



89<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# FINAL REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>HCC KEY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Improving and Enhancing HB 8 (88R) Implementation.....	6
Improve Access to Nursing Clinical Rotation Slots .....	6
Scaling Workforce Partnerships.....	7
Developing State Agency Workforce Credentials.....	7
<b>OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Appropriations .....	8
Board Governance .....	9
Bonds .....	11
Elections .....	11
Human Resources .....	12
Instructional Services.....	18
Informational Technology .....	33
Legal.....	34
Peace Officers .....	42
Procurement .....	43
Public Safety .....	44
Student Aid .....	44
Taxation .....	47
Texas Public Information Act .....	54
Tuition .....	56
Relevant Vetoed Bills.....	57

# INTRODUCTION

This final report provides a synopsis of key legislation that passed during the Texas 89<sup>th</sup> regular legislative session. The report is predominantly relevant to community colleges. Its purpose is to provide an overview of the session's results. It also positions Houston City College (HCC) to comply with newly enacted state laws.

As the reader considers this final report, general observations include:

- ▶ The Texas Legislature approved **\$337.94 billion** (All Funds), representing a 1.2% increase for the 2026-2027 biennium.
- ▶ Performance-based formula appropriations for Texas public junior colleges total **\$2.418 billion** for the 2026-2027 biennium.
- ▶ HB 500 provides **\$89,500,000** additional funding to Texas public junior community colleges to supplement higher than projected growth in fundable outcomes set for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.
- ▶ HCC received **\$2,375,000** to support its Regional Response Emergency Training Center for the 2026-2027 biennium.
- ▶ Funding for Texas education affordability and student aid programs totals **\$1.54 billion** for the 2026-2027 biennium.

The 89<sup>th</sup> regular legislative session adjourned *sine die* June 2, 2025. During the session, HCC tracked 858 bills of which HCC subject matter experts deemed 40 high priority. This report provides an overview of those bills and other relevant legislation and information. It describes each bill's purpose, and the effective date of implementation of the same, to ensure that HCC is aware of and complies with newly enacted laws.

This is HCC's final report of the 89<sup>th</sup> regular legislative session.

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## STATE OF TEXAS APPROPRIATIONS

The 2026-2027 biennium appropriation for the state of Texas includes:

- ▶ **\$337.94 billion** in All Funds.
- ▶ **\$33.4 billion** in All Funds appropriated for Article III – Agencies of Education for Higher Education.

## TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES APPROPRIATIONS

The general revenue appropriation for all community colleges:

- ▶ **\$2.418 billion** for the 2026-2027 biennium.
- ▶ **\$89.5 million** in supplemental funding under HB 500 to account for higher than projected growth in fundable outcomes set for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.

## HCC NON-FORMULA APPROPRIATION

The HCC non-formula appropriation is **\$2.375 million** to support the *Regional Response Emergency Training Center* for the 2026-2027 biennium.

## STUDENT AID PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations for Texas student aid programs established to address educational affordability and student debt include the following:

- ▶ **Texas Grants:**  
**\$1.234 billion**, an amount which will serve 67% of eligible students, based on need for the 2026-2027 biennium.
- ▶ **Financial Aid for Swift Transfer:**  
**\$165.2 million** appropriated to participating public institutions of higher education, to enable certain students to enroll at no cost in dual credit courses.
- ▶ **Texas Education Opportunity Grant:**  
**\$306.2 million** appropriated for students with financial need who are enrolled at either public junior colleges, state colleges, or technical institutes for the biennium.

# HCC KEY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

HCC key legislative initiatives adopted by the HCC Board of Trustees that successfully advanced include the following:

## IMPROVING AND ENHANCING HB 8 (88R) IMPLEMENTATION

HCC helped successfully advance passage of [SB 1786](#), a.k.a. the clean-up bill to HB 8 (88R). In relevant part, SB 1786 seeks to improve coordination between Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas Workforce Commission, and promotes public school districts and public junior colleges effectively working together to ensure students can access credentials aligned with state workforce goals.

HCC helped successfully advance passage of [HB 1868](#). The legislation enables the state to assess whether adjusting funding policy could improve access, promote equity, and better support dual credit expansion.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO NURSING CLINICAL ROTATION SLOTS

HCC helped successfully advance passage of [HB 2856](#). The legislation promotes a centralized system for coordinating clinical training placements. It also directs the THECB to study the feasibility of regional portals — centralized platforms for managing clinical training placement at healthcare facilities.

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## SCALING WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS

The successful passage of [HB 322](#), relating to the use of funds awarded under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program, supports effective career and technical education (CTE) training by expanding the allowable use of grant funds.

The successful passage of [HB 3260](#), relating to the Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAP) Grant Program, encourages employers to participate in growing the state's skilled workforce.

The successful passage of [SB 1728](#), relating to the participation of certain juvenile justice entities in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program, ensures that education programs in the juvenile justice system at both the state and local level are eligible to apply for grants under JET.

## DEVELOPING STATE AGENCY WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS

HCC helped successfully advance passage of [HB 3923](#). The legislation acknowledges the difficulty of attracting and retaining qualified talent in the public sector. It operates to reduce to the extent practicable the number of state agency positions requiring an employee hold a bachelor's degree as a condition of employment.

HCC helped successfully advance [HB 2768](#). The bill addresses workforce shortages by establishing alternative pathways to state information technology jobs, which include students who have earned an associate degree.

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# OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION

## APPROPRIATIONS

### [SB 1](#) (by Huffman)

#### *General Appropriations Bill*

The legislation appropriates funds for the support of the Judicial, Executive, and Legislative branches of the State government, including state aid to public junior colleges, for the period from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2027. It outlines the allocation and expenditure conditions for these appropriated funds, with specific provisions for state aid to public junior colleges. It allocates \$1,285,784,292 for public community and junior colleges for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2026, and \$1,190,279,495 for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2027, representing an estimated 29% of the agency's total available funds for the biennium.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [HB 500](#) (by Bonnen)

*Relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.*

The legislation appropriates an amount of \$1,149,607,286 from the general revenue fund to the Texas Education Agency for the Foundation School Program for the two-year period beginning on the effective date of the Act. The amount of \$400,948,993 is appropriated from the general revenue fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for the two-year period beginning on the effective date of the Act. The amount of \$89,500,000 is appropriated from the general revenue fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for the two-year period beginning on the effective date of the Act for the purpose of funding higher than projected growth in fundable outcomes for public junior colleges and the application of weights and rates set for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024, in the public junior college funding formula.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[SJR 59](#) (by Birdwell)**

*Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of funds to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.*

The proposed constitutional amendment aims to create two funds: the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund, to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.

**Effective Date:** Filed with the Secretary of State on June 2, 2025, and to be considered by the voters at a special election on November 4, 2025.

## BOARD GOVERNANCE

**[HB 1522](#) (by Gerdes)**

*Relating to notice of a meeting held under the open meetings law.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to require that the notice of a meeting of a governmental body be posted in a place readily accessible to the general public at all times for at least three business days before the scheduled date of the meeting. It mandates that the notice for meetings where a governmental body will discuss or adopt a budget must include a physical copy of the proposed budget unless it is accessible on the governmental body's website, and a taxpayer impact statement comparing the current and upcoming fiscal year's property tax bills for median-valued homestead property.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 2715](#) (by Curry / Cook)**

*Relating to the removal from office of certain officers of political subdivisions.*

The legislation amends the process for the removal of certain officers of political subdivisions. It specifies that a petition for removal must be addressed to the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region where the petition is filed and requires the petition to clearly state the grounds for removal. The presiding judge is tasked with assigning a district court judge from a different judicial district to conduct the removal proceedings. Additionally, the presiding judge must appoint a prosecuting attorney from another judicial district or county to represent the state in the removal proceedings.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**[SB 37](#) (by Creighton)**

*Relating to the governance of public institutions of higher education, including review of curriculum and certain degree and certificate programs, a faculty council or senate, training for members of the governing board, and the establishment, powers, and duties of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman.*

The legislation mandates a comprehensive review of the general education curriculum by the governing boards of public institutions of higher education every five years, ensuring courses are foundational, prepare students for civic and professional life, and comply with accreditation standards. It establishes a process for reviewing minor degree and certificate programs to identify those with low enrollment for potential consolidation or elimination, requiring industry data to substantiate workforce demand. Additionally, it creates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman to serve as an intermediary between the legislature, the public, and institutions, handling compliance monitoring and complaints.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025. See also applicable dates concerning curriculum review under SB 37.

