



SUMMARY OF ENACTMENTS

88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2ND, 3RD, AND 4TH CALLED SESSIONS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	v
Enactments of the 88th Legislature	
Regular Session, 2023	3
2nd Called Session, 2023	289
3rd Called Session, 2023	291
4th Called Session, 2023	293
Vetoes by the Governor	295
Index to Enacted Bills and Joint Resolutions	
By House/Senate Committee	317

INTRODUCTION

Summary of Enactments, 88th Texas Legislature, provides summaries of all bills and joint resolutions passed by the Texas Legislature during the 2023 Regular Session and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Called Sessions. No bills or joint resolutions were passed in the 1st Called Session. This publication is intended to be a convenient reference to the main features of enacted measures and is not to be considered a comprehensive or legal analysis.

The summaries are presented in alphabetical and numerical order by session, with summaries of vetoed bills duplicated in the [Vetoed by the Governor](#) section.

		Filed	Passed	Vetoed
Regular	Bills	8,046	1,246	76*
	Joint Resolutions	299	13	-
1st C.S.	Bills	57	0	-
	Joint Resolutions	9	0	-
2nd C.S.	Bills	81	2	0
	Joint Resolutions	13	1	-
3rd C.S.	Bills	279	2	0
	Joint Resolutions	8	0	-
4th C.S.	Bills	153	2	0
	Joint Resolutions	8	0	-

The text of bills and joint resolutions and related histories, analyses, fiscal notes, and summaries are provided electronically through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website. This website also provides users the ability to search for bills and joint resolutions on a variety of subject areas. For further assistance in locating legislation, visit the website of the [Legislative Reference Library](#) or contact the library at (512) 463-1252.

Thirteen joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Texas Constitution were passed in the Regular Session, and one was passed in the 2nd Called Session, and all but one of these amendments were approved by voters in the election held on November 7, 2023. For more in-depth analyses of the amendments, see the Texas Legislative Council's [publications web page](#).

* The governor also vetoed several line items in the General Appropriations Act (H.B. 1).

ENACTMENTS OF THE 88TH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 2023

House Bill 1

Effective: See below

House Author: Bonnen

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, as passed by the legislature, appropriated approximately \$321.3 billion for the 2024-2025 state fiscal biennium. However, following the regular session, the governor exercised his line-item veto authority to veto Section 17.36 of Article IX of the bill, which prohibited the executive director of the Texas Lottery Commission from allowing the order, purchase, or sale of lottery tickets by telephone, including facilitating the sale of tickets via an application on a phone. The governor also vetoed Section 18.76 of Article IX, a contingency rider for Senate Joint Resolution 81, which did not pass. As a result of the line-item vetoes, roughly \$320.3 billion of the amount originally appropriated ultimately became law as part of the biennial state budget, of which \$172.2 billion is for state fiscal year 2024 and \$148.1 billion is for state fiscal year 2025. Those amounts include all funding sources except interagency contracts. (Figures and percentages may not add up due to rounding.)

Of the total amount appropriated, more than \$149.9 billion, or roughly 46.7 percent, is derived from general revenue, both dedicated and nondedicated. Another \$102.3 billion, or 31.8 percent, represents federal funding, while the remaining \$68.1 billion, or 21.2 percent, comes from other funds. The \$320.3 billion budgetary total for the 2024-2025 biennium represents an increase of just over 29 percent compared to the budget approved for the 2022-2023 biennium.

Legislative appropriations for major governmental functions and services for the 2024-2025 biennium compared with appropriations for the 2022-2023 biennium are as follows, listed by budgetary article:

- Article I - General Government receives \$10.9 billion, an increase of 58 percent;
- Article II - Health and Human Services receives \$102.2 billion, an increase of 17.9 percent;
- Article III - Agencies of Education receives \$99.4 billion, an increase of 6.3 percent;
- Article IV - The Judiciary receives \$1.2 billion, an increase of 29.3 percent;
- Article V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice receives \$18.9 billion, an increase of 46.5 percent;
- Article VI - Natural Resources receives \$8.6 billion, an increase of 14.7 percent;
- Article VII - Business and Economic Development receives \$45.9 billion, an increase of 25.8 percent;
- Article VIII - Regulatory receives \$921.7 million, an increase of 26.6 percent;
- Article IX - General Provisions receives \$32.9 billion, an increase of 1,270.8 percent; and
- Article X - The Legislature receives \$489.8 million, an increase of 55.2 percent.

As part of the appropriations included in Article IX, the bill provides for a five percent annual salary increase for most state employees effective September 1, 2023, with a minimum increase of \$3,000, and another five percent annual salary increase effective September 1, 2024, with a minimum increase of \$3,000. Additionally, Article IX contains the state employee position classification plan and salary schedule for the 2024-2025 biennium.

Except for Sections 17.36 and 18.76 of Article IX, which do not take effect due to the governor's vetoes, House Bill 1 takes effect September 1, 2023.

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 17.36 of Article IX: "...Section 17.36 of Article IX is unconstitutional. Section 17.36 purports to tell the Lottery Commission that it must issue a new rule on a particular subject. This attempt to make general law in the General Appropriations Act violates Article III, Section 35 of the Texas Constitution. A similar command to the Lottery Commission was proposed in Senate Bill No. 1820, but the Legislature did not pass that bill."

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 18.76 of Article IX: *"This veto deletes a contingency rider for a joint resolution that did not pass."*

House Bill 3

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Burrows et al.

Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

House Committee: Youth Health & Safety, Select

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 3 amends the Education Code to set out provisions relating to the development, implementation, and funding of public school safety and security requirements. Among other provisions, the bill requires an armed security officer to be present at each campus of a public school district and open-enrollment charter school and requires each district and charter school to ensure compliance with all school facilities standards adopted by the commissioner of education related to safety and security, with certain exceptions for good cause. The bill also requires mental health training for certain district employees on youth issues that may pose a threat to school safety, includes a child's disciplinary record and any threat assessment among the records required to be provided to the applicable district on the child's enrollment or transfer, and provides for a district's authority to contract with licensed security contractors for security personnel.

House Bill 3 sets out the duties of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in monitoring district and charter school implementation and operation of safety and security requirements, including the duty to establish an office of school safety and security, requires that office to establish regional school safety review teams, and requires regional education service centers to provide assistance to those teams and to act as a school safety resource for districts and charter schools. With regard to a district's annual school safety allotment, the bill establishes a minimum amount for the allotment and provides for a district's use of allotment funds for the employment of school safety personnel and for the purchase of school safety technology from vendors approved by TEA and the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC). The bill also authorizes a district to use bond proceeds for school safety compliance. Additionally, the bill provides for the following:

- revisions to requirements for the multihazard emergency operations plan of a school district, charter school, or public junior college district;
- the sharing of school safety-related data between the TxSSC and TEA;
- the assignment of a conservator for school districts or charter schools that fail to comply with school safety and security requirements;
- a district's notification to students' parents regarding violent activity at a district facility or district-sponsored activity and the establishment of a procedure for a student to report concerning behavior exhibited by another student for assessment by an appropriate school employee;
- requirements for providing an emergency response map and a walk-through of each district campus and charter school building to law enforcement and emergency responders;
- the routine review and update of standards for instructional facilities by the TxSSC and commissioner; and
- mandatory semiannual meetings regarding school safety in certain counties.

House Bill 4

Effective: See below

House Author: Capriglione et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4, the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act, amends the Business & Commerce Code to regulate the collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' personal data by certain business entities. The bill sets out, among other provisions, provisions regarding a consumer's personal data rights and a request to exercise such rights, a required privacy notice to consumers, and the disclosure of a sale of personal data to a third party by an applicable business entity. The bill creates a civil penalty for violations of the bill and gives the attorney general exclusive authority to enforce the bill's provisions. The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, except that a bill provision establishing that a consumer exercising the right to opt out of the processing of the consumer's personal data for targeted advertising may designate another person to serve as the consumer's authorized agent and act on the consumer's behalf takes effect on January 1, 2025.

House Bill 5**Effective:** See below**House Author:** Hunter et al.**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al.**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 5 amends the Government Code to enact the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act, which provides for the creation of an economic development program under which a person proposing to construct an eligible project within a public school district may enter into a tax abatement agreement with the district where the district agrees to limit the taxable value for school district maintenance and operation (M&O) property tax purposes of eligible property used as part of the proposed project over a 10-year incentive period in exchange for qualifying investment and job creation associated with the project. The bill establishes the minimum qualifying economic investment and job creation requirements, which vary based on the population of the county in which the project will be located, and exempts from those requirements a project that is a qualifying, dispatchable electric generation facility. Among other provisions, the bill provides the following with respect to these tax abatement agreements:

- the provisions providing for the agreements expire December 31, 2033;
- projects eligible for a tax abatement are those to construct or expand critical infrastructure and those to construct or expand a new or existing facility that is a manufacturing facility; a facility related to the provision of utility services or the development of natural resources; or a facility engaged in the research, development, or manufacture of high-tech equipment or technology;
- projects to construct or expand a new or existing nondispatchable electric generation facility or electric energy storage facility are not eligible for a tax abatement;
- an application for an agreement must be submitted to the comptroller of public accounts along with an economic benefit statement and, with respect to the approval of an application:
 - the comptroller must initially recommend approval of the application before it proceeds further;
 - the comptroller may only recommend an application for approval after determining that the applicant would not make the proposed investment in Texas absent the abatement agreement; and
 - after receiving a recommendation for approval by the comptroller, an application must also be considered by the governor and the applicable school district's governing body, both of which must declare themselves agreeable to enter into the agreement for the application's final approval;
- approved projects will receive a 50 percent reduction in school district M&O taxes, except that projects located in an opportunity zone will receive a 75 percent reduction; and
- an applicant who fails to comply with applicable jobs or wage requirements is liable for a penalty to the state and either the governor or the school district may terminate the abatement agreement due to that failure.

The bill creates the Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act Oversight Committee and authorizes the oversight committee to recommend types of projects that the committee determines should be statutorily added to or removed from the list of projects eligible for an abatement agreement.

House Bill 5 amends the Education Code and Tax Code to set out provisions relating to the treatment of these new tax abatement agreements, including provisions ensuring that school districts entering into abatement agreements do not lose foundation school program funding.

House Bill 5 takes effect January 1, 2024, except that a provision of the bill requiring the comptroller to adopt certain rules and develop and make available certain forms and materials in preparation for the implementation and administration of the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

House Bill 6

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Goldman et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 6 amends the Health and Safety Code and Penal Code to revise criminal penalties for certain controlled substance offenses involving fentanyl and other similar opiates. Among other provisions, the bill provides for increased penalties and punishments for manufacturing or delivering a substance listed in Penalty Group 1-B of the Texas Controlled Substances Act, includes manufacturing or delivering such a substance that results in death as conduct that constitutes murder, and includes the unlawful possession with intent to deliver such a substance as conduct that constitutes engaging in organized criminal activity. Additionally, the bill requires a designation of fentanyl poisoning or fentanyl toxicity on a death certificate under certain circumstances.

House Bill 8

Effective: See below

House Author: VanDeaver et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 8 amends the Education Code to revise the funding system for public junior college districts through the establishment of the public junior college state finance program, administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The bill sets out general provisions relating to the program, including the recovery from a junior college district of an overallocation of funds, and sets out the amounts of base tier funding and performance tier funding to which a junior college district is entitled.

House Bill 8 establishes the financial aid for swift transfer (FAST) program for students to enroll in dual credit courses at no cost to the student. The bill entitles a participating public institution of higher education to an allotment equal to the amount of tuition for each dual credit course in which an eligible student is enrolled. The bill's provisions relating to the FAST program take effect June 9, 2023.

Also effective on that date, House Bill 8 provides for a "Texas Direct" associate degree awarded by a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute. The bill also establishes the opportunity high school diploma program to provide an alternative means by which adult students enrolled in a workforce education program at a public junior college may earn a high school diploma through concurrent enrollment in a competency-based education program.

House Bill 8, among other provisions, revises certain powers and duties of the THECB regarding higher education appropriations, requirements regarding information comparing institutions of higher education in Texas, and provisions relating to the transfer of lower division course credit.

House Bill 8 amends the Government Code to require a credential library established under the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative to include the information included in the electronic tools or platforms developed by the THECB to assist students in assessing the value of postsecondary credentials.

Except as otherwise provided, House Bill 8 takes effect September 1, 2023.

House Bill 9

Effective: See below

House Author: Ashby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 9 amends the Government Code to create the broadband infrastructure fund for use in supporting the broadband development office, providing funding for 9-1-1 and next generation 9-1-1 services, supporting the deployment of the next generation 9-1-1 service, supporting the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program, providing matching funds for federal money provided for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, and expanding access to broadband service in economically distressed communities.

House Bill 9 requires the comptroller of public accounts, not later than September 15, 2024, to make a one-time transfer of \$155,200,000 from the broadband infrastructure fund to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund. The bill requires the comptroller to make a second one-time transfer of \$75 million from the broadband infrastructure fund to the broadband pole replacement fund and authorizes the comptroller

to additionally transfer any available amount from the broadband infrastructure fund to the credit of the broadband pole replacement fund.

House Bill 9 takes effect January 1, 2024, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 125.

House Bill 12 **House Author:** Rose et al. **House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 12 amends the Human Resources Code to extend the duration of the Medicaid coverage provided for women following a pregnancy to 12 months, beginning on the last day of the woman's pregnancy and ending on the last day of the month in which the 12-month period ends.

House Bill 14 **House Author:** Harris, Cody et al. **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 14 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the performance of a development document review, and the conduct of a development inspection, by a third party if a regulatory authority does not timely perform such review or conduct such inspection. Among other provisions, the bill sets out qualifications for the third party and provides for the appeal of a decision regarding a development document or a development inspection.

House Bill 17 **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 17 amends the Local Government Code to classify certain actions that result in a refusal to prosecute a class or type of criminal offense or arrest individuals suspected of committing a class or type of criminal offense as official misconduct for purposes of the removal of a prosecuting attorney from office. Among other provisions, the bill revises procedures relating to a petition for removal of a prosecuting attorney, provides for the assignment of a judge to conduct the removal proceedings, and revises the process for appointing the state's attorney in the trial for removal.

House Bill 18 **House Author:** Slawson et al. **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 18, the Securing Children Online through Parental Empowerment (SCOPE) Act, amends the Business & Commerce Code to establish the duty of certain digital service providers (DSPs) to register a user's age before entering into an agreement with the user to create an account with a digital service. Additionally, the bill establishes duties for DSPs that enter into an access agreement with a known minor with regard to the collection and use of personal identifying information, the prevention of harm to known minors, advertising and marketing, the creation of parental tools, the use of algorithms, the verification of a minor's parent or guardian, and parental access to the minor's personal identifying information. The bill provides for the enforcement of its provisions by the attorney general's office and for a private cause of action brought by a parent or guardian.

Effective June 13, 2023, House Bill 18 amends the Education Code to establish requirements for the Texas Education Agency in adopting standards for permissible electronic devices and software applications used by a public school district or open-enrollment charter school and requirements for districts and charter schools before transferring data processing equipment or an electronic device to a student. Finally, the bill requires a joint committee of the legislature to study the effects of media on minors.

Except otherwise provided, House Bill 18 takes effect September 1, 2024.

House Bill 19 **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 19 amends the Government Code to create the business court as a statutory court under the constitution on September 1, 2024, subject to legislative appropriation. The judicial district of the business court is composed of all counties in Texas, and the court’s divisions correspond to the state’s 11 administrative judicial regions. The business court has the powers provided by statute relating to district courts, including the power to issue writs of injunction, mandamus, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, and supersedeas, and to grant any relief that may be granted by a district court. The bill provides for the business court’s jurisdiction concurrent with district courts over specified actions in which the amount in controversy exceeds certain minimum amounts, except that the business court has jurisdiction concurrent with district courts over such actions regardless of the amount in controversy if a party to the action is a publicly traded company. The bill establishes that the business court has supplemental jurisdiction over any other claim related to a case or controversy within the court’s jurisdiction that forms part of the same case or controversy, except as specified by the bill. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the following with respect to the administration and operation of the business court:

- the filing, transfer, and remand of court actions;
- qualifications, appointment, salary, and removal of court judges;
- jury practice and procedure;
- court proceedings, location, and staff requirements;
- fees for filings and actions;
- the court’s administrative attachment to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System; and
- the appeal of court actions.

House Bill 25 **House Author:** Talarico et al. **House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 25, the Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the establishment of the wholesale prescription drug importation program by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in order to provide lower cost prescription drugs available outside of the United States to consumers in Texas at the lower cost. The bill sets out requirements for HHSC in implementing the program, including contracting with prescription drug wholesalers and Canadian suppliers to import prescription drugs and provide cost savings to consumers, and eligibility requirements for the prescription drugs that may be imported into Texas under the program. The bill provides for the identification and monitoring of any potential anticompetitive activities in industries affected by the program, the imposition of a fee or the establishment of another funding method by HHSC, audit procedures, and an annual report to the governor and legislature regarding the program.

House Bill 28 **House Author:** Slawson et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 28, the Todd-Hogland Act, amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for aggravated assault from a second degree felony to a first degree felony if the actor uses a deadly weapon during the commission of the assault and causes a traumatic brain or spine injury to another that results in a persistent vegetative state or irreversible paralysis.

House Bill 30
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Moody et al.
Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 30 amends the Government Code to close what is known as the “dead suspect loophole” by making the exception to required disclosure under state public information law for information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication inapplicable to information, records, or notations if either of the following is true:

- a person who is described by or depicted in the information, record, or notation, other than a peace officer, is deceased or incapacitated; or
- each person who is described by or depicted in the information, record, or notation, other than a person who is deceased or incapacitated, consents to the release of the information, record, or notation.

House Bill 33
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Landgraf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Springer et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 33 amends the Natural Resources Code to prohibit a state agency or a state agency employee from contracting with or in any other manner providing assistance to a federal agency or official with respect to the enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation purporting to regulate oil and gas operations if the statute, order, rule, or regulation imposes a prohibition, restriction, or other regulation that does not exist under state law.

House Bill 44
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Swanson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 44 amends the Government Code to prohibit a Medicaid or CHIP provider from refusing to provide health care services to a Medicaid recipient or CHIP enrollee based solely on the individual’s refusal or failure to obtain a vaccine or immunization for a particular infectious or communicable disease. The bill prohibits the Health and Human Services Commission from providing Medicaid or CHIP reimbursement to an applicable provider who violates that prohibition unless and until the provider complies. The bill establishes that a provider does not violate the prohibition if the provider adopts a policy requiring patients to be vaccinated or immunized against a particular infection or communicable disease so long as the policy allows a patient who is a Medicaid recipient or CHIP enrollee to request an exemption based on a reason of conscience or certain medical conditions.

House Bill 49
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Klick et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 49 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the disclosure under state public information law of certain information and materials in connection with a complaint and investigation of a hospital or licensed mental hospital to the extent that a patient’s or health care provider’s personally identifiable information is omitted from the information. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission to post online certain information regarding a final decision, investigative report, or order to address a hospital’s or licensed mental hospital’s alleged violation.

House Bill 53
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thompson, Ed et al.
Senate Sponsor: Eckhardt et al.

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 53 amends the Transportation Code to exempt a vehicle owned by a nonprofit disaster relief organization that is used exclusively for disaster relief activities from vehicle registration fees.

House Bill 54 **House Author:** Thompson, Senfronia et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 54 amends the Human Resources Code to increase the minimum amount of the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid recipients who are residents of long-term care facilities from \$60 to \$75.

House Bill 55 **House Author:** Johnson, Julie et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 55 amends the Penal Code to establish enhanced penalties for indecent assault if committed by a health care or mental health care services provider under certain circumstances and for subsequent convictions of the offense.

House Bill 59 **House Author:** Goodwin et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 59, Cati's Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to require certain organizations that authorize a child younger than 12 years of age to engage in an organized water activity in which participants will enter or travel on a body of water, other than a wading pool, to do the following:

- require the child's parent or legal guardian to affirm in writing whether the child is able to swim or is at risk of injury or death when swimming or otherwise accessing a body of water; and
- provide each child who is unable to swim or is at risk of injury or death when swimming or otherwise entering a body of water with a properly fitted and fastened Type I, II, or III U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device or an equivalent device and ensure the child is wearing the device.

The organization is not required to provide a flotation device to or ensure the use of the device by a child who is actively participating in swim instruction or a competition so long as the organization ensures each participant is closely supervised during the instruction or competition. The bill subjects a state-licensed or state-regulated organization that violates the bill to disciplinary action by any applicable state regulatory agency.

House Bill 63 **House Author:** Swanson et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 63 amends the Family Code to bar an individual from making an anonymous report of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) by requiring an individual making such a report to provide their name and telephone number and either their home address or their profession and business address, as applicable. The bill also requires the individual to identify the facts that caused them to believe the child has been abused or neglected and the source of that information. If an individual making a report through the DFPS hotline is unwilling to provide their name and telephone number, the representative receiving the report must provide certain information about confidentiality and notify the individual that DFPS is not authorized to accept anonymous reports and that the individual may make a report to any local or state law enforcement agency.

Furthermore, House Bill 63 requires DFPS or a law enforcement agency, on receiving a report of abuse or neglect made orally, to make an audio recording of the report and notify the individual making the report of the fact that the report is being recorded and the criminal penalty for making a false report. The bill limits the circumstances under which a DFPS employee may have access to the identity of the person making a report and requires a DFPS representative, before taking any action to investigate an anonymous report referred by a law enforcement agency, to provide to a parent or other person having legal custody of a child who is under investigation certain information with respect to the investigation.

House Bill 64 **House Author:** Landgraf **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 64 amends the Transportation Code to authorize officers commissioned by the board of directors of the Ector County Hospital District to operate an authorized emergency vehicle in a police escort.

House Bill 73 **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 73 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to expand the scope of the exemption from liability available for a landowner for damages in connection with livestock due to an act or omission of a firefighter or peace officer as follows:

- extends the exemption to a lessee of property with respect to the lessee's livestock;
- changes the nature of damages to which the exemption applies from those arising from an incident or accident caused by livestock to those arising from an incident or accident involving livestock; and
- includes in the exemption certain damages that are due to an act or omission of a trespasser or third party without express or implied permission, wildlife, or an act of God.

House Bill 73 expands the scope of the exemption from liability available to an owner, lessee, or occupant of agricultural land for damage or injury to any person or property that arises from the actions of a peace officer or federal law enforcement officer to include damage or injury arising from certain actions of a trespasser or third party without express or implied permission, wildlife, or an act of God.

House Bill 73 expands the scope of the exemption from liability available to an owner, lessee, or occupant of agricultural land for damage or injury to any person or property that arises from the actions of an individual who enters or causes another person to enter the land without permission because of the actions of a peace officer or federal law enforcement officer to include damage or injury that is because of certain actions of a trespasser or a third party without express or implied permission, wildlife, or an act of God.

House Bill 73 requires the owner or lessee of land on which an event triggering any of these exemptions from liability occurs to cure a resulting defect on the land, if any, in a reasonable time.

House Bill 87 **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Elections
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 87 amends the Election Code to establish procedures for the replacement of faithless presidential electors. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the secretary of state to preside at the meeting of electors;
- requires each elector nominee and alternate elector nominee of a political party or of an independent presidential candidate to execute a specified oath swearing that the person will serve and mark the person's ballots for president and vice president for the applicable party nominees or independent candidates;
- establishes that the position of an elector is vacant if the elector has failed to execute the oath and provides for the secretary of state to fill the vacancy with a substitute elector, who must likewise execute an oath;
- sets out a process for elector voting that conditions acceptance of an elector's ballots on consistency with the oath taken by the elector;
- establishes that an elector who refuses to present a ballot, presents an unmarked ballot, or presents a ballot marked in violation of the elector's oath vacates the office of elector, creating a vacant position to be filled by the secretary of state; and

- requires the voting process to be repeated until all of the state’s electoral votes have been cast and recorded.

The bill requires the secretary of state to certify by a certain deadline that a candidate for president or vice president who received the most votes in Texas in the general presidential election is willing and able to serve in the position for which the candidate was elected unless the secretary of state has received a written certification from an applicable individual that the candidate is unable or unwilling to serve. If certification of a candidate’s inability or unwillingness to serve is provided, the secretary of state must notify the candidate’s party and post the certification online, and the electors must vote on the issue of whether that candidate is willing and able to serve in the position. If a majority of electors vote that the candidate is not willing or able to serve, the bill’s elector oath requirements do not apply with respect to that candidate.

House Bill 87 also provides for the secretary of state to certify to the appropriate presidential elector candidates the name of a replacement nominee for a presidential or vice-presidential candidate who withdraws, dies, or is declared ineligible after the threshold date that allows for their replacement to be certified for placement on the ballot. The bill requires an elector to consider a certified replacement candidate to be the candidate for whom the elector is the corresponding presidential elector candidate.

House Bill 90 **House Author:** Patterson et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans’ Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 90, the Bishop Evans Act, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Labor Code to expand the benefits available for applicable members of the Texas military forces and survivors of members of the Texas military forces. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the attorney general to award a lump sum payment to certain surviving claimants on behalf of a member who dies while on active duty if the death is in connection with operations initiated to address criminal activity in the border region;
- extends to the qualifying survivors of a member who died while on state active duty the eligibility for financial assistance from the state on certification of the applicable circumstances to the Employees Retirement System of Texas by the Texas Military Department;
- makes post traumatic stress disorder a compensable injury for members on state active duty under prescribed circumstances; and
- requires an insurance carrier to accelerate and give priority to a claim for medical benefits by a member who sustains a serious bodily injury while on state active duty.

House Bill 103 **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 103 amends the Government Code to authorize a person who has served as an active judge for at least 48 months in a statutory probate court to be assigned as a visiting judge for probate, guardianship, and mental health matters if the county judge is absent, incapacitated, recused, or disqualified to act in a probate, guardianship, or mental health matter. The bill authorizes a county judge serving in a county in which there is no statutory county court or statutory probate court and in which all duties of the constitutional county court devolve on the judge to appoint a former constitutional county judge as a visiting judge when the county judge is absent from the county or absent because of physical incapacity or if the county judge finds that the dockets of the court reflect a case load that the judge considers to be in excess of that which can be disposed of properly in a manner consistent with the efficient administration of justice.

[House Bill 108](#) **House Author:** Cortez et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 108 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates for public school teachers with at least 15 years of service and for retired public school teachers with at least 20 years of service.

[House Bill 109](#) **House Author:** Johnson, Julie et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Administration

House Bill 109 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a health benefit plan that provides coverage for hearing aids from denying an enrollee's claim for a hearing aid solely on the basis that the price of the hearing aid is more than the benefit available under the health benefit plan. However, the bill expressly does not require a health benefit plan to pay an enrollee's claim for a hearing aid in an amount that is more than that available benefit.

[House Bill 113](#) **House Author:** Ortega et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 113 amends the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission to allow each Medicaid managed care organization providing health care services under the STAR Medicaid managed care program to categorize services provided by a community health worker as a quality improvement cost, as authorized by federal law, instead of as an administrative expense.

[House Bill 114](#) **House Author:** Thompson, Ed **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 114 amends the Education Code to require the removal from class and placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) for a student who possesses, uses, sells, gives, or delivers to another person an e-cigarette. The bill authorizes the provision of educational and support services to a student who engages in an offense involving such conduct. If a DAEP is at capacity at the time a campus behavior coordinator is deciding placement for a student who engaged in an offense involving an e-cigarette, marihuana, an alcoholic beverage, or an abusable volatile chemical, the student must be placed in in-school suspension and transferred to the DAEP if a position becomes available during the period of the placement. The bill provides for a position in a DAEP that is at capacity to be made available for placement of a student who engages in certain violent conduct by removing from the DAEP and placing in in-school suspension a student who engaged in an offense involving an e-cigarette, marihuana, an alcoholic beverage, or an abusable volatile chemical. The bill removes conduct involving marihuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, and alcoholic beverages from the conduct that triggers mandatory expulsion of a student from school.

[House Bill 139](#) **House Author:** Klick et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Hall et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 139 amends the Government Code to require the notice filed with the secretary of state by a state agency regarding a proposed rule to include the bill number for the applicable legislation that enacted the statutory authority under which the rule is proposed to be adopted and to require the agency to provide the notice to the primary author and the primary sponsor of the applicable legislation if the bill authorizing the rule was passed within the preceding four years and the author or sponsor is still a member of the legislature. The bill's provisions are effective June 13, 2023, except that the bill, effective September 1, 2023, also establishes that the failure of a state agency to publish a summary of a proposed

rule on the agency’s website in plain language in both English and Spanish does not invalidate a rule adopted by the agency or an action taken by the agency under that rule.

House Bill 162 **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Current law requires the Prescribed Burning Board to establish minimum standards for prescribed burning that require at least one certified and insured prescribed burn manager to be present during the conduct of the burn. House Bill 162 amends the Natural Resources Code to clarify that those standards must instead require a certified and insured prescribed burn manager listed in the applicable prescription plan to be present during the conduct of the burn.

House Bill 165 **House Author:** Johnson, Ann et al. **House Committee:** Community Safety, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 165 amends the Penal Code to increase the penalty for aggravated assault for an actor who commits the assault as part of a mass shooting from a second degree felony to a first degree felony. Sentences for a person found guilty in a single criminal action of more than one such aggravated assault offense arising out of the same criminal episode must run consecutively. Additionally, the bill makes a defendant’s right to severance when two or more offenses have been consolidated or joined for trial inapplicable to a prosecution for such assault offenses unless the court determines that the defendant or the state would be unfairly prejudiced by a joinder of offenses, in which event the judge may order the offenses to be tried separately or order other relief as justice requires.

House Bill 181 **House Author:** Johnson, Jarvis et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Miles et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 181 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish and maintain a sickle cell disease registry for use as a single repository of accurate, complete records of sickle cell disease cases to aid in the disease’s cure and treatment in Texas. The bill requires an applicable health care facility to provide DSHS with certain data concerning cases of sickle cell disease and provides for DSHS’s implementation powers and duty to submit an annual report to the legislature.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “I am signing House Bill No. 1488 into law because sickle cell disease is a serious problem in Texas. House Bill No. 181, however, would force hospitals to share reams of sensitive health information with a sickle cell disease registry, putting the privacy of patients at risk. It would leave the hard work of ensuring confidentiality to agency rulemaking, even though no funds were appropriated to achieve the bill’s purported purpose.”

House Bill 198 **House Author:** Noble et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 198 amends the Transportation Code to establish that a non-exempt travel trailer meets statutory safety inspection requirements if the trailer’s owner submits an affidavit stating that they have inspected the trailer during the prescribed period and the trailer is in compliance with applicable laws and rules and in proper and safe condition. The bill subjects a travel trailer certified in this manner to a \$7.50 fee.

House Bill 207
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Murr et al.
Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: Business & Industry
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 207 amends the Property Code to exclude from classification as a sham or pretended sale involving any condition of defeasance the conveyance by an individual of one or more parcels that do not meet certain statutory definitions of an urban homestead to an entity in which the individual or the individual's spouse has a direct or indirect ownership interest if:

- the deed conveying the parcel is recorded at least 30 days before the entity grants any lien on the parcel;
- the individual does not reside on the parcel at the time of the conveyance;
- the parcel is not contiguous to the parcel of residence;
- the deed conveying the parcel does not contain a condition of defeasance; and
- the individual recorded an affidavit contemporaneously with the deed.

House Bill 219

House Author: Noble et al.

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 219 amends the Finance Code to require a mortgage servicer or mortgagee, not later than the 60th day after receiving the correct payoff amount for a home loan from a mortgagor, to deliver to the mortgagor a release of lien for the home loan or file the release of lien with the appropriate county clerk's office for recording in the real property records of the county. If, on or before the 20th day after the payoff date, the mortgagor delivers a written request to the mortgagee or mortgage servicer for the release of lien to be delivered to the mortgagor or filed with the county clerk, the mortgagee or mortgage servicer must do so not later than the 30th day after the date the request is received.

House Bill 242

House Author: Howard et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 242 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a person, including a manufacturer or distributor, or a nonprofit organization from civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of a feminine hygiene product that the person donates in good faith to a nonprofit organization or that the nonprofit organization distributes to individuals in need of the products, respectively, if the donated product meets all quality and labeling standards imposed by law at the time the product is donated or distributed, even if the product is not readily marketable. The bill excepts from its provisions a person or nonprofit organization that intentionally or with gross negligence donates or distributes a product that results in injury to or death of an individual who uses or receives the product.

House Bill 246

House Author: Swanson et al.

House Committee: Elections

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 246 amends the Election Code to require the secretary of state to establish a pilot program for recording ballot counting activity to be operated in six counties selected by the secretary of state in accordance with the population criteria specified by the bill. The bill requires the secretary of state to file a report on the pilot program with the legislature.

House Bill 255

House Author: Swanson et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 255 amends the Government Code to authorize a notary public to record the expiration date of an identification card issued by a governmental agency or passport issued by the United States if

the signer, grantor, or maker of an instrument or document presents the card or passport to the notary public as identification. The bill prohibits a notary public from providing a copy of the notary public's seal to another person or affixing or attaching the notary public's seal to any document except to authenticate the notary public's official act. The bill raises the cap on certain fees charged by a notary public and requires the secretary of state, once every five years, to adjust all fees that may be charged by a notary public by the amount that results from applying the inflation rate, as determined by the comptroller of public accounts on the basis of the increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), to the current fee amounts.

House Bill 260 **House Author:** Murr **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 260 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district, in calculating net to land of open-space land located in or adjacent to a designated wildlife or livestock disease or pest area as part of the appraisal of that land for property tax purposes, to take into consideration the effect that the presence of the applicable disease or pest or the designation of the area has on the net income from the land.

