughs notified Governor Greg Abbott of her departure from office, effective May 31, 2021. The secretary expressed her deep appreciation and gratitude to the

governor for entrusting her with the duties of the office and also reaffirmed her confidence that Texas is well positioned for even greater success in the future. Secretary Hughs said, "It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime to have been appointed by Governor Abbott to serve as Texas' 113th Secretary of State. During the course of my tenure, I have been humbled to work alongside so many others in improving the lives of all Texans through fostering and strengthening our international relationships, facilitating business growth and trade, overseeing the conduct of our elections, and promoting civic participation. I am proud of the work that this office has accomplished, and by working collaboratively, we have helped to build a brighter future for all Texans." Governor Greg Abbott added, "Throughout her time as Secretary of State, Ruth has been a faithful servant to the people of Texas, and I thank her for her commitment to our state. Ruth's exceptional leadership has helped strengthen the Texas brand on the international stage and grow our businesses and trade relationships around the world. Ruth also served as a trustworthy steward of our elections. I am grateful for our collaboration over the past few years to build an even brighter future for the Lone Star State, and I wish her nothing but the best on her future endeavors."

Total number of bills sent to the governor so far this session: 306

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

Last week, the Senate passed the following bills on public education:

- **HB 699** by Jon Rosenthal (D-Houston) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require school districts to excuse a student from attending school for an **absence** resulting from a **serious or life-threatening illness** or treatment that makes the student's attendance infeasible. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 30-0.*
- **SB 2094** by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would require school districts to establish an **accelerated learning committee** for each student who does not perform satisfactorily on a third grade math or reading assessment, the fifth grade math assessment, or the eighth grade math or reading assessment. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 24-6.*
- **HB 1603** by Dan Huberty (R-Humble) and Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) would remove the sunset date authorizing **individual graduation committees** to satisfy high school graduation requirements for charter schools. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 31-0.*
- **HB 781** by Scott Sanford (R-McKinney) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow school public **junior college marshals** to carry a **concealed handgun** on school property. *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 20-11.*
- **HB 159** by Mary Gonzalez (D-El Paso) and 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 passed the SENATE by a vote of 22-8.*

- **HB 2721** by Eddie Lucio, III (D-Brownsville) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would prohibit a **student who assaults a referee**, judge or other official from participating in an extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League. *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 31-0.*
- **HB 3212** by Carl Sherman, Sr. (D-DeSoto) and Royce West (D-Dallas) would include information related to **street racing** in the curriculum of **driver education** and driving safety courses. *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 28-3.*
- **HB 1788** by Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would grant **immunity** to school districts, charters, and private schools from liability for **damages** resulting from any reasonable action taken by **security personnel** who has written permission to carry a firearm on campus. *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 18-13.*
- **HB 3489** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would require Texas Education Agency to develop and distribute for use by school districts and charters health and safety guidelines for best practices for the **effective integration of digital devices in public schools**. *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 31-0.*
- **HB 3979** by Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands) and Brandon Creighton (R-The Woodlands) would require the State Board of Education to adopt Texas essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's **civic knowledge** for the social studies curriculum. *Three floor amendments were adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 18-13.*
- **HB 30** by James Talarico (D-Round Rock) and John Whitmire (D-Houston) would require the **Windham School District** to provide a course of instruction that includes the required **curriculum leading to a standard high school diploma** to each incarcerated student younger than 18 years of age (22 years of age if receiving special education services). *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 30-0.*
- **HB 547** by James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow **home-schooled students** to participate in activities sponsored by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 16-14.*
- **HB 3261** by Dan Huberty (R-Humble) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would make several changes related to **electronic administration of assessment instruments**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 29-1.*

Note: Several additional bills that passed the Senate, including bills that passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar, are in the issue categories below. The Senate passed 16 Senate Bills this week. Unless they made it through committee in the House, they are not listed.