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**[SB 1062](#) (by Kolkhorst)**

*Relating to the type of newspaper required for publication of public notices.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to specify the type of newspaper required for publishing public notices. It allows governmental entities to publish notices in digital newspapers instead of traditional newspapers, provided the digital newspaper meets certain criteria. These criteria include having an audited paid-subscriber base, being in business for at least three years, employing staff in the jurisdiction, reporting on local events and governmental activities, providing news of general interest, and updating news at least once a week.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[SB 1569](#) (by King)**

*Relating to the availability of certain personal information of a member of the governing board of an institution of higher education, the chief executive officer of the institution, or the chief executive officer of a university system.*

The legislation amends the Government Code and Tax Code to include members of the governing board of an institution of higher education, the chancellor or other chief executive officer of a university system, and the president or other chief executive officer of an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education in the list of individuals whose personal information is excepted from public disclosure.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**SB 1706 (by Hinojosa, Adam)**

*Relating to the authority of the governing board of a state governmental body to conduct a closed meeting to deliberate an issue involving certain defense, military, or aerospace issues.*

The legislation allows the governing board of a state governmental body to conduct closed meetings to deliberate on issues related to defense, military, or aerospace matters. A "defense, military, or aerospace issue" is defined as matters related to the establishment of offices, bases, or major facilities by the U.S. Department of Defense or NASA, or economic incentives offered to meet requirements set by these entities.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

## BONDS

**HB 103 (by Troxclair / Meyer)**

*Relating to the creation and maintenance of a database of taxing unit bond, tax, and bond-related project information; providing a civil penalty.*

The legislation mandates the creation and maintenance of a comprehensive database containing information on taxes and bonds issued by taxing units. This database will include details such as ballot propositions, tax rates, election results, and project funding related to bonds.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

## ELECTIONS

**SB 901 (by Kolkhorst)**

*Relating to the declaration of a candidate's ineligibility on the basis of filing an application for a place on the general primary election ballot or for nomination by convention with more than one political party.*

The legislation prohibits a candidate from being eligible for a place on the general primary election ballot or for nomination by convention if they file an application with more than one political party in the same voting year. Such a candidate will also be ineligible for the succeeding general election as an independent candidate, the nominee of a political party, or a write-in candidate. The secretary of state is required to omit the candidate's name from the ballot and provide written notice of ineligibility, allowing the candidate to withdraw from the election.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[SB 1494](#) (by Johnson / West)**

*Relating to the authority of certain political subdivisions to change the date of their general elections.*

The legislation amends the Election Code to allow the governing body of a political subdivision, excluding counties and municipal utility districts, to change the date of their general elections for officers to the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years no later than December 31, 2025.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**[HB 252](#) (by Walle / Bhojani)**

*Relating to the payment of employment compensation by certain state agencies.*

The legislation allows certain state agencies to elect to pay employment compensation twice a month to employees holding positions classified under classification salary Schedule A in the General Appropriations Act. Agencies choosing this payment schedule must meet the comptroller's requirements for bi-monthly compensation payments.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 762](#) (by Leach / Cook)**

*Relating to severance pay for political subdivision employees and independent contractors.*

The legislation amends Chapter 180 of the Local Government Code by limiting severance pay for employees and independent contractors of political subdivisions. It defines "misconduct" and "severance pay" and excludes public or teaching hospitals from its application. The legislation mandates that severance pay from public funds cannot exceed 20 weeks of compensation and prohibits severance pay if the termination is due to misconduct.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 793](#) (by Thompson)**

*Relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of an applicant for or a person protected by a protective order.*

The legislation amends the Family Code to enhance the confidentiality of personal information for applicants and individuals protected by protective orders. It mandates that courts protect the mailing address and county of residence of applicants by requiring disclosure to the court and designating a person to receive court documents on their behalf, while prohibiting the release of this information to respondents. The legislation also requires courts to exclude the address, county of residence, and telephone number of protected persons from protective orders upon request, and to inform them of this right during hearings.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 1894](#) (by Metcalf)**

*Relating to designating November as Veterans Month.*

The legislation designates November as Veterans Month in the state of Texas. It aims to celebrate, honor, and memorialize the achievements and sacrifices of military veterans.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 2434](#) (by Plesa / Vasut)**

*Relating to the purchase of service credit by certain members of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.*

The legislation allows certain members of the Employees Retirement System of Texas to establish service credit for service performed during a 90-day waiting period after beginning employment or holding office, regardless of contributions made during that period. It stipulates that if a member purchases service credit for a month before their most recent hiring date, the retirement system will consider the hiring date as the first day of the earliest month for which service credit is purchased.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 2513](#) (by [Tepper](#) / [Lujan](#))**

*Relating to a paid leave of absence for public employees serving as fire protection personnel who are engaged in certain military service.*

The legislation provides a paid leave of absence for public employees serving as fire protection personnel who are engaged in certain military service.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 3512](#) (by [Capriglione](#) / [Orr](#))**

*Relating to artificial intelligence training programs for certain employees and officials of state agencies and local governments.*

The legislation mandates that state agencies and local governments implement artificial intelligence training programs for certain employees and officials, in addition to existing cybersecurity training requirements. It requires these entities to identify employees who use computers for at least 25% of their duties and ensure they complete both cybersecurity and artificial intelligence training annually. Local governments must certify compliance with these training requirements when applying for grants, and failure to comply can result in financial penalties and grant ineligibility.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 3698](#) (by [Vo](#))**

*Relating to participation in reemployment services as a condition of eligibility for unemployment benefits.*

The legislation amends the Texas Labor Code to include participation in reemployment services as a condition for eligibility for unemployment benefits. An individual must participate in reemployment services if they are determined likely to exhaust regular benefits, unless they have completed such services or have a reasonable cause for not participating.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 3699](#) (by Vo)**

*Relating to initial claims under the unemployment compensation system.*

The legislation amends the Labor Code to define “last work” and “person for whom the claimant last worked” in the context of unemployment claims.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

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**[HB 4144](#) (by Turner / Bumgarner)**

*Relating to supplemental benefits for retired firefighters and peace officers diagnosed with certain diseases or illnesses.*

The legislation introduces supplemental benefits for retired firefighters and peace officers diagnosed with certain diseases or illnesses, specifically cancer, acute myocardial infarction, or stroke, within three years of retirement. The benefits include a critical-illness supplemental income benefit or comparable health benefit plan coverage, with the income benefit capped at the lesser of the retiree’s final yearly salary or \$100,000.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 5196](#) (by Capriglione / Patterson)**

*Relating to telework for state employees.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to define “telework” as a work arrangement allowing state agency employees to conduct business at locations other than their regular workplace during established work hours. It authorizes state agency heads to enter into written agreements with employees for telework, specifying reasons, terms for revocation, and annual renewal requirements. Telework cannot be a condition of employment, and agencies can require in-person attendance for specific events.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 777](#) (by Hughes)**

*Relating to compensation and employment condition standards by municipal charter or collective bargaining agreement and to impasse resolution in collective bargaining with certain political subdivisions.*

The legislation amends the Local Government Code to clarify and expand procedures for resolving impasses in collective bargaining between certain political subdivisions and employee associations, particularly for fire fighters. The legislation introduces a section which mandates binding interest arbitration for certain municipalities and outlines the arbitration process, including the selection of arbitrators and considerations for arbitration awards. The legislation validates existing impasse resolution provisions and applies to ongoing and future collective bargaining negotiations.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1307](#) (by Cook / Blanco)**

*Relating to a biennial health coverage reference guide developed by the Texas Department of Insurance.*

The legislation mandates the Texas Department of Insurance to develop a biennial health coverage reference guide in consultation with the Health and Human Services Commission. The guide is intended to educate the public about health coverage in Texas and must include information such as definitions of health insurance, sources of health coverage, consumer rights, and a health coverage shopping guide.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1332](#) (by Hancock)**

*Relating to a group health benefit plan policy or contract holder's obligation to pay premiums on behalf of an individual after the individual's eligibility for group coverage terminates.*

The legislation amends the Insurance Code to address the obligations of group health benefit plan policy or contract holders regarding premium payments after an individual's eligibility for group coverage ends. It allows a health maintenance organization to waive the contract holder's liability for premiums if the termination of an enrollee's eligibility is reported after the end of the month in which eligibility ended, provided no covered services were used after that month. Similarly, insurers may waive the policyholder's liability for premiums under the same conditions.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.