House Bill 266 **House Author:** Swanson et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 266 amends the Estates Code to require a person filing an application for the appointment of a guardian to file an affidavit with the court within the time prescribed by the court that states certain contact information, if known by the applicant, for each person entitled to notice under applicable state law. The bill makes the affidavit privileged and confidential and prohibits its release or disclosure to the public. The bill requires a court, on qualification of a guardian, to provide a copy of the affidavit to the guardian if the guardian is not the person who filed the affidavit. The bill requires a guardian of a ward to rely on the contact information contained in such an affidavit when providing notice about the ward to a ward's relative as required by state law, unless the guardian knows the information is not correct.

House Bill 279 **House Author:** Jetton, Jacey et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 279 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Penal Code to subject sex trafficking of a disabled individual to the same conditions for prosecution as child sex trafficking.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "I am vetoing House Bill No. 279 at the author's request because it is largely duplicative of Senate Bill No. 1529, which I have proudly signed into law. I applaud Representative Jacey Jetton and Senator Paul Bettencourt for working with Senator Joan Huffman and Representative Senfronia Thompson to protect trafficking victims."

House Bill 282 **House Author:** Swanson et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 282 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to issue specialty license plates for recipients of the following Texas military awards:

- the Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal;
- the Texas Superior Service Medal;
- the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal;
- the Texas Outstanding Service Medal; and
- the Texas Medal of Merit.

In addition, the bill makes an adoptive parent, an adoptive child, a foster parent, a foster child, a stepparent, or a stepchild of a person who died while serving in the United States armed forces eligible for a specialty license plate as a Gold Star family member.

House Bill 290**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Oliverson**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock**House Committee:** Insurance**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 290 amends the Insurance Code to subject an applicable multiple employer welfare arrangement that provides a comprehensive health benefit plan, as determined by the commissioner of insurance, to certain state laws as if the arrangement were an insurer, individuals entitled to coverage under the plan were insureds, and health benefits were provided through an insurance policy. The bill gives employers in an applicable arrangement the option of each having a principal place of business in the same region that does not exceed Texas' boundaries or the boundaries of a metropolitan statistical area as an alternative to being members of an association or group of five or more businesses that are in the same trade or industry. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes a working owner, as defined by the bill, of a trade or business without employees to qualify as both an employer and an employee for purposes of eligibility for an initial certificate of authority as a multiple employer welfare arrangement.

House Bill 291**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Murr**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 291 amends the Family Code, Government Code, and Transportation Code to update and clarify processes and procedures relating to occupational driver's licenses (ODL). Among other provisions, the bill revises provisions relating to ODL eligibility, a petition for an ODL, a court order granting an ODL, alcohol dependence counseling for certain ODL petitioners and the use of ignition interlock devices by certain individuals, and the revocation of an ODL. Additionally, the bill includes a court finding of indigency as a condition that triggers a political subdivision's duty to immediately notify the Department of Public Safety that there is no cause to continue to deny renewal of their driver's license.

House Bill 299**Effective:** See below**House Author:** Murr et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 299 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt minimum standards for accreditation as a recovery house for substance use disorder recovery and to provide for the development and administration of a voluntary accreditation program by certain approved accrediting organizations. The bill sets out provisions regarding the types of facilities ineligible for accreditation, a designated responsible party for a recovery house, advertisement for the house, the enforcement authority of accrediting organizations, and an annual HHSC report, among other provisions. Effective September 1, 2025, the bill prohibits an unaccredited recovery house from receiving state money. Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect September 1, 2023.

House Bill 315**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Cortez**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al.**House Committee:** Elections**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 315 amends the Election Code to require the application form for a mail-in ballot to include a statement prescribed by the secretary of state explaining the benefits of furnishing the applicant's telephone number on the form, including how the information assists the early voting clerk. The bill requires the secretary of state to make the statement available on the secretary's website.

House Bill 357

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bucy et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 357 amends the Election Code to change the date on which a runoff election is required to be held to a Saturday designated by the secretary of state that is no earlier than the 30th day or later than the 45th day after the date of the main election. The designated runoff election date may not be, or have an early voting period that includes, a national or state holiday.

House Bill 357 changes the information that a voter must provide to access the online tracking tool for mail-in ballot applications and mail-in ballots.

House Bill 367

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Jetton, Jacey

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 367 amends the Government Code to authorize the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) to accept complaints, conduct investigations, and take any other action authorized by provisions governing the SCJC, with respect to a candidate for judicial office who is subject to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, in the same manner the SCJC is authorized to take those actions with respect to a judge.

House Bill 387

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Bell, Cecil

Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 387 amends the Government Code to provide for the appropriation of money to the Texas State Guard Uniform and Insignia Fund by including money appropriated, credited, or transferred by the legislature to the fund among the categories of money that constitute the fund.

House Bill 393

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Goldman et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 393 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a court to order a defendant convicted of intoxication manslaughter to pay restitution for a child whose parent or guardian was the victim of the offense in a monthly amount the court determines is reasonable and necessary to support the child, considering all relevant factors, until the child is 18 years old or has graduated from high school, whichever is later. The bill provides for the delivery and enforcement of such a restitution order and for the deduction of the amount of restitution paid from any civil judgment against the defendant.

House Bill 400

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Klick et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 400 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to establish the following grant programs:

- a psychiatric specialty innovation grant program for awarding incentive payments to medical schools that administer innovative residency training programs designed to increase the number of physicians in Texas who specialize in pediatric or adult psychiatric care; and
- a behavioral health innovation grant program for awarding incentive payments to public institutions of higher education that administer innovative recruitment, training, and retention programs designed to increase the number of mental health professionals or professionals in related fields.

The bill caps the amount of a grant awarded under either program at \$1 million and sets out requirements relating to the awarding of those grants. The bill requires a medical school or institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill's provisions to submit to the THECB an annual report on the expenditure of grant funds.

House Bill 409
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Collier
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 409 amends the Government Code to revise the membership of the governing board of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and related disclosure requirements.

House Bill 420
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Slawson
Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 420, Kyle and Ethan’s Law, amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to enhance from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony the penalty for the offense of purchasing alcohol for or furnishing alcohol to a minor if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person purchased an alcoholic beverage for or gave an alcoholic beverage to a minor who, as a result of consuming the beverage, caused another person to suffer serious bodily injury or death. The bill also removes the element of criminal negligence from the conduct constituting such an offense.

House Bill 422
Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: VanDeaver et al.
Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 422 amends the Family Code to replace the authorization for a detention hearing in a juvenile case to be held using interactive video equipment if agreed to by the child and the child’s attorney with an authorization for such a hearing to be conducted as a remote proceeding, with no need for consent of the parties unless the United States or Texas Constitution requires consent. The bill authorizes a juvenile court to allow or require an individual to participate in a detention hearing conducted as a remote proceeding and requires a juvenile court judge to submit a plan for conducting such hearings remotely to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.

House Bill 430
Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: VanDeaver
Senate Sponsor: Perry

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 430 amends the Government Code to include the age of the equipment used by a volunteer fire department among the criteria and qualifications that the director of the Texas A&M Forest Service must determine for the distribution of money from the volunteer fire department assistance fund under the rural volunteer fire department assistance program.

House Bill 433
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: VanDeaver
Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 433 amends the Transportation Code to decrease from 25 to 12 the minimum number of nonapportioned motor vehicles, semitrailers, or trailers necessary to constitute a commercial fleet for the purposes of vehicle registration.

House Bill 446
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Craddick et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 446 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Finance Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Local Government Code, Occupations Code, Transportation Code, and Tax Code to update the terminology used in statute to refer to certain disabilities and to update certain agency references. The bill replaces references to “mental retardation,” “mentally ill and mentally retarded,” “the mentally retarded,” and “mentally ill” with references to an “intellectual disability,” “intellectual and developmental disability,” “individuals with an intellectual disability,” “mental illness or intellectual disability,” “mental illness,” or “intellectual disability,” as appropriate. The bill replaces references to “physically handicapped”

with references to a “physical disability” and references to a “local mental retardation authority” with references to a “local intellectual and developmental disability authority.” The bill also updates references to abolished state agencies to reflect the current role of agencies in the health and human services system with respect to a function previously performed by an abolished agency.

[House Bill 450](#) **House Author:** Craddick et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Administration

House Bill 450 amends the Property Code to authorize a person to bring a cause of action for a bad faith washout of the person’s overriding royalty interest in an oil and gas lease in a district court of a county in which any part of the property subject to the lease is located and entitles the person to remedies if the person proves by a preponderance of the evidence the overriding royalty interest and certain actions by the defendant. The bill requires the person to bring the action not later than the second anniversary of the date the person obtained actual knowledge that the washout occurred and authorizes an owner who prevails in the action to recover actual damages, court costs and attorney’s fees, and the enforcement of a constructive trust on the oil and gas lease or mineral estate acquired to accomplish the washout of the overriding royalty interest.

[House Bill 456](#) **House Author:** Craddick et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 456 amends the Tax Code to exempt from property taxation an interest in a mineral in place owned by a qualifying charitable organization, including a royalty interest, provided that the interest is not severed from the surface estate or was donated to the organization by the previous owner of the interest.

[House Bill 461](#) **House Author:** Smith **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 461 amends the Family Code to authorize a court to waive the required adoption evaluation of a prospective adoptive parent in an uncontested suit for adoption if the prospective adoptive parent is the child’s stepparent and the court has reviewed relevant investigative and criminal history records. The prospective adoptive parent must pay the costs of the review.

[House Bill 467](#) **House Author:** Craddick et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 467 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to extend the statute of limitations period for felony assault against a person with whom the defendant has a dating, family, or household relationship or association, aggravated assault, and continuous violence against the family from within three years of the date the offense was committed to within five years of that date. The bill extends the statute of limitations period for misdemeanor assault against a person with whom the defendant has a dating, family, or household relationship or association from within two years of the date the offense was committed to within three years of that date.

[House Bill 471](#) **House Author:** Patterson et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 471 amends the Local Government Code to require a political subdivision to provide its paid firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical services personnel a leave of absence for an illness or injury related to the person’s line of duty. A person may use the person’s accumulated sick leave, vacation time, and other accrued benefits before the person is placed on temporary leave. The temporary leave is with full pay for a period commensurate with the nature of the line of duty illness or injury and the

leave must be continued, if necessary, for at least one year. Among other provisions, the bill provides for a person's return to light duty with a temporary disability, authorizes another firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical services personnel to voluntarily do the work of the injured firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical services personnel until the person returns to duty, and provides, in its Labor Code provision, that any workers' compensation benefits provided to the person must be offset, to the extent applicable, by any amount for incapacity received as provided by the bill's provisions.

House Bill 473 **House Author:** Hull et al. **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 473 amends the Education Code to require a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team established by a public school district board of trustees to notify a student's parent or person standing in parental relation before conducting a threat assessment of the student, provide an opportunity for that person to participate in the assessment and submit relevant information, and provide to that person the team's findings and conclusions regarding the student.

House Bill 474 **House Author:** Hull **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 474 amends the Family Code to require a local court-appointed volunteer advocate program, as a condition of eligibility for a contract with the statewide volunteer advocate organization, to maintain accurate records for active and inactive volunteer advocates and to adopt a grievance procedure to address complaints regarding volunteer advocate negligence or misconduct. The bill specifies that the contract between the Health and Human Services Commission and the statewide volunteer advocate organization must include measurable goals and objectives relating to the number of both active and inactive volunteer advocates.

House Bill 492 **House Author:** Craddick et al. **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 492 amends the Health and Safety Code and Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Midland County Hospital District of Midland County, Texas, and the Ector County Hospital District to create a mental health services district to provide mental health services to the hospital districts' residents. The bill provides for the administration, operation, funding, and dissolution of the district.

House Bill 517 **House Author:** Johnson, Julie **House Committee:** Corrections
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 517 amends the Government Code to clarify that the definition of "close relative of a deceased victim" for purposes of victim impact statements for a parole panel considering the release of an inmate on parole or to mandatory supervision includes a qualified relative of a deceased victim, regardless of whether the victim's death was related to the offense committed.

House Bill 527 **House Author:** Wu et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 527 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish that expedited dismissal procedures for civil actions involving certain constitutional rights under the state's anti-SLAPP law do not apply to a legal malpractice claim brought by a client or former client.

House Bill 541
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Longoria
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa

House Committee: Corrections
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 541 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to authorize a judge to order a defendant, as a condition of community supervision, to make a specified donation to a charitable organization engaged primarily in serving defendants under community supervision in the community in which the defendant resides or a veterans county service office operating in the county in which the defendant resides instead of requiring the defendant to work at one or more community service projects. The bill prohibits the commissioners court of a county that maintains a veterans county service office from considering such a donation for purposes of determining the county's budget for the office.

House Bill 558
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Raymond
Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 558 amends the Government Code to prohibit an executive order, proclamation, or regulation issued by the governor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 restricting the operation of or the hours of operation for a business that sells alcoholic beverages from including a tax-exempt organization that benefits veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Future governors must have the flexibility to respond to unforeseen calamities and meet the rapidly changing needs that each disaster will present. House Bill No. 558, however, would exempt some organizations that sell alcohol from any emergency directive whatsoever, no matter the disaster at hand. The bill does not carefully distinguish between a future pandemic, in which those organizations should stay open, and a hurricane or a wildfire, in which a mandatory evacuation order might be necessary. Hacking away at the Texas Disaster Act like this poses an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of Texans. I will be glad to work with the author on a more nuanced approach to this issue."

House Bill 562
Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Raymond
Senate Sponsor: Flores et al.

House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 562 amends the Natural Resources Code to establish that certain identifying information received or maintained by the Veterans' Land Board (VLB) that relates to a veteran or veteran's family member who applies for or receives benefits or services offered by the VLB or to a current member of the U.S. armed forces or Texas military forces is confidential and not subject to disclosure under state public information law. The bill sets out circumstances under which the VLB may disclose this information to certain governmental entities, private vendors, and certain persons with written consent.

House Bill 567
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bowers et al.
Senate Sponsor: Miles et al.

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 567, the CROWN Act, amends the Education Code, Labor Code, and Property Code to provide protections against discrimination in education, employment, or housing on the basis of a person's hair texture or because the person wears a protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race, including braids, locks, or twists.

House Bill 568
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bowers et al.
Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 568 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement's education and training program for peace officers on de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques to include certain instruction on interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

[House Bill 584](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Capriglione et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 584 amends the Government Code to authorize the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to enter into an agreement with a public junior college district or public technical institute to offer a program leading to a state information technology (IT) credential to address shortages in the state information resources workforce. Such a program, to be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, must develop the knowledge and skills necessary for an entry-level IT position in a state agency, and must include a one-year apprenticeship.

House Bill 584 requires the executive director of DIR to update DIR's intra-agency career ladder program to ensure that an associate degree together with an IT credential may be substituted for a four-year baccalaureate degree. Additionally, the bill requires the classification officer in the state auditor's office to review the state's position classification plan to determine whether an associate degree together with an IT credential may be substituted for a four-year baccalaureate degree and revise relevant job descriptions accordingly.

[House Bill 586](#)
Effective: 5-23-23

House Author: Thompson, Ed
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 586 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a municipality to annex certain road rights-of-way provided that the owner of the right-of-way or the governing body of the political subdivision that maintains the right-of-way does not object to the annexation.

[House Bill 587](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Patterson
Senate Sponsor: Blanco et al.

House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 587 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a crematory establishment to incinerate, during the week preceding and the week after Memorial Day, Flag Day, or Independence Day, one or more U.S. flags or state flags at the request of any person for the purpose of spreading the ashes on the grave or memorial site of a deceased veteran, first responder, or spouse or child of a veteran or first responder.

[House Bill 591](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Capriglione et al.
Senate Sponsor: Blanco et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 591 amends the Tax Code to exempt from the gas production tax gas produced from a qualifying well that is consumed within 1,000 feet of the well and would otherwise have been vented or flared. The bill provides for the certification of a well as a qualifying well by the Railroad Commission of Texas and requires that an annual application for the exemption be submitted to the comptroller of public accounts.

[House Bill 598](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Shaheen et al.
Senate Sponsor: Whitmire et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 598 amends the Penal Code to create the Class C misdemeanor offense of possession of an animal by a person convicted of animal cruelty for a person who possesses or exercises control over an animal and within the five-year period preceding the date of the instant offense has been previously convicted of an offense of attack on an assistance animal, cruelty to a nonlivestock animal, or dog fighting, or any similar offense under federal law or a penal law of another state. The bill enhances the penalty to a Class B misdemeanor for a subsequent conviction of the offense.

House Bill 608

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Shaheen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 608 amends the Occupations Code and Local Government Code to provide for the sale of fireworks during the Diwali holiday and to set out provisions for the Diwali holiday fireworks season regarding the Texas A&M Forest Service and the adoption of an order prohibiting or restricting the sale or use of restricted fireworks in a county's unincorporated area based on drought conditions.

House Bill 609

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Vasut et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 609 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a business owner or operator that does not require employees or contractors of the business to be vaccinated against a pandemic disease from liability for injury or death caused by the exposure of an individual to the pandemic disease through an employee or contractor of the business.

House Bill 611

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Capriglione et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 611 amends the Penal Code to create the Class B misdemeanor offense of unlawful disclosure of a residence address or telephone number for a person who posts that information on a publicly accessible website with certain harmful intent. The bill provides a penalty enhancement if the offense results in bodily injury and provides an exception to the offense for a public servant who posted the information in the performance of their duties.

House Bill 614

Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Shaheen

Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 614 amends the Property Code to require the board of a property owners' association that is authorized by the association's dedicatory instrument to levy a fine to adopt an enforcement policy regarding the levying of fines. The adopted policy must include general categories of restrictive covenants for which the association may assess fines, a schedule of the fine for each category of violation, and information regarding hearings before the board to discuss and verify facts and resolve a violation. However, the policy may reserve the board's authority to levy a fine from the schedule of fines that varies on a case-by-case basis.

House Bill 616

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Vasut et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 616 amends the Government Code to require at least one hour of instruction on impaneling petit and grand juries to be completed as part of the 20 hours of required initial instruction and continuing education for a district clerk.

House Bill 617

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Darby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado et al.

House Committee: Health Care Reform, Select

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 617 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), with the assistance of the applicable area health education center at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, to establish a pilot project to provide emergency medical services (EMS) instruction and emergency prehospital care instruction through a telemedicine medical service or telehealth service provided by regional trauma resource centers to certain health care and EMS providers in rural areas. The bill sets out requirements for the CSEC and the center with respect to establishing, overseeing, and evaluating the pilot project, providing the applicable services and instruction, and selecting

participants for the project. The bill also provides for the pilot project's funding, a report of the findings of the CSEC and the center, and a limitation on liability of the center and a regional trauma resource center and its employees and volunteers.

House Bill 621**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Shaheen**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes**House Committee:** Public Education**Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 621 amends the Education Code to provide for the issuance of a temporary teaching certificate to a person who has served in the U.S. armed forces and was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty or has served as a first responder and separated from employment while in good standing, and meets all other eligibility requirements for standard certification. The bill provides for a person to substitute the eligibility requirements if the person has at least 48 months of such service and holds a bachelor's degree with a specified amount of completed credit hours or an associate degree. The bill establishes training and mentorship requirements for a public school district that employs a temporarily certified person. The bill authorizes the issuance of a standard certificate for a temporarily certified person who completes all eligibility requirements for the standard certificate.

House Bill 624**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Harris, Cody et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell et al.**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 624 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a fire fighter, including both an individual employed as fire protection personnel and an individual who is a certified volunteer fire fighter, regardless of whether the individual is licensed as an emergency medical services (EMS) provider, to transport a sick or injured patient to a health care facility in a vehicle other than an EMS vehicle under certain circumstances. The bill requires each trauma service area regional advisory council to develop medical treatment and transport operating guidelines necessary to implement the bill for the area served by the council and provide notice of the guidelines to the EMS providers and fire fighters in that area.

House Bill 627**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Harris, Cody**Senate Sponsor:** Nichols**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 627 amends the Transportation Code to entitle the surviving spouse of a posthumous recipient of the Star of Texas Award or the Purple Heart to the applicable specialty license plates.

House Bill 628**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Harris, Cody et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Nichols**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 628 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

House Bill 630**Effective:** 6-10-23**House Author:** Vasut**Senate Sponsor:** Huffman**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 630 amends the Natural Resources Code to exempt the following from the requirements relating to the provision, by an applicable municipality or county during reasonable daylight hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day, of occupied lifeguard towers or mobile lifeguard units on public beaches on or at certain structures that protrude into the Gulf of Mexico:

- municipalities with a population of less than 1,000 located in a county adjacent to a county with a population of more than 3.3 million; and
- counties adjacent to a county with a population of more than 3.3 million that contain a municipality adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico with a population of less than 1,000.

House Bill 639 **House Author:** Lozano **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 639 amends the Bingo Enabling Act, Occupations Code, to increase from six to 12 the maximum number of temporary bingo licenses that an authorized organization that does not hold a regular bingo license may receive in a calendar year.

House Bill 659 **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 659 amends the Transportation Code to consolidate the provisions in current law requiring the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Commendation Medal and for recipients of the Commendation Medal with Valor. As part of the consolidation, the bill extends to the recipients of the former an exemption from certain parking fees currently applicable only to the recipients of the latter.

House Bill 660 **House Author:** Cook **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 660 amends the Family Code to require a law enforcement agency receiving a protective order to enter that order in the agency's computer records of outstanding warrants as notice that the order has been issued and is currently in effect. This requirement replaces the provision in current law that makes such entry voluntary. The bill, with respect to the deadline by which a law enforcement agency must enter certain information relating to a protective order into the statewide law enforcement information system, changes that deadline from not later than the third business day after the date the order or information is received to not later than the next business day after that date. Furthermore, the bill requires a court clerk, when a person protected by a protective order files a notification of change of address or telephone number with the court, to deliver a copy of that notification to any applicable recipient entitled to a copy of the order, in addition to the respondent. The bill also establishes that a temporary ex parte order is enforceable to the same extent and in the same manner as a final protective order, regardless of whether the temporary ex parte order was rendered before, on, or after the bill's effective date.

House Bill 671 **House Author:** González, Mary et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Eckhardt et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 671 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Veterans Commission to conduct a suicide prevention campaign to provide veterans with information regarding suicide prevention.

House Bill 679 **House Author:** Bell, Keith et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 679 amends the Government Code to make voidable as against public policy, with respect to a public construction contract awarded by a governmental entity, a contract solicitation, an offer, a contract, or an agreement collateral to or affecting a contract that violates limitations established by the bill on the use of workers' compensation insurance experience modifier values in soliciting and awarding such public construction contracts. These limitations include the following prohibitions:

- with respect to a contract, an offer to contract may not include a term requiring a person to have a specified experience modifier in order to accept the offer and a contract solicitation may not require a person to have a specified experience modifier in order to submit a response to the solicitation; and
- a contract or an agreement collateral to or affecting a contract may not require the contractor to have a specified experience modifier.

[House Bill 692](#) **House Author:** Rogers et al. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 692 amends the Health and Safety Code and Water Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to issue an authorization by rule for land application of dairy waste from a dairy operation and to adopt rules governing such land application. The bill requires the TCEQ, to the extent permitted by federal law, to adopt rules to allow the disposal of dairy waste from a concentrated animal feeding operation into a control or retention facility and allow the land application by irrigation associated with such disposal.

[House Bill 697](#) **House Author:** Holland et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 697 amends the Property Code to include fuel gas piping consisting of either black iron pipe, copper, or corrugated stainless steel tubing among the property features that must be disclosed in the prescribed seller's disclosure statement.

[House Bill 699](#) **House Author:** Frank et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 699 amends the Education Code to require the University Interscholastic League (UIL), when classifying a public school based on student enrollment, to use the same student enrollment calculation formula for a school that allows a non-enrolled student to participate in a UIL activity as the formula used to determine the enrollment of a school that does not allow such a student to participate in the activity.

[House Bill 711](#) **House Author:** Frank et al. **House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 711 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit an applicable health care provider from offering to a general contracting entity or entering into a provider network contract that includes an anti-steering, anti-tiering, gag, or most favored nation clause or from amending or renewing an existing provider network contract previously entered into with a general contracting entity so that the contract as amended or renewed adds or retains such a clause. The bill voids and makes unenforceable any provision in a provider network contract that is such a clause. The bill establishes that a health benefit plan issuer that encourages an enrollee to obtain a health care service from a particular provider or that introduces or modifies a tiered network plan or assigns providers into tiers has a fiduciary duty to the enrollee or policyholder to engage in that conduct only for the enrollee's or policyholder's primary benefit.

[House Bill 718](#) **House Author:** Goldman et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 7-1-25 **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 718 amends the Tax Code and Transportation Code to eliminate the issuance of temporary paper license plates and permits by a dealer for vehicles sold in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill changes the type of temporary plates issued by a dealer to a metal license plate, requires a dealer to obtain the plates from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), and establishes that the plates are valid for the operation of the vehicle while the registration application submitted by the dealer is pending. The bill revises the requirement for TxDMV to operate an applicable database to reflect the transition to metal license plates, which must allow law enforcement to obtain information about drivers to whom the license plates are issued.

House Bill 728

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Rose

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 728 amends the Government Code to establish the statewide interagency aging services coordinating council to ensure a strategic statewide approach to interagency aging services. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the duties of the council, which include developing a recurring five year statewide interagency aging services strategic plan, developing a biennial coordinated statewide interagency aging services expenditure proposal for submission to the legislature, and annually publishing an updated inventory of state funded interagency aging programs and services. The bill requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the administrative head of each agency that is subject to the strategic plan to develop a plan for implementing the recommendations applicable to the agency under the strategic plan.

House Bill 729

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Rose et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 729 amends the Government Code to establish the statewide intellectual and developmental disability coordinating council to ensure the state develops a strategic approach for the provision of intellectual and developmental disability services in Texas.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “House Bill No. 729 pursues the laudable goal of improving the provision of intellectual and developmental disability services in Texas. That goal is so laudable, however, that several Texas committees already do that same important work. Creating a new bureaucracy to duplicate their efforts is wasteful at best, and could even frustrate existing programs.”

House Bill 730

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Frank et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 730 amends the Family Code to revise certain laws applicable to investigations by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and suits filed by DFPS.

House Bill 730 establishes restrictions on DFPS’s ability to reopen a closed investigation or change a finding in the investigation to find abuse or neglect occurred and requires DFPS to notify certain interested parties of edits or corrections made to a written investigation report.

House Bill 730 revises the standard for issuing a court order requiring the release of certain records, the examination of a child, or admission to a home, school, or other place to locate a child in connection with a DFPS investigation and requires the court, if such an order is issued, to make specific findings supporting issuance of the order. The bill limits the circumstances under which a hearing for such an order may be ex parte and requires the court to provide a copy of the order to a party to the suit on request.

House Bill 730 expands the list of information relating to investigation procedures and child placement resources that DFPS is required to provide in a written summary to a parent or other person under investigation and also requires DFPS to verbally notify that person of certain rights. The bill requires the written summary and verbal notification to be provided on first contact with the person and makes any information obtained from the person inadmissible for use against the person in a civil proceeding if the summary and verbal notification are not provided.

House Bill 730 requires a court that holds an ex parte hearing in a child protection suit to prepare and keep a record of the hearing and to provide a copy of the record to a party to the suit on request. The bill requires DFPS to provide notice of an ex parte hearing involving a parent who is represented by an attorney.

House Bill 730 prohibits the court, in a suit for a temporary order to require a parent, managing conservator, guardian, or other member of a child’s household to participate in certain child and family services, from issuing an order that places the child outside of the child’s home or in DFPS conservatorship.

House Bill 730 also revises provisions governing parental safety placement agreements. The bill requires DFPS to notify parties to the agreement of the right to consult with an attorney and establishes

limits on the duration of such an agreement, the number of times the agreement may be renewed, and the total amount of time a child may be placed outside of their home without either a court order or the agreement of the child's parent and the parent's attorney. The bill requires a placement agreement to include specified language regarding those limits and the voluntary nature of the agreement and requires DFPS to report certain data relating to parental child safety placements.

House Bill 755 **House Author:** Johnson, Julie et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 755 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a health benefit plan issuer that provides prescription drug benefits from requiring an enrollee to receive more than one prior authorization annually of the prescription drug benefit for certain prescription drugs prescribed to treat an autoimmune disease, hemophilia, or Von Willebrand disease.

House Bill 767 **House Author:** Harless et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 767 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide for the entry into the Texas Crime Information Center of certain information relating to conditions of bond imposed by a magistrate for stalking offenses.

House Bill 783 **House Author:** Meza **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 783 amends the Health and Safety Code, with respect to the 10 most populous counties in Texas, counties adjacent to those counties, or a municipality located in any of these counties, to authorize an individual, corporation, partnership, firm, trust, or association to file a written application with the governing body of a municipality or the county commissioners court to establish or use a cemetery located inside municipal or county limits, as applicable. The bill authorizes the applicable governing body or commissioners court to authorize such establishment or use if the establishment or use does not adversely affect public health, safety, and welfare.

House Bill 784 **House Author:** Ordaz **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 784 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the El Paso County judge to file an order with the commissioners court delegating to a county commissioner, a chief administrator, or another county officer or employee the ability to sign orders or other official documents associated with the county judge's office. The bill authorizes the county judge to file a standing order of emergency delegation of authority indicating the types of orders or documents that the delegates may sign in the event of an emergency or disaster. The bill also authorizes the commissioners court to delegate managerial authority of the commissioners court to a county chief administrator.

House Bill 785 **House Author:** Swanson **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 785 amends the Estates Code to change the delivery method from certified or registered mail to a qualified delivery method, as defined by the bill, for serving a citation or notice for a guardianship proceeding, including the following:

- the transfer of a guardianship to another county, on the court's motion;
- the resignation of a resident agent of a guardian;
- an application for an allowance out of a ward's estate for the education and maintenance of the ward's spouse or dependent;

- an application to establish an estate plan or transfer plan for a ward shown to probably remain incapacitated during the ward's lifetime;
- an application for inspection of certain documents;
- a court's acknowledgment of receipt of an informal request by a ward to investigate necessity of a guardianship and notice regarding a court investigator;
- for claimants to an estate; and
- before the removal of a guardian.

The bill provides for the date of service for delivery by such a method and for the applicant or movant in a guardianship proceeding to pay the cost of delivery of a citation or notice, to be taxed as costs in the proceeding.

House Bill 793

House Author: Noble et al.

House Committee: Human Services

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 793 amends the Family Code to authorize a parent who is required to complete a service plan for a child under care of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to obtain services from a qualified or licensed provider selected by the parent. These services must be designed to achieve the stated goals of the service plan and may be provided through an electronic communication platform. The bill requires DFPS to reimburse any selected service provider who is not under contract with DFPS in an amount equal to the average cost for the specific service from DFPS contractors providing the service in the region where the parent resides. DFPS must implement the bill using existing resources.

House Bill 796

House Author: Button et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Effective: 1-1-24

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 796 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of each appraisal district to create, maintain, and annually update a publicly available and searchable Internet database that contains information regarding protest hearings conducted by the district's appraisal review board, including the determination of each protest. The bill requires the database of property-tax-related information maintained by a chief appraiser to provide a link to the district's protest hearing database.

House Bill 841

House Author: Ordaz et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 841 amends the Government Code to specify that the judicial statistics gathered by the Texas Judicial Council from the state's judges and court officials and reported to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System must include case-level information on the amount and character of the business transacted by courts.

House Bill 842

House Author: Patterson

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 842 amends the Transportation Code to prohibit the Department of Public Safety (DPS) from suspending a person's driver's license for driving with an invalid license or from extending the period of such a suspension if the offense was committed before September 1, 2019, the person was convicted after August 31, 2023, and the person pays DPS any fee required for license reinstatement. This prohibition does not apply to a commercial driver's license or a person who was transporting hazardous materials or operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the offense.

[House Bill 844](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Patterson et al.
Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 844 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish that for purposes of the Crime Victims' Compensation Act, criminally injurious conduct includes the solicitation or patronization of forced labor or services, including sexual conduct, that occurs in connection with a scheme or course of conduct that constitutes the trafficking of persons. Additionally, the bill establishes that a victim of such criminally injurious conduct is a trafficking victim for purposes of grant programs administered by the office of the governor.

[House Bill 852](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thierry et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 852 amends the Health and Safety Code to expand the membership of the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee by including four additional physician members with certain specialties and one representative of a managed care organization. The bill additionally replaces the community advocate member with two community members who collectively represent an urban and a rural area of Texas and who have experience in a relevant health care field, including a field involving health care data analysis.

[House Bill 886](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Shaheen
Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Business & Industry
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 886 amends the Property Code to require a property owners' association (POA) to provide delinquency notices before filing an assessment lien and prohibits a POA from filing the lien before the 90th day after the date the second notice was sent to the owner. These provisions do not apply to a property owners' association providing a property owner covered by the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act the protections to which the owner is entitled under that act.

[House Bill 891](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Spiller et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Senate Committee: State Affairs

Current law prohibits a person from offering an expert opinion or recommendation relating to the conservatorship of or possession of or access to a child at issue in a suit unless the person has conducted a child custody evaluation relating to the child. House Bill 891 amends the Family Code to establish that such prohibition does not prohibit a person from offering an expert opinion regarding the qualifications of, reliability of the methodology used by, or relevance of the information obtained by a person who has conducted a child custody evaluation relating to the child as long as the person's testimony does not violate the prohibition.