Senate End-Of Session Slow-Down Rules – Rules that institute deadlines in the Senate prior to the end of the legislative session began to kick in Friday, May 21, 2021 when bills could be taken up the first day they were on the Intent Calendar:

May 21, 2021 –First day the Senate can consider bills and resolutions the first day they are posted on the Intent Calendar (130th Day).

May 26, 2021 –Last day for the Senate to consider all bills and joint resolutions on Second or Third Reading (135th Day).

May 29, 2021 – 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 30, 2021 –Last day for the Senate to adopt conference committee reports or concur in House amendments (139th Day).

May 31, 2021 – Corrections only in the Senate. Last day of the session with midnight deadline to adjourn *Sine Die* (140th Day).

Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week:	488
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Uncontested Calendar:	89
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week:	233
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session:	968

Next Week: The Senate will reconvene on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

HOUSE: The House was in session Monday through Thursday this week. On Thursday, the House abruptly recessed until Sunday leaving 20 Senate bills on Friday’s calendar and 24 Senate bills on Saturday’s calendar to be moved onto the top of the 34 bills on Sunday’s calendar. Also delayed were the 28 Senate bills on Friday’s Local & Consent Calendar. In an exchange from the back microphone with the Speaker through a series of parliamentary inquiries, House members from both parties expressed frustration that the Senate has not been moving House bills at the same pace the House has been moving Senate bills. Particularly mentioned were health care and criminal justice reform bills on Speaker Phelan’s priority bills list. At the end of Thursday’s calendar, Speaker Phelan accepted the motion of Representatives Jeff Leach (R-Allen) and Joe Moody (D-El Paso) to recess the House until Sunday afternoon. Senate Jurisprudence Committee chair Joan Huffman (R-Houston) commented on the allegation that the Senate is not moving House bills saying, “The Senate continues to work to pass legislation that implements good public policy, has the votes to pass the Senate, and has the support of leadership. The Senate Committee on Jurisprudence met this morning and will reconvene after session to hear and pass many House bills. The fact is, we are working hard to pass good legislation for our state, and that includes House bills. While *Sine Die* seems very close, we have almost a week to continue to pass House bills, and I can assure you that we will.”

On Tuesday, the House passed the Third Reading bills and adopted **SJR 47** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa), which would propose a constitutional amendment requiring **justices** of the supreme court, court of criminal appeals, and courts of appeals and **district judges** to have been a practicing **attorney** licensed in Texas **for at least ten years** and not had a license revoked or suspended. *It passed the HOUSE by a vote of 120-19.*

On Wednesday, after passing the Third Reading bills, the House passed 21 bills on second reading including:

- **SB 1102** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would establish the **Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Initiative** to award grants to public junior colleges for creating, redesigning, or expanding workforce training programs that lead to postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials required for high-demand occupations. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the HOUSE by a vote of 121-24.*

On Thursday, the House passed the 21 Third Reading bills and passed an additional 21 bills on Second Reading including:

- **SB 481** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Mike Schofield (R-Katy) 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 passed to Third Reading in the HOUSE by a voice vote.*
- **SB 1116** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and John Bucy (D-Austin) would require **cities, counties** and **school districts** that maintain a website to post **election results**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading in the HOUSE by a voice vote.*
- **SB 1385** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Jim Murphy (R-Houston) would allow **student athletes** at Texas institutions of higher education to **earn compensation** for use of their name, image and likeness. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading in the HOUSE by a voice vote.*

House End-Of Session Slow-Down Rules – Three deadlines kicked in this week. When the House unexpectedly adjourned on Thursday, a Local & Consent Calendar set for Friday was in limbo. But, there were no House bills on it that would have been subject to the May 21st deadline to consider House local bills.

May 19, 2021 – 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 21, 2021 – Last day for the House to consider local House Bills on Second and Third Reading.

May 22, 2021 – Last day for House Committees to report Senate Bills and Senate Joint Resolutions (131st Day).