**[SB 1409](#) (by Parker)**

*Relating to health benefits offered by postsecondary educational institutions to students and their families.*

The legislation amends the Insurance Code to include health benefit plans offered by postsecondary educational institutions under Chapter 1683. It authorizes these institutions to offer health benefits to students and their families, which are not regulated as traditional insurance products. The legislation mandates that institutions cannot require students to enroll in these benefits and limits the waiting period for preexisting conditions to six months. Additionally, it requires institutions to disclose that the benefits are not insurance and to maintain actuarial soundness by obtaining actuarial opinions and maintaining recommended cash reserves and stop-loss insurance.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[SB 1737](#) (by Huffman / Flores)**

*Relating to service retirement benefits payable by the Employees Retirement System of Texas to certain law enforcement officers and custodial officers.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to redefine the terms “custodial officer” and “law enforcement officer” for the purposes of the Employees Retirement System of Texas. It introduces standards for determining eligibility for service credit as a custodial officer, emphasizing early retirement for those in hazardous duties. It mandates that governmental entities certify employment details of law enforcement and custodial officers to the retirement system for service credit and benefit financing.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 2237](#) (by Bettencourt)**

*Relating to severance pay for certain political subdivision employees.*

The legislation amends Chapter 180 of the Local Government Code which limits severance pay for executive employees of political subdivisions. It defines “misconduct” and “severance pay” and specifies that severance pay funded by tax revenue cannot exceed 20 weeks of compensation, excluding paid time off or accrued vacation leave. The legislation prohibits severance pay for executive employees terminated due to misconduct and requires political subdivisions to post severance agreements on their websites.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[SB 2615](#) (by Creighton)**

*Relating to restricting telework for employees of public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation restricts telework for employees of public institutions of higher education, allowing it only under specific conditions. Telework may be permitted for employees with temporary illnesses, medical conditions requiring accommodation, or those in nonteaching positions who meet certain performance criteria. Teaching staff may telework if assigned to remote instruction courses or programs, or if involved in telehealth services.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

**[HB 2](#) (by Buckley / Creighton)**

*Relating to public education and public school finance.*

The legislation provides over \$8 billion in new funding for public schools. It amends the Education Code for many purposes, but most notably, it establishes teacher designations that will allow teachers to qualify for raises ranging from \$3,000 to \$36,000. It also provides pay raises for teachers based on years of experience and considers school size. Additionally, the legislation allocates funds to raise salaries for non-administrative staff, gives school districts an allotment for basic costs, and creates a special education service group allotment focused on student services. Uncertified educators will no longer be allowed to teach core subjects, and school districts will have until the 2029-2030 school year to meet these new requirements. The legislation also develops an early literacy and numeracy instrument to assist in measuring comprehension and foundational skills, and it makes changes to prekindergarten programs. Furthermore, it includes provisions for auditing and monitoring school districts to ensure compliance with dyslexia programs and other educational requirements, aiming to improve educational outcomes and accountability.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025. Certain parts will take effect next year.

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**HB 20 (by Gates / Buckley)**

*Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.*

The legislation establishes the Applied Sciences Pathway program, enabling students to concurrently earn a high school diploma and a certificate from an institution of higher education. The program requires partnerships between school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and institutions of higher education to offer courses that lead to both a diploma and a certificate in high-wage, high-growth industries such as plumbing, electrical work, welding, and information technology. The commissioner may update the list of approved industries every five years to reflect labor market trends. Additionally, the legislation permits certain high school credits to be substituted with career and technology education courses provided by higher education institutions, as long as these courses cover the required essential knowledge and skills.

**Effective Date:** June 20, 2025.

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**HB 102 (by Wilson)**

*Relating to early registration for students in military-related programs at public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation mandates that public institutions of higher education provide early registration for students enrolled and in good standing in military-related programs, including Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs, corps of cadets, and maritime academies, if early registration is offered to any group of students. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with these institutions, is tasked with adopting rules necessary to implement and administer this section.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**HB 120 (by Bell, Keith / Buckley)**

*Relating to career and technology education programs in public schools, the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program, and a high school advising program, including funding for those programs.*

The legislation enhances college, career, and military readiness in public schools by amending various sections of the Education Code. It addresses the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program and the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program, providing funding under the Foundation School Program. The legislation mandates the posting of de-identified data on postsecondary outcomes and employment status to support school accountability and career readiness goals. It also allows students to enroll in dual credit courses at no cost under certain conditions and expands the eligibility for subsidies for certification examinations. Additionally, the legislation increases funding for new instructional facilities and career and technology education programs.

**Effective Date:** Immediately, except Sections 13-21 take effect September 1, 2025.

**HB 149 (by Capriglione / Button)**

*Relating to regulation of the use of artificial intelligence systems in this state; providing civil penalties.*

The legislation regulates the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems and provides civil penalties for violations. It establishes the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act, which includes amendments to the Business & Commerce Code to define terms such as “artificial intelligence system” and “biometric identifier.” The legislation mandates disclosures to consumers when interacting with AI systems and prohibits the use of AI for manipulating human behavior or social scoring. The Texas Artificial Intelligence Council is established to oversee ethical AI development and provide recommendations to the legislature.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

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**[HB 1105](#) (by Cole / Cook)**

*Relating to the exemption of tuition and laboratory fees at public institutions of higher education for certain paramedics.*

The legislation exempts paramedics employed by a political subdivision of Texas from paying tuition and laboratory fees for courses in an emergency medical services curriculum at public institutions of higher education. The exemption is contingent upon the student making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate. However, the exemption does not apply to additional tuition charges for resident undergraduate students or excess tuition for graduate students with a high number of doctoral credit hours.

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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**[HB 1211](#) (by Lujan / Bhojani)**

*Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain students who were under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.*

The legislation provides tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain students who were under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services. It extends the eligibility for these exemptions to students who enroll in higher education or dual credit courses not later than their 27th birthday.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 1868](#) (by Leo Wilson / Perez)**

*Relating to a study on changes to performance tier funding for dual credit or dual enrollment courses under the public junior college state finance program and the capacity of the state's workforce to teach dual credit or dual enrollment courses.*

The legislation mandates a study by the coordinating board to evaluate the feasibility and implications of reducing the semester credit hours for dual credit or dual enrollment courses to nine for performance tier funding purposes. The study will assess potential benefits to students, such as alignment with the public school accountability system, reduced time and cost for obtaining an undergraduate degree, and a comparison of matriculation and completion rates between students completing 9 versus 15 semester credit hours.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**[HB 2081](#) (by Bucy / Kitzman)**

*Relating to the establishment of the Building Better Futures Program to support educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services for students.*

The legislation's Building Better Futures program is designed to facilitate the delivery by institutions of higher education of educational and occupational skills training opportunities, as well as support services, to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in an inclusive and age-appropriate environment. Eligible institutions must be approved by or awaiting approval from the United States Department of Education to offer a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Students eligible for the program must apply to a comprehensive transition program, be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, and meet specific residency and disability criteria.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 2768](#) (by Capriglione / Romero)**

*Relating to the development of a state information technology apprenticeship credential offered by public junior colleges or public technical institutes to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.*

The legislation establishes a state information technology apprenticeship credential program to address shortages in the state information resources workforce. State agencies may partner with public junior colleges or public technical institutes to offer this program, which must be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program is designed to develop skills for journey- or senior-level IT positions and includes a one-year apprenticeship with a state agency, an organization working on major information resources projects, or a regional network security center.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 2851](#) (by Howard / Perez)**

*Relating to including nursing school applications in a consolidated application service.*

The legislation mandates that any service or organization providing consolidated application services for medical or dental schools, including the Texas Health Education Service at The University of Texas System Administration, must also include applications for nursing schools in Texas. It requires the establishment of an advisory board by the Texas Health Education Service to develop recommendations and an implementation plan for this inclusion.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[HB 2856](#) (by Howard / Perez)**

*Relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the feasibility of implementing a statewide system for coordinating clinical training placements.*

The legislation mandates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study on the feasibility of developing regional portals to assist in reserving clinical rotations at healthcare facilities for students enrolled in higher education institutions who require clinical training. The study must assess the number of regions needed, the cost of establishing these portals, and the necessary maintenance, support, and staffing required.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 3062](#) (by Guerra / Garcia Hernandez)**

*Relating to fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness education for students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation mandates that each institution of higher education in Texas provide research-based instruction on fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness to entering undergraduate students during their first semester or term. The instruction must cover suicide prevention, prevention of substance abuse and addiction, awareness of local resources, and health education on substance use and abuse. This education can be delivered online or by various entities, including educational institutions, libraries, community service organizations, religious organizations, local public health agencies, or organizations employing mental health professionals.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 3801](#) (by Orr / Frank)**

*Relating to the establishment of the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council and a workgroup on nursing career pathways and the abolition of the statewide health coordinating council and the nursing advisory committee of that council.*

The legislation establishes the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council to develop a strategic approach for a thriving health care system and workforce in Texas. It abolishes the statewide health coordinating council and the nursing advisory committee, transferring their responsibilities and resources to the new council.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**HB 3923** (by Bell, Keith / Cook)

*Relating to state employment opportunities for individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree.*

The legislation mandates the classification officer to identify state agency positions where educational, experience, and training requirements can be reduced to increase the pool of qualified applicants. It requires the reduction of positions that necessitate a bachelor's degree as a condition of employment, to the extent practicable.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**HB 4751** (by Capriglione / Bonnen)