[House Bill 898](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Stucky et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

Current law establishes an offense for a driver approaching certain stationary emergency or other protected vehicles who fails to either vacate the lane containing the vehicle or sufficiently slow their vehicle's speed. House Bill 898 amends the Transportation Code to revise certain elements of that offense by doing the following:

- setting the fee for the offense at not less than \$500 or more than \$1,250;
- enhancing the fee for a subsequent conviction of the offense within five years;
- increasing the penalty for the offense resulting in bodily injury to another; and
- enhancing the penalty for a second or subsequent injurious offense.

The bill provides for the suspension of a driver's license on a subsequent offense and authorizes the court to require a defendant to discharge any assessed fines or costs through community service.

House Bill 900

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Patterson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 900, the Restricting Explicit and Adult-Designated Educational Resources (READER) Act, amends the Education Code to provide for the regulation of library materials sold to or included in public school libraries. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission’s adoption of school library standards for collection development that, as follows:

- prohibit the possession, acquisition, and purchase of any harmful material or library material that is sexually explicit or pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable;
- recognize that obscene content is not constitutionally protected;
- recognize that parents are the primary decision makers regarding a student’s access to library material and recommends schools communicate effectively with parents regarding collection development;
- are required for all library materials available for use or display;
- encourage schools to provide library catalog transparency;
- recommend schools communicate effectively with parents regarding collection development; and
- prohibit the removal of material based solely on the ideas contained therein or the personal background of the material’s author or characters.

House Bill 900 requires library material vendors to issue appropriate ratings related to sexually explicit material and sexually relevant material previously sold to a public school district or public school. The bill prohibits a library material vendor from selling any library materials to a district or open-enrollment charter school unless the vendor has issued the appropriate ratings. The vendor is additionally required to submit to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) an initial list of sexually explicit material and sexually relevant material in active use by a district or charter school and annual updates to that list. The bill prohibits a vendor from selling library material rated as sexually explicit material and requires that vendor to issue a recall for all copies of such material in active use. The bill provides for TEA’s authority to review and correct library material ratings and sets out provisions regarding vendors who do not comply with the ratings requirements. The bill establishes that a district or charter school or a teacher, librarian, or other staff member employed by a district or charter school is not liable for any claim or damage resulting from a vendor’s violation of the bill’s provisions with respect to sexually relevant material and sexually explicit material.

House Bill 900 requires each district and charter school to biennially review the content of each district or school library material that is rated as sexually relevant material by the library material vendor to determine whether to retain the reviewed material. The bill establishes reporting requirements regarding the library material reviewed and the district’s or charter school’s decision regarding the material.

House Bill 907

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Moody

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 907 amends the Family Code to replace provisions listing certain judges, justices, and magistrates authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony with provisions authorizing a marriage ceremony to be conducted by a current, former, or retired federal or state judge and defining “federal judge” and “state judge” for such purposes by reference to a provision of the Tax Code.

House Bill 914

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hefner et al.

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 914 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the Class A misdemeanor offense of tampering with a governmental record by including tampering with a temporary vehicle registration tag or temporary vehicle license tag. The bill includes

tampering with such a temporary tag among the offenses for which a peace officer may issue a citation containing notice to appear instead of taking the actor before a magistrate.

House Bill 915 **House Author:** Craddick et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 915 amends the Labor Code to require each employer to post a notice to employees of the contact information for reporting instances of workplace violence or suspicious activity to the Department of Public Safety.

House Bill 916 **House Author:** Ordaz et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 916 amends the Insurance Code to require a health benefit plan that provides benefits for a prescription contraceptive drug to provide for an enrollee to obtain up to a three-month supply of the covered drug at one time the first time the enrollee obtains the drug and up to a 12-month supply of the drug at one time each subsequent time the enrollee obtains the same drug, regardless of whether the enrollee was enrolled in the health benefit plan the first time the enrollee obtained the drug. An enrollee may obtain only one 12-month supply during each 12-month period.

House Bill 923 **House Author:** Cain et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 923 amends the Transportation Code to designate the interchange in La Porte between State Highway 225 and State Highway 146 as the Aaron M. Hicks Memorial Interchange.

House Bill 968 **House Author:** Gates et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 968 amends the Family Code to authorize an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect to agree to an order that requires the alleged perpetrator to leave the child's residence. Such an order may not be used against the alleged perpetrator as an admission of abuse or neglect.

House Bill 968 also sets out findings that a court is required to make before issuing certain orders authorizing the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to take possession of a child without prior notice and a hearing or to maintain possession of a child taken in an emergency without a court order. The bill requires an affidavit filed by DFPS when seeking such an order to include facts supporting those findings and to describe all reasonable efforts that were made to prevent or eliminate the need for the removal of the child.

House Bill 969 **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 969 amends the Family Code to authorize a municipality or county to adopt an ordinance or order that imposes a civil penalty for interfering with child custody.

House Bill 975 **House Author:** Neave Criado et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 975 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Interstate Highway 635 in Mesquite as the Officer Richard Houston II Memorial Highway.

[House Bill 995](#)

Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Muñoz, Jr. et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 995 amends the Local Government Code to require a county operating under a sheriff's department civil service system to provide a sheriff's department employee a leave of absence for an illness or injury that occurred in the line of duty. The bill provides for the amount and duration of the leave, for the temporary leave of an employee who is temporarily disabled by an injury or illness that did not occur in the line of duty, and for the reinstatement or reappointment of a recovered employee.

[House Bill 998](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Paul

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 998 amends the Insurance Code to provide for property owners' association insurance coverage under the FAIR Plan for the common areas and facilities of a homeowners' association and the common elements of a condominium owners' association that are located in an underserved area, as designated by the commissioner of insurance, that is not more than 10 miles beyond the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association catastrophe area. If the commissioner determines that property owners' association insurance is not reasonably available in any part of the designated area in the voluntary market to a substantial number of insurable risks, the bill requires the FAIR Plan Association to make the insurance available to each insurable applicant in an underserved area of the designated area who is unable to obtain that insurance through the voluntary market.

[House Bill 999](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Price et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

House Committee: Health Care Reform, Select

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 999 amends the Insurance Code to require a pharmacy benefit manager or an issuer of a health benefit plan that covers prescription drugs to apply any form of reduction in out-of-pocket expenses made by or on behalf of an enrollee for a prescription drug to the enrollee's deductible, copayment, cost-sharing responsibility, or out-of-pocket maximum applicable to health benefits under the enrollee's plan. This applies only to a reduction for a prescription drug covered by the enrollee's plan for which a generic equivalent or interchangeable biological product does not exist or exists but the enrollee has obtained access to the prescription drug under their plan using a prior authorization process, a step therapy protocol, or the plan issuer's exceptions and appeals process.

[House Bill 1000](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Darby

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

House Committee: Redistricting

Senate Committee: Redistricting, Special

House Bill 1000 ratifies and adopts the districts established by the 87th Legislature as the districts used to elect members of the Texas House of Representatives beginning with the primary and general elections in 2024 for members of the 89th Legislature.

[House Bill 1002](#)

Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Price et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1002 amends the Education Code to authorize a public school district or an open-enrollment charter school to include a licensed chiropractor or licensed physical therapist as a member of the district or charter school concussion oversight team. The bill requires a public school student to be removed from an interscholastic athletics practice or competition immediately if a licensed physical therapist believes the student might have sustained a concussion during the practice or the competition.

House Bill 1009**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Turner**Senate Sponsor:** West et al.**House Committee:** Human Services**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1009 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to require certain facilities to suspend the employment of a facility employee who is found to have engaged in conduct that must be reported to the employee misconduct registry maintained by the Health and Human Services Commission while the individual exhausts any applicable appeals process. The bill also requires a Medicaid provider to take such action with respect to a residential caregiver employed or contracted by the provider to provide community-based residential care services to Medicaid recipients with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD).

House Bill 1009 requires a Medicaid provider to review state and federal criminal history record information and obtain electronic updates of arrests and convictions for each residential caregiver the provider employs or contracts with to provide community-based residential care services to Medicaid recipients with an IDD. The bill prohibits an individual who has been convicted of an offense that bars a person from employment serving the elderly, persons with disabilities, or persons with terminal illnesses from being employed or contracted as a residential caregiver or otherwise providing direct care to Medicaid recipients with an IDD and requires a Medicaid provider to immediately discharge a residential caregiver convicted of such an offense. The bill provides for disciplinary action against an individual or Medicaid provider who violates these provisions.

House Bill 1034**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Stucky**Senate Sponsor:** Parker**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1034 amends the Tax Code to authorize the Wise County Commissioners Court to impose a hotel occupancy tax at a rate capped at two percent of the price paid for a hotel room. In addition to the purposes for which county hotel occupancy tax revenue may otherwise be used under state law, the bill authorizes Wise County to use the revenue from that tax for historical preservation and restoration and for substantially enhancing hotel activity and encouraging tourism through the construction, enlarging, equipping, improvement, maintenance, repairing, or operation of a civic center with an arena used for rodeos, livestock shows, and agricultural expositions.

House Bill 1038**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Cain et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Sparks**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services**Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 1038 amends the Government Code to require the Bond Review Board to submit to the legislature and post on the board's website a biennial report on all lending programs and credit support programs in Texas. The report must contain the total amount of state money lent through lending programs, the total amount of debt supported by credit support programs, and, for each lending or credit support program, the total amount of state money lent through or debt supported by the program, as applicable, a citation to the law authorizing the program, and a reasonable estimate of the costs of default associated with the program, computed in accordance with private-sector accounting standards for credit or other losses.

House Bill 1040**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Paul**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**House Committee:** Insurance**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1040 amends the Insurance Code to authorize a business entity regulated by the Texas Department of Insurance to conduct business electronically by default, conditioned on requisite notice being provided to each other party to the business and on no such party requesting that the business

be conducted in nonelectronic form, as an alternative to conducting business electronically only on the explicit agreement of each party to the business. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises the minimum standards for electronically conducting business with consumers to reflect the default electronic delivery of a written communication to a party and to clarify the conditions under which the delivery is made;
- requires a notice of cancellation or termination of an applicable insurance policy to be a written communication and delivered to the party electronically and in paper or another nonelectronic form; and
- authorizes the sponsor of a health benefit plan, including a vision or dental benefit plan, to give consent on behalf of an enrolled party through a written communication delivered electronically to a party.

House Bill 1058

Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Goldman et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 1058 amends the Tax Code to establish a franchise tax credit for a taxable entity that owns a direct or indirect interest in a qualified development in Texas for which the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) awards or allocates a federal low-income housing credit. The bill entitles such an entity to claim the credit in equal installments each year over a 10-year credit period and caps the total amount of credits that may be awarded each year at \$25 million, plus any unallocated credits carried over from previous years and any credits recaptured or otherwise returned to TDHCA. Credits may be issued beginning January 1, 2024, but can only be claimed on a tax report originally due on or after January 1, 2026.

House Bill 1058 amends the Insurance Code to make an entity eligible for a credit against the entity's state premium tax liability if the entity owns a direct or indirect interest in such a qualified development. That entity is not required to pay any additional retaliatory tax as a result of claiming the credit. The total amount claimed may not exceed the amount of the entity's state premium tax liability but the entity may carry a surplus credit forward or backward. Credits may be claimed only on a tax report originally due on or after January 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2036.

House Bill 1058 prohibits TDHCA from allocating any new franchise tax or insurance premium tax credits after December 31, 2029; however, on or after January 1, 2030, TDHCA may provide previously reserved credits and a taxable entity may claim a credit in connection with a qualified development that was allocated or reserved before January 1, 2030. The bill provides for the recapturing of franchise tax or insurance premium tax credits from an entity if the applicable qualified development is subject to the recapture of a portion of the federal tax credit awarded or allocated to the development.

House Bill 1074

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hull

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1074 amends the Insurance Code to clarify that an insurer or insurer's agent offering or giving to an insured or applicant services or other offerings not specified in the insurance policy that relate to loss control of the risks covered under the policy for free or at a discounted price in a nondiscriminatory manner is not prohibited under state law. The bill requires the cost to the insurer or agent offering the product or service to a customer to be reasonable in comparison to the customer's premiums or insurance coverage for the policy class. Furthermore, the bill prohibits the insurer or agent from providing to another person any data or other information obtained about the customer from or in connection with the product or service other than for purposes related to loss control of risks covered under the policy.

[House Bill 1087](#) **House Author:** Hull **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1087 amends the Family Code to prohibit a court from ordering termination of the parent-child relationship in a suit filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that one of the following circumstances exists and describes the applicable finding in the order:

- DFPS made reasonable efforts to return the child to the parent before commencement of a trial on the merits and despite those reasonable efforts, a continuing danger remains in the home that prevents the child's return; or
- reasonable efforts to return the child to the parent have been waived by the court because the parent has subjected the child to aggravated circumstances.

The bill requires certain affidavits and orders in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship in which a child is removed from their home to state the reasonable efforts that were made to prevent or eliminate the need for the removal of the child. The bill also requires a court to document certain findings if, at the conclusion of a full adversary hearing, the court does not return a child to the person from whom the child was removed or does not order possession of the child by another applicable person entitled to possession.

[House Bill 1088](#) **House Author:** Johnson, Ann et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1088 amends the Government Code to replace the prohibition against the attorney general defending a community supervision and corrections department (CSCD) or its employees in cases in which a person under supervision challenges the fact or duration of the supervision with a requirement for the attorney general or an applicable district or county attorney to do so. The attorney general must defend the CSCD or its employees in such cases if the district or county attorney is unable to do so and may provide assistance to the district or county attorney in defending a CSCD or its employees in such cases at the attorney's request.

[House Bill 1106](#) **House Author:** Goodwin et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1106 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to an acudetox specialist's practice of acupuncture by removing the condition that the specialist practice under the supervision of a licensed acupuncturist or physician and by expanding the conditions the specialist may treat. The bill, among other provisions, expands the types of professionals that qualify for certification as an acudetox specialist, extends the expiration of the certification from one year to three years from the date of issuance, and revises continuing education and renewal requirements.

[House Bill 1114](#) **House Author:** Kacal et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 6-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1114 amends the Education Code to expand the Blinn Junior College District service area to include the territory within the part of the Waller Independent School District that is located in Harris County.

[House Bill 1133](#) **House Author:** Spiller et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1133 amends the Occupations Code to exempt a person providing volunteer security services on premises where an event sponsored or sanctioned by a public primary or secondary school is

taking place from the Private Security Act and to authorize a peace officer providing such services on those premises or on the premises of an established place of religious worship to wear the uniform of their law enforcement agency or another uniform or badge that gives the appearance of being a peace officer.

House Bill 1161

House Author: Meyer et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1161 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to expand the scope of the attorney general's address confidentiality program (ACP) by including victims of child abduction and to update ACP eligibility criteria and application procedures accordingly.

House Bill 1163

House Author: Smith et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1163 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Parks and Wildlife Code, Penal Code, and Transportation Code to create the state jail felony offense of boating while intoxicated with a child passenger and provide a penalty enhancement for certain repeat intoxication offenders. Among other provisions, the bill provides for a court's duty to impose the installation of an interlock ignition device as a condition of bail or community supervision for the offense, makes the offense ineligible for deferred adjudication community supervision, provides for the suspension of the driver's license for those convicted of the offense, and provides for the issuance and execution of a warrant for, and the collection of, a breath or blood specimen in arrests for such an offense.

House Bill 1181

House Author: Shaheen et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1181 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to require a commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material on a website, including a social media platform, more than one-third of which is sexual material harmful to minors, to use reasonable age verification methods to verify that an individual attempting to access the material is 18 years of age or older. The bill requires the entity to display certain notices regarding pornography and mental health on the landing page of the website and on all advertisements for that website and to display information on the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Helpline on the bottom of every page of the website.

House Bill 1181 does not apply to a bona fide news or public interest broadcast, website video, report, or event and may not be construed to affect the rights of a news-gathering organization. The bill prohibits an Internet service provider, or its affiliates or subsidiaries, a search engine, or a cloud service provider from being held to have violated the bill's provisions solely for providing access or connection to or from a website or other information or content on the Internet or on a facility, system, or network not under that provider's control to the extent the provider or search engine is not responsible for the creation of the content that constitutes sexual material harmful to minors.

House Bill 1181 provides for the attorney general to bring an action against an entity that knowingly violates the bill's provisions to enjoin the violation, recover a civil penalty, and obtain other relief the court considers appropriate and authorizes the attorney general to recover reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and costs incurred in the action. The bill sets out a range of penalty amounts for violations based on the seriousness of the violation and other matters.

House Bill 1182

House Author: Harless

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1182 amends the Government Code to specify that the judicial statistics gathered by the Texas Judicial Council (TJC) from the state's judges and court officials and reported to the Office of Court

Administration of the Texas Judicial System (OCA) must include monthly court activity statistics and case-level information on the amount and character of the business transacted by each trial court in Texas. The bill specifies the statistics that must be included in the monthly information gathered by TJC for each trial court in a county with a population of at least one million. The bill requires OCA to publish in a searchable format on its public website the information for each court from the monthly statistics reports submitted to OCA. The bill also requires a court official for each court in a county with a population greater than one million to submit a copy of each such monthly report for the court to the appropriate county official and requires the county to publish that information in a searchable format on the county's public website. The bill removes a requirement for copies of monthly reports to be maintained in the office of the appropriate district or county clerk for a period of at least two years and be available to the public for inspection and reproduction.

[House Bill 1184](#) **House Author:** Rose **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1184 amends the Government Code to expand the group of entities granted access to criminal history record information for use in certain research or statistical projects.

[House Bill 1193](#) **House Author:** Turner et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Miles et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1193 amends the Property Code to prohibit a property owners' association from including or enforcing a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts a property owner from renting a dwelling to a person based on the person's method of payment, including payments made in whole or in part by a federal Section 8 housing choice voucher or any other federal, state, or local housing assistance provided to a person or to a property owner on behalf of a person, such as rental vouchers, rental assistance, or rental subsidies from a nongovernmental organization.

[House Bill 1195](#) **House Author:** Holland **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 6-9-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1195 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county clerk or district clerk in any county that allows for electronic filing of documents and instruments to require a person filing certain documents or instruments in person to present photo identification. The bill prohibits such a clerk from accepting the document or instrument if the individual does not provide the photo identification and authorizes such a clerk to copy or record identifying information under certain circumstances.

[House Bill 1198](#) **House Author:** Dean **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1198 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Transportation to develop and implement a public awareness campaign to promote the proper attachment of a trailer to a passenger car and raise awareness regarding the potential consequences of failing to attach a trailer properly.

[House Bill 1199](#) **House Author:** Dean **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1199 amends the Transportation Code to require an accident report form prepared by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to include a way to indicate whether a trailer was involved in an accident and any fatalities. The bill requires TxDOT to include that information among the statistical information derived from accident reports that TxDOT publishes online.

House Bill 1207

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1207 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to eliminate the statute of limitations for the felony offense of tampering with physical evidence if the evidence tampered with is a human corpse or the investigation of the offense shows that a reasonable person in the defendant's position at the time of the offense would have cause to believe that the evidence tampered with is related to a criminal homicide.

House Bill 1211

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1211 amends the Education Code to extend eligibility for the loan repayment program for mental health professionals that is administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to a licensed specialist in school psychology who is employed by, and provides mental health services to students enrolled in, a public school district all or part of which is located in a federally designated mental health care health professional shortage area, an open-enrollment charter school located in such an area, or a public school that receives funding under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The bill caps at \$40,000 the total amount of assistance such a specialist may receive.

House Bill 1211 specifies that a scholarship awarded by a private or independent institution of higher education under an agreement with the Joint Admission Medical Program Council is in addition to any other scholarship money awarded to the student and that the total amount of scholarship awards may not exceed the amount of tuition and fees that the student is charged.

House Bill 1212

Effective: 6-2-23

House Author: Jetton, Jacey et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1212 amends the Education Code to prohibit a public school district from requiring documentation from a clergy member or other religious leader to excuse a student's absence from school to observe a religious holy day. The bill requires a district to accept a note from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation verifying the purpose of the absence.

House Bill 1217

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Swanson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1217 amends the Election Code to expand to all counties, regardless of population, the applicability of the following provisions regarding early voting:

- provisions requiring extended weekday and weekend hours at the main early voting polling place during the last week of early voting for a primary election or the general election for state and county officers and extended hours on each of the last two days of early voting for a special election ordered by the governor; and
- provisions requiring early voting at a temporary branch polling place to be conducted on the days that early voting is required to be conducted at the main early voting polling place and requiring extended weekend hours at mandatory temporary branch locations for a primary election, the general election for state and county officers, or a special election to fill a vacancy in the legislature or congress.

The bill authorizes state funds disbursed to a registrar in a county with a population of less than 55,000 for financing voter registration to be used to defray the cost to the registrar's county of keeping the polling places in the county open during the early voting period.

House Bill 1221
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Metcalf
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1221 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Property Code to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), after certain notification and confirmation, to file an unclaimed property claim with the comptroller of public accounts on behalf of a crime victim if the reported owner of the property was finally convicted and ordered to pay criminal restitution to the victim and is confined in a TDCJ facility based on that conviction. The bill requires TDCJ to quarterly send the comptroller a data set regarding confined inmates to initiate the filing and facilitate the approval of these claims. The bill provides for the comptroller's approval of the claims and for a county's acceptance and forwarding of restitution payments for unclaimed property from TDCJ.

House Bill 1221 requires a court's notification to TDCJ of an inmate's restitution order to specify the amount of restitution owed on the notification date.

House Bill 1225
Effective: 6-2-23

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1225 amends the Education Code to authorize a public school district to administer certain statewide standardized tests in paper format to a student whose parent, guardian, or teacher in the applicable subject area requests such a format. The bill establishes deadlines by which such a request must be submitted to the district and caps the number of students who may be administered an applicable test in paper format for any single administration at three percent of the number of students enrolled in the district. On receipt of more requests for administration of a test than the maximum number permitted, the district must accept the requests in the order received until the maximum number is reached.

House Bill 1227
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Corrections
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1227 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Health and Safety Code to make a defendant convicted of possession or promotion of child pornography ineligible for judge-ordered community supervision.

House Bill 1228
Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Metcalf et al.
Senate Sponsor: Springer et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1228 amends the Tax Code to replace provisions allowing for electronic communication under the Property Tax Code by mutual agreement between a chief appraiser and a property owner or the owner's agent with provisions that instead require the electronic delivery of communications under the Property Tax Code on election of the property owner or the owner's agent. This change applies beginning with the 2024 tax year for appraisal districts in counties with a population of 120,000 or more and with the 2025 tax year for appraisal districts in counties with populations less than 120,000.

House Bill 1228 also gives a property owner or the owner's agent the option to request from the chief appraiser or a private appraisal firm, as applicable, an electronic or mailed copy of the applicable information used to appraise the owner's property that the owner or agent is otherwise entitled to inspect and copy under state law in person.

House Bill 1243
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hefner et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1243 amends the Election Code to increase the penalty for the offense of illegal voting from a Class A misdemeanor to a second degree felony but establishes that an attempt is a state jail felony.

[House Bill 1255](#) **House Author:** Smithee et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 5-24-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1255 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to prohibit a party from asserting a claim in an arbitration proceeding after the expiration of the statute of limitations period if the party could not bring suit for the claim in court due to the expiration, unless the party brought suit for the claim in court before the expiration of that period and the parties to the claim agreed to arbitrate the claim or a court ordered the parties to arbitrate the claim.

[House Bill 1263](#) **House Author:** Thompson, Senfronia et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1263 amends the Transportation Code to require a local authority's measures that designate a school crossing zone or school crosswalk to include a high school campus if the campus is located in the city of Houston. On request of an administrator of such a campus, the local authority must determine the components necessary for the designation of a school crossing zone or school crosswalk and make the designation, unless the campus is undergoing major expansion or new construction that requires the preparation of a traffic impact analysis as part of the permitting process. The bill requires a local authority, not later than September 1, 2023, to update all applicable school zone standards, policies, orders, ordinances, and regulations to comply with the bill's requirements and to publicly post updates with instructions on how a designation request may be made.

[House Bill 1275](#) **House Author:** Plesa et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1275 amends the Transportation Code to require the Department of Public Safety to adopt procedures to allow a person who is 65 years of age or older and possesses a federally compliant driver's license to apply for a personal identification certificate online or by phone if they surrender their driver's license.

[House Bill 1277](#) **House Author:** Cain et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Transportation

Current law requires a pedestrian walking along a highway to walk on the left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway facing oncoming traffic if a sidewalk is not provided. House Bill 1277 amends the Transportation Code to except a pedestrian from this requirement if the left side of the roadway or the shoulder of the highway facing oncoming traffic is obstructed or unsafe.

[House Bill 1283](#) **House Author:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1283 amends the Government Code to postpone from August 31, 2023, to August 31, 2033, the date on or after which certain prescription drug formulary-related requirements for the outpatient pharmacy benefit plan provided for as part of a Medicaid managed care contract no longer apply and are unenforceable.

[House Bill 1285](#) **House Author:** Shine **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

State law requires the board of directors for an appraisal district created for a county with a population of more than 120,000 to appoint a taxpayer liaison officer. House Bill 1285 amends the Tax Code to expand the duties of the taxpayer liaison officer to include the resolution of a complaint related to the appraisal district or its appraisal review board (ARB) that does not involve the appraisal of property and

to provide for the appointment of deputy taxpayer liaison officers. The bill requires the comptroller of public accounts to establish and supervise a program for training and educating taxpayer liaison officers and deputy taxpayer liaison officers, completion of which is mandatory not later than the first anniversary of the date the officer is appointed and on a biennial basis thereafter. The bill requires information about and contact information for the taxpayer liaison officer to be posted online by the appraisal district, if the district maintains a website, and requires information about the duties of such an officer to be included as part of the pamphlet on property tax payer remedies published by the comptroller of public accounts.

Among other provisions, House Bill 1285 also revises the procedures for removing the chair of an ARB as a result of a finding that the chair failed to adopt hearing procedures aligning with the comptroller's model procedures after having been advised to do so.

House Bill 1287 **House Author:** Guillen et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1287 amends the Human Resources Code to prohibit the Health and Human Services Commission, in determining the eligibility of an applicant for SNAP benefits or recertifying the eligibility of a recipient of such benefits, from considering as resources the value of a motor vehicle in which the applicant or recipient or a member of the applicant's or recipient's household has an ownership interest up to \$22,500 for the first vehicle and \$8,700 for each additional vehicle.

House Bill 1290 **House Author:** Campos et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1290 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a convalescent or nursing facility from confiscating or misappropriating a payment made to a resident who is a Medicaid recipient by the federal government that is not designated by law as income or a resource for purposes of Medicaid eligibility. The bill imposes an administrative penalty of \$25,000 for each violation of this prohibition and establishes that each day the facility fails to return confiscated or misappropriated money to the resident constitutes a separate violation.

House Bill 1297 **House Author:** Dutton **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1297 amends the Special Senses and Communication Disorders Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the rules developed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission for the School Vision and Hearing Screening Program to allow an individual who attends a public or private school to be screened using an electronic eye chart as a substitute for a printed eye chart to assess visual acuity.

House Bill 1299 **House Author:** Noble et al. **House Committee:** Elections
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1299 amends the Election Code to require a signature on a mail-in ballot carrier envelope to be made using ink on paper and to prohibit the use of an electronic signature or photocopied signature on the envelope.

House Bill 1305 **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1305 amends the Transportation Code to designate the State Highway 19 bridge crossing Lake Fork Reservoir in Rains County as the Mildred McMillan Garrett Memorial Bridge.

[House Bill 1315](#) **House Author:** Herrero **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1315, the Le Roy and Rosie Torres Act, amends the Health and Safety Code and Transportation Code to create the open burn pit registry fund as a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund. The bill also requires the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates to honor members of the U.S. armed forces who were exposed to open burn pits during their military service, with a portion of the issuance fee deposited to the credit of the open burn pit registry fund.

[House Bill 1330](#) **House Author:** Morales, Eddie **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1330 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the commissioners court of Jeff Davis County to create a grant program for the purpose of funding public improvement projects to benefit unincorporated communities located in the county. The bill authorizes the county to apply for and accept a gift, grant, or donation from any source to fund such a project.

[House Bill 1333](#) **House Author:** Kacal **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1333 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt Texas wholesalers, retailers, and restaurants from finfish import license requirements when selling commercially protected finfish raised by an operator of a Texas commercial aquaculture facility. The bill also repeals the requirement that certain freshwater fish shipped into Texas for sale or purchase have a bill of lading with the shipment. Among other provisions, the bill exempts the sale of largemouth bass for stocking purposes from certain law relating to feeding requirements, if the fish were reared in private water, harvested for population management purposes, and sold by an operator of such a facility.

[House Bill 1337](#) **House Author:** Hull et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1337 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a health benefit plan that provides coverage for prescription drugs to treat a serious mental illness from requiring, before the plan provides coverage of an FDA-approved drug prescribed to an enrollee who is 18 years of age or older to treat the enrollee's diagnosis of a serious mental illness, that the enrollee fail to successfully respond to more than one different drug for each drug prescribed or prove a history of failure of more than one different drug for each drug prescribed, excluding the generic or pharmaceutical equivalent of the prescribed drug. The bill also limits an issuer's authority to implement a step therapy protocol for these drugs.

[House Bill 1357](#) **House Author:** Holland **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1357 repeals a Human Resources Code provision that sets an expiration date for statutory provisions regarding Medicaid reimbursement for medication-assisted opioid or substance use disorder treatment.

[House Bill 1361](#) **House Author:** Morales Shaw et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Eckhardt et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1361 amends the Education Code to require each public institution of higher education to designate at least one employee to act as a liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The bill sets out information to be provided

to students by such a liaison officer and requires an institution to submit to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board an annual report regarding enrolled students who fit that criteria.

[House Bill 1363](#) **House Author:** Kuempel **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1363 repeals Occupations Code provisions establishing the real estate inspection recovery fund and amends the Occupations Code to redirect the deposit of administrative penalties collected for real estate inspector violations to the general revenue fund for purposes of offsetting any amount required to be remitted to the general revenue fund by the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC). The bill directs TREC to take certain actions with respect to the allocation of money remaining in the real estate inspection recovery fund.

[House Bill 1368](#) **House Author:** Cunningham et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1368 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1960 in Harris County as the Deputy Constable Omar Ursin Memorial Highway.

[House Bill 1381](#) **House Author:** Hernandez **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1381 amends the Local Government Code to specify that the number of public hearings that a municipal zoning commission is required to hold on a preliminary zoning report is at least one.

[House Bill 1382](#) **House Author:** Hernandez **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1382 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to give a county commissioners court the option to conduct a public auction of real property taken in execution of a judgment using online bidding and sale as an alternative to conducting an in-person sale.

[House Bill 1391](#) **House Author:** Schaefer et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1391 amends the Texas Electrical Safety and Licensing Act, Occupations Code, to provide for the creation of a sequence of courses in the electrical trade to be offered through career and technology education programs at a public school, private school, or institution of higher education. A person who successfully completes such courses may apply and take the examination for a residential wireman license, regardless of whether the person has completed the otherwise required requisite number of on-the-job training hours. The bill requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to establish program standards in consultation with the Texas State Technical College and relevant electrical industry interest groups and, if the courses are offered in a high school, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education.

[House Bill 1393](#) **House Author:** Frank et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 1393 amends the Government Code to give a member of the Employees Retirement System of Texas who retires on or after September 1, 2024, and who is eligible for a service retirement annuity

that is not reduced because of age the option to select an annuity that is reduced at the beginning of the member's retirement but gradually increases over time, as prescribed by the bill. The increasing annuity option may be elected only once by a member, may not be elected by a retiree, and is not available to a member retiring under the proportionate retirement program. Moreover, the bill expressly does not apply to a disability retirement annuity or an annuity based on service credited in the elected class.

House Bill 1416

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Bell, Keith et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1416 amends the Education Code to revise a variety of provisions relating to public school students who fail to achieve satisfactory performance on certain tests and provisions relating to accelerated learning committees, supplemental instruction, and accelerated education plans. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- sets out provisions relating to accelerated instruction and accelerated education plans for students participating in a public school district's special education program;
- establishes standards that a public school district's curricular and instructional systems must meet to ensure that each student achieves at least satisfactory performance on each statewide standardized test;
- excepts a district from the requirement to provide accelerated instruction during the subsequent summer or school year to a student who fails to perform satisfactorily on a test developed or adopted based on alternative academic achievement standards;
- with respect to a student who does not perform satisfactorily on a certain statewide standardized or end-of-course test, repeals Education Code provisions relating to accelerated learning committees for such students and restricts the circumstances under which a district must either allow a student to be assigned a classroom teacher with a specified certification or provide the student supplemental instruction each time the student does not perform satisfactorily on such a test or on certain end-of-course tests;
- revises requirements relating to supplemental instruction with respect to the minimum number of hours of instruction to be provided to each student, the required frequency of the instruction, and the maximum number of students in group instruction;
- provides for the modification or removal of required supplemental instruction for a student on request of the student's parent or guardian but prohibits a district from encouraging or directing a parent or guardian to make such an election;
- requires the Texas Education Agency to approve an augmented method for providing supplemental instruction that may be used in lieu of some or all of the instruction, as appropriate, but only if evidence indicates that the alternative method is more effective than the required individual or group instruction;
- establishes that a district is not required to provide additional accelerated or supplemental instruction to a student based on the student's performance on an optional test in the applicable subject area; and
- requires a district to develop an accelerated education plan for each student who does not perform satisfactorily on specified statewide standardized or end-of-course tests for two or more consecutive school years in the same subject area to provide the necessary accelerated instruction to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the conclusion of the school year.