May 23, 2021 – 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 24, 2021 – 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 25, 2021 – Last day for the House to consider Second Reading Senate Bills and Senate Joint Resolutions on the regular calendar (134th Day).

May 26, 2021 – 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.

May 27, 2021 – All Senate amendments must be distributed in the House before midnight due to the 24-hour layout rule (136th Day).

May 28, 2021 – 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 29, 2021 – In the House, all conference committee reports must be printed and distributed by midnight due to the 24-hour layout rule.

May 30, 2021 – Last day for the House to adopt conference committee reports and to discharge conference committees and adopt Senate amendments.

May 31, 2021 – Corrections only in the House. Last day of the session with midnight deadline to adjourn *Sine Die* (140th Day).

Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week:	141
Total number of bills passed on the Local & Consent Calendar:	41
Total number of bills passed by the House this week:	84
Total number of bills passed by the House this session:	1,490

Next Week: The House will reconvene on Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

BUDGET:

Reported From Committee:

HB 2 by Greg Bonnen (R- Friendswood) and Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) is the **supplemental appropriations** bill. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the SENATE Finance Committee.*

HB 2896 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) would dedicate and rededicate revenue for use in **certifying the budget**. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the SENATE Finance Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 24, 2021.*

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Reported/Voted From Committee:

HB 129 by Mary Gonzalez (D-El Paso) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require **digital citizenship** and media literacy education for K-12 students. *It*

was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.

HB 246 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) and Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a school from releasing to the general public the name of an employee of the school who is accused of an offense of **improper relationship between an educator and a student** until the employee is indicted. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the SENATE Jurisprudence Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 572 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would authorize the Commissioner of Education to establish the **Dropout Recovery Competency-Based Educational Pilot Program**. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 999 by Diego Bernal (R-San Antonio) and Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would extend **individual graduation committees**. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 1068 by Alma Allen (D-Houston) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) 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 was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 1252 by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) and Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) 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**. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 1468 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would authorize school districts to develop procedures and curriculum to provide instruction through **virtual courses** or programs **for students in the district** and that are not provided as part of the state virtual school network. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 1504 by Christina Morales (D-Houston) and Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would add **ethnic studies**, including Mexican American and African American studies into the social studies curriculum. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 1754 by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would require **student identification cards** for students in grade six and higher to contain the contact information for the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2022 by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would allow a one-time opportunity for **retired teachers** who left the state group insurance program (TRS-Care) within the last decade to **re-enroll in the TRS-Care program**. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2120 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) 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. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 2256 by Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require the State Board of Educator Certification to establish a **bilingual special education certificate**. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2287 by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) and Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) would require the Texas Education Agency to establish and maintain an **electronic database of mental health services and trainings** provided by school districts and charters to assist the task force and the institutions of higher education in evaluating mental health services. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2391 by Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow an open-enrollment **charter school that fills available positions by lottery** to use a weighted lottery that assigns weights to applicants so that an applicant's probability of admission increases if the applicant is eligible to participate in the school's special education program,. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2497 by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establish the **1836 Project** to promote patriotic education and increase awareness of Texas values. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2554 by Gary Gates (R-Rosenberg) and Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require the State Board of Education to establish a **joint vocational school district** to provide vocational education and training to eligible high school students whose educational needs are better served by focused vocational education and training. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2607 by James Talarico (D-Round Rock) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would make the **Texas Rising Star Program** mandatory (instead of voluntary). *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee.*