*Relating to the establishment and administration of the Texas Quantum Initiative.*

The legislation establishes the Texas Quantum Initiative within the state government to position Texas as a national leader in the quantum industry and to integrate quantum technology into the state's economy. It aims to leverage expertise from regulatory stakeholders, higher education institutions, and industry to advise on strategic plans, identify economic opportunities, and provide leadership in quantum initiatives. The initiative will also focus on workforce training and development, support existing quantum industries, and develop a quantum manufacturing supply chain. An advisory committee, appointed by the governor, will guide the initiative, and a dedicated fund will support quantum-related projects and staffing.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**HB 4848** (by Harris Davila / Perez)

*Relating to requiring that competency-based baccalaureate degree programs be offered at certain public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation mandates that public institutions of higher education in Texas offer competency-based baccalaureate degree programs in fields of study that are in high demand, as determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The cost of these programs to students must not exceed half of the average cost of attendance at a higher education institution, with adjustments for inflation beginning in the 2027-2028 academic year.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 25** (by Kolkhorst)

*Relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling, primary and secondary education, higher education, and continuing education for certain health care professionals; authorizing a civil penalty.*

The legislation aims to enhance health and nutrition standards by mandating physical activity and nutrition education across various educational levels. It requires students in prekindergarten through eighth grade to engage in daily physical activity, with specific exemptions and alternative scheduling options provided. The legislation introduces nutrition education as part of the curriculum in primary, secondary, and higher education, with guidelines developed by the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee. Additionally, the legislation requires food manufacturers to label products containing certain artificial ingredients with a warning, and it authorizes civil penalties for non-compliance.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 60** (by Zaffirini)

*Relating to the disposition by a public junior college library of certain library materials.*

The legislation allows public junior college libraries to donate certain library materials to any person or organization. The materials eligible for donation include duplicates, items no longer appropriate due to age, condition, or obsolete content, and those with little or no monetary value.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 365** (by Eckhardt / Cook)

*Relating to the period for which an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student to a public institution of higher education is entitled to an academic fresh start.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to allow public institutions of higher education to disregard academic course credits or grades earned by an applicant more than 10 years before the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll, with the exception that credits or grades earned during the five-year period preceding that date cannot be disregarded. Institutions that choose to disregard credits or grades must disregard all credits or grades earned during that period and cannot award any credit for those courses. Additionally, each institution must adopt and post a policy on its website regarding the admissions process, including the period for which an applicant's course credits or grades will be considered.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**SB 530 (by Sparks)**

*Relating to the accreditation of certain postsecondary educational institutions in this state or of certain programs offered by those institutions.*

The legislation revises the requirements that a teaching institution can impose on baccalaureate and associate degrees regarding the minimum number of semester credit hours required for the awarding of a degree. A student enrolled in a board-established program of study who transfers from a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute to another public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute that offers a similar program, regardless of whether the institution has adopted the board-established program of study, shall receive academic credit from the institution to which the student transferred for each of the courses that the student has successfully completed in the program of study curriculum, unless otherwise provided by the institution's recognized accrediting agency. Further, the legislation provides guidance on accreditation requirements.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 769 (by Menéndez)**

*Relating to a report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding enrollment and success in higher education for students with disabilities.*

The legislation amends the Education Code requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to prepare a report on the enrollment and success of students with disabilities in higher education by December 1, 2027. The report must include data on the number and percentage of students with disabilities enrolling in higher education, barriers to their enrollment, and policies that promote their success. It should also cover services and accommodations provided, information on educational rights, and any recommendations for legislative or other actions.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 856](#) (by Flores)**

*Relating to the use of the skills development fund by certain entities.*

The legislation amends the Labor Code to enhance the responsiveness of public community and technical colleges, community-based organizations, and other entities to industry and workforce training needs by removing administrative barriers and developing incentives for customized training. The legislation allows these entities to recover costs for customized training if there is a labor shortage in the occupation and the wages for job placements meet the prevailing local wage. The skills development fund can be used for developing training programs and sponsoring small and medium-sized businesses, with a focus on statewide programs or those not available locally. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is tasked with reviewing training programs biennially to ensure appropriate use of state funds.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1143](#) (by Blanco)**

*Relating to certain planning and evaluation requirements with respect to certain workforce development programs in this state.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to include specific goals, objectives, and performance measures for individuals aged 14 to 25 in workforce development plans. It introduces Section 302.087 to the Labor Code, mandating annual evaluations of federally funded youth programs, focusing on employment, reenrollment in education, and participation in postsecondary education or the military for the specified age group. The evaluation must also assess local workforce development areas and their coordination with educational and business entities to meet workforce needs.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1191](#) (by Creighton)**

*Relating to the development of a standard method of computing a student's high school grade point average.*

The legislation mandates the development of a standard method for computing a student's high school grade point average, which includes additional weight for honors, advanced placement, international baccalaureate, OnRamps dual enrollment, and certain dual credit courses. The method requires equal additional weight for advanced placement, international baccalaureate, OnRamps dual enrollment, and specific dual credit courses, while differentiating the weight for dual credit courses included in the Workforce Education Course Manual. All school districts are required to use this standard method once developed.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[SB 1273](#) (by Hughes)**

*Relating to establishing the Higher Education Research Security Council.*

The legislation establishes the Higher Education Research Security Council to promote secure academic research at tier one research institutions while mitigating the risk of foreign espionage and interference. The council is composed of research security officers from both public and private institutions, with specific roles. The council's responsibilities include identifying best practices, developing research security policies, and establishing an accreditation process for security excellence.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1400](#) (by Kolkhorst)**

*Relating to a study on measurable outcomes for certain transfer students for performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program.*

The legislation mandates a study to evaluate the feasibility and implications of revising transfer requirements for students moving to general academic teaching institutions, specifically for performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program. The coordinating board, in collaboration with a standing advisory committee, is tasked with assessing various factors, including the types of educational experiences students have before enrolling in junior colleges and the fiscal impact of the proposed changes. The study will also consider any other relevant factors determined by the coordinating board or advisory committee.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**[SB 1401](#) (by West)**

*Relating to the creation of the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.*

The legislation establishes the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program, which is to be created by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This program aims to facilitate the transfer of public junior college students to participating institutions for degrees leading to licensure in mental health professions, such as psychologists, licensed professional counselors, and advanced practice registered nurses, among others. Participating institutions must partner with junior colleges to ensure students do not lose credits upon transfer and can complete their baccalaureate degrees in less than two years. The board is tasked with promoting the program, maintaining relevant information on its website, and adopting necessary rules for implementation.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1534](#) (by Zaffirini / Parker)**

*Relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding health physics education in this state.*

The legislation mandates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission, to conduct a study on health physics education in the state. The study is required to identify gaps in health physics training programs provided by higher education institutions and assess workforce needs in the nuclear energy and radiological safety sectors.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 1535](#) (by Zaffirini / Parker)**

*Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of an advanced nuclear energy workforce development program.*

The legislation mandates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish an advanced nuclear energy workforce development program to address urgent skilled labor demands in the advanced nuclear energy industry. The commission is required to create a strategic plan that addresses labor supply gaps and talent retention issues in this industry, provide financial assistance, develop program outreach efforts, establish education and training programs at institutions of higher education, and develop customized curriculum requirements for degree and certificate programs.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[SB 1786](#) (by Creighton)**

*Relating to public higher education.*

The legislation amends various sections of the Education Code to enhance public higher education in Texas. It includes provisions for dual credit courses, allowing students from grades 9 through 12 to enroll at no cost if they meet certain criteria, and mandates school districts to determine and notify institutions of students' eligibility. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is authorized to adopt rules for federal financial aid programs and to use emergency rulemaking procedures to align funding formulas with legislative actions. The legislation also introduces performance tier funding based on measurable outcomes, such as the number of credentials awarded and students transferring to higher education institutions.