House Bill 1416 requires the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee of a student who participates in a district's special education program and who does not perform satisfactorily on certain statewide standardized tests or end-of-course tests to review the student's participation and progress in, as applicable, accelerated instruction, supplemental instruction, or an accelerated education plan. The

bill provides for an additional ARD committee meeting to be convened if a committee member believes that the student's individualized education program needs to be modified based on the requirements, as applicable, under the student's accelerated instruction, supplemental instruction, or an accelerated education plan.

House Bill 1416 authorizes accelerated instruction to be provided to a student who attends school in an off-campus instructional arrangement when the student attends school in an on-campus instructional setting but establishes that the district is not required to provide such instruction to the student if the student's condition prevents the student from attending school in an on-campus instructional setting for the applicable school year. Additionally, the bill exempts a district or open-enrollment charter school from the requirement to provide transportation for students attending accelerated programs if the district or school does not operate, or contract or agree with another entity to operate, a transportation system.

House Bill 1423

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Campos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1423 amends the Family Code to require the Department of Public Safety, as soon as practicable after the release of a person who is the subject of a protective order from confinement or imprisonment, to update the statewide law enforcement information system to reflect the date that the order will expire following the person's release. The bill requires each protective order issued under the Family Code to specify when the order expires and provide notice of any applicable extensions resulting from any confinement or imprisonment.

House Bill 1427

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Campos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1427 amends the Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes harassment to include making obscene, intimidating, or threatening telephone calls or other electronic communications from a temporary or disposable telephone number provided by an Internet application or other technological means with certain intent.

House Bill 1432

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Meza et al.

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire et al.

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1432 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Family Code to remove as a condition for the issuance of a family violence protective order that the court finds family violence is likely to occur in the future.

House Bill 1434

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Buckley

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1434 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the governing body of a Type A general-law municipality to establish staggered terms for its aldermen by majority vote.

House Bill 1440

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Button et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hall

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1440 amends the Local Government Code to revise the applicability of provisions governing change orders for certain municipal contracts. The bill limits that applicability to a contract awarded through a competitive procedure and lowers the minimum population threshold of a municipality that triggers the authorization to permit a municipal administrative official to approve a change order for certain public works contracts.

[House Bill 1442](#) **House Author:** Johnson, Ann et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1442 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to include highway racing and obstructing a highway or passageway while engaging in a reckless driving exhibition among the offenses that constitute engaging in organized criminal activity. The bill subjects property and proceeds associated with the commission of these offenses to contraband forfeiture.

[House Bill 1455](#) **House Author:** Anchía et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 1455 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Insurance Code to authorize the spouse and dependents of a person entitled to compensation for wrongful imprisonment to be included in the group health benefit plan coverage that the person is eligible to obtain through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) as if the person were a TDCJ employee.

[House Bill 1457](#) **House Author:** Rosenthal et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 1457 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to require an entity eligible for a grant from a state agency for the provision of mental health services to veterans or veterans' families to demonstrate that the entity has either successfully executed such a grant or that the entity provides or requires personnel training on military informed care or military cultural competency.

[House Bill 1466](#) **House Author:** Clardy et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1466 amends the Insurance Code to remove the provision that makes participation in a certified continuing education program for licensed fire alarm technicians, residential fire alarm technicians, residential fire alarm superintendents, or fire alarm planning superintendents voluntary. The bill also prohibits the commissioner of insurance from adopting a rule that excludes or devalues a certificate of training meeting certain criteria or that requires more than eight hours of continuing education for any license renewal period.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "As governor, I have dismantled unnecessary barriers to employment. Texans should have the freedom to get—and *keep*—a job, but House Bill No. 1466 would raise an unjustified obstacle to maintaining an occupational license for installing fire alarms. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 1472](#) **House Author:** Walle et al. **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1472 amends the Government Code to raise the cap on the annual household income of an owner-builder program loan recipient from 60 percent of the greater of the state or local median family income to 80 percent of the applicable median income.

[House Bill 1486](#) **House Author:** Gerdes et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1486 amends the Government Code to require each state agency and agency of a political subdivision that employs a full-time telecommunicator to develop and adopt a policy allowing the use of mental health leave by its telecommunicators who experience a traumatic event in the scope of their employment.

House Bill 1488**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Rose et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Miles et al.**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1488 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to set out provisions regarding sickle cell disease treatment and education and to revise provisions governing the sickle cell task force. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission, in collaboration with the task force, to address sickle cell disease education for Medicaid providers, support initiatives to assist Medicaid managed care plans in promoting timely and evidence-informed health care services to enrollees with sickle cell disease, explore methods for improving sickle cell disease education and awareness within the public school system, and provide recommendations to the Texas Education Agency. The bill also requires a medical school or graduate medical education program in Texas that offers certain residency programs to examine and incorporate in the curriculum sickle cell disease and trait education. With respect to the sickle cell task force, the bill expands the task force's membership, provides for the inclusion of recommendations for improving sickle cell disease education for health care providers in its annual report, and sets the date on which the task force is set to be abolished.

House Bill 1500**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Holland et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1500 amends the Utilities Code to continue the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) and the Office of Public Utility Counsel under the Texas Sunset Act until September 1, 2029, which, in turn, also sets the next sunset review of ERCOT for the 2028-2029 review cycle.

An omnibus bill aimed at improving the operation of the state's electric market, House Bill 1500 amends the Utilities Code and Water Code to further set out and revise provisions governing the PUC and ERCOT. Among other provisions, the bill:

- requires the PUC to develop and regularly update an agency-wide strategic communications plan;
- establishes reliability requirements for future electric generation facilities operating in the ERCOT power region;
- requires that the PUC require ERCOT to procure dispatchable reliability reserve services on a day-ahead and real-time basis to account for market uncertainty;
- establishes guardrails for any credit-based reliability program, including by implementing an annual \$1 billion net cost cap;
- requires the PUC to establish a reasonable allowance for costs incurred by transmission-owning utilities to interconnect generation resources to the ERCOT transmission system and requires that costs in excess of the allowance be directly assigned to and collected from the generation resource;
- establishes the Grid Reliability Legislative Oversight Committee to oversee the PUC's implementation of legislation related to the regulation of the electricity market in Texas enacted by the 87th and 88th Texas Legislatures;
- requires the PUC to submit an annual report to the legislature on dispatchable and non-dispatchable generation facilities and a biennial report on the state's electric industry;
- repeals the state's renewable energy goal and provides for the phasing out of the renewable energy credit program while also creating a new program under which ERCOT must maintain an accreditation and banking system for awarding and tracking voluntary renewable energy credits;
- with respect to voluntary mitigation plans (VMPs):
 - provides for the regular reviews of enacted VMPs to determine whether a VMP is in the public interest and requires any VMP not in the public interest to be modified or terminated;
 - increases the maximum penalty for a violation of a VMP to \$1,000,000; and
 - removes adherence to a VMP as an absolute defense against an alleged violation with respect to activities covered by the VMP;

- prohibits the PUC from giving verbal directives to ERCOT in non-emergent situations and requires instead that PUC directives given to ERCOT to take an official action come via a contested case, rulemaking, or a memorandum or written order;
- limits the circumstances under which the ERCOT board may enter into executive session and adds an additional PUC member to the ERCOT board as a nonvoting, ex officio member; and
- clarifies that certain ERCOT protocols, rules, and enforcement are subject to PUC oversight and contingent on PUC approval and authorizes the PUC to approve, reject, or remand with suggested modifications any protocols adopted by ERCOT.

House Bill 1506

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Meyer

Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1506 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to extend the five-year statute of limitations period for the felony offense of abandoning or endangering a child to 10 years from the victim's 18th birthday.

House Bill 1515

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Clardy et al.

Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: International Relations & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1515 amends the Government Code to continue the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) under the Texas Sunset Act until September 1, 2035. The bill provides for the winding up of the product development and small business incubator program and, among other revisions and provisions, does the following:

- authorizes TEDTO to establish advisory committees to make recommendations to TEDTO on programs, rules, and policies administered by TEDTO;
- requires TEDTO to develop a plan to engage with stakeholders to gather input and solicit feedback on the development of rules promulgated by TEDTO related to lending programs;
- provides for a biennial strategic tourism plan by TEDTO, rather than the annual plan as currently required;
- requires TEDTO to develop procedures for disbursement of money to borrowers and lending partners for access to capital programs and to develop documentation and recovery effort requirements of a participating partner for a claim against a reserve account;
- removes the requirement for the aerospace and aviation office to make specific recommendations to the legislature and governor regarding aerospace and aviation industries and exempts the size, composition, or duration of both the aerospace and aviation advisory committee and small business assistance advisory task force from statutory provisions relating to state agency advisory committees; and
- requires the TEDTO annual report on the activities of the Texas Economic Development Bank to include certain information relating to grants, loans, and designations awarded by the bank and for the small business disaster recovery loan program to include a general description of each small business for which an applicant was awarded a loan from Texas Economic Development Bank Fund during the preceding year.

House Bill 1526

Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Harris, Cody et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1526 amends the Local Government Code to set out provisions relating to parkland dedication for multifamily, hotel, and motel property development applicable only to the Cities of Houston,

San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, and Fort Worth. The bill authorizes such a city to require a landowner to dedicate a portion of the landowner's property for parkland use, impose a parkland dedication fee, or both require the dedication and impose the fee with respect to a plan application filed under the bill's provisions. The bill, among other provisions, provides for the following:

- a landowner to request that a city make a timely determination of the landowner's dedication amount;
- a limitation on a dedication amount;
- the calculation and collection of fees; and
- the appeal of a determination regarding a dedication requirement.

House Bill 1527

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1527 amends the Insurance Code to establish requirements for certain employee benefit plans and health insurance policies that provide dental benefits regarding overpayment recovery and third party access to provider networks and to prohibit the inclusion of certain provisions in contracts with dentists for such plans and policies. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for the circumstances under which an overpayment made to a dentist may be recovered and for the creation of policies and procedures that give the dentist the opportunity to challenge an overpayment recovery request;
- establishes the conditions under which access to a provider network contract or to a dentist's dental care services or contractual discounts provided under the contract may be granted to a third party and gives a contracting dentist the option to elect not to participate with respect to third party access; and
- prohibits a contract between a dentist and an applicable plan or policy provider or issuer from including a provision that allows the provider or issuer to disallow a service, resulting in denial of payment to the dentist for an ordinarily covered service, and that prohibits the dentist from billing for and collecting from the patient the amount owed for a service that was a dental necessity.

House Bill 1535

Effective: See below

House Author: Clardy et al.

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1535 amends the law to revise and update the governing provisions of the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. Among other provisions, including across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill does the following:

- changes the date of the biennial director election from the third Saturday in January to the uniform election date in November;
- decreases the length of a director's term of office from six years to four years;
- removes a provision that authorizes SARA bylaws to provide for the designation by its board of directors of an executive committee upon whom the district's manager may call for policy decisions and advice concerning matters which arise between board meetings and that may authorize the execution of any contract involving the expenditure of a maximum amount of \$20,000;
- replaces the majority by which SARA's board may exercise SARA's powers, rights, privileges, and functions from a majority of the directors present at any applicable board meeting to a majority of the board's membership;
- removes a provision that limits the electors entitled to vote in a SARA property tax election to only applicable property owners;

- repeals provisions that require SARA to prepare a master plan for the maximum development of its soil and water resources and that require the state auditor to annually audit SARA; and
- authorizes SARA to contract or otherwise coordinate with a nonprofit organization to accomplish SARA's purposes.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect May 24, 2023.

House Bill 1540 **House Author:** Holland et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1540 amends the law to revise and update the governing provisions of the San Jacinto River Authority, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill adds an additional authority director, decreases the length of a director's term from six years to four years, and requires the board of directors to develop and implement a comprehensive policy that provides a structure for public engagement in advance of major actions and projects.

House Bill 1547 **House Author:** Cook **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 1547 amends the Family Code to revise the law governing claims for reimbursement between marital estates. The bill broadens the circumstances under which such a claim may be pursued by replacing a specific list of authorized claims with a provision establishing that a claim for reimbursement exists when one or both spouses use property of one marital estate to confer on the property of another marital estate a benefit which, if not repaid, would result in unjust enrichment to the benefited estate. Among other provisions, the bill specifies the conditions under which a benefit is considered to be conferred, provides a method for determining the value of a conferred benefit, and authorizes a claim by one spouse to be offset by the value of any related benefit that the other spouse proves that the conferring estate received from the benefited estate.

House Bill 1550 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1550 amends the Government Code to continue the Office of State-Federal Relations (OSFR) under the Texas Sunset Act until September 1, 2035, and to update related statutory provisions to reflect OSFR activities and capabilities. Among other provisions, the bill requires OSFR to post on its website its annual report to the governor and members of the legislature.

House Bill 1553 **House Author:** Ashby **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1553 amends the Amusement Ride Safety Inspection and Insurance Act, Occupations Code, to exempt from provisions applicable to amusement rides a waterslide in which passengers are carried along a course that is less than 200 feet in length, is substantially constructed from vinyl or vinyl coated polyester, and is not mechanically inflated using a continuous airflow device.

House Bill 1555 **House Author:** Clardy et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1555 amends the law to revise and update the governing provisions of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. In addition to across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill decreases the length of a director's term from six years to four years and requires the board of directors to appoint a general manager of the authority.

[House Bill 1558](#)
Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Johnson, Ann
Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Business & Industry
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1558 amends the Property Code to provide for the extension or amendment of deed restrictions in certain older subdivisions that are described by a recorded map or plat filed before 1947 in the real property records of the county in which the subdivision is located and that are wholly or partly located in the city of Houston.

[House Bill 1565](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Canales et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Senate Sponsor: Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1565 amends the Water Code to implement certain across-the-board sunset provisions with respect to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and to continue the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Advisory Committee until September 1, 2035.

House Bill 1565, with respect to the acquisition and development of facilities, requires the TWDB to develop and implement performance goals and performance metrics as part of a comprehensive evaluation of the TWDB's review of proposed projects for compliance with programmatic and design requirements. With respect to financial assistance for water quality enhancement purposes, the bill authorizes the TWDB by rule to adopt procedures allowing the use of different standards of review and approval of design criteria for plans and specifications for sewage collection, treatment, and disposal systems. The bill repeals certain reporting requirements regarding the water loan assistance program, the water bond insurance program, and the storage acquisition program.

House Bill 1565 authorizes a regional water planning group to plan for drought conditions worse than the drought of record when developing a regional water plan and requires a plan to include information on the implementation of large projects.

[House Bill 1575](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hull et al. **House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1575 amends the Government Code and Human Resources Code to set out provisions aimed to improve health outcomes for pregnant women and their children through the case management for children and pregnant women program. The bill provides for the following:

- standardized screening questions for assessing the nonmedical health-related needs of pregnant women eligible for benefits under Medicaid and certain other public benefits programs and related mandatory informed consent;
- a biennial report to the legislature by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) summarizing the data collected and provided to HHSC by Medicaid managed care organizations and providers using the screening questions;
- provider qualifications and training requirements for the case management for children and pregnant women program and the establishment of separate Medicaid provider types for community health workers and doulas who provide case management services under the program;
- initial medical and nonmedical health-related screenings of certain pregnant women to determine eligibility for service coordination benefits or referral for program services and the optional nature of the screening or program services; and
- a one-time status report by HHSC to the legislature on the implementation of case management services provided to pregnant women under the case management for children and pregnant women program during the preceding fiscal year.

House Bill 1577

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hull et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1577 amends the Government Code to prohibit from release to mandatory supervision an inmate serving a sentence for or who has been previously convicted of:

- second degree felony assault;
- assault committed against a person with whom the actor has or had a dating, family, or household relationship or association, where certain aggravating factors are demonstrated at trial;
- assault committed against a pregnant individual to force the individual to have an abortion; or
- assault committed against a person the actor knows is pregnant at the time of the offense.

House Bill 1583

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Burrows

Senate Sponsor: Perry

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1583 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to codify the director election process used by the Terry Memorial Hospital District and to revise the newspaper publication requirement for notice of a directors' election to align the requirement with the Election Code.

House Bill 1587

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Oliverson

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1587 amends the Insurance Code to exempt from the policy form filing and approval requirements under applicable state law any group annuity policy, certificate, or contract written or issued by an authorized insurer in Texas that involves use of a separate account if benefits would also have guarantees from an insurer's general account. Among other provisions, the bill specifies that a group annuity policy, certificate, or contract includes a single premium group annuity policy, certificate, or contract that is negotiated between an insurer and an applicable group or plan sponsor for purposes of the exemption.

House Bill 1589

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Cook et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1589 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for assault causing bodily injury committed against a person with whom the defendant has a family, dating, or household relationship or association from a Class A misdemeanor to a third degree felony if the defendant has been previously convicted of violating certain court orders or bond conditions based on family violence. Furthermore, the penalty is enhanced to a second degree felony if, in addition to having such a previous conviction, the defendant commits the assault by impeding the person's breathing or blood circulation in a certain manner.

House Bill 1590

Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Burns et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1590 amends the Education Code to establish the Texas Leadership Scholars Program to serve as a merit-based scholarship and leadership opportunity program for high-achieving, emerging leaders with financial need administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The bill establishes initial and continuing eligibility requirements for program participation and authorizes the THECB to enter into agreements with institutions of higher education to provide students in the program with research-based support to make satisfactory academic progress and graduate on time and with leadership development opportunities.

[House Bill 1592](#) **House Author:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1592 amends the Insurance Code to extend the applicability of provisions establishing balance billing prohibitions and out-of-network dispute resolution procedures to a self-insured or self-funded health benefit plan that is established by an employer for the benefit of its employees in accordance with federal law and for which the plan sponsor has made an election to apply those provisions to the plan for the relevant plan year.

[House Bill 1595](#) **House Author:** Bonnen et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 1595 amends the Education Code to redesignate the National Research University Fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), which has as its purpose providing funding to enable certain general academic teaching institutions to achieve national prominence as major research universities and to drive the state economy. The bill modifies the fund's structure so that eligible institutions will receive a base funding amount dependent on the amount of federal and private research expenditures and then supplemental research performance funding tied to both research expenditures and the number of research doctoral degrees awarded. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the administration and investment of the TUF by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, conditions of eligibility to receive funding from the TUF, authorized uses of the TUF, and required reporting of TUF distribution amounts.

House Bill 1595 redesignates the Core Research Support Fund as the National Research Support Fund and revises the criteria that an institution must satisfy to qualify for a distribution from that fund. The bill requires money in the National Research Support Fund or the Texas Comprehensive Research Fund to be appropriated in the same manner that research performance funding is appropriated from the TUF.

House Bill 1595 takes effect January 1, 2024, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by House Joint Resolution 3.

[House Bill 1597](#) **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1597 amends the Utilities Code to authorize a trade association or an affiliate to file a tariff under the Public Utility Regulatory Act on behalf of a public telecommunications utility. With respect to the processing of a tariff application by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), the bill establishes a timeline for an application to be considered automatically approved on the basis of PUC inaction and a timeline for providing requested supplemental information to the PUC.

[House Bill 1598](#) **House Author:** Darby **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1598 amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Health and Safety Code, to establish that an applicant for a municipal solid waste facility permit is not required to obtain a permit for the siting, construction, or operation of the facility from a political subdivision as a prerequisite to a permit being issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The bill prohibits a political subdivision from adopting a rule, order, or ordinance that conflicts with or is inconsistent with applicable requirements for municipal solid waste facilities.

House Bill 1602 **House Author:** Guillen et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1602 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission to establish performance criteria for entities that receive state funds for adult education and literacy and to establish a process for giving priority in awarding funds to entities that consistently meet those criteria.

House Bill 1603 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1603 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize a justice or judge of a justice or municipal court to appoint any competent attorney as an attorney pro tem to represent the state if the state is not represented by counsel when a case for the prosecution of a misdemeanor offense is called for trial. The bill establishes that an attorney appointed in this manner is qualified to perform the duties of the office of the state's attorney and may be paid a reasonable fee for performing those duties.

House Bill 1605 **House Author:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1605 amends the Education Code to revise and set out provisions relating to instructional material and technology, the adoption of essential knowledge and skills for certain public school foundation curriculum subjects, and the extension of additional state aid to school districts for the provision of certain instructional materials. With regard to the instructional materials freely available to students attending public schools and approved for use in public school districts, the bill provides for the following matters, among other provisions:

- parent access to such materials through an instructional materials parent portal, parent access to teaching materials generally, and parent requests for the review of such material;
- the process involving the recommendation, review, approval, and maintenance of instructional materials by the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the use by a classroom teacher and a district of such materials;
- effective September 1, 2023, additional state aid for state-approved instructional materials and for open education resource instructional materials;
- the purchase of instructional materials and the availability of open education resource instructional materials;
- the establishment of an open education resource advisory board;
- certain duties of teachers and of publishers and manufacturers of instructional materials;
- a requirement that the SBOE adopt standard terms and conditions for use in contracts for the procurement of instructional materials from publishers and manufacturers; and
- effective September 1, 2023, with respect to the bill's amendment to the Government Code, a requirement that the director of the Legislative Budget Board include in the budget of estimated appropriations prepared under state law the amount set aside by the SBOE from the available school fund for the state instructional materials and technology fund and the amount that is remaining in the fund from the previous fiscal biennium that is available for use by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect June 13, 2023.

[House Bill 1615](#) **House Author:** Button et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1615 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish and administer a prekindergarten partnership program to assist child-care providers who are eligible private providers under the high quality prekindergarten program in partnering with local public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide free prekindergarten classes. TWC must also establish and administer, from appropriated funds, a professional development scholarship program for current and prospective child-care workers from funds appropriated for such a purpose. Moreover, the bill amends the Government Code to require a local workforce development board to include a representative of the child-care workforce.

[House Bill 1620](#) **House Author:** Holland et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1620 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to continue the State Preservation Board, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the state employee charitable campaign policy committee, the Texas Racing Commission, and related state law, as applicable, until 2029 and to provide for the next review of those entities under the Texas Sunset Act during the 2028-2029 review cycle. Among other provisions, the bill establishes requirements for the review of the racing commission by the Sunset Advisory Commission and revises provisions relating to the operation of the racing commission and the Texas Racing Commission fund.

[House Bill 1631](#) **House Author:** Paul **House Committee:** Elections
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1631 amends the Election Code to authorize all election watchers to choose the hours they serve at the polling place by removing language restricting that choice to watchers who serve for more than five continuous hours.

[House Bill 1632](#) **House Author:** Paul et al. **House Committee:** Elections
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1632 amends the Election Code to require the secretary of state to make the standardized election judge training program available entirely via the Internet and at any time, without a requirement for prior registration, and to make associated materials, including a handbook, available on the secretary's website. The secretary of state must require the passage of an examination at the end of the program and provide a certificate of completion.

House Bill 1632 also establishes standardized training program requirements for members of an early voting ballot board, signature verification committee, or central counting station. The bill clarifies that completion of standardized training for election officers is optional.

[House Bill 1633](#) **House Author:** Ortega et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 1633 amends the Transportation Code to provide for a reduced penalty structure for the offense of unlawfully parking in a parking space or area designated specifically for individuals with disabilities when the unlawfully parked vehicle displays specialty license plates issued for veterans with disabilities and does not display a disabled parking placard. However, the bill expressly exempts from those penalties a vehicle that displays specialty license plates for disabled veterans that include the international

symbol of access. Furthermore, a court must dismiss a charge for a person's first offense if the person applies for a specialty license plate that includes the symbol within six months after the date the person was charged with the offense.

House Bill 1647 **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1647 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit an applicable health benefit plan issuer from imposing certain limitations on coverage of clinician-administered drugs, as defined by the bill, with respect to an enrollee who has a chronic, complex, rare, or life-threatening medical condition and whose physician or health care provider determines either that a delay of care would make disease progression probable or that the use of a pharmacy within the plan issuer's network would make death or patient harm probable, potentially cause a barrier to the patient's adherence to or compliance with the plan of care, or necessitate delivery by a different pharmacy.

House Bill 1649 **House Author:** Button et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1649 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a health care facility at which a child will begin receiving chemotherapy or radiation that may cause impaired fertility to notify the child's parents or legal guardians of that risk before the treatment begins. Additionally, the bill amends the Insurance Code to require certain health benefit plans to provide coverage for fertility preservation services to a covered person who will receive a medically necessary treatment for cancer that the American Society of Clinical Oncology or the American Society for Reproductive Medicine has established may cause impaired fertility. Among other provisions, the bill requires those fertility preservation services to be standard procedures to preserve fertility consistent with established medical practices or professional guidelines published by either such entity.

House Bill 1661 **House Author:** Burns **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1661 repeals the Local Government Code provision that prohibits a person who is 45 years of age or older from being certified for a beginning position in a police department under municipal civil service.

House Bill 1666 **House Author:** Capriglione et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1666 amends the Finance Code to set out provisions relating to the commingling of funds by digital asset service providers doing business in Texas that hold a money transmission license and either serve more than 500 digital asset customers in Texas or have at least \$10 million in customer funds. The bill prohibits a provider from commingling customer funds with funds belonging to the provider, using customer funds to secure or guarantee a transaction other than a transaction for the customer contributing the funds, or maintaining customer funds in such a manner that a customer may be unable to fully withdraw their funds. Furthermore, the bill provides for an administrative penalty and, among other provisions, sets out provisions requiring a provider to, as follows:

- maintain customer funds not subject to the requirements of provisions on the regulation of money services businesses to be held in separate accounts for obligations to each customer or in an omnibus account that only contains digital assets of customers and in which digital assets of customers are not strictly segregated from each other;

- create a plan that allows each customer and an auditor to view at least quarterly an accounting of any outstanding liabilities owed to the customer and the customer’s digital assets held in custody by the provider;
- file a report with the Texas Department of Banking, conducted by an independent certified public accountant licensed auditor, that includes an attestation of outstanding liability to customers, evidence of customer assets, a copy of a plan for the viewing of certain liability information, and an attestation that such information is true and accurate; and
- comply with the bill’s requirements to obtain and maintain any money transmission license.

House Bill 1673 **House Author:** Capriglione et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1673 amends the Health and Safety Code to prescribe training and related evaluation requirements for staff members of an assisted living facility that provides personal care services to residents with Alzheimer’s disease or related disorders and that does not hold a license to provide those services.

House Bill 1688 **House Author:** Murr **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1688 amends the Water Code to include the Coke Stevenson Scenic Riverway in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s pilot program for water quality protection areas. The bill postpones the pilot program’s end from September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2027.

House Bill 1689 **House Author:** Murr **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 6-9-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1689 amends the Tax Code to authorize a county that imposes a hotel occupancy tax to annually spend not more than the lesser of two percent or \$75,000 of that tax revenue during that year for the creation, maintenance, operation, and administration of an electronic tax administration system to administer the tax. A county that uses hotel occupancy tax revenue for that purpose is required to permit a person who is required to collect and pay over to the county such tax revenue to withhold a maximum of one percent of the amount of the tax collected and required to be reported as reimbursement to the person for the cost of collecting the tax.

House Bill 1696 **House Author:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1696 amends the Insurance Code to revise provisions regarding access to optometrists and therapeutic optometrists used under a managed care plan. Furthermore, the bill revises provisions establishing certain prohibitions and requirements for a managed care plan with respect to the use of optometrists and therapeutic optometrists under the plan and removes ophthalmologists from the applicability of those provisions. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the inclusion of certain medical care products or services among the products or services for which reimbursement is available either under an enrollee’s managed care plan contract or subject to a contractual limitation. The bill sets out prohibitions regarding a contract between a managed care plan and an optometrist or therapeutic optometrist with respect to a covered product or service.

House Bill 1696 prohibits a vision care plan from using extrapolation to complete an audit of a participating optometrist or therapeutic optometrist. Any additional payment due to a participating optometrist or therapeutic optometrist or any refund due to the vision care plan must be based on the actual overpayment or underpayment. The bill provides for the enforcement of the bill’s extrapolation provisions and subjects a plan that violates those provisions to an administrative penalty.

House Bill 1699

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: King, Tracy O.

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1699 amends the law to authorize the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District's board of directors to impose a combined production and export fee on water exported from the district in a certain capped amount. The bill restricts the use of the fee to the maintenance of the operability of wells significantly affected by groundwater export projects and authorizes the board to impose other authorized groundwater conservation district fees.

House Bill 1703

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Ordaz

Senate Sponsor: Blanco

House Committee: International Relations & Economic Development

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1703 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish and administer a pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area under which the local workforce development board serving that area must collect and evaluate cross-sectional data and longitudinal supplemental data regarding career education and training programs administered in that area for the purposes of identifying successful program components and any gaps in data used to follow up on career education and training participants following program completion maintained by the applicable agencies under the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative. The bill also includes revisions to the laws governing the workforce development evaluation system administered by TWC that, as follows:

- require evaluation data in the system to be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, income, and location;
- specify that the wage record information collected by TWC for which TWC may develop a method for collecting occupational information to supplement such information is to be collected by TWC as authorized under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act;
- require TWC to ensure that the system includes with the evaluation data a hyperlink to a website where self-sufficient wage data, as determined by the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, is posted and to also ensure that, following any modernization of the system by TWC on or after September 1, 2023, that the evaluation data in the system includes a comparison of self-sufficient wage data with program earnings outcomes at the first, third, and fifth anniversary of the date of program completion; and
- require the analysis of each workforce development program that TWC is required to issue at least annually to certain entities to include, following any modernization of the system by TWC on or after September 1, 2023, detailed information on the services provided with each offered program and an analysis regarding the attainment of employment paying a self-sufficient wage following completion of a career education and training program.

House Bill 1706

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Perez et al.

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1706 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a commercial or residential property insurance policy, including any endorsement, from including a provision that prohibits an insured from contracting with a public insurance adjuster for their services. The bill also establishes that an insured is not required to enter into such a contract.

House Bill 1707 **House Author:** Klick et al. **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1707 amends the Education Code and Local Government Code to address the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter schools. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a political subdivision to consider a charter school a school district for specified purposes if the charter school provides to the political subdivision certification that no administrator, officer, or employee of the charter school and no member of the governing body of the charter school or its charter holder derives any personal financial benefit from a real estate transaction with the charter school;
- requires a charter school that is considered a school district as such to comply with the same requirements imposed by the political subdivision on a campus of a school district;
- establishes that a charter school does not have the power of eminent domain;
- prohibits a political subdivision from taking any action that prohibits a charter school from operating a public school campus, educational support facility, athletic facility, or administrative office within the political subdivision’s jurisdiction or on any specific property located within that jurisdiction that it could not take against a school district;
- repeals the exemption for a campus of a charter school located in whole or in part in a municipality with a population of 20,000 or less from being subject to a municipal zoning ordinance governing public schools;
- extends certain provisions relating to land development standards for school districts to also apply to charter schools; and
- provides for an exemption from the Municipal Drainage Utility Systems Act for a charter school.

House Bill 1710 **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Corrections
Effective: 9-1-2024 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1710 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), for purposes of provisions authorizing a judge to place a defendant on community supervision at any time after the 75th day after the date the defendant is received into the custody of a state jail felony facility, to provide notice to a judge, not later than the 60th day after the date a defendant is received into that custody, of the date on which the defendant will have served 75 days in the facility, if requested by the judge. The notice must be provided by email or other electronic communication. The bill authorizes a judge to submit a single request to TDCJ with respect to all applicable defendants sentenced in the judge’s court.

House Bill 1712 **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1712 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require any signed order pertaining to a criminal matter that is issued by a magistrate to include with the magistrate’s signature the magistrate’s name in legible handwriting, legible typewritten form, or legible stamp print. The bill establishes that a magistrate’s failure to include such does not affect the order’s validity but authorizes a criminal defendant to make a motion under certain conditions to add the magistrate’s name to an order that does not comply with the requirement.

House Bill 1730

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Schaefer et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1730 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for a subsequent conviction of indecent exposure from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor and, for any additional conviction of the offense, to a state jail felony.

House Bill 1740

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Leach et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs

House Bill 1740 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to revise provisions relating to eligibility for a state parklands passport to make the following eligible to apply for the passport:

- any active duty member of the U.S. armed services;
- a surviving spouse, parent, child, or sibling of a person who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces; and
- any honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. armed services.

House Bill 1743

Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Leach et al.

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 1743 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the purpose of ensuring that an inmate confined in a TDCJ facility who is likely to be eligible for SNAP benefits on discharge or release on parole, mandatory supervision, or conditional pardon is assessed by HHSC to determine eligibility for those benefits before the inmate's discharge or release. The bill requires the MOU to be tailored to achieve the goal of ensuring that such an inmate determined eligible by HHSC may begin receiving services under SNAP at the time of discharge or release, to establish a procedure through which HHSC must accept and process SNAP applications from inmates, and to define the roles and responsibilities of each agency under the MOU.

House Bill 1745

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Leach

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 1745 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt an applicable transportation network company from vicarious liability for damages in certain actions or arbitration proceedings if the claimant does not prove by clear and convincing evidence that the company was grossly negligent with respect to the subject claim and the company has fulfilled all of its obligations with respect to the driver as required by applicable Occupations Code provisions relating to the subject claim. This exemption does not affect the liability of a transportation network company arising out of the company's own negligence or gross negligence for an act or omission relating to the use of the company's digital network, including the failure to prevent a driver from logging on to the digital network if, at the time of the event giving rise to the cause of action, the company had actual knowledge that the driver was disqualified from logging on to the company's digital network for one of the reasons described by existing statute, that occurred after the most recent review of the driver's driving record or criminal background check.

House Bill 1748

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Leach et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1748 amends the Uniform Facsimile Signature of Public Officials Act, Government Code, to authorize the use of a facsimile signature of the comptroller of public accounts or a designated deputy on a public security that is required to be registered by the comptroller or a certificate on that security.