HB 2681 by Terry Wilson (R-Granite Shoals) and Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) would require an elective course providing academic **study of the Bible** as a social studies course. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2756 by Alma Allen (D-Houston) and 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 was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 2903 by Richard Pena Raymond (D-Laredo) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission to jointly produce an instruction guide for family members of **veterans** who have **mental health disorders**. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3449 by Four Price (R-Amarillo) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would add **physical therapists** to the list of persons who are authorized to **remove a student** from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition if the person believes the student might have **sustained a concussion**. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3400 by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would provide that if a **peace officer**, who is a parent reasonably fears for the officer's **student's safety**, the student must be transferred to another campus or district that is agreeable to the peace officer upon request. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 3457 by James White (R-Hillister) and Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would clarify that provisions relating to teacher contracts and confidentiality of teacher evaluations apply to teachers in the **Windham School District**. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Criminal Justice Committee and recommended for the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3597 by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would update language regarding a school safety plan to require **school safety** and security memoranda of understanding to be shared with the Texas School Safety center. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 3643 by Ken King (R-Canadian) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education** to develop and make recommendations regarding the delivery of virtual education in the public school system and state funding for virtual education under the Foundation School Program. *It was reported favorably from the SENATE Education Committee. It is on the Senate Intent Calendar on May 24, 2021.*

HB 3819 by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) and Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) would allow school nurses to administer prescription **asthma medicine** to a student with a medical history of asthma or a clinical presentation with signs and symptoms of asthma. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 3864 by Andrew Murr (R-Junction) and Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) would require school districts to excuse a student from attending school for a **career investigation day**. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 3880 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would change statutory references to special education services to **specially designed instruction**. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 3938 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) and Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) 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 in communities, regions, and the state. *It was voted favorably as*

substituted from the SENATE Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee.

HB 4124 by Gina Hinojosa (D-Austin) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would allow **special-purpose school districts** to prioritize military-connected students when enrolling students or creating a waitlist. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 4465 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would require the Commissioner of Education to establish a **grant program** to help school districts overcome the **educational impact of disasters**. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 4509 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would require educators to **cultivate in students an informed patriotism**, which consists primarily of leading students through close study of America's and Texas' founding documents. *It was voted favorably as substituted from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 4525 by Gary Gates (R-Richmond) and Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the State Board of Education to approve **career and technology courses** that are offered online or through an internet portal maintained by the district or agency and update the list of approved courses at least annually. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

HB 4545 by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would create a grant program to help schools **close learning gaps**. *It was voted favorably from the SENATE Education Committee.*

SB 123 by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) and John Turner (D-Dallas) 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 from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 203 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) and Dan Huberty (R-Humble) would require the **University Interscholastic League** to select **locations** for statewide competitions in extracurricular activities using a statewide request for proposals process. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 279 by Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and John Bucy (D-Austin) would require high school and higher education **student identification cards** to include contact for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, the campus police or security department, and a local **suicide prevention hotline**, if available. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 348 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Jacey Jeton (R-Sugar Land) 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 from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 442 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require local **school health advisory councils** to adopt a policy establishing a process for the adoption of **curriculum** or materials for the district's **human sexuality instruction**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Public Health Committee.*

SB 801 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Ben Lemman (R-Brenham) would require Texas Education Agency to develop an **agriculture education program** for elementary students to encourage appreciation and improve students' understanding of agriculture. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1109 by Royce West (D-Dallas) and Rafael Anchia (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 from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1171 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Dan Huberty (R-Humble) would make several changes related to **electronic administration of assessment instruments**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Public Education Committee.*

SB 1232 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would establish the **Permanent School Fund Investment Management Organization** to manage the permanent school fund and to determine distributions from the permanent school fund to the available school fund. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Appropriations Committee.*

SB 1351 by Borris Miles (D-Houston) and Alma Allen (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 was reported favorably from the HOUSE Public Education Committee and recommended for the Local & Consent Calendar.*

SB 1888 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would repeal the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program and replace it with the **Texas First Early High School Completion Program**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Higher Education Committee.*

SB 2026 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would require educators to **cultivate in students an informed patriotism**. *It was reported favorably from the HOUSE Public Education Committee.*

SB 2050 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) and Steve Allison (R-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 was reported favorably as substituted from the HOUSE Public Education Committee.*