**Effective Date:** Immediately, except Sections 7 and 8 take effect September 1, 2025.

**[SB 1964](#) (by Parker)**

*Relating to the regulation and use of artificial intelligence systems and the management of data by governmental entities.*

The legislation introduces new definitions and regulations for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems by Texas governmental entities. It mandates the collection and review of information on the status and condition of each state agency's information technology infrastructure. State agencies with 150 or fewer full-time employees may designate a data manager officer. The legislation also requires the adoption of a code of ethics for AI, risk management and governance standards, and heightened scrutiny for AI systems. It creates a public sector AI systems advisory board to assist state agencies.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 2314 (by Creighton)**

*Relating to the creation of an electronic platform and submission portal, known as My Texas Future, to facilitate public high school students' awareness of and application to institutions of higher education using the electronic common admission application form.*

The legislation establishes an electronic platform and submission portal called My Texas Future to help public high school students apply to higher education institutions using a common admission application form. It mandates that students must decide whether to opt into a data-sharing program with higher education institutions for direct admissions, unless exempted by specific conditions. The legislation also requires institutions to prominently display a link to MyTexasFuture.org on their admission websites and allows students to apply through this platform. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency and school districts must notify parents and students about the option to create profiles on My Texas Future and the associated data-sharing requirements.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**SB 2431 (by Campbell)**

*Relating to requiring foreign language credit opportunities for students enrolled in study abroad components or programs offered by certain institutions of higher education in this state.*

The legislation requires institutions of higher education in Texas that offer study abroad programs in non-English speaking locations to provide students with the opportunity to earn foreign language credit as part of those programs. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is tasked with adopting rules to define applicable study abroad programs and prescribe how students can earn foreign language credit.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 2786 (by Creighton)**

*Relating to the exemption from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative for certain students who are public officers or employees.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to exempt certain students from the Texas Success Initiative assessment requirements. The exemptions apply to students with an associate or baccalaureate degree, those transferring from private or out-of-state institutions with completed college-level coursework, and those enrolled in short certificate programs at public junior colleges, technical institutes, or state colleges. Additional exemptions include students serving in the armed forces, Texas National Guard, or reserve components, as well as those who are honorably discharged, certified emergency medical technicians employed by political subdivisions, fire protection personnel, and peace officers.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**SB 3039 (by West)**

*Relating to the transfer of students in public higher education and to transparency regarding certificate or degree program requirements.*

The legislation amends sections of the Education Code to enhance transparency and facilitate the transfer of students in public higher education. It mandates that institutions provide detailed reports on transfer credits, including reasons for non-transferable credits and actions to support transfer students. The legislation requires institutions to publish information on their websites about programs with high rates of denied transfer credits. Every public junior college must submit a report to the coordinating board and the legislature, detailing the courses taken by students who, in the previous academic year, transferred to a general academic teaching institution, completed a field of study curriculum, or earned an associate degree.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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## INFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

### [HB 150](#) (by Capriglione / Button)

*Relating to the establishment of the Texas Cyber Command and the transfer to it of certain powers and duties of the Department of Information Resources.*

The legislation establishes the Texas Cyber Command as a state agency responsible for cybersecurity, transferring certain powers and duties from the Department of Information Resources. It aims to prevent and respond to cybersecurity incidents affecting governmental entities and critical infrastructure, providing leadership, guidance, and tools to enhance cybersecurity defenses. The command will facilitate education and training for a cybersecurity workforce, monitor and coordinate cyber threat intelligence, and create partnerships to effectively carry out its functions.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [HB 783](#) (by Lalani / Darby)

*Relating to civil liability for online impersonation.*

The legislation establishes civil liability for online impersonation, defining it as the unauthorized use of an individual's name, voice, signature, or likeness on a social media platform. It excludes law enforcement agencies from liability when acting within the scope of their duties. A person is liable if they knowingly and with intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten, create a false identity that is virtually indistinguishable from a real person, except when the impersonation is for satire or parody.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [HB 5195](#) (by Capriglione)

*Relating to modernization of state agency Internet websites and digital services.*

The legislation mandates that each state agency assess its internet website and online service portals to improve user accessibility, navigation, and digital service efficiency. It requires agencies to consider strategies such as simplifying user access, reducing paperwork through electronic alternatives, and ensuring compliance with accessibility standards.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

## LEGAL

### [HB 127](#) (by Wilson / Hefner)

*Relating to measures to protect institutions of higher education from foreign adversaries and to the prosecution of the criminal offense of theft of trade secrets; increasing a criminal penalty.*

The legislation establishes the Higher Education Research Security Council to promote secure academic research at postsecondary educational institutions and mitigate the risk of foreign espionage and interference. It prohibits institutions of higher education from accepting gifts from foreign adversaries unless they are of de minimis value or meet specific vetting and approval criteria. The legislation also requires institutions to screen foreign researchers for ties to foreign adversaries before employment or access to sensitive data is granted. Additionally, it mandates the creation of an international travel approval program to monitor employment-related foreign travel.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [HB 229](#) (by Troxclair / Swanson)

*Relating to general definitions for and collection of governmental information regarding biological sex.*

The legislation defines and clarifies terms related to biological sex, including “male,” “female,” “man,” “woman,” “boy,” “girl,” “father,” and “mother,” based on biological reproductive systems. It mandates that governmental entities collecting vital statistics for public health, crime, economic, or other data must identify individuals as either male or female. The legislation emphasizes that policies distinguishing between sexes are subject to intermediate constitutional scrutiny, allowing distinctions where they are substantially related to important governmental objectives.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [HB 718](#) (by Bell / Cecil)

*Relating to prohibiting a public institution of higher education from partnering with certain private entities for the construction of a student housing facility.*

The legislation prohibits public institutions of higher education from entering into contracts with private entities for the construction of student housing facilities if the entity has a pending action or lien related to a claim for nonpayment of a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[HB 2001](#) (by Meyer / Anchía)**

*Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for certain misuse of official information, including misuse of official information that results in certain net pecuniary gains.*

The legislation increases the criminal penalties for the misuse of official information. It specifies that if the misuse results in a net pecuniary gain, the offense is classified based on the amount gained: a felony of the third degree if the gain is less than \$150,000, a felony of the second degree if the gain is between \$150,000 and \$300,000, and a felony of the first degree if the gain is \$300,000 or more.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 2468](#) (by Harris)**

*Relating to the right of a purchaser to terminate a contract of purchase and sale of real property for failure to provide notice that the property is located in a public improvement district.*

The legislation allows a purchaser to terminate a contract for the purchase and sale of real property if the seller fails to provide notice that the property is located in a public improvement district. The purchaser can terminate the contract for any reason within seven days after receiving the notice, provided that the municipality or county filed a copy of the service plan with the county clerk before the contract was entered into.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 3234](#) (by Cortez)**

*Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate construction and renovation of structures owned by certain counties.*

The legislation amends the Local Government Code to specify that it applies only to buildings or facilities owned by a county with a population of one million or more, located within the boundaries of another political subdivision.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 5129](#) (by Noble / Bell)**

*Relating to the security of certain personal identifying information submitted to or retained by a state agency.*

The legislation, known as the Right to Privacy Act, amends the Government Code to enhance the security of personal identifying information submitted to or retained by state agencies. The legislation requires state agencies to obtain written consent before disseminating such information, except when required by federal or state law or for law enforcement purposes, and mandates that state agencies retain the written consent in their records.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 5180](#) (by Wilson)**

*Relating to the issuance of a diploma to a student graduating from a public institution of higher education that has undergone a merger, acquisition, or name change.*

The legislation mandates that if a public institution of higher education in Texas undergoes a merger, acquisition, or name change during a student's enrollment, the institution must provide the student with two diplomas upon graduation. One diploma will reflect the original name of the institution at the time of the student's initial enrollment, and the other will display the institution's name after the change.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 5331](#) (by Dean)**

*Relating to the enforceability of certain state agency and local government contract language regarding required security incident notifications.*

The legislation amends the Government Code by adding a subsection, which states that any contract language in cybersecurity insurance or other contracts for goods or services that prohibits or restricts a state agency's or local government's compliance with this section, or circumvents its requirements, is void and unenforceable.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**HB 5435** (by Bell, Keith)

*Relating to required lease terms for public property leased to a nongovernmental entity.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to require that leases between governmental entities and other persons regarding public property include terms mandating contractors to execute payment and performance bonds for construction, alteration, or repair projects on the leased property. It introduces a new subsection, which exempts leases between institutions of higher education and other persons from the requirement to provide a notice of commencement to the governmental entity.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025

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**SB 40** (by Huffman)

*Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds to pay bail bonds; authorizing injunctive relief.*

The legislation prohibits political subdivisions from using public funds to pay nonprofit organizations that use donations to cover defendants' bail bonds. If a political subdivision violates this prohibition, taxpayers or residents can seek injunctive relief to stop the activity and prevent further public fund expenditures related to it.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 127** (by Hall)

*Relating to the offense of failure to report child abuse or neglect by certain professionals and the statute of limitations for that offense; harmonizing other statute of limitations provisions.*

The legislation amends the statute of limitations for the offense of failure to report child abuse or neglect by certain professionals. It establishes specific time frames within which felony indictments may be presented for various crimes, detailing the number of years allowed after the commission or discovery of the offense. The legislation also identifies the types of crimes that correspond to each limitation period and aligns these provisions with existing law.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 326](#) (by King)**

*Relating to the procedure for determining whether a student's violation of a public school's or public institution of higher education's student code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism.*