[House Bill 1750](#) **House Author:** Burns et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1750 amends the Agriculture Code to remove provisions relating to the effect of a city's governmental requirements on an agricultural operation that was situated outside the city's corporate boundaries and that was later brought within the city's corporate boundaries. The bill sets out a prohibition instead against a city imposing a governmental requirement applying to agricultural operations in the city's corporate boundaries that contains provisions that are substantially the same as the removed provisions, with certain exceptions, including for requirements necessary to protect public health under certain circumstances. The bill requires the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to develop a manual that identifies generally accepted agricultural practices and indicates which of those practices do not pose a threat to public health.

House Bill 1750 prohibits a city from imposing a requirement that directly or indirectly does the following:

- prohibits the use of a generally accepted agricultural practice listed in the manual;
- prohibits or restricts the growing or harvesting of vegetation for feed or forage;
- prohibits the use of measures to control vermin or disease-bearing insects; or
- requires an agricultural operation to be designated for certain uses.

House Bill 1750 authorizes a city to impose a maximum vegetation height under certain conditions.

[House Bill 1755](#) **House Author:** Button et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1755 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission, as assisted by an advisory board created by the bill, to establish and administer the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and to establish and administer the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund grant program to provide grants, capped at \$15,000 per recipient, to eligible public junior colleges, public technical institutes, and nonprofit organizations. The grant must be used for curriculum development, instructor fees and certifications, training materials, and work-related expenses for training program participants.

[House Bill 1759](#) **House Author:** Bucy **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1759 amends the Professional Sports Team Charitable Foundation Raffle Enabling Act, Occupations Code, to give a qualified professional sports team charitable foundation the option to sell raffle tickets to individuals who are physically located inside the home venue or rodeo venue of the professional sports team associated with the foundation conducting the raffle at the time of sale through digital interactive media, such as a website or mobile application, as an alternative to selling the tickets in person at the venue. The bill requires such a charitable foundation conducting a raffle to contract with a third-party vendor to ensure only persons 18 years of age or older purchase raffle tickets.

[House Bill 1760](#) **House Author:** Hefner et al. **House Committee:** Community Safety, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1760 amends the Penal Code to limit the grounds or buildings on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted where the intentional, knowing, or reckless possession of or going with a firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or other prohibited weapon

constitutes an offense to only grounds or buildings owned by and under the control of an accredited primary or secondary school or a public, private, or independent institution of higher education.

House Bill 1761 **House Author:** Burns et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1761 amends the Agriculture Code to limit the duration that a pesticide that is no longer distributed in Texas must continue to be registered with the Department of Agriculture. The bill establishes that a registrant that initiates a recall of such a pesticide before the pesticide's registration expires is not required to continue to register the pesticide following the expiration date.

House Bill 1766 **House Author:** Darby **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 1766 amends the Government Code to add a new first order of priority for the Bond Review Board in granting reservations to issuers of qualified residential rental project issues for a portion of the state ceiling on the amount of tax-exempt private activity bonds that may be issued during a calendar year in Texas. This first priority is for projects that, as follows:

- during the four-year period preceding the date of the application, have both filed an application for a low-income housing tax credit with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and closed on a previous reservation of bonds in accordance with applicable state law, as determined based on the date of allocation of those bonds;
- require a subsequent issuance of bonds to maintain compliance with the financing percentage requirements to qualify for the low-income housing tax credit available for multifamily transactions that are at least 51 percent financed by tax-exempt private activity bonds; and
- have not previously applied for a subsequent issuance of bonds.

In addition, with respect to a project financed by an issuer of qualified residential rental project bonds that is granted a reservation of a portion of the available state ceiling for a program year in which the total amount of such bonds for which reservations are sought exceeds, as of October 20 of the preceding year, 55.75 percent of the state ceiling, caps the amount of bonds that may be issued to each such project at 55 percent of the reasonably expected aggregate basis of the project and the land on which the project is or will be located.

House Bill 1769 **House Author:** Meyer et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1769 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to extend the statute of limitations period for the following offenses: felony possession or promotion of child pornography, sexual performance by a child, trafficking a child for forced labor or services, or knowingly receiving a benefit from participating in a venture involving such trafficking.

House Bill 1772 **House Author:** Ashby et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1772 amends the Natural Resources Code to revise the requisite information included in a bill of sale for trees, timber, logs, pulpwood, or in-woods chips. The bill extends the period that a purchaser must retain a bill of sale and requires a timber purchaser who purchases timber on a pay-per-unit sale to provide certain documentation that proves product delivery. The bill creates offenses for a timber purchaser who knowingly fails to properly provide the documentation and for a timber purchaser or seller who knowingly provides false information in the documentation or bill of sale.

[House Bill 1778](#) **House Author:** Hinojosa et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1778 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates recognizing Major League Soccer teams located in Texas.

[House Bill 1789](#) **House Author:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1789 amends the Government Code to exempt a public school district's appointment or employment of a bus driver that is approved by the district's board of trustees from nepotism prohibitions applicable to public officials.

[House Bill 1794](#) **House Author:** Schaefer et al. **House Committee:** Appropriations
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1794 makes The University of Texas at Tyler's school of pharmacy eligible for formula funding by repealing Education Code provisions that make the school ineligible for such funding.

[House Bill 1809](#) **House Author:** Hunter **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 5-27-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1809 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to establish the commercial oyster mariculture advisory board within the Parks and Wildlife Department to make recommendations to the governor and advise all state agencies with regulatory authority over the commercial oyster mariculture industry.

[House Bill 1817](#) **House Author:** Capriglione **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 6-9-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1817 amends the Government Code to limit the circumstances under which an applicable contract entered into by a state agency or other governmental entity is considered voidable on the basis of the contracted business entity's failure to provide the requisite disclosure of interested parties to when the following occurs:

- the state agency or governmental entity submits to the business entity written notice of the business entity's failure to provide the disclosure; and
- the business entity fails to submit to the state agency or governmental entity the disclosure on or before the 10th business day after receiving such notice.

This limitation applies only to a contract that is for lobbying services, has a value of at least \$1 million, or requires an action or vote by the governing body of the state agency or governmental entity before the contract may be signed.

House Bill 1817 authorizes a court in which a suit challenging the validity of such a contract is pending on the bill's effective date to require the state agency or other governmental entity to provide the required written notice if the court finds that failure to enforce that requirement would cause an inequitable or unjust result for the parties to the suit. The bill establishes that a contract executed before the bill's effective date is presumed to have been properly executed if an action to void or invalidate the contract has not been filed with a court in Texas before the bill's effective date.

[House Bill 1819](#) **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 1819 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing a measure that imposes a curfew to regulate the movements or actions of persons younger

than 18 years of age, except for a curfew implemented under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 for purposes of emergency management. The bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Government Code, and Penal Code to make conforming changes.

[House Bill 1825](#) **House Author:** Turner et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1825 amends the Education Code to extend to the Arlington Independent School District's board of trustees the authority to adopt a policy allowing the consumption, possession, and sale of an alcoholic beverage at an event held at a performing arts facility owned by the district if the facility is leased to a nonprofit organization for an event not sponsored or sanctioned by the district.

[House Bill 1826](#) **House Author:** Turner et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1826 amends the Government Code to require the comptroller of public accounts to appoint a task force to study and make recommendations related to preventing organized retail theft in Texas. The bill provides for the task force's composition, operations, powers, duties, and biennial reports.

[House Bill 1833](#) **House Author:** Shaheen **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 1833 amends the Penal Code to increase from a state jail felony to a third degree felony the penalty for criminal mischief that results in less than \$30,000 of pecuniary loss and causes impairment or interruption of property used for public power supply or causes any public power supply to be diverted in any manner.

[House Bill 1845](#) **House Author:** Metcalf et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1845 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in adopting educational attainment standards associated with the issuance of a Class D license for wastewater operators or public water system operators, to establish by rule a provisional certification program by which a person who does not possess a high school diploma or its equivalent may act as a provisional operator under certain conditions.

[House Bill 1846](#) **House Author:** Ashby et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1846 amends the Transportation Code to remove the discretion of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to administer a skills test to a person who holds an out-of-state commercial learner's permit. The bill requires DPS to send the test results to the state or jurisdiction that issued the permit.

[House Bill 1848](#) **House Author:** DeAyala **House Committee:** Elections
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 1848 amends the Election Code to require the secretary of state to conduct a study to consider the feasibility of conforming each central counting station with the federal Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities standards and deliver a report summarizing the study's findings to the legislature.

House Bill 1859 **House Author:** Schaefer et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1859 amends the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractor License Law, Occupations Code, to make changes relating to air conditioning and refrigeration technician certification and registration. Specifically, the bill removes the condition that a certification training program be completed in the 48 months preceding a certification application to qualify for certification eligibility purposes, requires the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to recognize a public school career and technology education program or a similar program offered by an institution of higher education or a private school as a certification training program for that purpose, provides for the waiver of renewal fees and the reduction of continuing education requirements for contractors and technicians who provide instruction in a certification training program, revises eligibility for the exemption from registration or certification for students in such a program, and lowers the minimum registration age from 18 years to 16 years under certain conditions.

House Bill 1883 **House Author:** Bhojani et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 1883 amends the Education Code to provide for the dates of religious holy days or periods of observance that are likely to be observed by students in a public school district or open-enrollment charter school and that occur during the end-of-course and standardized testing period set by the State Board of Education to be considered in establishing the calendar and testing days for that school year. The bill requires the board of trustees of a district or the governing body of a charter school, in establishing that school calendar, to provide for alternative dates for the administration of the applicable tests to a student who is absent from school to observe a religious holy day or period of observance on the date a test is administered.

House Bill 1885 **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 1885 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Texas Transportation Commission to establish a variable speed limit program to allow the temporary lowering of a speed limit to address certain weather, road, and traffic conditions.

House Bill 1890 **House Author:** Jetton, Jacey **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 5-27-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1890 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the operation and regulation of hospital at home programs under which a hospital provides in a home setting health care services that are considered to be acute hospital care for purposes of the federal acute hospital care at home waiver program. Among other provisions, the bill sets out application and approval requirements for the operation of a hospital at home program and requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to establish minimum operation standards.

House Bill 1900 **House Author:** Smithee et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1900 amends the Insurance Code to change the deadline by which an insurer must mail written notice of cancellation, nonrenewal, or renewal with a material change in coverage of certain property and casualty insurance policies to an insured from the 30th day before the cancellation or expiration date, as applicable, to the 60th day before that date. This change with respect to a cancellation

applies to certain personal automobile insurance policies and this change with respect to a nonrenewal or renewal with a material change applies to such a policy and the following additional policy types:

- a homeowners or farm or ranch owners insurance policy;
- a standard fire insurance policy insuring a one family dwelling or duplex or the contents of a one family dwelling, duplex, or apartment; and
- property and casualty insurance policies for governmental entities.

House Bill 1901

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Smithee

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1901 amends the Insurance Code to remove certified mail as the specified method by which a title insurance agent, direct operation, or title insurance company must send a copy of the annual audit of applicable trust fund accounts to the Texas Department of Insurance.

House Bill 1903

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Smithee

Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1903 amends the Insurance Code to eliminate requirements for insurance companies to issue at least 50 percent of their authorized shares of stock before being granted a charter or filing certain charter amendments relating to the authorized issuance of shares.

House Bill 1905

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Talarico et al.

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

House Committee: Youth Health & Safety, Select

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1905 amends the Education Code to authorize a public school district to make certain approved school safety training courses, including active shooter training courses, available at no cost to employees of accredited private schools located in the district or organizations providing out-of-school-time care to children younger than 18 years of age who reside in the district.

House Bill 1910

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Anchía

Senate Sponsor: Johnson

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1910 amends the Penal Code to establish a presumption in the prosecution of a forgery offense that a person in possession of forged writings intended to obtain a property or service of a value equal to the total purported value of the forged writings.

House Bill 1911

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Burrows

Senate Sponsor: Perry

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1911 amends the Tax Code to extend the confidentiality protections for home address information in local property tax appraisal records to a current or former attorney for the Department of Family and Protective Services and to a current or former employee or contract staff member of a university health care provider at a corrections facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

House Bill 1912

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Button et al.

Senate Sponsor: West

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1912 amends the Education Code to raise the cap on the student union fee at The University of Texas at Dallas from \$60 to \$100 per student for each regular semester and from \$40 to \$50 per student for each term of the summer session.

House Bill 1913
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Spiller
Senate Sponsor: Birdwell

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1913 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of FM 2526 in Eastland County as the Sergeant Barbara Fenley Memorial Highway.

House Bill 1914
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kacal et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa

House Committee: Corrections
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 1914 amends the Government Code to subject all employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to the provision currently applicable only to TDCJ correctional officers that sets compensatory time off to expire at the end of the 24-month period following the end of the workweek in which the compensatory time was accrued.

House Bill 1922
Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Dutton et al.
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1922 amends the Local Government Code to set a building permit fee of a municipality to be abolished on the 10th anniversary after the date the fee is adopted or most recently reauthorized unless the municipality's governing body holds a public hearing on the fee's reauthorization and reauthorizes the fee.

House Bill 1925
Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Harless
Senate Sponsor: Miles

House Committee: County Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1925 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of the Harris County Hospital District's authority to administer and operate a health care provider participation program, and the expiration of provisions governing the program, from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2025.

House Bill 1926
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hull et al.
Senate Sponsor: Paxton

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1926 repeals the Education Code provision that sets September 1, 2024, as the expiration date for the supplemental special education services program. The bill also requires the commissioner of education to set aside an amount set by appropriation for each state fiscal year to fund the program instead of setting aside, as required under current law, an amount not to exceed \$30 million of the total amount of funds appropriated for each state fiscal year to fund the program.

House Bill 1949
Effective: 5-24-23

House Author: Smith
Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 1949 amends the Natural Resources Code to continue the Red River Boundary Commission until December 31, 2027, and to postpone the deadline for the issuance of the commission's final report.

House Bill 1957
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Geren
Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Business & Industry
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1957 amends the Business Organizations Code to update the requirement for a nonprofit corporation to keep records, books, and annual reports of its financial activity at its registered or principal office in Texas for at least three years after the close of the given fiscal year for public inspection and copying by clarifying that the specific documents required to be kept are the documents the corporation must make available for public inspection under federal law as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

House Bill 1959
Effective: 6-2-23

House Author: Noble et al.
Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 1959 amends the Education Code to require the board of trustees of a public school district or the board's designee to transfer a student who is a child of a peace officer to another district campus or to another district on request of the peace officer who is the parent of or a person standing in parental relation to the student. The bill requires such a transfer to be to the campus or district selected by the requesting peace officer and provides that a district is not required to provide transportation to the transferring student.

House Bill 1964

House Author: Hernandez et al.

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Hall

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1964 amends the Transportation Code to include an employee or authorized representative of certain privately owned vehicle storage facilities that stored a vehicle involved in an accident among the individuals or entities to whom the Texas Department of Transportation must release motor vehicle accident report information, on written request and payment of any required fee.

House Bill 1968

House Author: Harris, Caroline

House Committee: Transportation

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 1968 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Interstate Highway 35 in Williamson County as the Officer Charles Whites Memorial Highway.

House Bill 1971

House Author: Ashby et al.

House Committee: Natural Resources

Effective: 6-9-23

Senate Sponsor: Springer

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 1971 amends the Water Code to establish that, for the purposes of making a final decision on a permit or permit amendment application by the board of directors of a groundwater conservation district that is composed of 10 or more directors, a concurrence of a majority of the directors eligible to vote is sufficient for taking an action on the application. The bill prohibits a director who is required to file a conflict of interest affidavit due to a substantial interest in a business entity or in real property from attending a closed meeting related to the matter for which the director is required to file the affidavit. The bill also prohibits the director from voting on a matter for which the director is required to file the affidavit unless a majority of the directors are also required to file an affidavit related to a similar interest on the same official action.

House Bill 1971 requires a board to consolidate requests for rehearing filed by multiple parties to a contested case hearing, with the limitation that only one rehearing be considered per matter. With respect to a proceeding for a permit application or amendment in which a district has contracted with the State Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing, the bill requires a board's final decision to be in writing and to either adopt the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as proposed by the administrative law judge or include revised findings of fact and conclusions of law as applicable. The bill also sets out provisions relating to the deadline for the issuance of a final decision with respect to such a proceeding.

House Bill 1989

House Author: Cook

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Parker

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 1989 amends the Government Code to prohibit a district clerk from charging a fee for a copy of any document on file or of record in the clerk's office relating to an individual's criminal history to a criminal justice agency that requests the document for a criminal justice purpose, including determination of an individual's eligibility to purchase a firearm.

House Bill 1996**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Hull et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**House Committee:** Insurance**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 1996 amends the Insurance Code to provide for the regulation of group family leave insurance and to clarify state law regarding the provision of paid family leave insurance by an applicable insurer and the consideration of paid family leave insurance as a type of disability income insurance. The bill sets out minimum benefits standards for a group family leave insurance policy, including provisions relating to the family leave benefits authorized by the bill, an explanation of covered family leave reasons, the length of the period during which the benefits are available, the presence of an unpaid waiting period, and the method of calculating the amount of paid benefits. The bill additionally sets out permissible limitations, exclusions, and reductions in family leave benefits eligibility and provides for the disclosure of such a limitation, exclusion, or reduction in an applicable group family leave insurance policy. Moreover, the bill requires an insurer providing family leave insurance to issue a certificate of insurance containing certain information to each employee or member of the insured group.

House Bill 1998**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Johnson, Julie et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hall**House Committee:** Public Health**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 1998 amends the Medical Practice Act, Occupations Code, to revise and set out provisions relating to the regulation of physicians and physician license applicants, the collection of fees and the imposition of surcharges under the act, and the Texas Medical Board's (TMB) disciplinary authority. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the TMB to run a continuous query on the National Practitioner Data Bank for certain disciplinary information and to update a physician's profile accordingly;
- requires the TMB to collect surcharges for administering that query and the Texas Physician Health Program;
- provides for the inclusion of physicians licensed in a member state of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact on the expert physician panel that assists with complaints and investigations;
- revises an applicant's ineligibility for a medical license based on the applicant previously holding a medical license that was revoked by another licensing authority;
- makes the submission of fingerprints for medical license applicants mandatory and requires license holders who have not previously submitted their fingerprints to do so with the registration permit renewal application;
- expands the offenses for which a person's arrest is grounds for temporary suspension or restriction of a medical license; and
- revises the offense involving making a false statement regarding an application for a medical license.

House Bill 2002**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Oliverson et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hancock**House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2002 amends the Insurance Code to require an insurer to credit toward an insured's deductible and annual maximum out-of-pocket expenses an amount the insured pays directly to any physician or health care provider for a medically necessary covered medical or health care service or supply if a claim for the service or supply is not submitted to the insurer and the amount paid by the insured to the provider is less than the average discounted rate for the service or supply paid to an equivalently licensed or authorized preferred provider under the insured's preferred provider benefit plan. The bill requires an insurer to establish a procedure for claiming the credit and identify documentation necessary to support such a claim.

[House Bill 2007](#) **House Author:** Martinez et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2007 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a third-party plaintiff that is a design-build firm or a design-build team or a member of such a firm or team from the requirement to file a certificate of merit in connection with filing a third-party claim or cross-claim against a licensed architect, licensed professional engineer, registered professional land surveyor, or registered landscape architect, or any firm in which such a professional practices, if the action or arbitration proceeding arises out of a design-build project in which a governmental entity contracts with a single entity to provide both design and construction services for the construction, expansion, extension, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of a facility, a building or associated structure, a civil works project, or a highway project.

[House Bill 2012](#) **House Author:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-9-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2012 amends the Education Code to establish that a classroom teacher at a public elementary or secondary school or a teacher or professor at a public institution of higher education may not be prohibited from displaying in a classroom a poster or framed copy of the national motto that meets certain statutory requirements.

[House Bill 2015](#) **House Author:** Leach **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2015 amends the Government Code to raise from 70 to 75 the age at which a person qualifies for an exemption from jury service on the basis of age and the age at which a person may claim a permanent exemption from jury service.

[House Bill 2016](#) **House Author:** Hernandez **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Procedures

House Bill 2016 amends the Occupations Code to include sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault among the offenses that make a person ineligible for a license as a massage establishment, massage school, massage therapist, or massage therapy instructor if the person has been convicted of, entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or received deferred adjudication for such an offense.

[House Bill 2019](#) **House Author:** Neave Criado et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2019 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to eliminate the statute of limitations for first degree felony burglary of a habitation with the intent to commit sexual assault if biological matter is collected during the investigation but either has not yet been subjected to forensic DNA testing or has been tested and produces results showing that the DNA does not match the victim or any other person whose identity is readily ascertained.

[House Bill 2022](#) **House Author:** Leach et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2022 amends the Residential Construction Liability Act, Property Code, to do the following:

- require a claimant to prove that a construction defect was latent at the time the residence was completed or title was conveyed and has rendered the residence unsuitable for its intended use as a home for purposes of maintaining a claim of breach of warranty of habitability;

- require a claimant to prove that a construction defect existed at the time of the completion of the construction, alteration, or repair, in addition to the damages being proximately caused by the defect, for purposes of recovering damages;
- limit contractor liability to the extent that a defective condition proximately causes actual physical damage to a residence, actual failure or lack of capability of a building component to perform its intended function or purpose, or verifiable danger to occupants;
- exempt a contractor from liability for damages caused by the failure of a person other than the contractor or an agent, employee, or subcontractor of the contractor to timely notify the contractor of a construction defect;
- exempt a contractor from liability for damages relating to a contractor's reliance on certain written information that was modified and the contractor did not know and could not have reasonably known of the modification;
- specify that the liability exemption for damages caused by normal shrinkage due to drying or settlement of construction components applies with respect to normal cracking or shrinkage cracking due to that drying or settlement; and
- change the liability exemption for damages caused by the failure of a person other than the contractor or the contractor's agent to take reasonable action to mitigate the damages or maintain the residence to apply to the failure of such a person instead to mitigate damages or maintain the residence.

House Bill 2022 revises provisions relating to the requisite notice and offer of settlement before initiating an action for damages arising from a construction defect as follows:

- requires a claimant to provide video or audio recordings relating to the defect and necessary repairs to the contractor and removes the condition that the provision of any evidence relating to the defect and necessary repairs be at the contractor's request;
- provides for the contractor to be given the opportunity to conduct up to three inspections during a specified period after the date of notice;
- extends the deadline by which a contractor may make a written settlement offer and by which repairs must be made under certain conditions; and
- requires the contractor to include in the settlement offer the time for the completion of construction defect repairs if more than 60 days.

The bill also authorizes an applicable court or tribunal in a residential construction liability action to order that a settlement offer made by the contractor after the prescribed time is considered timely if the contractor is prejudiced in the contractor's opportunity to inspect a construction defect or make an offer due to events beyond the contractor's control or because the claimant failed to provide certain evidence in the claimant's possession, custody, or control to the contractor or amended a claim to add a new alleged defect. The bill provides for reasonable and necessary arbitration filing fees and the claimant's share of arbitrator compensation that are proximately caused by construction defect as economic damages that a claimant in a residential construction liability action may recover.

House Bill 2022 establishes that the submission of a residential construction liability action to arbitration has the same effect on the running of a limitations period as a filing in a court in Texas and that an attempted waiver of statutory provisions regarding residential construction liability actions in an applicable contract is void. The bill also repeals a provision limiting a contractor's authority to elect to purchase a residence as an alternative to the economic damages.

House Bill 2024

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Leach et al.

Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2024 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to set a 10-year statute of limitations period for a claimant to bring suit for damages for any claim arising out of a defective or unsafe condition

of real property or a deficiency in the construction or repair of an improvement related to the design, construction, or repair of a new residence, of an alteration of or repair or addition to an existing residence, or of an appurtenance to a residence. If the contractor being sued provided a written warranty for the residence that provides a minimum period of one year for workmanship and materials, two years for plumbing, electrical, heating, and air-conditioning delivery systems, and six years for major structural components, the limitations period for bringing suit is six years instead. If a claimant presents a written claim under these provisions to the appropriate person within the applicable limitations period, then the period is extended for one year from the date the claim is presented.

House Bill 2026 **House Author:** Darby et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2026 amends the Education Code to revise provisions relating to the rural veterinarian incentive program by changing the entity with which an eligible participant must enter into an agreement to participate in the program from the applicable university system to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and increasing the maximum population of a county classified as a rural county for purposes of the program from less than 100,000 to less than 150,000.

House Bill 2059 **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2059 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to mental health first aid (MHFA) training provided by certain health authorities, grants for the training of MHFA trainers and certain other individuals, and reporting requirements regarding the training. Among other provisions, the bill transfers duties relating to MHFA training programs from the Department of State Health Services to the Health and Human Services Commission, includes local behavioral health authorities among the recipients of program grants and subjects a local behavioral health authority to the same program requirements and authorizations applicable to local mental health authorities, changes the method of determining MHFA training grant amounts, and expands eligibility criteria for participation in an approved MHFA program at no cost.

House Bill 2060 **House Author:** Capriglione et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2060 amends the Government Code to create the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council to study and monitor artificial intelligence systems developed, employed, or procured by executive and judicial branch state agencies. The bill's provisions expire and the advisory council is abolished on January 1, 2025.

House Bill 2063 **House Author:** Talarico et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2063 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a kennel owner or operator that boards or provides services to a dog or cat at a kennel that boards more than three dogs or cats at any time to obtain informed consent from an owner of the dog or cat before leaving the animal unattended without an employee present. The bill expressly does not apply to an animal shelter that keeps or legally impounds stray homeless, abandoned, or unwanted animals or to a kennel that boards not more than three dogs or cats at any time. The bill provides a civil penalty for violation of its provisions.

[House Bill 2065](#) **House Author:** Thompson, Ed et al. **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

Current law requires an insurer to provide certain notice to the named insured on a private passenger automobile insurance policy if any insured under the policy fails or refuses to cooperate with the insurer in an investigation, settlement, or defense of a claim or action and subjects the policy to mandatory nonrenewal if such failure or refusal continues. House Bill 2065 amends the Insurance Code to make those provisions applicable only with respect to a third-party liability claim or action and to remove the specification that the insured whose failure or refusal to cooperate triggers the nonrenewal is a named insured.

[House Bill 2070](#) **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 6-9-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 2070 amends the Family Code to clarify that the continuation of spousal maintenance based on the inability of the recipient spouse to earn sufficient income due to their, or a child's, disability is subject to the procedural requirements for a motion to modify a spousal maintenance order.

[House Bill 2071](#) **House Author:** Jetton, Jacey et al. **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2071 amends the Local Government Code to revise the Public Facility Corporation Act with respect to multifamily residential developments that provide affordable housing. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes a public facility corporation (PFC) or their sponsor to finance, own, or operate a multifamily residential development under specific conditions and provides for the eligibility of such a development for the PFC tax exemption, including additional requirements for beneficial tax treatment and allocations of lower and moderate income housing units. The bill provides for a compliance audit of the public facility user of a development claiming the exemption and provides for a study by the Legislative Budget Board of the long-term effects on the state's funding and revenue of property and sales tax exemptions for multifamily housing developments.

[House Bill 2073](#) **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2073 amends the Utilities Code to replace previous requirements for the review and adjustment of an electric utility's fuel factor with a more efficient fuel cost validation process that will allow for more timely, incremental corrections to fuel charges. Specifically, the bill requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas to allow a utility to recover or refund an under-collected or over-collected balance of electric fuel and purchased power costs through an interim fuel adjustment within 90 days of the accrual of the balance.

[House Bill 2083](#) **House Author:** Landgraf **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2083 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Business Interstate Highway 20-E in Ector County as the Mac Wilson and Rex Young Medal of Honor Highway.

[House Bill 2100](#) **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2100 amends the Education Code to extend eligibility for student loan repayment assistance from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to certain mental health professionals providing mental health services to patients in a state hospital or to individuals receiving community-based mental health services from a local mental health authority.

House Bill 2102

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Goldman

Senate Sponsor: Paxton et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 2102 amends the Education Code to extend the timeline by which a charter holder may submit to the commissioner of education a written notice of the establishment of a new open-enrollment charter school campus or a request for approval for an expansion amendment to 36 months before the date on which the campus is anticipated to open or the expansion will be effective.

House Bill 2109

Effective: 5-23-23

House Author: Harris, Caroline

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2109 amends the law to exempt the Lower Brushy Creek Water Control and Improvement District from being required to comply with municipal regulations regarding the construction, maintenance, rehabilitation, or removal of dams.

House Bill 2121

Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Paul et al.

Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2121 amends the Tax Code to allow for the filing of a rendition statement or property report on behalf of a property owner who is rendering tangible personal property used for the production of income and whose good faith estimate of the market value of that property is not more than \$150,000 without the rendition or report having been sworn to before an officer authorized by law to administer an oath.

House Bill 2127

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Burrows et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2127 amends the Agriculture Code, Business & Commerce Code, Finance Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Natural Resources Code, Occupations Code, and Property Code to preempt the municipal and county regulation of conduct in a field of regulation occupied by a provision of those codes, unless expressly authorized by another statute, and amends the Local Government Code to limit the ordinances or rules that the governing body of a municipality may adopt, enforce, or maintain to such ordinances and rules that are consistent with state law. The bill renders void and unenforceable and deems inconsistent with the referenced codes any ordinance, order, or rule in violation of the state preemption established by the bill. Among other provisions, the bill also:

- establishes an exception to its preemption provisions in the Finance Code by providing that a municipality or county may enforce or maintain an ordinance, order, or rule regulating any conduct under Finance Code provisions related to credit services organizations or any conduct related to a credit services organization or a credit access business, as those terms are defined by the Finance Code, that was adopted before January 1, 2023, and that would have been valid under the law as it existed before the date of preemption under the bill; and
- specifies that, for purposes of the preemption provided for under the Labor Code and the Property Code, a field occupied by the Labor Code includes employment leave, hiring practices, breaks, employment benefits, scheduling practices, and any terms of employment that exceed or conflict with federal or state law for employers other than a municipality or county and a field occupied by the Property Code includes an ordinance, order, or rule regulating evictions or otherwise prohibiting, restricting, or delaying delivery of a notice to vacate or filing a suit to recover possession of the premises.

House Bill 2127 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to grant standing to any person, or a trade association representing the person, who has sustained an injury from a municipal or county ordinance, order, or rule, adopted or enforced by a municipality or county in violation of the bill's

preemptions or limitations on municipal regulation to bring an action against the municipality or county. For these purposes, “person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, agency or instrumentality, public corporation, any legal or commercial entity, or protected or registered series of a for-profit entity.

House Bill 2129**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Burns et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa**House Committee:** Corrections**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 2129 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish that a person who is in the business of selling goods or services as a merchant is not precluded from offering a person who is suspected of stealing or attempting to steal property from the merchant an opportunity to complete a theft education program to deter theft and address criminal behavior instead of reporting the suspected offense to a law enforcement agency. The bill requires a merchant who offers a person an opportunity to complete such a program to notify and inform the person regarding the opportunity and the consequences of not completing the program and to retain certain records and make those records available to applicable attorneys, on request. The bill sets out requirements for the theft education program, including regarding fees for participation, and prohibits a program provider from discriminating against a person who is otherwise eligible to participate in the program.

House Bill 2129 establishes that a person may not be required to make an admission of guilt to participate in a program and exempts a person who successfully completes such a program from any additional civil penalties under any other law. The bill grants a person who offers or provides a theft education program immunity from criminal or civil liability for failure to notify a law enforcement agency of an applicable suspected theft or attempted theft.

House Bill 2138**Effective:** Vetoed**House Author:** Kacal et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2138 amends the Charitable Raffle Enabling Act, Occupations Code, to authorize a qualified nonprofit wildlife conservation association to sell or offer to sell raffle tickets online to its previously identified supporters.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Though House Bill No. 2138 would expand gambling for a worthy cause, our oath obliges us to take a second look at statewide sales of online raffle tickets so that they do not run afoul of Article III, Section 47(d) of the Texas Constitution. Laws authorizing online raffle ticket sales are simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

House Bill 2154**Effective:** 6-10-23**House Author:** Morales, Eddie**Senate Sponsor:** Flores**House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2154 amends the Government Code to require the office of the attorney general to adopt physical fitness programs and standards for law enforcement officers employed by the office and a related reward policy that grants administrative leave for officers.

House Bill 2157**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Metcalf**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**House Committee:** State Affairs**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2157 amends the Government Code to authorize the annual salary rate for an executive or judicial branch state employee to be set immediately after a job position transfer at any rate in the appropriate salary group if the employee:

- transfers within a state agency between two classified positions that are allocated to the same salary group and have the same position title as listed in the General Appropriations Act;
- transfers to a position for which the employment opening is publicly listed;

- voluntarily applies for the position to which the employee transfers; and
- agrees to accept the position to which the employee transfers at the publicly listed salary.

House Bill 2166

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guerra et al.

Senate Sponsor: LaMantia

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 2166 amends the Government Code to designate March 4 as COVID-19 Heroes and Memorial Day in honor of people who lost their lives to COVID-19 and in honor of health care workers, first responders, and other essential workers who kept working during the COVID-19 pandemic so the public could stay safe.

House Bill 2170

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guerra

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2170 amends the Transportation Code to require a toll project entity to immediately notify a toll customer that a payment was declined or failed. The bill requires a mailed toll notice or invoice to indicate on the envelope that the document is a bill and gives a toll entity the option to provide a notice or invoice via text message.

House Bill 2177

Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Stucky

Senate Sponsor: LaMantia et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 2177 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to establish and administer a pilot program to award grants to participating public junior colleges, public technical institutes, or public state colleges to provide financial assistance to eligible students for the cost of accessing digital course materials. The bill requires the THECB to establish a methodology for selecting institutions to participate in the program and for allocating money among those institutions, to establish criteria that institutions must use to evaluate digital course materials that may be accessed using program grants, and to submit a report regarding the program's effectiveness and related recommendations.