SB 2094 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would require school districts to establish an **accelerated learning committee** for each student who does not perform satisfactorily on a third grade math or reading

assessment, the fifth grade math assessment, or the eighth grade math or reading assessment. *It was reported favorably as substituted from the HOUSE Public Education Committee.*

Bills Passed:

HB 189 by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) would apply statutory provisions related to **severance payments to school superintendents** for early termination to open-enrollment **charter school** administrators or chief executive officers. *It passed the SENATE on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 690 by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the State Board of Education to require a **trustee** to complete **training on school safety** on curriculum and materials developed by the board. *It passed the SENATE on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 725 by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would grant eligibility for free **pre-kindergarten** programs to children who have been in **foster care** in another state or territory if the child now resides in Texas. *It passed the SENATE on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 750 by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) and Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would require **school districts** to post the district's **employment policy** on the district's internet website. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 31-0.*

HB 785 by Alma Allen (D-Houston) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require **behavior improvement or intervention plans** for students with disabilities receiving special education services to be reviewed at least annually. *It passed the SENATE on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 1080 by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) and Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) would allow **students who receive outpatient mental health services** to participate in University Interscholastic League activities. *It passed the SENATE on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3165 by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) and John Whitmire (D-Houston) would make it an affirmative defense to an allegation of **truant conduct** that one or more absences were due to the child's voluntary absence from the child's home because of abuse. *It passed the SENATE on the Local & Uncontested Calendar.*

HB 3610 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) and Drew Springer (R-Muester) would clarify that property of **open-enrollment charter schools** is exempt from **ad valorem taxation**. *It passed the SENATE by a vote of 19-11.*

HB 3932 by Diego Bernal (D-San Antonio) and Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would establish the **State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the SENATE by a vote of 31-0.*

SB 89 by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) and Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require school districts to prepare a supplement to the written statement of the **individualized education program** developed for **special education students** indicating whether the written report of the child's full individual and initial

evaluation was completed by the date required. *It passed to Third Reading in the HOUSE by a voice vote.*

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 passed to Third Reading in the HOUSE by a voice vote.*

Next Week:

SB 179 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) and Dan Huberty (R-Humble) 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 is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 487 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Joe Deshotel (D-Beaumont) would require a municipality to consider an open-enrollment **charter school** a school district for purposes of **zoning, permitting, code compliance** and development. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 24, 2021.*

SB 560 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) and Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen) 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** and dual language immersion. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 741 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) and Scott Sanford (R-McKinney) would authorize **school marshals** to carry a concealed handgun on the premises of a school. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 24, 2021.*

SB 776 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) and Alex Dominguez (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 is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 797 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) 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. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 1267 by Royce West (D-Dallas) and Jose Lozano (R-Kingsville) would make several changes regarding **continuing education** and training requirements for educators. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 24, 2021.*

SB 1356 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) and Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would authorize non-profit teacher organizations to participate in a program that facilitates the **tutoring** of public school students in kindergarten through grade 12 **by active or retired certified teachers**. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 1365 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Dan Huberty (R-Humble) would make several changes to public **school organization and fiscal management**. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 1590 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would require the State Board for Educator Certification to propose **flexible options for field-based experience** or internships that include options for candidate observations to occur in virtual settings that are equivalent in rigor to in-person options for observation. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 1697 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) and Ken King (R-Canadian) would authorize a **parent** or guardian to **elect for a student to repeat** or delay prekindergarten and kindergarten, to repeat grades one through eight, or to repeat a high school course. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 24, 2021.*

SB 1831 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would be the **No Trafficking Zone Act** and would increase penalties for sex trafficking offenses, including using technology and social media to arrange pickups during school hours, occurring on and around school premises and premises in which school functions are taking place. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 1955 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) and Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would be the **Learning Pod Protection Act**. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 23, 2021.*

SB 2158 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) and James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) 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. *It is on the HOUSE Calendar on May 24, 2021.*