The legislation establishes procedures for determining whether a student's violation of a public school's or public institution of higher education's student code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism. It mandates that school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and institutions of higher education use the definition of antisemitism provided by Section 448.001 of the Government Code, including referenced examples, to assess if a student's behavior was motivated by antisemitism. The legislation clarifies that it should not be used to punish speech protected by the First Amendment or the Texas Constitution unless such speech is accompanied by actions violating the student code of conduct.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[SB 412](#) (by Middleton)**

*Relating to defenses to prosecution for certain offenses involving material or conduct that is obscene or otherwise harmful to children.*

The legislation amends the Penal Code to provide an affirmative defense to prosecution for certain offenses involving obscene material or conduct harmful to children, specifically for judicial or law enforcement officers discharging their official duties at the time of the offense. It also amends the affirmative defenses under Section 43.25 to include that the defendant was the spouse of the child, the defendant was a judicial or law enforcement officer discharging official duties, or the defendant is not more than two years older than the child.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 599](#) (by West)**

*Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate a licensed, registered, or listed group day-care home or family home.*

The legislation prohibits political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing ordinances, orders, or other measures that require group day-care homes or family homes, which are licensed, registered, or listed under Chapter 42 of the Human Resources Code, to comply with health and safety standards exceeding those established by statute or Health and Human Services Commission rules.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**[SB 667](#) (by Hughes)**

*Relating to prohibiting certain state governmental entities from investing in certain Chinese-affiliated entities.*

The legislation introduces Chapter 809A to the Government Code, prohibiting certain state governmental entities in Texas from investing in Chinese-affiliated entities. The legislation mandates divestment from these entities, with specific timelines for removing assets, unless doing so would result in financial loss or benchmark deviation. State entities are required to report annually on divestments and prohibited investments, and the attorney general is authorized to enforce compliance.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 687](#) (by Hughes)**

*Relating to liability for land surveying services in or in connection with certain construction or services contracts.*

The legislation amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to address liability issues related to land surveying services in construction contracts. It voids and makes unenforceable any covenant in a construction contract that requires a contractor to indemnify or hold harmless architects, engineers, or land surveyors for damages caused by defects in plans or negligence in specific scenarios. The legislation also mandates that construction contracts for architectural, engineering, or land surveying services must require these services to be performed with the professional skill and care ordinarily provided by competent professionals.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 800](#) (by Zaffirini)**

*Relating to a public institution of higher education's sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking resources and policy orientation.*

The legislation mandates that each postsecondary educational institution requires entering freshmen or undergraduate transfer students to attend an orientation on the institution's sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policy before or during their first semester. The orientation may be provided online and must include a video detailing the institution's Title IX coordinators, services, reporting procedures, and support services for survivors. Additionally, student identification cards must include contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and the National Sexual Assault Hotline, with optional information for campus or local police, health clinics, and local suicide prevention hotlines.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[SB 835](#) (by Paxton)**

*Relating to the enforceability of certain nondisclosure or confidentiality provisions with respect to an act of sexual abuse.*

The legislation, known as Trey's Law, amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code by adding Chapter 129C, which addresses agreements prohibiting disclosures regarding sexual abuse. It defines "act of sexual abuse" to include various offenses under the Penal Code, such as sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, and trafficking of persons. The legislation renders any nondisclosure or confidentiality provisions in agreements void and unenforceable if they prevent the disclosure of acts of sexual abuse or related facts, although it allows for confidentiality of other settlement terms.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 836](#) (by Paxton)**

*Relating to victims of sex offenses, sex-based human trafficking offenses, or acts of a sexual nature and to the confidentiality of or restrictions on the availability of certain property, material, or information regarding those victims, offenses, or acts.*

The legislation amends various articles in the Code of Criminal Procedure to enhance the confidentiality and protection of victims of sex offenses and related crimes. It prohibits the use of evidence from forensic medical examinations to prosecute a sexual assault victim for certain offenses if the evidence was collected from that victim. The legislation also restricts the dissemination of invasive visual recordings and requires protective orders to prevent their copying or distribution. Additionally, it allows victims to use pseudonyms in public records to protect their identities and mandates that law enforcement and legal entities maintain the confidentiality of these pseudonyms. It also provides a written notice officers must distribute when responding to a call that involves sexual assault.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 869](#) (by Birdwell)**

*Relating to the deadline for the Texas Ethics Commission to resolve certain complaints.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to specify that the deadline for resolving complaints by the Texas Ethics Commission is tolled only for the duration of any litigation brought by the respondent or the commission regarding the complaint. It prohibits the commission from tolling or extending the deadline for any other duration or adopting rules to do so.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[SB 1242](#) (by Birdwell)**

*Relating to the acquisition of land and facilities by the Texas State Technical College System.*

The legislation amends the Education Code, allowing the board of the Texas State Technical College System to accept or acquire land and facilities by purchase in the name of the State of Texas in any county where a campus or extension center is located.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[SB 2972](#) (by Creighton)**

*Relating to expressive activities at public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to protect expressive activities at public institutions of higher education, ensuring that freedom of speech and assembly are recognized as central to their mission. It allows students and employees to engage in expressive activities in common outdoor areas, subject to reasonable restrictions that are content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral. The legislation mandates that institutions adopt policies detailing rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities, including grievance procedures and disciplinary sanctions for interference.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 2986](#) (by Campbell)**

*Relating to use by a religious organization of public school or institution of higher education facilities.*

The legislation allows religious organizations to use public school and institution of higher education facilities for religious activities, such as worship and assemblies, under specific conditions. These conditions include ensuring that the use does not interfere with the primary educational mission, providing fair market rental value or reimbursement for related costs, and agreeing to be liable for any damages. Religious organizations must also adhere to the same rental terms as non-religious organizations and meet any additional legal requirements. The legislation prohibits penalties or sanctions against schools or institutions for allowing such use, but it does not mandate that they must permit it.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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## PEACE OFFICERS

### [HB 33](#) (by McLaughlin / Guillen)

*Relating to active shooter incidents at primary and secondary school facilities and other emergencies.*

The legislation mandates that each school district and public junior college district adopt a multihazard emergency operations plan, which includes training for district employees, ensuring communication access during emergencies, and conducting mandatory drills. The legislation also requires a safety and security audit every three years and mandates the availability of breaching tools and ballistic shields at each campus. Additionally, it establishes a training program for peace officers and emergency medical services personnel to respond to active shooter incidents, developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [SB 1321](#) (by Hagenbuch)

*Relating to compensation and leave for certain peace officers.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to redefine “state employee” to include various commissioned law enforcement and security officers, such as those from the Department of Public Safety, Texas Facilities Commission, and others, as well as employees with direct contact with inmates or administratively released prisoners. It also amends the Government Code to specify that certain peace officers, including those commissioned by the Public Safety Commission and other agencies, are covered under specific provisions. The legislation gives the commission the authority to commission certified peace officers as investigators and ensures they are compensated according to Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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### [SB 2180](#) (by Hagenbuch / Flores)

*Relating to requiring a certification for peace officers to conduct certain polygraph examinations.*

The legislation introduces a requirement for peace officers to obtain certification to conduct polygraph examinations. It mandates the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to establish minimum training, testing, and certification requirements for peace officers conducting polygraph examinations for preemployment or criminal investigations. Peace officers must complete an approved training course and pass an examination to receive certification.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.



**[SB 2570](#) (by Flores)**

*Relating to a legal justification for the use of force with a less-lethal force weapon by a correctional facility guard or a peace officer.*

The legislation introduces Section 9.55 to Subchapter E, Chapter 9 of the Penal Code, defining “less-lethal force weapon” as any weapon designed to incapacitate a target temporarily while minimizing serious injury or death, including chemical dispensing devices, striking devices, and stun guns. This section applies to correctional facility guards and peace officers performing their official duties, allowing them to use such weapons when they reasonably believe it necessary and in compliance with their training.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

## PROCUREMENT

**[SB 1173](#) (by Perry)**

*Relating to the amount of an expenditure made by certain political subdivisions for which a competitive procurement method may be required.*

The legislation increases the threshold for competitive procurement requirements from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for various political subdivisions, including school districts, municipalities, and counties. It mandates that expenditures exceeding this new threshold must follow competitive bidding or other specified procurement methods.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### [HB 4361](#) (by Ward Johnson / Howard)

*Relating to establishing policies regarding the timely issuance of emergency notifications at public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation mandates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish standardized procedures for issuing emergency notifications at public institutions of higher education. These procedures must comply with the Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act and include emergency alerts through the system.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

## STUDENT AID

### [HB 300](#) (by Wilson)

*Relating to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.*

The legislation amends the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program by increasing the scholarship amount to the lesser of \$30,000 or the average cost of attendance at a Texas institution, as determined by board rule. It mandates that the governor and lieutenant governor each appoint two students and two alternates, while each state senator and representative appoint one student and one alternate for the scholarship, with appointments required by September 30 each year.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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### [HB 322](#) (by Guillen)