House Bill 2183

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Stucky et al.

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2183 amends the Occupations Code to authorize a sheriff to petition the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to extend the temporary appointment of a county jailer for a period not to exceed six months. The bill provides for the temporary appointment and continuation of a person who has previously been appointed or served on a temporary basis as a county jailer. The bill also permits a person whose county jailer license has become inactive to be appointed as a county jailer on a temporary basis.

House Bill 2187

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Davis et al.

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2187 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Estates Code, Family Code, Health and Safety Code, Occupations Code, and Penal Code to expand the scope of the offense of abandoning or endangering a child by making the conduct constituting the offense applicable also with respect to an elderly or disabled individual.

House Bill 2188

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Paul

Senate Sponsor: Campbell

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2188 amends the Insurance Code to decrease from five to two the minimum number of years of experience in data collection, data maintenance, data quality control, accounting, and related areas that an organization must demonstrate to qualify as a statistical agent for the commissioner of insurance.

House Bill 2190
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Canales
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2190 amends the Business & Commerce Code, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, Family Code, Government Code, Insurance Code, Occupations Code, Penal Code, Transportation Code, and Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes to change the terminology used to describe transportation-related accidents from “accident” to “collision.”

House Bill 2194
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Ordaz et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: Business & Industry
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2194 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office to establish and administer a “Made in Texas” labeling program.

House Bill 2195
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Noble et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 2195 amends the Transportation Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the offense of displaying a wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plate to include using a material that covers a license plate’s letters, numbers, or colors. The bill increases from \$200 to \$300 the maximum fine for the conduct of that offense in which the actor uses a material to alter, cover, or obscure the letters, numbers, or color and provides penalty enhancements for subsequent convictions. The bill requires a registered vehicle, trailer, or mobile home to have each required license plate inspected as part of its routine inspection.

House Bill 2196
Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Smithee
Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2196 amends the Property Code to align the definition of “qualifying trust” in provisions governing which property qualifies as the homestead of an express trust’s settlor or beneficiary for purposes of certain protections available under state law and the Texas Constitution with the definition of “qualifying trust” used with respect to resident homestead property tax exemptions available under the Tax Code. The bill also revises the definition to clarify the rights of a settlor or beneficiary of a qualifying trust.

House Bill 2196 authorizes a second trust created by distribution of principal from an existing irrevocable inter vivos or testamentary trust to retain the name used by the first trust and, subject to applicable federal law, also retain the same tax identification number. With respect to the rule against perpetuities, the bill does the following:

- specifies that the effective date of an interest in one trust that is distributed to a second trust with a different effective date is the earlier of the effective dates of the two trusts; and
- requires an interest in a trust that has an effective date on or after September 1, 2021, to vest not later than the later of 300 years after the effective date or 21 years after some life in being at the time of the effective date, plus a period of gestation.

House Bill 2196 prohibits a beneficiary of a spendthrift trust or the beneficiary’s estate from being considered a settlor merely because the beneficiary held or exercised certain testamentary powers of appointment. The bill establishes that, if a beneficiary exercised a testamentary general power of appointment in favor of or for the benefit of any applicable appointee, the appointive assets are subject to the claims of the beneficiary’s creditors, but only to the extent the beneficiary’s own property is insufficient to meet their debts. Unless the assets are appointed to the beneficiary’s estate, the assets are not subject to administration as a part of the beneficiary’s estate, to recovery by the personal representative of the beneficiary’s estate, except as provided by federal law, or to payment of taxes or administration expenses

of the beneficiary's estate. The bill also conditions a court's authority to appoint an attorney ad litem to represent any interest that the court considers necessary in a proceeding concerning a trust on the court first determining that representation of the interest otherwise would be inadequate.

House Bill 2201

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Canales

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2201 amends the Government Code to remove the authority granted to the state jail division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to designate discrete areas within state jail felony facilities to treat inmates who are eligible for confinement in a substance abuse felony punishment facility or to house inmates who are sentenced to imprisonment in the institutional division of TDCJ that are not themselves designated for that purpose.

House Bill 2209

Effective: See below

House Author: Lozano et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 2209 amends the Education Code to require the commissioner of education to establish and administer the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program to enable certain rural public school districts to partner with at least one other district within 100 miles to offer a broader array of robust college and career pathways that expand opportunities for underserved students to succeed in school and life while promoting economic development in rural areas. Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect June 2, 2023.

Effective September 1, 2023, the bill entitles a participating district to an allotment under the Foundation School Program for each student in an R-PEP program college or career pathway and to an annual outcomes bonus based on the number of R-PEP graduates who obtain a postsecondary credential of value within five years of graduation. The total amount of state funding for allotments and outcomes bonuses is capped at \$5 million per year.

House Bill 2217

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Button et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2217 amends the Occupations Code and Penal Code to update and clarify provisions relating to the practice of public accountancy. The bill removes the specification that the scholarships the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (TSBPA) must establish for accounting students are limited to fifth-year accounting students. However, the bill specifies that the scholastic ability and performance of a scholarship applicant that TSBPA must consider pertains to the applicant's scholastic ability and performance in at least 15 hours of upper-level accounting course work. Among other provisions, the bill also provides clarity with respect to the collection of fees, determining passage of the uniform CPA examination, methods of providing a license expiration notice, the registration of individuals who practice public accountancy in a foreign country, and accountant-client confidentiality.

House Bill 2230

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Canales

Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Finance

The temporary increase in funding for transportation projects provided for by Proposition 1, which was approved by voters in November 2014 and temporarily dedicated certain oil and natural gas production tax revenue to the state highway fund for use in constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights of way for public roads, is currently set to end December 31, 2034. House Bill 2230 amends the Government Code to continue this temporary increase in state transportation funding through December 31, 2042.

[House Bill 2248](#) **House Author:** Garcia et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 2248 amends the Government Code to designate September 30 as Vanessa Guillén Day, in memory of the life and tragic death of Vanessa Guillén, to increase awareness of and the military's response to missing persons, sexual assault, and sexual harassment cases for service members.

[House Bill 2251](#) **House Author:** Raymond **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2251 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require an officer of the court who has been provided a computerized case and financial management system by the county to maintain a computerized fee record in the system and provide the complete computerized fee record in hard-copy form for purposes of making court costs payable by the person charged with the costs.

[House Bill 2259](#) **House Author:** Cain **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2259 amends the Occupations Code to revise the manner in which retail fireworks permits are purchased. Current law authorizes the permits to be purchased from a licensed manufacturer, distributor, or jobber or from the state fire marshal's office. The bill instead requires the commissioner of insurance to provide for the sale of the permits to individuals through a website. The Texas Department of Insurance must post a link to the permit website on its website.

[House Bill 2263](#) **House Author:** Darby **House Committee:** Energy Resources
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2263 amends the Utilities Code to authorize a natural gas local distribution company to offer and provide to customers an energy conservation program. The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has exclusive original jurisdiction over such a program and a political subdivision is prohibited from limiting, restricting, or otherwise preventing an eligible customer from participating in a program based on the type or source of energy delivered to the customer. The bill authorizes a local distribution company to recover program costs if approved by the RRC in the manner provided by the bill.

[House Bill 2271](#) **House Author:** Kacal **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2271 amends the Agriculture Code to require the state's agricultural policy to recognize that aquaculture is a type of agriculture and must be awarded the same rights, privileges, and protections as any other type of agricultural operation.

[House Bill 2285](#) **House Author:** Noble et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2285 amends the Education Code to authorize the board of trustees of the Community Independent School District to adopt a resolution, not later than December 31, 2023, changing the length of the terms of its trustees. The bill provides for the staggering of terms and for the transition to the modified terms.

[House Bill 2291](#) **House Author:** Slawson et al. **House Committee:** Community Safety, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2291 amends the Penal Code to exempt a handgun license holder who is a retired judicial officer or who retired after serving as an active judicial officer from the application of the offense of unlawful carrying of a weapon and the offense of possessing or going with certain weapons in places where weapons are prohibited.

[House Bill 2306](#) **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2306 amends the Penal Code to specify that the forms of observation of another person that constitute an offense of voyeurism include remote observation through the use of electronic means.

[House Bill 2308](#) **House Author:** Ashby et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2308 amends the Agriculture Code to update the Texas Right to Farm Law and to add protections for agricultural operations and related agricultural services. Among other provisions, the bill revises general policy regarding nuisance actions and specific activities comprising an agricultural operation and clarifies for these purposes that agricultural land includes any land on which agricultural operations exist or may take place.

[House Bill 2313](#) **House Author:** Thompson, Senfronia et al. **House Committee:** Licensing &
Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2313 amends the Occupations Code to require a transportation network company to annually provide to each driver who is authorized to log in to the company's digital network human trafficking awareness and prevention training materials that meet the criteria set out by the bill. A transportation network company must maintain records demonstrating compliance with that requirement.

[House Bill 2314](#) **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2314 amends the Labor Code to give a person, including an eligible surviving parent of a deceased employee, filing a death benefits claim under the workers' compensation system the option of filing the claim with an insurance carrier as an alternative to filing with the division of workers' compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance. The insurance carrier, at the time the carrier receives a person's claim for death benefits, must create and maintain a record documenting receipt of the claim and provide written notice to the division that the person filed the claim.

[House Bill 2323](#) **House Author:** Hayes **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2323 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates commemorating the 100th anniversary of the writing of the state song "Texas, Our Texas."

[House Bill 2333](#) **House Author:** Allison **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2333 amends the Property Code to authorize the creation of a trust for a noncharitable purpose without a definite or definitely ascertainable beneficiary and to establish that such a noncharitable

purpose may include seeking economic or noneconomic benefits. This authorization expressly does not apply to a trust created for the care of an animal. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the trust to be enforced and administered by one or more persons appointed in the trust to serve as trust enforcer and for a court to appoint a trust enforcer if no person is serving as the enforcer and for reasonable compensation for a trust enforcer. The bill restricts the use of trust property to the intended purpose of the trust, except to the extent that a court finds the value of the trust property exceeds the amount required for the intended purpose. The bill establishes that except as provided by the trust, property that a court finds is not required for the trust's intended purpose must be distributed as provided by the terms of the trust or to the settlor if then living or to the settlor's successors in interest.

House Bill 2334 **House Author:** Burns et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2334 amends the Plumbing License Law, Occupations Code, to exempt a person from the requirement to obtain a license under that law to install, service, or repair service mains or service lines that provide water, sewer, or storm drainage services on private property, other than property designated for use as a one-family or two-family dwelling, in an area that extends from a public right-of-way or public easement to not less than five feet from a building or structure.

House Bill 2353 **House Author:** Kuempel **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2353 amends the Tax Code to authorize the City of Seguin to use municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue for the promotion of tourism by the enhancement and upgrading of a qualifying, existing city-owned sports facility or field.

House Bill 2354 **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2354 amends the Tax Code to establish that, for purposes of determining the eligibility of land to continue to be appraised for property tax purposes as qualified open-space land, the ownership of land is not considered to have changed if ownership is transferred from the former owner to their surviving spouse.

House Bill 2371 **House Author:** Turner et al. **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2371 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a municipality that has taken possession and control of an unkept or abandoned cemetery for at least 25 years to sell additional burial spaces in the cemetery after making certain maintenance and safety findings. The bill provides for the municipality to declare a plot in the cemetery as presumed abandoned, grants the municipality the exclusive right of sepulture in the abandoned plot, and authorizes the municipality to convey that right in the plot. The bill provides for the rebuttal of the presumption of abandonment and for an appeal process.

House Bill 2373 **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-2-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2373 repeals the Water Code provision that places certain conditions on a water or sewer utility's authority to consolidate more than one system under a single tariff.

[House Bill 2384](#) **House Author:** Leach et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2384 amends the Election Code and Government Code to set out provisions relating to court administration, including the knowledge, efficiency, training, and transparency requirements for candidates for or holders of certain judicial offices. Specifically, the bill sets out provisions requiring the disclosure and inclusion of certain information, including certain disciplinary and criminal history, on the application for a place on the ballot for the following judicial offices:

- chief justice or justice of the Texas Supreme Court;
- presiding judge or judge of the court of criminal appeals;
- chief justice or justice of a court of appeals;
- district judge, including a criminal district judge; and
- judge of a statutory county court.

The bill sets out additional application requirements for a candidate for an appellate court office who does not hold or has not previously held such an office. The bill requires each officially prescribed form for an application to a judicial office to include a statement informing candidates that knowingly providing false information on the application constitutes professional misconduct subject to public sanctions or censure by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct or the state bar, in addition to other legally prescribed penalties. The bill provides sanctions for a false declaration on a ballot application.

House Bill 2384 sets out judicial education requirements applicable to all such judicial offices, including instruction requirements, and provides for a judge's suspension and removal from office if the judge fails to meet the bill's education requirements. The bill provides for specialty certification for attorneys in judicial administration and sets out certain recommendation requirements for the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. The bill also sets out provisions relating to courts that need additional administrative assistance.

House Bill 2384 requires the annual performance report published by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System (OCA) to include disaggregated performance measures for each appellate court, district court, statutory county court, statutory probate court, and county court. The bill requires OCA, in addition to annually reporting the clearance rate of such courts, excluding appellate courts, to annually report the court's average disposition time and age of its active pending caseload.

[House Bill 2388](#) **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2388 amends the Water Code to remove the requirement for the Texas Water Development Board to adopt by rule any memorandum of understanding that it enters into with another state agency.

[House Bill 2416](#) **House Author:** Paul et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2416 amends the Natural Resources Code to create the gulf coast protection account as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund to be administered by the General Land Office (GLO) to pay for expenditures that satisfy the following conditions:

- the expenditures are eligible for credit towards the non-federal match of the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Galveston District, Southwestern Division, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- the expenditures comply with the terms of a local cooperation agreement executed by the GLO and the Gulf Coast Protection District; and

- the expenditures are for projects that are necessary or useful for the protection of the portion of the gulf coast located within the district's territory.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texas has a rock-solid commitment to protecting its hundreds of miles of beautiful coastline. House Bill No. 2416 was proposed as part of that commitment. Unfortunately, the bill's text would require the deposit of *any* federal money the State receives for coastal protection into an account that can be spent *only* on a small portion of the Gulf Coast, if at all. I look forward to working with the author on enacting language that will achieve its intended purpose."

House Bill 2442 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2442 amends the Water Code to require a municipality, on the day it submits an application for single certification in an incorporated or annexed area to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), to send a copy of the application to the retail public utility serving the area. The bill authorizes the retail public utility, not later than the seventh day after the date the PUC issues its final order on the matter and before filing an appeal with the Travis County district court, to appeal the final order to the PUC in a separate hearing before the PUC.

House Bill 2442 requires a petitioner for the expedited release of certain areas from a certificate of public convenience and necessity to send a copy of the petition to the certificate holder, who may submit information to the PUC to controvert information submitted by the petitioner.

House Bill 2443 **House Author:** Harris, Cody et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2443 amends the Water Code to authorize a person with a real property interest in groundwater to petition the groundwater conservation district where the property that gives rise to the real property interest is located to adopt or modify a district rule. The bill requires a district, not later than the 90th day after the date it receives a petition, to either deny the petition and provide an explanation for the denial or engage in rulemaking consistent with the granted petition.

House Bill 2453 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2453 amends the Occupations Code to authorize a state agency, county, or municipality that issues an occupational license, certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law to engage in a particular business, occupation, or profession to issue a digital license to a license holder, subject to certain requirements.

House Bill 2459 **House Author:** Vo et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2459 amends the Labor Code to revise procedures for the assessment and appeal of administrative penalties by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for violations of laws or rules governing the employment of children. The bill repeals existing penalty provisions and replaces them with provisions that, generally, authorize child labor investigators to assess the penalties, issue preliminary determination orders, and reconsider and reissue such orders. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes a child labor investigator to assess an administrative penalty against a person who the investigator determines employs a child or individual in a sexually oriented business in violation of state law regulating the employment of children. Moreover, the bill requires TWC to establish one or more impartial child labor appeal tribunals to hear and decide disputed preliminary orders if TWC determines that establishment of the tribunal is

necessary to ensure prompt disposal of child labor cases on appeal. The bill sets out matters regarding TWC review of a child labor appeal order, judicial review of the order, and the penalty payment process. The attorney general may seek injunctive relief in district court against an employer who repeatedly violates requirements related to the employment of children.

House Bill 2460 **House Author:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2460 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), not later than December 1, 2026, to obtain or develop updated water availability models for the Guadalupe, Lavaca, Nueces, San Antonio, San Jacinto, and Trinity River basins. Implementation of a provision of this bill by the TCEQ is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

House Bill 2464 **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 5-27-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 2464 amends the Government Code to provide for optional annuity increases for certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS). Accordingly, under the bill's provisions the governing body of an applicable municipality participating in TMRS that adopts an ordinance providing for increased annuities for applicable retirees effective January 1 of 2024, 2025, or 2026 may elect to compute the annuity increase, including an authorized annual annuity increase, as the sum of prior and current service annuities of the person on whose service the annuities are based, multiplied by:

- the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, during the 12-month period ending in December of the year that is 13 months before the effective date of the ordinance providing the increase; and
- 30 percent, 50 percent, or 70 percent, as specified by the governing body in the ordinance.

House Bill 2468 **House Author:** Burrows et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2468 amends the Labor Code to entitle a first responder, as defined by the bill, to lifetime income benefits for a serious bodily injury sustained in the course and scope of employment or volunteer service as a first responder that renders the person permanently unemployable. Among other provisions, the bill requires the workers' compensation division of the Texas Department of Insurance to accelerate any dispute involving such a first responder and provides for the periodic review of the continuing entitlement.

House Bill 2478 **House Author:** Klick et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2478 amends the Health and Safety Code to replace the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reporting requirement under current law regarding additional newborn screening tests funded by the newborn screening preservation account with a requirement that DSHS prepare and submit an annual report containing information set out by the bill for each newborn screening test that screens for a disorder listed as a core condition in the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel but for which DSHS does not currently require testing. Additionally, the bill authorizes DSHS to use newborn screening preservation account funds to ensure that the laboratory established or approved by DSHS is available seven days a week to perform required newborn screening tests. Furthermore, the bill requires a newborn or infant who does not pass the newborn hearing screening to be tested for congenital cytomegalovirus unless the newborn's or infant's parent declines the test.

[House Bill 2484](#)
Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Guillen et al.
Senate Sponsor: LaMantia et al.

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 2484 amends the Education Code to require a public school district to prohibit a spectator of an extracurricular athletic activity or competition, including a parent or guardian of a student participant, from attending any future extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the district or the University Interscholastic League if the spectator engages in certain conduct causing bodily injury of an official of the extracurricular athletic activity in retaliation for or as a result of the person's actions taken in that official capacity. The bill establishes a minimum prohibition length of one year from the date on which the prohibition is imposed and a maximum length of five years from that date, and authorizes a district to establish an appeals process for the prohibition. If a participant or spectator engages in, attempts to engage in, or threatens violent conduct against an official or otherwise disrupts the duties or free movement of the official at an activity or competition held on the property of a district or open-enrollment charter school, or if the district or charter school suspects that a related incident will occur, the district or charter school must provide security personnel to ensure the safety of the official until the official departs the property.

[House Bill 2488](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Geren et al.
Senate Sponsor: Alvarado et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2488 amends the Tax Code to establish that, in a trial de novo appeal in a district court of an order by an appraisal review board determining a taxpayer protest, or of a motion correcting the appraisal roll, that involves an increase in appraised value of a property the appraised value of which was lowered the previous tax year as a result of a qualifying taxpayer protest, the appraisal district has the burden of establishing an increase in the property's appraised value by clear and convincing evidence.

[House Bill 2489](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kacal
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2489 amends the Water Code to rename the Texas Natural Resources Information System as the Texas Geographic Information Office and to correspondingly make the office's deputy executive administrator the state geographic information officer.

[House Bill 2495](#)
Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Price
Senate Sponsor: Johnson

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2495 amends the Education Code and Occupations Code to revise provisions governing athletic trainers by clarifying the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation's role in regulating the occupation and by removing outdated language relating to licensure qualifications. The bill additionally repeals provisions establishing requirements for out-of-state applicants.

[House Bill 2497](#)
Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Morrison
Senate Sponsor: Huffman

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2497 amends the Tax Code to authorize the City of Bay City to use its municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue to construct, expand, and operate recreational or sports facilities and fields owned by the municipality or another governmental entity for the purpose of promoting tourism and the convention and hotel industry. The bill prohibits the municipality, after using its municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue for that purpose, from reducing the percentage of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue that is allocated toward advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourism

to the area and caps the amount of that revenue that the municipality may use for the operation of the facilities and fields each year at the amount of area hotel revenue in that year attributable to events held at the facilities and fields.

House Bill 2499 **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 2499 amends the Government Code to designate June 28 as Special Forces Day in honor of the men and women who have served in the special operations forces of the United States armed forces.

House Bill 2503 **House Author:** Lujan et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2503 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Texas Humanitarian Service Medal and for recipients of the federal Humanitarian Service Medal. The bill also provides that such medals' emblems and an emblem from a U.S. paratroopers specialty license plate may be included on request on a specialty license plate issued to veterans with disabilities.

House Bill 2508 **House Author:** Jetton, Jacey **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2508 amends the Water Code to authorize a levee improvement district's board of directors to allow the following:

- a bank in which the district deposits money to sign disbursements;
- the disbursement of district money to be transferred by automated clearing house; and
- the wire or electronic transfer of district money to vendors or other authorized accounts not in the district's name.

House Bill 2512 **House Author:** Morrison **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2512 amends the Occupations Code to make the practice of athletic training less restrictive by updating and clarifying the scope of athletic training and the injuries that are considered athletic injuries.

House Bill 2518 **House Author:** Bell, Keith et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2518 amends the Government Code to require a lease between a governmental entity and another person regarding public property to contain lease terms requiring the construction to be bonded and requiring that the lessee provide to the governmental entity a notice of commencement in order to allow the governmental entity an opportunity to verify the bonds. The bill creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who materially misrepresents information in a notice of commencement and makes a governmental entity that fails to include the requisite lease terms in an applicable contract liable as a surety, unless the notice of commencement is not submitted as required.

House Bill 2545 **House Author:** Capriglione et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2545 amends the Business & Commerce Code to establish that an individual has a property right in, and retains the right to exercise exclusive control over, the individual's biological sample that is provided to or used by a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company and the results of genetic testing or analysis conducted on the individual's DNA by such a company. The results of the genetic testing of

an individual's DNA are confidential and may not be disclosed to another person without the individual's express consent. The bill sets out requirements for certain uses of deidentified data and requirements for certain uses or disclosure of genetic data and biological samples. It also provides the circumstances under which the separate express consent, informed consent, and express consent of an individual must be obtained, and specifies the prohibited disclosures of an individual's genetic data. The bill also imposes a civil penalty for a violation of the bill's provisions. The attorney general may bring an action to recover the civil penalty and to restrain and enjoin such a violation. The attorney general may recover reasonable attorney's fees and court costs incurred in bringing the action.

House Bill 2555 **House Author:** Metcalf et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2555 amends the Utilities Code to authorize an electric utility to file with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) a plan to enhance the resiliency of the utility's transmission and distribution system through at least one of a number of approved methods that covers a period of at least three years. The bill provides for a review by the PUC of associated resiliency-related investments and, if the costs are determined to be reasonable, for possible recovery of those investments.

House Bill 2559 **House Author:** Vasut **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 2559 amends the Government Code to authorize a retired justice of the peace, the comptroller of public accounts, or a former comptroller of public accounts to administer an oath in Texas and give a certificate of the fact.

House Bill 2568 **House Author:** Hayes et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2568 amends the Agriculture Code to require the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to conduct a study of the growth of carrizo cane along the Rio Grande to assist the board in administering the carrizo cane eradication program.

House Bill 2575 **House Author:** Button et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2575 amends the Labor Code to postpone the expiration date of the workforce diploma pilot program and to add, as an additional condition of program participation, that an otherwise eligible public, nonprofit, or private entity must work in partnership with an entity authorized to grant a high school diploma.

House Bill 2590 **House Author:** Burrows **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2590 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of FM 40 in Lubbock County as The Maines Brothers Band Highway.

House Bill 2616 **House Author:** Vasut **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2616 amends the Transportation Code to allow a medical examiner vehicle and a vehicle operated by a justice of the peace to be equipped with certain mounted emergency signal lamps. The bill

sets out the conditions under which the lighting equipment may be used and makes certain right-of-way provisions applicable to the operator of another vehicle approached by these vehicles.

House Bill 2620

Effective: 6-18-23

House Author: Geren et al.

Senate Sponsor: King et al.

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2620 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to change the scheduled admissions policy that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice must adopt and enforce from a policy that permits the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to accept inmates within 45 days of processing to a policy that requires TDCJ to review certain documents relating to the convicted person that are delivered by the applicable county and certify the documents or notify the county that the documents require corrective action not later than the fifth business day after receipt of those documents and to accept such a person within 45 days of the date on which all the documents have been received and certified. The bill requires TDCJ to take custody of a person awaiting transfer to TDCJ following conviction of a felony and sentencing to death or to a term of imprisonment in a TDCJ facility or confinement in a state jail not later than the 45th day following the date on which all the required documents from the applicable county have been received and certified. The bill provides for TDCJ to compensate the applicable county for the cost of confinement for each day after the 45th day deadline that the person remains confined in the county jail, except for a delay caused by the county.

House Bill 2626

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Tepper et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2626 amends the Election Code to require a campaign finance report filed with any political subdivision to be made available to the public on the political subdivision's website for a period of five years beginning not later than the 10th business day after the date the report is received. The bill authorizes the removal of certain portions of the address of a person listed as a campaign contributor before the report is made available online.

House Bill 2629

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Rogers et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

Current law requires a campaign finance report to list each candidate or officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure made during the reporting period by the person or political committee filing the report. House Bill 2629, the P.A.C. Transparency and Accountability Act, amends the Election Code to require instead that such a report list each candidate or officeholder for whom a direct campaign expenditure was made to support or oppose during the reporting period.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 2629 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

House Bill 2636

Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Murr

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2636 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a person who owns or operates a recreational vehicle park or campground from liability to any person for a recreational vehicle park or campground participant injury or damages arising out of a recreational vehicle park or campground participant injury if, at the time of the recreational vehicle park or campground activity from which the injury arises, a warning sign was posted and maintained in a clearly visible location on or near the recreational vehicle park or campground alerting persons to the fact that state law limits the owner's or operator's liability for injuries or death of a recreational vehicle park or campground participant. This

limitation on liability is in addition to other limitations of liability. The bill expressly does not limit liability for the following:

- an injury intentionally caused by the recreational vehicle park or campground entity; or
- an injury proximately caused by:
 - the entity's negligence with regard for the participant's safety or a potentially dangerous condition on the land, facilities, or equipment used in the activity, of which the entity had actual knowledge or reasonably should have known; or
 - the entity's failure to train or improper training of an employee actively involved in a recreational vehicle park or campground activity.

House Bill 2658 **House Author:** Leach **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2658 amends the Family Code to include conviction of criminal solicitation of a minor or online solicitation of a minor among the grounds for the involuntary termination of the parent-child relationship.

House Bill 2660 **House Author:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2660, Tim's Law, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Occupations Code to establish additional duties and procedures for law enforcement agencies upon receiving a report of a missing child and to require certain additional information sharing with nearby local law enforcement agencies upon receiving a report of a missing person. The bill prescribes the circumstances under which a missing child is considered high risk for reporting purposes and establishes additional procedures for an agency that receives a report of a high risk missing child. Additionally, the bill requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to establish a basic education and training program required for peace officers on missing children and missing persons and to make a voluntary advanced education and training program on missing children and missing persons available to officers.

House Bill 2664 **House Author:** Tepper **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 5-19-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Administration

House Bill 2664 amends the Utilities Code to authorize a government-operated utility to disclose personal information in a customer's account record to a retail electric provider or to another entity as necessary to facilitate the transition of customers among retail electric providers or as necessary to comply with rules, guidelines, and procedures established by ERCOT.

House Bill 2671 **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 2671 amends the Family Code to prohibit a court from postponing the initial hearing for a temporary order in a suit for dissolution of a marriage or a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to a date that is later than the 30th day after the date set for the hearing if the court refers the suit to mediation on its own motion.

House Bill 2674 **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Finance

Under previous law, the comptroller of public accounts mailed eligibility letters to financial institutions eligible to hold state assets on the first business day of June of each odd-numbered year. The financial institution was then required to complete and mail an application to be designated as a state depository

to the comptroller before noon on the first business day of August of the year in which the letter is sent. House Bill 2674 amends the Government Code to afford applicants more time to apply for designation as a state depository by changing the deadline for the comptroller to provide this notice to the first business day in May of that year. Additionally, the bill modernizes the designation process by removing the specification that the notice be a physical letter that is delivered through the mail and by providing for the electronic submission of applications.

House Bill 2691

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Button

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 2691 amends the Government Code to establish an exception to the prohibition in current law against the comptroller of public accounts issuing a warrant or initiating an electronic funds transfer to a debtor or tax delinquent, or to the person's assignee, by authorizing the comptroller to issue the warrant or initiate the transfer if the comptroller first retains one or more warrants or electronic funds transfers that at least equals the amount necessary to cover the indebtedness to the state or tax delinquency. The bill requires a state agency to provide a notice to a debtor or delinquent, other than a person reported as indebted on the basis of unpaid child support, at the time the agency makes a report to the comptroller of the person's indebtedness or tax delinquency informing the person that their debt or delinquency is being reported to the comptroller and that payments from the state will be held as a result of that debt or delinquency.

House Bill 2700

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2700 amends the Penal Code to clarify that for purposes of certain criminal offenses involving sexually explicit visual material of a child or minor, visual material includes a depiction of a child or minor who is recognizable as an actual person by the person's face, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic and whose image as a child or minor was used in creating, adapting, or modifying the visual material, including computer-generated visual material that was created, adapted, or modified using an artificial intelligence application or other computer software.

House Bill 2706

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Shine

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2706 amends the Occupations Code to revise and update provisions of the Texas Manufactured Housing Standards Act. Among other provisions, the bill exempts a person from the requirement to hold a retailer's license to sell or exchange manufactured homes if all manufactured homes sold or offered by the person are located in a manufactured home community and sold or offered to the same purchaser in connection with a sale of the community's real property.

House Bill 2708

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Swanson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Flores et al.

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2708 amends the Government Code to require the visitation policies of the institutional division and state jail division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to allow in-person visitation for eligible inmates or defendants, as applicable, regardless of the implementation of video visitation or visitation by other electronic means. However, the bill authorizes the policies to allow the temporary suspension of in-person visitation for a health or safety emergency.

House Bill 2715 **House Author:** Hull et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2715 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Family Code to authorize a court or magistrate, as applicable, to prohibit an individual who is the subject of an emergency protection order, a temporary restraining order granted after the filing of a suit for dissolution of marriage, or a protective order from tracking or monitoring personal property or a motor vehicle in the possession of the protected person or of a member of that person's family or household without the protected person's effective consent. The bill also authorizes a magistrate to require as a condition of release on bond that a defendant charged with an offense involving family violence refrain from engaging in such conduct with respect to the alleged victim of the offense.

House Bill 2715 amends the Penal Code to expand the conduct that constitutes the offense of harassment to include tracking or monitoring the personal property or motor vehicle of another person without the person's effective consent. The bill specifies certain circumstances in which it is presumed that consent was not given.

House Bill 2719 **House Author:** Ashby **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2719 amends the Government Code to set out and revise provisions relating to certain of the Texas Historical Commission's powers over historic sites in Texas. The bill authorizes the commission to purchase real property for inclusion in the historic sites system and establishes that all real property in Texas that is significant to state history that the commission administers or acquires for public use is considered to be under the commission's jurisdiction. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for the commission to establish, manage, and operate gift and souvenir retail establishments and provide retail services to support and promote state historic sites and related commission goals;
- establishes the Texas Historical Commission Retail Operations Fund as a special fund outside the state treasury that serves as a fund to be held and administered by the comptroller as directed by the commission to provide support for the retail operations; and
- increases to \$10 million the cap on the amount of a grant from the historic courthouse preservation fund for a historic courthouse project, applicable only if that cap is greater than two percent of the amount appropriated for implementing the historic courthouse preservation program during the given state fiscal biennium.

House Bill 2727 **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

Current law requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a statewide Medicaid reimbursement program for home telemonitoring services if HHSC determines that the program would be cost-effective and feasible. House Bill 2727 amends the Government Code to remove that requirement and to require instead the provision and reimbursement of home telemonitoring services under Medicaid for recipients diagnosed with conditions for which HHSC determines the provision of such services would be cost-effective and clinically effective. Among other provisions, the bill requires HHSC to determine whether high-risk pregnancy is a condition that meets that criteria and provides for the coordination of care with the physician of each Medicaid recipient receiving home telemonitoring services.

House Bill 2729
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Harris, Cody
Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 2729 amends the Education Code to include an associate or baccalaureate degree in early childhood education or a related field or at least eight years' experience of teaching in a Texas Rising Star Program among the additional qualifications that a certified teacher may meet for purposes of teaching a high quality prekindergarten program class. The bill requires each teacher for a program class provided by an entity with which a public school district contracts to provide the program to be supervised by a person who is qualified to teach a program class and also meets specified qualifications. The bill authorizes a person who supervises a teacher for a program class to supervise multiple prekindergarten classes. The bill makes an entity contracted to provide the program subject to the requirement to attempt to maintain an average ratio in a program class of not less than one qualified teacher or teacher's aide for each 11 students.

House Bill 2732
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: King, Tracy O.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2732 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize an organized religious society or sect, not later than September 1, 2024, to file a written application with the City of Laredo's governing body to establish or use a cemetery within the city's boundaries. The bill authorizes the governing body to authorize such establishment or use if the establishment or use does not adversely affect public health, safety, and welfare.

House Bill 2738
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thompson, Ed
Senate Sponsor: Miles

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2738 amends the Natural Resources Code to authorize the General Land Office (GLO) to award an indefinite quantity contract for services after a declared natural disaster to one or more vendors on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications to perform the services for which the GLO issues a request for qualifications or using any other applicable state procurement method. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes such a contract to include a schedule identifying agreed prices for services, requires a contract that does not include such a schedule to require a vendor to submit a price proposal for services on request by the GLO, and requires the GLO to issue task, work, or purchase orders for services under a contract to the vendor that provides the best value to the GLO.

House Bill 2741
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Smith
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 2741 amends the Government Code to include a juvenile family drug court program among the programs considered specialty courts for purposes of the Specialty Courts Advisory Council. The bill expands the duties of the council to include making recommendations to the Texas Judicial Council and the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System regarding specialty court best practices. The bill changes the council's composition by removing the specification that the four members representing specialty courts each have experience as a judge for a distinct type of specialty court and specifying instead that those four members have experience as the judge of at least one specialty court.

House Bill 2746

House Author: Thompson, Ed
Senate Sponsor: Menéndez et al.

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 2746 amends the Finance Code to revise procedures applicable to the refund process for a debt cancellation agreement for certain retail vehicle installment sales on early termination of the agreement by requiring the debt cancellation agreement administrator or the administrator and the retail

seller to timely refund debt cancellation agreement fees following the early termination of the contract and upon receiving written instruction in proportion to the amount received by the administrator and retail seller.

House Bill 2754 **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2754 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates for retired peace officers.

House Bill 2755 **House Author:** Orr et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2755 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to dedicate all revenue, less allowable costs, from the Parks and Wildlife Department's boater education program courses and boater education deferrals to the game, fish, and water safety account, to be used for the administration of an applicable boater education or deferral program.

House Bill 2759 **House Author:** Thompson, Ed **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2759 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Water Development Board executive administrator to monitor hydrometeorological conditions and establish the TexMesonet Hydrometeorology Network to provide a statewide resource for hydrometeorological data and summary information. In addition to provisions relating to the network, the bill authorizes the executive administrator to establish the TexMesonet Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to the executive administrator on ensuring data quality and optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of hydrometeorological data collection, product development, and dissemination of data and information.

House Bill 2774 **House Author:** Thompson, Ed **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2774 amends the Water Code to remove the general requirement that the income taxes of a water and sewer utility that is a member of an affiliated group that is eligible to file a consolidated income tax return be computed as though a consolidated return had been filed and the utility had realized its fair share of the savings resulting from the consolidated return. The bill replaces that requirement with the following:

- if an expense is allowed to be included in utility rates or an investment is included in the utility rate base, a requirement that the related income tax benefit be included in the computation of income tax expense to reduce the rates;
- conversely, if an expense is not allowed to be included in utility rates or an investment is not included in the utility rate base, a prohibition against the related income tax benefit being included in such computation; and
- a requirement that the income tax expense be computed using the statutory income tax rates.

House Bill 2777 **House Author:** Holland **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 6-2-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2777 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to establish that the executive director of the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) may negotiate with and award a contract for goods or services to any qualified vendor if the executive director takes the following steps:

- solicits bids through the applicable competitive process but fails to receive competitive responsive bids;

- makes a written determination that resoliciting bids would be unlikely to result in responsive bids, would increase costs to TPWD, or would delay its ability to address a critical need; and
- determines that the vendor meets the requirements of the original solicitation.

The bill authorizes the executive director, to the extent practicable, to combine the procurement of multiple goods or services into a single competitively bid contract to enhance the contract's attraction for potential vendors.

House Bill 2800

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Paul et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2800 amends the Election Code to require a meeting of a county election board to be held in person and open to the public. The bill requires the county clerk of a county that maintains a website to post notice of such a meeting on the website not later than 48 hours before the meeting.

House Bill 2802

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Rose et al.

Senate Sponsor: Blanco et al.

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 2802 amends the Human Resources Code to make communication by a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) or health plan provider via telephone, text message, or email to Medicaid recipients about health care matters, including Medicaid eligibility and enrollment, the default by replacing the requirement for a Medicaid application form to allow the applicant to opt in to communication via those methods with a requirement for the form to notify the applicant that they may opt out of such communication by notifying the MCO or plan provider.

House Bill 2802 amends the Government Code to set out certain criteria that the Health and Human Services Commission must follow in adopting guidelines for communication between MCOs and Medicaid recipients via telephone, text message, or email.

House Bill 2804

Effective: 7-1-23

House Author: Kuempel et al.

Senate Sponsor: Creighton et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 2804 amends the Education Code to revise the law governing the use of the name, image, or likeness (NIL) of a student athlete participating in an intercollegiate athletic program at an institution of higher education. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- prohibits an athletic association, an athletic conference, or any other group or organization with authority over an institution's intercollegiate athletic program from enforcing a contract term, a rule, a regulation, a standard, or any other requirement that penalizes the institution or athletic program for performing, participating in, or allowing NIL activities required or authorized by state law;
- allows a student athlete to use an institution's facility, uniform, registered trademark, copyright protected product, or indicia in connection with a NIL contract if the athlete obtains express permission from the institution, which is contingent on the institution being compensated consistent with market rates and requiring the athlete and contracting entity to comply with the institution's requirements;
- prohibits a student athlete from entering into a NIL contract if compensation is provided in exchange for an act that occurs while the athlete is engaged in an official team activity;
- establishes that an institution's recognition of a third party entity that compensates a student athlete for the use of their NIL, or the entity's donors, is not considered compensation;
- revises the financial literacy and life skills training requirements for student athletes;
- establishes the confidentiality of information relating to a NIL contract;

- authorizes an institution, a third party entity acting on the institution’s behalf, or an employee of the institution or third party to assist with opportunities for a student athlete to earn compensation for the use of the student athlete’s NIL, subject to certain limitations;
- authorizes a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization to compensate a student athlete for the use of their NIL; and
- establishes that an activity of a third party entity that compensates a student athlete for the use of their NIL may not be construed as an act on behalf of an institution if the entity is a separate legal entity from the institution and the institution does not own or control the entity.

House Bill 2815**Effective:** 6-18-23**House Author:** Jetton, Jacey et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Creighton**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2815 amends the Local Government Code, Special District Local Laws Code, and Water Code to revise provisions governing municipal management districts, general law water districts, water control and improvement districts, fresh water supply districts, municipal utility districts, and levee improvement districts. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- with regard to municipal management districts:
 - removes the required hearing on a petition for the creation of a district; and
 - authorizes a petition to request that a succeeding board of directors be elected;
- with regard to general law water districts:
 - removes the daily \$150 cap on a director’s fees of office and instead requires a district’s board to set fees of office that are capped at the amount of the per diem set by the Texas Ethics Commission for members of the legislature;
 - provides for the division of a district;
 - revises provisions relating to the required notice to a purchaser of property in a district; and
 - removes misdemeanor offenses relating to the required filing of district information with a county clerk;
- with regard to water control and improvement districts, authorizes a district to substitute land in the manner provided by specified municipal utility district provisions;
- with regard to municipal utility districts:
 - authorizes one or more municipal utility districts and one or more municipal management districts to consolidate into one municipal utility district; and
 - repeals certain limitations on the filling of a board vacancy; and
- with regard to levee improvement districts, revises director qualifications.

House Bill 2816**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Jetton, Jacey**Senate Sponsor:** Creighton**House Committee:** Natural Resources**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2816 amends the Special District Local Laws Code and Water Code to revise provisions relating to the required notice to a purchaser of property in certain general law water districts and to include municipal management districts among those districts for such purpose. The bill removes misdemeanor offenses relating to the required filing of certain water district information with a county clerk.

House Bill 2835**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Burns et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell**House Committee:** Transportation**Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2835 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 144 in Hood and Somervell Counties as the Ed Shipman Memorial Highway.

House Bill 2837 **House Author:** Schaefer et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2837, the Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act, amends the Business & Commerce Code to prohibit a person or entity involved in facilitating or processing an electronic payment transaction from surveilling, reporting, or tracking the purchase of firearms, ammunition, and accessories through the use of certain merchant category codes. The bill sets out provisions regarding the following:

- the unauthorized categorization of certain transactions, the investigative authority of the attorney general, an applicable notice of a violation of the bill's provisions, and the opportunity to cure such a violation;
- the attorney general's exclusive enforcement of the bill's provisions;
- the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000 for each uncured violation of the bill's provisions; and
- a private right of action against a payment card issuer or payment card network.

House Bill 2839 **House Author:** Smithee **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2839 amends the Insurance Code to require the commissioner of insurance to adopt a liquidity stress test framework, including scope criteria and reporting templates, and to require the ultimate controlling person of an insurer to file the insurer's results of a specific year's liquidity stress test performed using the framework if Texas is the lead state of the insurer's group and the insurer or the group meets the scope criteria. The bill sets out filing and reporting requirements with respect to liquidity stress test results and provides for certain protections regarding the confidentiality of such filings.

House Bill 2847 **House Author:** Darby et al. **House Committee:** Energy Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2847 amends the Natural Resources Code to grant the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) jurisdiction over all pipeline transportation and underground storage of hydrogen and to establish the temporary Texas hydrogen production policy council to study and make recommendations relating to the RRC's policy framework for hydrogen energy development.

House Bill 2850 **House Author:** Smith et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2850 amends the Family Code to set out discovery procedures for civil actions brought under that code. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- authorizes a party to obtain disclosure from another party by serving the other party with a request in the form prescribed by the bill and lists the information and materials for which a party may request disclosure;
- sets deadlines for making the request and for the responding party's response;
- establishes specific procedures for discovery regarding testifying expert witnesses; and
- prohibits the Texas Supreme Court from adopting rules that modify or repeal the bill's provisions.

House Bill 2867 **House Author:** Howard **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Eckhardt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2867 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to postpone the deadline by which the Save Historic Mundy District's board of directors must dissolve the district from May 31, 2023, to May 31, 2025.

[House Bill 2876](#) **House Author:** Cain et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2876 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates for certified industrial firefighters.

[House Bill 2878](#) **House Author:** Capriglione **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2878 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a mobile food service establishment from operating in Tarrant County without first obtaining a permit from the county. The bill provides for the approval, renewal, denial, and refusal of a permit and subjects the establishment to periodic and unannounced inspections. The bill authorizes the county to issue a fine or suspend the permit if an inspection determines the establishment committed a violation.

[House Bill 2879](#) **House Author:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 2879 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to make void as a matter of public policy a venue provision in a contract for an improvement to real property that requires an action involving a contractor, subcontractor, or materialman who is a Texas resident to be brought outside of Texas. The bill requires an action arising out of a contract with such a provision to be brought only in Texas in the county in which the defendant resides, the cause of action accrued, or the property that is the subject of the litigation is located, unless the parties stipulate to another venue after the dispute arises.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 2879 would insert the government into private negotiations involving the work of contractors, subcontractors, and materialmen. Laws about venue selection are simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[House Bill 2892](#) **House Author:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2892 amends the Education Code to require the board of trustees of a public school district or the board's designee to transfer a student who is a child of an active duty servicemember to another district campus or to another district on request of the servicemember who is the parent of or a person standing in parental relation to a student. The bill requires the transfer to be to the campus or district selected by the requesting servicemember and provides that a district is not required to provide transportation to the transferring student who transfers to another campus or district.

[House Bill 2897](#) **House Author:** Walle **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 2897 amends the Penal Code to include among the addresses to which notice demanding payment may be sent for purposes of establishing a theft of service offense the actor's mailing address shown on the records of the person whose service was secured and the actor's address shown on the check or similar sight order by which the performance of service was secured or on certain related bank records.

[House Bill 2899](#) **House Author:** Plesa et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 6-2-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

Previous law required the impoundment of a vehicle used in the commission of a highway racing offense that results in property damage or personal injury. House Bill 2899 amends the Transportation

Code to require the impoundment of a vehicle used in the commission of any highway racing offense, regardless of the result, or in certain criminal conduct involving a reckless driving exhibition.

House Bill 2900 **House Author:** Leo-Wilson et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2900 amends the law to grant the Trinity Bay Conservation District all the rights, powers, privileges, functions, and duties provided by the general law of the state applicable to a conservation, reclamation, and drainage district and to address the district's use and commingling of funds generated by property taxes.

House Bill 2901 **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2901 amends the Transportation Code to make a police officer of a municipality with a population of more than 2,000 located in Orange County eligible to apply for certification to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards.

House Bill 2920 **House Author:** Paul et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2920 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to develop one or more electronic tools or platforms to provide information to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a credential program offered by a public, private, or independent institution of higher education by comparing each institution with others regarding specified factors. The bill provides for such information to be posted online by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and for a link to the tools or platforms to be included in electronic admission application forms and on a public institution's website. The bill also expands the type of information regarding high demand jobs and wages that TEA must publish and provides for the confidentiality of information that relates to a current, former, or prospective applicant or student of an educational institution and that is obtained, received, or held by the THECB for the purpose of providing assistance with access to postsecondary education.

House Bill 2920 amends the Government Code to require a credential library established under the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative to include the information from the tools or platforms.

House Bill 2921 **House Author:** Paul **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 2921 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Antarctica Service Medal.

House Bill 2929 **House Author:** Lozano **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 2929 amends the Education Code to revise continuing education requirements for classroom teachers and public school counselors as follows:

- by requiring training in specified topics of instruction attended by a classroom teacher in excess of 25 percent of the requisite training every five years to be counted toward the teacher's overall training requirements; and
- by changing the amount in specified topics of requisite instruction for a school counselor every five years from not more than 25 percent to at least 25 percent.

[House Bill 2947](#) **House Author:** Cain **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 2947 amends the Agriculture Code to include the commercial sale of poultry, livestock, and other domestic and wild animals among the activities considered to be an agricultural operation.

[House Bill 2951](#) **House Author:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 2951 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Veterans Commission to establish a service dog pilot program for veterans to assist in mitigating the symptoms of military service-related post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma.

[House Bill 2956](#) **House Author:** Shine **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 2956 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a municipality that is annexing an area under specified annexation provisions to also annex with the initial area an additional area adjacent to a right-of-way of a railway line, spur, or other railroad property that is contiguous and runs parallel to the municipality's boundaries and that is contiguous to the initial area being annexed, contingent on each owner of the additional area agreeing to the annexation.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 2956 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[House Bill 2961](#) **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 2961 amends the Penal Code to define "conspiracy" for purposes of determining criminal responsibility under the law of parties regarding the commission of a felony other than the attempted felony.

[House Bill 2965](#) **House Author:** Vasut et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 2965 amends the Government Code to prohibit statutory provisions governing liability claims for certain government construction projects from being waived and to render any purported waiver void.

[House Bill 2969](#) **House Author:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 2969 amends the Family Code to prohibit the Department of Family and Protective Services, a single source continuum contractor, or a licensed child-placing agency from implementing or enforcing a policy that sets a maximum age or age differential for prospective adoptive parents. However, the bill authorizes such entities to consider the health and expected lifespan of each prospective adoptive parent when determining the best interest of a child.

House Bill 2975 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 2975 amends the Labor Code to disband the Work and Family Policies Clearinghouse within the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and to require TWC instead to maintain on its website information and resources for employers who are considering, selecting, or implementing work and family policies.

House Bill 3007 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 5-27-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3007 amends the law to exempt the Benbrook Water Authority from Water Code provisions relating to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality authority over the issuance of certain water district bonds.

House Bill 3009 **House Author:** VanDeaver **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 3009 amends the Estates Code to authorize an advanced practice registered nurse who is acting under a physician’s delegation authority and supervision to perform an examination of a ward or proposed ward in relation to a guardianship proceeding for the following purposes:

- establishing probable cause for a court-initiated investigation regarding incapacity and necessity of guardianship;
- determining a proposed ward’s incapacity;
- determining intellectual disability; and
- determining a ward’s incapacity for purposes of an order restoring the ward’s capacity or modification of the guardianship.

The bill establishes that a letter or certificate based on certain of these examinations must be signed by the supervising physician and establishes that the determination or opinion of an advanced practice registered nurse under delegation from and supervision by a physician that is signed by the supervising physician is considered the supervising physician’s opinion as it relates to these determinations.

House Bill 3013 **House Author:** Slawson **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3013 amends the Government Code to exempt a contract for services necessary to respond to a natural disaster from certain procurement notice requirements applicable to a procurement in an amount that exceeds \$20 million.

House Bill 3014 **House Author:** Harris, Caroline **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3014 amends the Transportation Code to exempt an electric motor vehicle that is not equipped with an internal combustion engine from vehicle emissions and exhaust system inspection requirements.

House Bill 3025 **House Author:** Vasut et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3025, Bianca’s Law, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to eliminate the statute of limitations for interference with child custody by taking or retaining a child younger than

18 years of age outside of the United States with certain intent, extend the statute of limitations period for kidnapping and aggravated kidnapping of a child younger than 17 years of age, and provide for the prosecution of conduct that constitutes both a custody interference offense and a kidnapping offense.

House Bill 3033

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Landgraf et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3033, an omnibus bill seeking to make improvements to state public information law, amends the Government Code to do the following:

- clarify what constitutes a “business day” for purposes of responding to a public information request and authorize a governmental body to designate not more than 10 days as a nonbusiness day on which that body’s administrative offices are closed or operating with minimum staffing;
- require most requests for an attorney general decision regarding whether requested information may legally be withheld to be submitted through the attorney general’s designated electronic filing system and require the Office of the Attorney General to make available on its website an easily accessible and searchable database consisting of each decision request and the attorney general’s opinion issued for the request;
- require a governmental body to promptly release basic information responsive to a public information request unless the governmental body seeks to withhold the information and establish a 30-day deadline following the issuance of an attorney general opinion regarding whether information may be withheld for the governmental body to release the requested information or inform the requestor that the information is being withheld or suit is being filed to keep the information confidential;
- strengthen the protections against potentially vexatious requestors by providing that a requestor who has exceeded a limit on the number of hours of production or inspection time for a single requestor may not inspect records on behalf of another requestor unless outstanding statements are paid in full and by allowing a governmental body to request photo identification from requestors to establish that the requestor has not exceeded such a time limit and has not concealed their identity;
- authorize the attorney general to require the public officials of a particular governmental body to complete an open records training course if the attorney general determines that the governmental body has failed to comply with a requirement of state public information law; and
- make the exception to required disclosure for litigation or settlement negotiations involving the state or a political subdivision inapplicable to certain election-related information and establish a temporary exception to required disclosure for certain communications relating to attorney general settlement negotiations.

House Bill 3045

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bonnen

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3045 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 517 in Brazoria and Galveston Counties as the Ken Clark Memorial Highway.

House Bill 3053

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Dean et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3053 amends the Local Government Code to require certain populous municipalities to hold an election in an area on the question of disannexing the area from the applicable municipality if the area’s annexation was finalized for full purposes between March 3, 2015, and December 1, 2017, and the area had any population on the date the area was annexed. The bill requires such a municipality to disannex such an area on voter approval of disannexation and sets out provisions relating to the election and disannexation.

House Bill 3058 **House Author:** Johnson, Ann et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3058 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish as an affirmative defense to liability in a civil action brought against a physician or health care provider for a violation of the prohibition against performing, inducing, or attempting an abortion that the physician or health care provider exercised reasonable medical judgment in providing medical treatment to a pregnant woman in response to an ectopic pregnancy at any location or a previable premature rupture of membranes. The bill entitles a pharmacist or pharmacy that receives, processes, or dispenses a prescription drug or medication order written by such a physician or health care provider to such an affirmative defense. These provisions do not create a civil cause of action.

House Bill 3058 amends the Occupations Code to prohibit the Texas Medical Board from taking disciplinary action against a physician who exercised reasonable medical judgment in providing such medical treatment to a pregnant woman. The bill amends the Penal Code to establish that a physician or health care provider is justified in exercising reasonable medical judgment in providing such treatment to a pregnant woman.

House Bill 3059 **House Author:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3059 amends the Water Code to revise the allowable rates for an export fee or surcharge imposed by a groundwater conservation district. Effective January 1, 2024, the bill increases the maximums of these allowable rates by three percent each calendar year but restricts a district's use of funds obtained from such increase to costs related to assessing and addressing impacts associated with groundwater development.

House Bill 3060 **House Author:** Thompson, Ed **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation
Effective: 5-27-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 3060 amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Health and Safety Code, to update terms and definitions relating to the regulation of recycling and recycled products, including providing for the processes of depolymerization and solvolysis. The bill requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) or a political subdivision of the state that establishes goals or requirements for recycling or the use of recycled material to base those goals or requirements on specified waste reduction program definitions and principles, except for a computer or television equipment recycling program. The bill requires the TCEQ to identify third-party certification systems for mass balance attribution that may be used for recycled material and recycled plastics purposes.

House Bill 3065 **House Author:** Bailes **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3065 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code and Penal Code to authorize an employee of the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) acting within the scope of the employee's authority to discharge a firearm to take wildlife on a public road or right-of-way if the wildlife is mortally injured or behaving in a manner consistent with the wildlife being diseased. The bill authorizes a person who is not an employee of TPWD or an agent of that person to take wildlife on the person's property if the person has written authorization from TPWD and is participating under the supervision of a TPWD employee in a program or event designated by the executive director of TPWD as being conducted for the diagnosis, management, or prevention of a disease in wildlife. The bill establishes that the offense of disorderly conduct involving the intentional or knowing discharge of a firearm on or across a public road does not apply to a person

who, at the time the person engaged in the prohibited conduct, was a TPWD employee acting within the scope of the employee's authority to take wildlife under the bill's conditions.

House Bill 3075

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kacal

Senate Sponsor: Flores et al.

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3075 amends the Penal Code to create the stand-alone offense of operation of an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility or detention facility, which consists of the same conduct as the Government Code offense of operation of an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure facility with respect to a correctional or detention facility. The bill establishes exceptions to the new Penal Code offense which are the same exceptions in the Government Code offense, except that the bill does not retain the exception for an operator of an unmanned aircraft that is being used for a commercial purpose and provides an additional exception for a person who has the prior written consent of the owner or operator of the correctional facility or detention facility. The bill assigns the same Class B misdemeanor penalty to the new offense but enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of the offense or for certain conduct involving the introduction of contraband into a correctional or detention facility. Accordingly, the bill amends the Government Code to remove the offense of operation of an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility or detention facility in that code, which is a conforming change.

House Bill 3096

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3096 amends the Government Code to change the deadline for the Texas Energy Reliability Council to submit its biennial legislative report on the reliability and stability of the electricity supply chain from November 1 of each even-numbered year to December 1 of each even-numbered year.

House Bill 3097

Effective: 6-18-23

House Author: Leo-Wilson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3097 amends the Government Code to revise the authorization for an anticipation note issuer located within 70 miles of the Gulf of Mexico or of a bay or inlet of the gulf to authorize the issuance of an anticipation note or other obligation in the event of an emergency event resulting from a hurricane or tropical storm by establishing the following:

- the authorization applies notwithstanding a rating requirement prescribed under statutory provisions relating to obligations for certain public improvements; and
- an anticipation note or other obligation issued pursuant to the authorization is an obligation for purposes of those statutory provisions but is not required to be rated as required by those provisions.

House Bill 3099

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Stucky et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3099 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 380 in Wise and Jack Counties as the Lost Battalion Memorial Highway.

House Bill 3106

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hefner

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3106 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of State Highway 49 in Titus County as the Titus County WWI Veterans Memorial Highway.

[House Bill 3108](#) **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3108 amends the Transportation Code to designate the Farm to Market Road 2348 bridge in Titus County as the Army Staff Sergeant Clay Allen Craig Memorial Bridge.

[House Bill 3125](#) **House Author:** Gámez **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3125 amends the Transportation Code to allow an authorized emergency vehicle to be equipped with mounted signal lamps that emit alternating or flashing white lights visible at a distance of 500 feet in normal sunlight.

[House Bill 3126](#) **House Author:** Gámez **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3126 amends the Transportation Code to redefine “pass” or “passing” in reference to a moving vehicle as overtaking another vehicle and then returning to the original lane of travel.

[House Bill 3130](#) **House Author:** Guerra et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3130 amends the Government Code to prohibit a governmental body from selling or releasing certain identifying information of a person who holds, previously held, or is an applicant for an occupational license issued by the governmental body and who notifies the governmental body that the person chooses to restrict public access to the information on the basis that the person is a current or former client of a family violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or sexual assault program or is a survivor of family violence, domestic violence, or sexual assault. The bill requires the Office of the Attorney General to prepare and make available online a form to be used to make that notification and authorizes a governmental body to redact the applicable information from a response to a request for a list or directory of license holders, former license holders, or license applicants without having to request an attorney general opinion.

[House Bill 3132](#) **House Author:** Guerra et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Eckhardt et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3132 amends the Transportation Code to provide for an optional designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate indicating that a person is deaf or hard of hearing.

[House Bill 3137](#) **House Author:** Isaac et al. **House Committee:** Community Safety, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3137 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality and a county from adopting or enforcing regulations that require a firearm owner to obtain liability insurance coverage for damages resulting from negligent or wilful acts involving the use of the firearm.

[House Bill 3144](#) **House Author:** Lujan et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Campbell et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3144 amends the Government Code to designate October as Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month to increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and potential overdoses.

House Bill 3156 **House Author:** Leach **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3156 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt an applicable business entity, officer or employee of such a business entity, or an engineer that provides services as a consultant or subconsultant of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to monitor and inspect the progress of work on a transportation construction or maintenance project performed by a private contractor and report to TxDOT regarding the contractor’s compliance from liability for personal injury, property damage, or death arising from an act or omission performed in the course and scope of the person’s duties with respect to the project if:

- the person does not have authority to direct the operations of the contractor or subcontractor to be monitored or inspected and otherwise had no control of specified processes and actions or any other person who performs the work of the contractor or subcontractor to be monitored or inspected; and
- the person performing the monitoring and inspecting substantially complied with the obligations under the contract with TxDOT.

The exemption does not apply to a cause of action for gross negligence or wilful or wanton conduct.

House Bill 3159 **House Author:** Leach et al. **House Committee:** Elections
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3159 amends the Election Code to provide for the establishment of an accessible absentee mail system to be used for the sole purpose of enabling a voter who has a disability and needs assistive technology for marking or reading the ballot to mark, print, and mail their ballot without the assistance of another person. Among other provisions, the bill requires the accessible absentee mail system to be an electronic system and authorizes a person eligible for early voting by mail on the grounds of disability or confinement for childbirth to receive and cast a ballot using the system.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “According to its author, House Bill No. 3159 is intended ‘to benefit blind, visually impaired Texans, people with dyslexia, or persons with limited dexterity of their arms or hands such as persons with quadriplegia.’ While this intent is laudable, the text of the bill is not limited to assisting this group. Instead, it allows any voter who qualifies to vote by mail to receive a ballot electronically. I look forward to working with the author to craft language that achieves his worthy goal, without unintended consequences.”

House Bill 3161 **House Author:** Hull **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3161 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Health and Safety Code to require a justice of the peace, medical examiner, or the examiner’s authorized deputy to conduct an inquest into a death when a person’s body or body part is found and the person is unidentified, regardless of whether the cause or circumstances of death are known. Additionally, the bill prohibits a person from controlling the disposition of a decedent’s remains if, in connection with the decedent’s death, the person has been arrested or an arrest warrant has been issued for a homicide-related crime involving family violence against the decedent, or if the decedent had filed a protective order application or such an order had been issued against or with respect to the person. The bill provides for the expediting of court proceedings to resolve any dispute over the right to control the disposition of a decedent’s remains that involves a prohibited person.

House Bill 3162 **House Author:** Klick et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3162 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions of the Advance Directives Act relating to procedures with respect to directives to physicians, reporting requirements, and do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders and provisions of the Consent to Medical Treatment Act. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires physicians to perform certain procedures to facilitate the transfer of certain patients to another physician or health care facility;
- sets out requirements for ethics or medical committees that review a physician’s refusal to honor an advance directive or health care or treatment decision made by or on behalf of certain patients;
- extends the minimum notice that must be provided to a patient’s medical decision-makers of such a meeting and sets out decision-makers’ rights with respect to the meeting;
- extends the period during which life-sustaining treatment must be provided if the committee and the attending physician agree that such treatment is medically inappropriate;
- prohibits disabilities from being considered by the ethics or medical committee unless the disability is relevant in determining the medical appropriateness of certain interventions;
- creates a reporting mechanism at the Health and Human Services Commission regarding ethics or medical committee processes;
- revises general procedures and requirements for DNR orders; and
- revises the procedure for obtaining consent for medical treatment through an adult surrogate of certain individuals.

House Bill 3186 **House Author:** Leach et al. **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3186, the Texas Youth Diversion and Early Intervention Act, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Government Code, and Local Government Code to set out provisions that provide for the diversion from criminal prosecution of a child who is alleged to have committed a fine-only misdemeanor, other than a traffic offense. Among other provisions, the bill establishes diversion eligibility criteria and diversion strategies, requires justice and municipal courts to adopt a youth diversion plan, provides for the establishment of a diversion agreement and the designation of a youth diversion coordinator, and sets out court procedures for a child who is referred to court for failing to successfully complete the terms of a diversion. Additionally, the bill updates justice and municipal court procedures related to youth diversion, community service, and juvenile case managers and updates provisions relating to certain court costs, fees, and fines paid by defendants and to youth diversion funds.

House Bill 3191 **House Author:** Spiller et al. **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3191 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the governing board of a hospital district to order that board members are to be elected to serve staggered three-year terms, contingent on the members serving staggered four-year terms on the date the board enters the order and on the board having five, seven, or nine members. The bill establishes that a board member of certain hospital districts is considered to have resigned due to the member’s unexcused absence from five or more regularly scheduled board meetings in any 12-month period.

House Bill 3191 authorizes a petition for the creation of a hospital district by voter approval to provide whether the district’s board of directors will be elected to serve two-year or four-year terms and sets out procedures regarding the election of initial directors in a district with four-year terms. Among other provisions, the bill aligns requirements for publishing notice of certain district elections and for director

candidacy with applicable Election Code provisions and clarifies that the date on which director elections are held is a uniform election date. The bill revises the staff appointments that may be made by the board of directors and authorizes the board to grant staff clinical privileges on a temporary or emergency basis. The bill authorizes a board to enter into a public work contract as authorized under Government Code provisions relating to contracting and delivery procedures for construction projects and removes or repeals certain requirements relating to the timing of certain district elections. The bill restricts the investment by the board of operating, depreciation, and building reserves to investments authorized under the Public Funds Investment Act.

House Bill 3191 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to replace the requirement that a vacancy in the office of director for the Eastland Memorial Hospital District be filled for the unexpired term at the next regular election with the requirement that the remaining directors appoint a director to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

House Bill 3207

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Murr

Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3207 amends the Tax Code to remove the requirement for a member of an appraisal district's agricultural advisory board to have been a resident of that district for a minimum of five years.

House Bill 3208

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thompson, Ed

Senate Sponsor: LaMantia et al.

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3208 amends the Insurance Code to condition the requirement that the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) refund the unearned premium to an insured who requests cancellation of insurance coverage on the insured providing proof of an applicable cancellation reason specified by the bill or on TWIA making a determination that the property is no longer insurable by TWIA. Among other provisions, the bill removes from the refund requirement the specification that the refund is less any minimum retained premium set forth in the TWIA plan of operation and changes the required period for a minimum retained premium in the TWIA plan of operation for cancellation of coverage.

House Bill 3222

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3222 amends the Government Code to extend the budget submission deadline for a political subdivision applying for a loan under the disaster recovery loan program.

House Bill 3223

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: Hughes

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Committee: State Affairs

Previous law required the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety to appoint a Texas Highway Patrol commanding officer to serve as chair of each disaster district committee. House Bill 3223 amends the Government Code to revise the appointment process by requiring the chair of the emergency management council to appoint the committee chairs based on the declared disaster and phase of disaster response in accordance with the National Incident Management System guidelines.

House Bill 3224

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Guillen

Senate Sponsor: LaMantia et al.

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3224 amends the Transportation Code to remove the requirement for the Department of Public Safety to suspend the vehicle registrations of a person on the subsequent conviction of an offense for operating a motor vehicle in violation of the motor vehicle liability insurance requirement.

House Bill 3232 **House Author:** Rogers **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3232 amends the Water Code to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), if a water supply, sewer, or wastewater treatment service operated by a retail public utility, other than a municipality or county, is being integrated into a regional water supply, sewer, or wastewater treatment service administered by another entity, to enter into an applicable compliance agreement with the regional service under which the TCEQ will not initiate an enforcement action against the regional service for existing or anticipated violations resulting from the operation by the regional service of the service being integrated.

House Bill 3235 **House Author:** Troxclair **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Campbell **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 3235 amends the Tax Code to authorize the Blanco County Commissioners Court to impose a hotel occupancy tax at a rate capped at seven percent of the price paid for a hotel room.

House Bill 3257 **House Author:** Kacal **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3257 amends the Agriculture Code to make information held by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) confidential and exempt from disclosure under state public information law if the information consists of or relates to a biosecurity plan, a secure food supply plan, an emergency preparedness plan, or biosecurity data that was given voluntarily by an owner or caretaker of an animal. However, the bill authorizes the TAHC to release the information to certain entities.