*Relating to the use of funds awarded under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to specify the use of funds awarded under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. It allows grants to be used for defraying start-up costs for new career and technical education programs at various educational institutions (including junior colleges) and for acquiring, implementing, and maintaining technology solutions necessary for these programs. The grants can also support courses that prepare students for high-demand occupations identified by local businesses, finance initial costs of course development, and support programs leading to licenses, certificates, or degrees.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**HB 3041** (by Paul / Leo Wilson)

*Relating to measures to support the enrollment of students with a nontraditional secondary education at public institutions of higher education, including eligibility for certain student financial assistance programs.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to support the enrollment of students with nontraditional secondary education at public institutions of higher education, including eligibility for certain student financial assistance programs. The legislation mandates that institutions provide notice to school districts about anticipated admission criteria and benchmark test scores for students with nontraditional education. It also requires institutions to assign class ranks to applicants with nontraditional education based on standardized test scores and to post median scores on their websites. Additionally, the legislation ensures equal access to dual credit courses for all high school students, regardless of the type of school they attend.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**HB 3260** (by Bell, Keith / Button)

*Relating to the Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program.*

The legislation amends the Texas Labor Code to define “industry-recognized apprenticeship program” by specifying that such programs must provide on-the-job training or related instruction in recognized apprenticeable occupations and be certified by the commission. It allows the commission to distribute partial reimbursements to eligible participants as they meet training and employment milestones. The commission is tasked with adopting rules to administer the program, including criteria for recognizing apprenticeable occupations, certifying programs, and establishing performance metrics and reporting timelines.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 2** (by Creighton / Bettencourt)

*Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.*

The legislation establishes an Education Savings Account (ESA) program to provide funding for approved education-related expenses for children participating in the program, offering additional educational options to families. It includes provisions for higher education providers, defined as institutions of higher education or private institutions, to participate in the program. The program allows funds to be used for tuition and fees at higher education providers, among other educational expenses. The comptroller is responsible for administering the program, including establishing rules and procedures, and ensuring compliance through audits.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025

**[SB 1728](#) (by Perry)**

*Relating to the participation of certain juvenile justice entities in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to include the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, juvenile boards, and juvenile probation departments as eligible entities for the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program, alongside public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools. The grants can be used to defray start-up costs for new career and technical education programs. The commission will consider the potential economic returns to the state and whether the programs offer new or expanded educational opportunities, including dual credit courses and programs in emerging industries or high-demand occupations.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[SB 2995](#) (by West)**

*Relating to the displacement of student financial aid at a public institution of higher education.*

The legislation addresses the issue of financial aid displacement at public institutions of higher education in Texas. It mandates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a financial aid displacement advisory for use by these institutions. This advisory must include a statement explaining financial aid displacement and a list of common reasons for which gift aid may be revised or reduced. Institutions are required to include this advisory in their admission application forms and provide information on how to apply for gift aid, timelines, and recommendations to maximize and protect gift aid awards.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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## TAXATION

### [HB 9](#) (by Meyer / Bonnen)

*Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of tangible personal property that is held or used for the production of income.*

The legislation amends the Tax Code to allow a person an exemption from taxation by a taxing unit for up to \$125,000 of the appraised value of tangible personal property used for income production, provided the property has a taxable situs at the same location within the taxing unit. The exemption applies to each separate location in a taxing unit where a person holds or uses tangible personal property for income production. Additionally, the legislation provides exemptions for leased property and for property located at sites within the taxing unit that are neither owned nor leased by the person.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026, but only if HJR 1 is approved by the voters.

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### [HB 22](#) (by Noble / Meyer)

*Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of intangible personal property.*

The legislation amends Section 11.02(a) of the Tax Code to state that intangible personal property is not taxable. Additionally, the comptroller is an opposing party in any appeal—filed by a county or a property owner—regarding a comptroller’s order that apportions the appraised value of railroad rolling stock among the counties.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

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### [HB 30](#) (by Troxclair / Meyer)

*Relating to the effect of a disaster and associated costs on the calculation of certain tax rates and the procedure for adoption of a tax rate by a taxing unit.*

The legislation addresses the calculation of tax rates for taxing units in disaster areas. It allows taxing units, excluding school districts and special taxing units, to calculate the voter-approval tax rate using a specific method if part of the unit is in a declared disaster area and at least one property is granted an exemption. The calculation method continues until the taxable property value exceeds pre-disaster levels or three years have passed since the disaster.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

**HB 2508 (by Turner / Button)**

*Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a qualifying condition or disease.*

The legislation provides an exemption from ad valorem taxation for the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died due to a qualifying condition or disease, as defined by federal law. The exemption applies to the total appraised value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead, provided the spouse has not remarried since the veteran's death. The exemption is effective regardless of the date of the veteran's death, as long as the surviving spouse meets the qualifications.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026, but only if HJR 133 is approved by the voters.

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**HB 2742 (by Vasut)**

*Relating to the split-payment of ad valorem taxes.*

The legislation amends the Tax Code to allow taxing units that collect their own taxes to offer a split-payment option for ad valorem taxes, where taxpayers can pay half of their taxes before December 1 and the remaining half without penalty or interest before July 1 of the following year. If tax bills are mailed after November 30, the first half must be paid by the first day of the next month following the first full calendar month after the mailing date. The legislation also clarifies that certain payment options or discounts do not apply to taxes calculated too late for availability.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

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**HB 3093 (by Villalobos)**

*Relating to the calculation of certain ad valorem tax rates of a taxing unit for a year in which a property owner provides notice that the owner intends to appeal an order of an appraisal review board determining a protest by the owner regarding the appraisal of the owner's property.*

The legislation amends the Tax Code to address the calculation of ad valorem tax rates for taxing units when a property owner intends to appeal an appraisal review board's decision. The legislation requires that tax rate calculation forms be electronically formatted and capable of being incorporated into the property tax database, with provisions for addendums in cases of anticipated substantial litigation. Additionally, it mandates that property owners involved in litigation submit specific information about uncontested taxable values to the designated officer or employee of the affected taxing unit.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.



**[HB 4044](#) (by Meyer / Turner)**

*Relating to certain expenditures by public institutions of higher education and university systems that are eligible for certain tax credits.*

The legislation amends the Tax Code to specify that the depreciation and tax-exempt use provisions of Section 47(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code do not apply to costs and expenses incurred by entities exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) or by institutions of higher education or university systems, provided other conditions are met.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026, except Section 1(b) takes effect January 1, 2035.

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**[HB 4809](#) (by Meyer)**

*Relating to the authority of an owner of property that qualifies for an exemption as a historic or archeological site to protest the allocation of the appraised value of the property between the land and the improvements to the land.*

The legislation allows property owners of historic or archeological sites to protest the appraised value of the structure or site and the land separately, as well as the allocation of the appraised value between them.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HJR 1](#) (by Meyer / Bonnen)**

*Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income.*

The joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income. The proposed amendment will be submitted to voters on November 4, 2025, with the ballot presenting the choice to permit voting for or against the proposition.

**Effective Date:** Filed with the Secretary of State on May 20, 2025, and to be considered by the voters at a special election on November 4, 2025.

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**HJR 4 (by Meyer / Bonnen)**

*Proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the enactment of a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions.*

The joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that prohibits the Texas legislature from enacting laws imposing an occupation tax on registered securities market operators or a tax on securities transactions conducted by these operators. The legislation allows for certain exceptions, such as general business taxes, taxes on mineral production, insurance premiums, sales and use taxes on tangible personal property or services, and fees based on document processing costs. The proposed amendment will be submitted to voters on November 4, 2025, with the ballot presenting the choice to permit voting for or against the proposition.

**Effective Date:** Filed with the Secretary of State on May 5, 2025, and to be considered by the voters at a special election on November 4, 2025.

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**HJR 34 (by Guillen)**

*Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements.*

The joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that authorizes the Texas legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the market value of real property in counties bordering the United Mexican States, specifically for properties with border security infrastructure and related improvements. The proposed amendment suggests a definition for "border security infrastructure." The proposed amendment will be submitted to voters on November 4, 2025, with the ballot presenting the choice to permit voting for or against the proposition.

**Effective Date:** Filed with the Secretary of State on May 23, 2025, and to be considered by the voters at a special election on November 4, 2025.

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**HJR 133 (by Turner / Button)**

*Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected.*

The joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the Texas legislature to provide an exemption from ad valorem taxation for the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died from a condition or disease presumed to be service-connected under federal law. The exemption applies if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the veteran's death. The proposed amendment will be submitted to voters on November 4, 2025, with the ballot presenting the choice to permit voting for or against the proposition.

**Effective Date:** Filed with the Secretary of State on May 28, 2025, and to be considered by the voters at a special election on November 4, 2025.

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**SB 4 (by Bettencourt / Alvarado)**

*Relating to an increase in the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district and the protection of school districts against certain losses in local revenue.*

The legislation increases the exemption amount for residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district to \$140,000. It provides additional state aid to school districts for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years to offset losses in local revenue due to increased homestead exemptions. The legislation also outlines provisions for calculating state aid and tax rates for the 2025-2026 school year, contingent on the approval of a constitutional amendment.

**Effective Date:** Immediately, except Article 1 takes effect on the date of official canvass showing adoption of SJR 2, but only if SJR 2 is approved by the voters.

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**SB 23** (by Bettencourt / Alvarado)

*Relating to an increase in the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the appraised value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled and the protection of school districts against certain losses in local revenue.*

The legislation increases the ad valorem tax exemption for the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to \$60,000. For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, school districts are entitled to additional state aid if state and local revenue used to service debt is less than what would have been available under previous laws as of September 1, 2022. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, additional state aid is provided if the revenue used to service debt is less than what would have been available under laws as of January 1, 2025, contingent on changes to the residence homestead exemption for elderly or disabled persons.

**Effective Date:** Immediately, except Article 1 takes effect on the date of official canvass showing adoption of SJR 85, but only if SJR 85 is approved by the voters.

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**SB 850** (by Middleton)

*Relating to the payment of certain ad valorem tax refunds.*

The legislation allows individuals to apply for a tax refund if the amount is at least \$20. The legislation states that refunds for overpayments exceeding \$20 must be issued without requiring an application, while overpayments under \$20 require an application. The legislation mandates that certain refunds must be paid within 60 days of the liability determination, with a 12% annual interest rate applied if delayed. It also provides procedures for handling overpayments, escrow accounts, and refunds related to property tax appeals, and allows for court action if refunds are denied or delayed.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 1023** (by Bettencourt)

*Relating to the calculation of certain ad valorem tax rates.*

The legislation amends the Tax Code to require that tax rate calculation forms be in an electronic format, allowing for electronic completion and certification by designated officers or employees. These forms must be capable of being incorporated into the property tax database and submitted electronically to the county assessor-collector. Additionally, the forms must include a hyperlink to a document that evidences the accuracy of each entry, except for mathematical calculations.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

**SB 1025** (by Bettencourt)

*Relating to the text of ballot propositions that increase taxes.*

The legislation amends Section 52.072(e) of the Election Code to specify the text requirements for ballot propositions related to tax changes. For propositions seeking voter approval for the imposition or increase of a tax, the proposition must state the amount or maximum tax rate and include a statement at the top in capital letters saying "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE." For propositions seeking approval for a tax reduction, the proposition must state the amount of tax rate reduction or the tax rate for which approval is sought.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**SB 1352** (by Hinojosa)

*Relating to the deadline for filing an application for certain ad valorem tax exemptions or allocations and the calculation of the penalty for filing a late application for such an exemption or allocation.*

The legislation amends the Tax Code to extend the deadline for filing applications for certain ad valorem tax exemptions and allocations to May 15 if the chief appraiser extends the deadline for filing a rendition statement or property report under Section 22.23(b). It allows the chief appraiser to further extend the deadline for filing an exemption application by up to 60 days and an allocation application by up to 30 days for good cause shown. The legislation also specifies that if an application is approved, the property owner is liable for a penalty equal to the lesser of 10 percent of the tax difference with and without the exemption or allocation, or 10 percent of the tax imposed on the property.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**SB 1453** (by Bettencourt)

*Relating to the current debt rate and tax rate of a taxing unit for ad valorem tax purposes.*

The legislation amends the Education Code and Tax Code to modify the requirements for public notices related to school district budgets and tax rates. It mandates that the notice must include specific sections comparing proposed budgets and tax rates with those of the previous year, and it must also provide detailed information on appraised and taxable property values. Additionally, the legislation introduces new subsections to the Tax Code, allowing a taxing unit's governing body to approve a tax rate exceeding the calculated rate under certain conditions, with a requirement for a 60% approval from the governing body members.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026.

**SJR 2 (by Bettencourt)**

*Proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district.*

The proposed constitutional amendment increases the exemption amount for residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district to \$140,000. This amendment applies to the tax year beginning January 1, 2025, and the temporary provision related to this amendment will expire on January 1, 2027.

- **Effective Date:** Filed with the Secretary of State on May 22, 2025, and to be considered by the voters at a special election on November 4, 2025.

## TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT

**HB 1893 (by Cook / Noble)**

*Relating to the disclosure under the public information law of a motor vehicle license plate number captured in a video recording obtained or maintained by a law enforcement agency.*

The legislation amends the Government Code and the Transportation Code to allow the disclosure of motor vehicle license plate numbers captured in video recordings by law enforcement agencies under the public information law. It specifies that these license plate numbers are not confidential and may be included in video recordings disclosed.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**HB 2788 (by Button / Bell)**

*Relating to the disclosure of certain fraud detection information obtained in the administration of the unemployment compensation system.*

The legislation amends the Labor Code, by defining “fraud detection information” as any data that may reveal the methods used by the commission to prevent, investigate, or evaluate fraud in the administration of the unemployment compensation system. This information is classified as not public information under Chapter 552, Government Code, and is exempt from its requirements.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**[HB 3112](#) (by [Tepper](#) / [Capriglione](#))**

*Relating to the application of the open meetings law and public information law to government information related to certain cybersecurity measures.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to allow closed meetings for deliberations regarding cybersecurity measures intended to protect critical infrastructure facilities, exempting such discussions from open meeting requirements. It also introduces confidentiality provisions for information related to cybersecurity measures, policies, or contracts, as well as insurance coverage details and cybersecurity incident information, exempting them from public disclosure requirements. The legislation permits governmental bodies to disclose this confidential information to comply with state or federal laws or court orders, with specific notification requirements to the owners of critical infrastructure facilities.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 4214](#) (by [Curry](#))**

*Relating to public access to the mailing address and electronic mail address designated by a governmental body to receive a request for public information under the public information law.*

The legislation amends the Government Code by requiring each governmental body to notify the attorney general of their current mailing and electronic mail addresses designated for receiving public information requests by October 1 each year. It also mandates the attorney general to create and maintain a publicly accessible database of these addresses on the attorney general's website.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

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**[HB 4219](#) (by [Capriglione](#))**

*Relating to a governmental body's response to a request for public information.*

The legislation amends the Government Code by requiring a governmental body to notify a requestor in writing within 10 business days if it has no information responsive to a request or if the information is subject to a previous determination allowing it to be withheld. A governmental body is now required to request an attorney general's decision and state specific exceptions within 10 business days of receiving a written request. A requestor may file a complaint if a governmental body fails to respond as required.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

**[HB 4310](#) (by Vasut)**

*Relating to a special right of access under the public information law for a member of a governing board.*

The legislation grants special rights of access to public information for members of governing boards. Members of governing boards are allowed to inspect and duplicate public information without charge, and confidential information must be redacted unless the attorney-client privilege applies. The act also outlines procedures for confidentiality agreements and allows for appeals to the attorney general or district court regarding the confidentiality of information.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

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**[HB 5093](#) (by Bhojani / Moody)**

*Relating to disclosure under the public information law of certain contact information of a notary public that is maintained by the secretary of state.*

The legislation amends the Government Code to include a new subsection, which allows the secretary of state to disclose the home address, home telephone number, or electronic mail address of a notary public appointed under Subchapter A, Chapter 406.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2025.

## TUITION

**[HB 5646](#) (by Wilson)**

*Relating to admission of and resident tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education for certain students in military-related programs.*

The legislation amends the Education Code to include new provisions for admissions and tuition rates for students in military-related programs at public institutions of higher education. It requires senior military colleges and other academic institutions with a corps of cadets to consider an applicant's intent to enlist in the U.S. armed forces or enroll in the corps of cadets during admissions decisions. Additionally, it allows students enrolled in ROTC programs, corps of cadets, or corps of midshipmen to pay tuition and fees at resident rates, although they are not considered Texas residents for state financial aid purposes.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.



**[SB 2231](#) (by Hinojosa, Adam)**

*Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to waive fees for admission applications submitted to public institutions of higher education during certain periods.*

The legislation mandates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a Free College Application Week during the second full week of October, allowing individuals to apply for undergraduate admission to public institutions without paying an application fee. The board is authorized to adopt rules necessary to implement this provision.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

## RELEVANT VETOED BILLS

**[HB 2520](#) (by Johnson/Middleton)**

*Relating to the open meetings law.*

The bill would have legislated additional notice requirements for a meeting called by a defined governmental body.

**Veto Date:** June 22, 2025.

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