House Bill 3265 **House Author:** Manuel **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3265 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to combine its annual reports on the following topics:

- Medicaid and CHIP quality measures and value-based payments;
- statewide initiatives to improve quality of maternal health care; and
- the quality assurance early warning system for certain long-term care facilities.

The bill also reduces the frequency with which HHSC must submit a report regarding access to care for Medicaid recipients receiving benefits under the medically dependent children (MDCP) waiver program from quarterly to semiannually.

House Bill 3273 **House Author:** Thierry **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

Under current law, each appraisal district must annually mail postcard notices to all property owners stating where relevant property tax information may be found online. House Bill 3273 amends the Tax Code to require instead that this information be posted by the chief appraiser and the assessor for each taxing unit participating in the district prominently on their respective websites, if applicable, and published in a newspaper of general circulation. The bill also requires the chief appraiser of each appraisal district that maintains a website to deliver to a property owner by email notifications regarding updates to the district's property tax database if the owner registers on the website to receive such notifications in that manner.

[House Bill 3278](#) **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3278 amends the Water Code to revise provisions relating to the joint planning of desired future conditions in a groundwater management area by doing the following:

- including supporting materials among the information that a groundwater conservation district, after the close of the district’s public comment period on proposed desired future conditions, is required to compile for consideration at the next joint planning meeting;
- requiring the district to submit the information to the management area’s district representatives;
- requiring the information to be made available on a generally accessible website maintained on the management area’s behalf for not less than 30 days; and
- providing for public comment at the joint planning meeting.

[House Bill 3286](#) **House Author:** Klick et al. **House Committee:** Health Care Reform, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3286 amends the Government Code to set out requirements for the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) with respect to prescription drug benefits under Medicaid and the child health plan program. The bill requires HHSC to ensure that the vendor drug program includes all drugs and national drug codes made available under the federal Medicaid Drug Rebate Program on approval or pending review of a request for the drug’s inclusion and sets out requirements for HHSC in making prescription drugs provisionally available under the vendor drug program. The bill requires HHSC’s preferred drug lists to contain all therapeutic equivalents for a generic drug and sets out requirements for HHSC in developing an expedited review process for certain requests to add drugs to such lists, granting temporary non-preferred status to new and available drugs, authorizing drugs with that status, and allowing exceptions to the preferred drug list under Medicaid managed care. Additionally, the bill increases from two to three the number of managed care organization representatives who serve on the Drug Utilization Review Board and authorizes those members to attend portions of executive sessions that do not include the sharing of confidential drug pricing information.

[House Bill 3287](#) **House Author:** Anderson et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 3287 amends the Education Code to revise the composition of the Texas State Technical College System by authorizing new campuses in additional counties and allowing certain existing campuses to operate anywhere in the counties in which they are located, rather than only in specific cities.

[House Bill 3288](#) **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3288 amends the Transportation Code to require the notice form provided by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for a used motor vehicle transfer to include a place for both the seller’s and purchaser’s phone numbers. The bill conditions the rebuttable presumption that the purchaser is the vehicle owner after the transfer, and subject to civil and criminal liability arising out of the future improper use of the vehicle, on the transfer notice including the purchaser’s name, address, and phone number.

[House Bill 3290](#) **House Author:** Guillen et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3290 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the distribution of federal coronavirus recovery funds and certain state funds to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund and emergency communication districts.

[House Bill 3297](#) **House Author:** Harris, Cody et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 1-1-25 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3297 repeals Transportation Code provisions requiring vehicle safety inspections for noncommercial vehicles. The bill amends that code and the Health and Safety Code to establish the inspection program replacement fee to be paid when applying for an initial vehicle registration or renewal of a registration for certain vehicles and to require the Department of Public Safety to adopt a timetable for vehicles subject to inspection requirements to complete the requirements. Additionally, the bill eliminates certain misdemeanor offenses relating to circumventing inspection requirements or operating certain vehicles in a condition that endangers a person or property and requires all assembled motor vehicles that contain safety belt anchorages to be equipped with front safety belts.

[House Bill 3301](#) **House Author:** Oliverson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3301 dissolves the Green Tree Park Municipal Utility District and repeals the Special District Local Laws Code chapter governing the district. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect June 2, 2023.

[House Bill 3310](#) **House Author:** Lozano **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3310 amends the Insurance Code to require the commissioner of insurance, in consultation with the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), to establish the period in which an appraisal must be completed for a claimant demanding appraisal as a result of a dispute concerning the amount of loss for which TWIA will pay in a claim. The commissioner must allow flexibility for an adequate investigation of the claim that is the subject of the appraisal and consider the time necessary to preserve the appraisers' independence.

[House Bill 3311](#) **House Author:** Lozano **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3311 repeals the Insurance Code provision that requires the insurers who are members of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) to nominate, from among those members, persons to fill any vacancy in the three TWIA board of director seats reserved for representatives of the insurance industry.

[House Bill 3313](#) **House Author:** Ordaz **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3313 amends the Transportation Code to clarify that a motorcycle or moped equipped with LED ground effect lighting may only be equipped with such lighting that emits a non-flashing amber or white light.

[House Bill 3323](#) **House Author:** Goodwin et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3323 amends the Agriculture Code to provide for the development of a state food safety security plan, the creation of the Texas food system security and resiliency planning council, and the creation of the food system security planning fund that is used to administer the council. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules regarding food system security and provides for a related biannual report.

House Bill 3335
Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Canales
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Business & Industry
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3335 amends the Labor Code to provide that a peace officer's travel en route to an emergency call is considered to be in the course and scope of the officer's employment for purposes of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act.

House Bill 3345
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bonnen
Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: Appropriations
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3345 amends the Business & Commerce Code, Government Code, and Tax Code to increase from \$5 to \$10 the amount of the fee imposed on a sexually oriented business for entry by each customer admitted to the business. The bill also requires the comptroller of public accounts to deposit to the credit of the sexual assault program fund an amount of money equal to one percent of the revenue from the mixed beverage gross receipts tax and mixed beverage sales tax.

House Bill 3359
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bonnen
Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

House Committee: Insurance
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3359 amends the Insurance Code to revise and set out provisions relating to network adequacy standards for preferred provider benefit plans and exclusive provider benefit plans, as applicable, with respect to the following:

- requirements regarding the standards adopted by the commissioner of insurance;
- the inclusion of factors regarding time, distance, and appointment availability in the standards that ensure availability of, and accessibility to, a full range of contracted physicians and providers;
- examinations of a plan's compliance with quality of care and network adequacy standards;
- a public hearing on network adequacy standards waivers; and
- the effect of a waiver on balance billing prohibitions.

House Bill 3359 prescribes the specific maximum travel time and maximum distance standards for preferred provider benefit plans by preferred provider type and sets a maximum distance standard for a physician specialty not specifically listed. Among other provisions, the bill additionally provides for maximum appointment wait time standards, a prohibition against contract provisions allowing certain adverse material changes, and the availability of emergency care and post-emergency stabilization care benefits.

House Bill 3361
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Cain
Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3361 amends the Agriculture Code to remove from the persons considered to be a slaughterer, for purposes of provisions governing the slaughtering of livestock, a person engaged primarily in the business of selling livestock to be slaughtered by the purchaser on premises owned or operated by the seller in certain counties. The bill repeals Local Government Code provisions governing the county regulation of slaughterers in unincorporated areas of certain counties.

House Bill 3372
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thimesch et al.
Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3372 amends the Election Code to set out guidelines for reporting political contributions made using a credit card.

[House Bill 3390](#)

Effective: 6-2-23

House Author: Hunter

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3390 amends the Utilities Code to remove provisions requiring an owner or operator of distributed generation to register with ERCOT and an interconnecting transmission and distribution utility (TDU) information necessary for the interconnection of the distributed generator. The bill authorizes ERCOT instead, at its own discretion, to establish protocols to require a person who owns or operates a distributed generation facility interconnected to a utility system operating in the ERCOT power region, or who seeks to interconnect such a facility, to provide to the interconnecting electric cooperative, municipally owned utility, or TDU information about the distributed generation facility that ERCOT determines is necessary for maintaining system reliability. The bill also authorizes ERCOT to establish protocols to:

- require a transmission service provider operating in the ERCOT power region to report to ERCOT information necessary for maintaining system reliability regarding certain distributed generation facilities and distribution-connected loads; and
- require a municipally owned utility, electric cooperative, or TDU that is not required to report load information directly to ERCOT regarding the delivery points interconnected with its facilities to provide information to the utility's or cooperative's transmission service provider.

[House Bill 3414](#)

Effective: 6-11-23

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3414 amends the Insurance Code to revise provisions relating to the Texas all payor claims database in the following manner:

- classifies a health benefit plan providing basic coverage under the State University Employees Uniform Insurance Benefits Act as a payor for purposes of those database provisions;
- adds one member representing an institution of higher education to the stakeholder advisory group for the Center for Healthcare Data at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston;
- prohibits the center from requiring a payor to collect or otherwise obtain from individuals covered by the payor data that is not included in a standard claim form unless the data is otherwise collected by the payor;
- provides an application process for an entity seeking to access data or information in the database that is not accessible through the public access portal;
- removes the prohibition against a qualified research entity using the information that is contained in the database but not in the portal for a commercial purpose and instead authorizes such an entity with access to that information to report or publish data or information that identifies one or more health care providers or mandatory payors conditioned on the report or publication being made available to the public at no cost; and
- expands the information that must be included in the center's report to the legislature.

[House Bill 3419](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Cain et al.

Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3419 repeals the Agriculture Code provision establishing the transportation of horsemeat that is not appropriately packaged between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. as prima facie evidence of an offense of the sale, possession, or transfer of horsemeat for human consumption.

[House Bill 3424](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Frazier et al.

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3424 amends the Occupations Code to revise training requirements for commissioned security officers and personal protection officers by including self-defense tactics and certain in-person

instruction in the required training. The bill also requires an applicant for a security officer commission to complete the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory test, the results of which may be used to evaluate their psychological fitness.

[House Bill 3436](#) **House Author:** Rogers **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3436 establishes a process for the release by the Texas Military Department of the state's reversionary interest in specified real property in Palo Pinto County that was transferred by the state to the City of Mineral Wells to be used as a fair, livestock show, and rodeo ground and of the state's interest in any buildings, structures, or other property located or installed on that transferred property.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 3436 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 3437](#) **House Author:** Holland **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3437 amends the Water Code to increase from \$50,000 to \$150,000 the maximum variance for which a designated water district official or employee may approve a change order with regard to a district contract.

[House Bill 3440](#) **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

Under current law, governmental bodies and economic development corporations that maintain a website must post their meeting notices online. Certain of these governmental entities with a qualifying population must also post their meeting agendas online. House Bill 3440 amends the Government Code to require each of the governmental bodies and economic development corporations that must post meeting notices online to also post meeting agendas online, irrespective of population. Moreover, the bill includes special purpose districts created under Section 52, Article III, Texas Constitution (road utility districts and certain other water-related and similar special purpose districts), as well as conservation and reclamation districts created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, among the governmental entities subject to the requirement to post meeting notices and meeting agendas online.

[House Bill 3444](#) **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3444 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Transportation Commission to prescribe criteria for the classification of each Texas Department of Transportation district as either metropolitan, urban, or rural.

[House Bill 3447](#) **House Author:** Bonnen et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3447 amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Space Commission for the purpose of strengthening the state's proven leadership in civil, commercial, and military aerospace activity and promoting innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities. The bill also establishes the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium, which is composed of

each public institution of higher education and any other entity that the consortium’s executive committee considers necessary, and sets out the following purposes of the consortium:

- identifying research opportunities for entities within Texas that would do the following:
 - strengthen such state leadership;
 - enhance the state’s position in aeronautics research and development, astronautics, space commercialization, and space flight infrastructure; and
 - enhance the integration of the space, aeronautics, astronautics, and aviation industries into the state’s economy; and
- providing funding and research recommendations to the commission.

Both the commission and the consortium are subject to sunset review and both are administratively attached to the office of the governor, though the consortium is only attached for limited purposes. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the following:

- the commission’s governance by its board of directors;
- the consortium’s governance by its executive committee;
- a requirement for the commission to develop and annually update a strategic plan for the promotion of space, aeronautics, and aviation economic development in Texas; and
- establishment of the space exploration and aeronautics research fund from which the commission awards grants to eligible entities for specified purposes.

[House Bill 3453](#)

House Author: Jetton, Jacey

House Committee: Ways & Means

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Sponsor: Miles

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 3453 amends the Tax Code to authorize the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court to impose a hotel occupancy tax. The rate of that tax is capped at seven percent of the price paid for a room in a hotel, except that the rate is capped at two percent of that price if the hotel is located in a municipality or extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality that imposes a municipal hotel occupancy tax applicable to the hotel.

[House Bill 3456](#)

House Author: Ashby

House Committee: County Affairs

Effective: 6-13-23

Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3456 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone until December 31, 2027, the expiration of the authority of the following entities to administer and operate a health care provider participation program:

- Bexar County Hospital District;
- Dallas County Hospital District;
- El Paso County Hospital District;
- Harris County Hospital District;
- Tarrant County Hospital District;
- Travis County Hospital District; and
- Wichita County.

[House Bill 3461](#)

House Author: Bonnen

House Committee: Appropriations

Effective: See below

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3461, the biennial funds consolidation bill, abolishes all funds and accounts created or re-created and all dedications or rededications of revenue collected by a state agency for a particular purpose by an act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, except those specifically exempted from abolishment under the bill’s provisions. The bill creates and re-creates certain accounts and funds and

requires revenue that otherwise would be deposited to the credit of a special account or fund to instead be deposited to the credit of the undedicated portion of the general revenue fund unless the fund, account, or dedication is exempted under the bill's provisions.

Effective September 1, 2023, House Bill 3461 amends the Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Transportation Code to revise provisions governing certain accounts and the dedication of certain revenue, postpone the expiration date of statutory provisions governing the use of dedicated revenue in treasury funds, and revise the deadline by which the comptroller of public accounts is required to eliminate all dedicated accounts for specialty license plates.

Except as otherwise provided, House Bill 3461 takes effect June 13, 2023.

House Bill 3462

Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Noble

Senate Sponsor: Sparks

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3462 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to update and consolidate the statutes governing the following ombudsman programs administered by the Health and Human Services Commission:

- the health and human services office of the ombudsman;
- the ombudsman for children and youth in foster care;
- the ombudsman for managed care assistance;
- the ombudsman for behavioral health access to care; and
- the ombudsman for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability.

House Bill 3466

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Campos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Campbell et al.

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 3466 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission, with the assistance of the Texas Education Agency, to conduct a survey of public school districts to review the implementation at each district of Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction.

House Bill 3466 amends the Government Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in awarding grants for the establishment and expansion of community collaboratives, to give special consideration to entities providing services to an average of at least 50 percent of persons experiencing homelessness in a geographic area served by a HUD-funded Continuum of Care Program. The bill requires DSHS to prepare a biennial report regarding the community collaborative grant program and adds state-funded mental health facilities to the list of programs from which collaboratives should divert individuals.

House Bill 3469

Effective: See below

House Author: Sherman, Sr. et al.

Senate Sponsor: West et al.

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3469 requires the commissioners courts of Dallas County and Kaufman County to issue a joint order appointing a trustee or receiver to dispose of after-discovered property of the former Bois D'Arc Island Levee Improvement District of Dallas and Kaufman Counties and sets out provisions relating to such disposal and the use and distribution of money made from the disposal. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2023.

House Bill 3474 **House Author:** Leach et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 3474 is an omnibus bill relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures regarding proceedings in the judicial branch of state government.

House Bill 3474 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Estates Code, Government Code, Human Resources Code, and Property Code. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- creates 13 district courts, two statutory county courts, one multicounty statutory county court, five statutory probate courts, and one criminal law magistrate court;
- revises the jurisdiction of certain district courts, statutory county courts, statutory probate courts, and criminal law magistrate courts;
- establishes term start dates for certain district courts;
- grants the magistrates of certain counties jurisdiction in criminal actions and provides for the district clerk to serve as clerk of cases referred to a magistrate, except for cases filed in certain courts;
- revises provisions relating to associate and visiting judges;
- provides for the appointment, duties, and powers of an associate judge in Duval County;
- sets out standard procedures for court clerks transferring or receiving probate and guardianship cases between courts, including sending or marking specified documents in each transferred case and using the standardized forms created by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System;
- entitles a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, or a justice of a court of appeals to compensation for necessary expenses;
- provides for service credit for a statutory county court, including a multicounty statutory county court judge, or a statutory probate court judge for any years of service as a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney;
- provides for service credit for a district attorney or criminal district attorney for any years of service as a district attorney, criminal district attorney, county attorney, appellate court justice, district judge, or statutory county court or statutory probate court judge and provides for longevity pay for such an attorney;
- revises provisions relating to jurors and jury service, including by requiring a court clerk to maintain a list of the name and address of each person who is disqualified from jury service because the person was convicted of misdemeanor theft or a felony;
- revises provisions relating to a district clerk's authority to summon grand jurors;
- sets out and revises provisions relating to court reporters and interpreters, including their appointment, duties, certification, reimbursement, and regulation;
- sets out provisions relating to court deposition, transcription, and interpretation services;
- revises provisions relating to criminal proceedings, including expunction and applications for writs of habeas corpus;
- revises provisions relating to the reimbursement of certain funeral expenses;
- provides for the filing of an appendix instead of a clerk's record for an appeal of a civil suit;
- requires a statutory county court, district court, or appellate court to deliver through the statewide electronic filing system all applicable court orders entered for the case; and
- removes the requirement that the executive director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission be a licensed attorney.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2023.

House Bill 3485**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Bell, Keith et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**House Committee:** Business & Industry**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3485 amends the Government Code and Property Code to provide that a vendor, contractor, or subcontractor may elect not to proceed with additional work directed by a governmental entity under a public work contract or by a private owner-directed work contract, or by an applicable subcontract, if:

- the vendor, contractor, or subcontractor has not received a written, fully executed change order for the additional work; and
- the aggregate actual or anticipated value of the additional work plus any previous additional work under the applicable contract or subcontract terms for which the vendor, contractor, or subcontractor has not received the applicable change order exceeds 10 percent of the contract or subcontract amount.

Moreover, the bill establishes that any such vendor, contractor, or subcontractor who elects not to proceed with additional work under those circumstances is not responsible for damages associated with the election not to proceed.

House Bill 3492**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Stucky**Senate Sponsor:** Springer**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3492 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality and county, respectively, from considering the cost of constructing or improving the public infrastructure for a subdivision, lot, or related property development in determining the amount of an imposed fee related to the acceptance, review, or processing of the engineering or construction plan or for the inspection of the improvement. The bill requires a municipality and county, respectively, to determine the fee by considering the municipality's and county's actual cost to, as applicable, review and process the plan or to inspect the improvement.

House Bill 3492 prohibits a municipality and county, respectively, from requiring the disclosure of information related to the value of or cost of constructing or improving a residential dwelling or the public infrastructure improvements for a subdivision, lot, or related property development as a condition of obtaining approval for subdivision construction or for the acceptance of those improvements except as required by FEMA for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

House Bill 3497**Effective:** 6-11-23**House Author:** Morrison et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3497 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt the holder of a commercial oyster boat captain's license who takes or assists in taking oysters on a vessel licensed as a commercial oyster boat from the requirement to obtain or possess a general commercial fisherman's license and to remove the exemption from that requirement for a person who takes or assists in taking oysters on such a licensed vessel who does not hold such a captain's license. In addition, the bill clarifies that the holder of a commercial oyster boat captain's license is exempt from the requirement for each member of the crew of such a boat to have a general commercial fisherman's license to take oysters while on board such a boat being used to take oysters.

House Bill 3506**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Harris, Caroline et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes**House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3506 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to require the Texas Forensic Science Commission to adopt rules relating to the maintenance of and access to crime laboratories' DNA QA databases, prohibit the storage of DNA records created from elimination samples in those databases and the Department of Public Safety DNA database, and require the removal of such records from those databases.

House Bill 3507 **House Author:** Holland **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3507 amends the Water Code to increase from \$75,000 to \$150,000 the amount of a construction, equipment, materials, or machinery contract for which an applicable water district is required to do the following:

- if the contract is over such amount, advertise the letting of the contract; and
- if the contract is equal to or under such amount and over \$25,000, solicit written competitive bids on uniform written specifications from at least three bidders.

House Bill 3514 **House Author:** Burns **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3514 amends the Local Government Code to exempt from provisions relating to the prohibition against a municipality annexing area in a water or sewer district unless it annexes the entire part of the district that is outside the municipality's boundaries the annexation of a property by a municipality with a population of less than 3,000 if the governing body of a water or sewer district the boundaries of which include the property consents to the annexation.

House Bill 3526 **House Author:** Raymond **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3526 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality from applying a municipal building code to the construction of a solar pergola.

House Bill 3536 **House Author:** Manuel **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3536 amends the Property Code, with respect to a massage establishment that is not exempt from licensing requirements under state or federal law, to establish that a tenant's right to possession of a commercial rental property terminates and the landlord has a right to recover possession of the leased premises if the tenant is using or allowing the premises to be used for purposes of operating, maintaining, or advertising a massage establishment that:

- has never been issued a license by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) or the license for which was suspended, revoked, or refused renewal by TDLR after the establishment obtained a right of possession in the leased premises; or
- was issued a citation, administrative penalty, civil penalty, or other civil or criminal sanction for violating a local ordinance that relates to specified prostitution offenses, for operating a sexually oriented business, or for violating Occupations Code provisions governing the practice of massage therapy by a license holder.

House Bill 3550 **House Author:** Rose et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3550 amends the Health and Safety Code and Human Resources Code to set out and revise provisions governing prescribed pediatric extended care centers (PPECCs). The bill does the following:

- provides certain guidelines that the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission must follow in establishing minimum standards for PPECC transportation services and in adopting rules governing the reimbursement of a PPECC for services provided under Medicaid;
- prohibits any rules adopted regarding PPECCs from interfering with the authority of a parent, guardian, or legally authorized representative of a minor client to make decisions regarding the

treatment provided to the child but authorizes a limit on the maximum amount of authorized services provided to a client;

- authorizes a PPECC to provide nursing services in a group setting, consistent with appropriate staffing ratios as the executive commissioner determines; and
- authorizes a PPECC, before a patient’s admission, to obtain all required parent or legal guardian signatures for the patient on one consent document, which must illustrate the involvement of the parent or legal guardian in developing and establishing the patient’s care and treatment.

House Bill 3553

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thierry et al.

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3553 amends the Penal Code to establish penalty enhancements for trafficking of persons, public lewdness, indecent exposure, invasive visual recording, and voyeurism when committed on or near the premises of a public, private, or independent institution of higher education or certain other postsecondary educational institutions.

House Bill 3554

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thierry et al.

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3554 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for trafficking of persons to a first degree felony punishable by state imprisonment for life or for a certain other term if the offense is committed on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the premises of a juvenile detention facility, a post-adjudication secure correctional facility, a shelter or facility operating as a residential treatment center that serves certain vulnerable populations, a community center offering youth services and programs, or a child-care facility.

House Bill 3556

Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Stucky et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker et al.

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3556 amends the Government Code to provide for local area activation of the AMBER alert system on the request of a local law enforcement agency that knows a child is missing but has not verified the criteria for activation, provided the agency’s chief law enforcement officer believes that activation is warranted.

House Bill 3558

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Perez

Senate Sponsor: Alvarado

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3558 amends the Transportation Code to clarify the lawful operation of a vehicle or streetcar approaching an intersection with a stop sign.

House Bill 3574

Effective: 6-18-23

House Author: Lambert et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Administration

House Bill 3574 amends the Finance Code to make a variety of updates and technical corrections to address the statutory authorities of the banking commissioner of Texas and other matters regarding the regulation of state banks. The bill requires a financial institution to provide the banking commissioner access to or copies of records relevant to the suspected financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult and, among other provisions, does the following:

- authorizes the banking commissioner, in the event a person serving in a position participating in a state bank’s affairs refuses to comply with a subpoena, to issue an order removing the person from the position and prohibiting the person from participating in the affairs of the bank or any

other entity chartered, registered, permitted, or licensed by the banking commissioner until the person complies with the subpoena; and

- prohibits a bank, without the prior approval of the banking commissioner or other applicable person, from engaging in any activity threatening the safety and soundness of the bank during a period of supervision.

House Bill 3579 **House Author:** Bumgarner **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3579 amends the Occupations Code to authorize the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to issue an emergency order halting the operation of a massage establishment if TDLR learns that a law enforcement agency is investigating the massage establishment for an offense involving human trafficking or if TDLR has reasonable cause to believe that such an offense is being committed at the massage establishment.

House Bill 3579 authorizes a political subdivision to adopt a regulation that is more restrictive for massage establishments than for other health care establishments with respect to the location, ownership, hours of operation, or operation of a massage establishment where an offense involving prostitution, organized crime, or human trafficking was committed, subject to certain conditions, or that is operating at a location where another massage establishment previously operated and that other massage establishment or its owner was sanctioned for violating state law governing massage therapy. The bill establishes a process by which the owner or operator of a massage establishment operating at the location of a previously sanctioned massage establishment may request an exemption from such a regulation adopted by the applicable political subdivision.

House Bill 3582 **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3582 repeals provisions of session law that, upon adoption by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) of the initial state flood plan, would have created the flood plan implementation account as an account in the Texas infrastructure resiliency fund, would have restricted the TWDB's use of the flood infrastructure fund to the provision of financing for flood projects included in the state flood plan, and would have authorized money from the infrastructure fund to be awarded to several eligible political subdivisions for a single flood project. The bill amends the Water Code to instead codify such restriction, with certain exceptions, and such authorization into current statute. The bill revises the TWDB's authorization to use the infrastructure fund to make a grant or loan at or below market interest rates to an eligible political subdivision for a flood project to serve an area outside of a metropolitan statistical area in order to ensure that the flood project is implemented by instead providing for such flood project to serve, for such purpose, a rural political subdivision, as defined by the bill and with such definition also affecting the applicability of the rural water assistance fund.

House Bill 3599 **House Author:** Thierry et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3599 amends the Tax Code to exempt from the gasoline tax and the diesel fuel tax the applicable motor fuel sold to a nonprofit food bank and delivered into either the fuel supply tank of a qualifying motor vehicle that is owned by the nonprofit food bank and used to deliver food or a storage facility from which gasoline will be delivered solely into the fuel supply tanks of such motor vehicles.

House Bill 3599 amends the Transportation Code to exempt from the payment of motor vehicle registration fees a qualifying motor vehicle that is used by a nonprofit food bank to deliver food.

[House Bill 3603](#) **House Author:** Anderson et al. **House Committee:** Corrections
Effective: 12-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3603 amends the Government Code to replace the duty of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to transmit a restitution payment to a victim with a requirement for TDCJ to transmit the payment to the clerk of the court that entered the order of restitution and a requirement for the clerk to remit the payment to the victim. The bill transfers certain duties related to the processing of the payment from TDCJ to the applicable court clerk. The bill requires TDCJ to include the releasee's name and other relevant identifying information, the cause number, and the payment amount when transmitting the payment to the clerk. The bill requires a court clerk, on receipt of a transmitted payment, to process and account for the payment in the same manner as if the payment had been made directly to the clerk.

[House Bill 3613](#) **House Author:** Cain **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3613 amends the Local Government Code to require a municipality that is divided into areas from which members of its governing body are elected to elect all members following each apportionment on the first uniform election date that allows sufficient time to comply with any requirements of law. If the members serve staggered terms, the municipality must adopt an equitable process to determine which members serve shorter terms to accommodate such an election.

[House Bill 3623](#) **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 3623 amends the Education Code to authorize a public or private primary or secondary school to enter into a memorandum of understanding with another such school authorizing a school marshal appointed to a campus of one school to temporarily act as a school marshal at a campus of the other school for the duration of an event at which both schools are participating.

[House Bill 3643](#) **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3643 repeals the Transportation Code provision authorizing the Department of Public Safety to issue a temporary driver's license without a photograph.

[House Bill 3645](#) **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3645 amends the Education Code and Transportation Code to exempt a person who holds a valid driver's license issued by another state from certain driver's license and commercial driver's license requirements.

[House Bill 3646](#) **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3646 amends the Transportation Code to align certain state regulations regarding commercial driver's licenses with federal regulations.

[House Bill 3647](#) **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3647 amends the Transportation Code to prohibit the Department of Public Safety from considering a driver's license holder's criminal conviction, for purposes of imposing an enforcement action on the license holder, after the first anniversary of the conviction, with certain exceptions.

House Bill 3651
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bailes
Senate Sponsor: Nichols

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 3651 amends the Tax Code to clarify that the gasoline tax and diesel fuel tax must be paid by each person receiving the gasoline or diesel fuel in a subsequent sale until the tax is paid ultimately by the person using or consuming the fuel. The bill imposes a backup tax on a person who acquires gasoline or diesel fuel on which tax has not been paid in an original or subsequent sale, other than a person exempted from the tax, and on a person who acquires gasoline or diesel fuel by any unlawful means.

House Bill 3651 also sets out and revises certain definitions relating to the imposition of motor fuel taxes. Among other provisions, the bill:

- establishes what constitutes the “delivery” of motor fuel;
- removes language limiting the fuels that qualify as motor fuel to those used for fuel for a gasoline- or diesel-powered engine and classifies as “motor fuel” any products offered for sale, sold, used, or capable of use as fuel for a motor vehicle licensed for use on a public highway; and
- excludes a person who lawfully acquires motor fuel and retains ownership of the fuel while the fuel is being transported from persons classified as a “motor fuel transporter.”

House Bill 3660
Effective: 6-10-23

House Author: Vasut et al.
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 3660 amends the Penal Code to establish defenses to prosecution for cruelty to nonlivestock animals involving the unreasonable abandonment of an animal if the actor released or returned a stray or feral animal pursuant to a trap-neuter-return program or a previously trapped wild living creature in accordance with Texas wildlife laws and regulations.

House Bill 3672
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Canales et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hall

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 3672 amends the Transportation Code to designate portions of the state highway system as memorial highways for certain deceased peace officers.

House Bill 3673
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Perez
Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Insurance
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3673 amends the Standard Valuation Law, Insurance Code, to remove the requirement that the valuation manual for certain life insurance, accident and health insurance, and deposit-type policies specify the premium thresholds used to determine the applicability of an exemption allowing for certain companies to value reserves based on an exception from requirements of the valuation manual and principle-based valuation. The bill further removes the specification that such an exemption applies to small companies.

House Bill 3697
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Wilson
Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 3697 amends the Local Government Code to revise provisions relating to county regulation of subdivisions. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- authorizes a commissioners court or the court’s designee to designate to one or more county officers or employees the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove a plat and establishes that a plat applicant has the right to appeal to the commissioners court or the court’s designee if the designated person or persons disapprove a plat;

- establishes that a plat is considered filed on the date the applicant submits the plat, along with a completed plat application and the application fees and other prescribed requirements, to the commissioners court or the county authority responsible for approving plats;
- prohibits a commissioners court or the county authority responsible for approving plats from requiring an analysis, study, document, agreement, or similar requirement to be included in or as part of an application for a plat, development permit, or subdivision of land that is not explicitly required by state law; and
- requires a commissioners court to post and continuously maintain on the county's website the most current version of the written list of all documentation and other information that is required to be submitted with a plat application.

House Bill 3698**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Landgraf**Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 3698 amends the Government Code to include among the searchable information accessible to the public in the protective order registry maintained by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System any known common misspellings of the name and any known aliases of a person who is the subject of the protective order. The bill includes a magistrate among the authorized users with access to copies of applications for protective orders and copies of protective orders in the registry.

House Bill 3699**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Wilson**Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management**Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3699 amends the Local Government Code to revise provisions relating to municipal regulation of subdivisions. The bill requires each applicable municipality to adopt and make available to the public a complete, written list of all documentation and other information that the municipality requires to be submitted with a plat application. The bill establishes that an application submitted to the municipal authority responsible for approving plats that contains all documents and other information on the list is considered complete. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- authorizes a municipality's governing body to adopt reasonable specifications relating to the construction of each street or road and reasonable specifications to provide adequate drainage for each street or road in a subdivision in accordance with standard engineering practices;
- establishes that a plat is considered filed on the date the applicant submits the plat, along with a completed plat application and the application fees and other prescribed requirements, to the municipality's governing body or the municipal authority responsible for approving plats;
- prohibits a municipality's governing body or the municipal authority responsible for approving plats from requiring an analysis, study, document, agreement, or similar requirement to be included in or as part of an application for a plat, development permit, or subdivision of land that is not explicitly allowed by state law;
- prohibits statutory provisions relating to municipal regulation of subdivisions from being construed to convey any authority to a municipality regarding the completeness of an application or the approval of a plat or replat that is not explicitly granted by such provisions;
- authorizes a municipality's governing body or the municipal planning commission to delegate to one or more officers or employees of the municipality or of a utility owned or operated by the municipality the ability to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove a plat and establishes that a plat applicant has the right to appeal to the governing body or commission if the designated person disapproves a plat;
- prohibits a municipal authority responsible for approving plats from requiring the dedication of land within a subdivision for a future street or alley that is not intended by the owner of the tract and that is not included, funded, and approved in either a capital improvement plan adopted by

the municipality or a similar plan adopted by a county in which the municipality is located or the state; and

- authorizes the owner of a tract that is the subject of a plat that meets applicable requirements but for which a municipal authority responsible for approving plats fails or refuses to approve to bring an action in district court for a writ of mandamus to compel the municipal authority to approve the plat by issuing to the owner applicable approval documentation.

House Bill 3708

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Buckley et al.

Senate Sponsor: Paxton

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 3708 amends the Education Code to entitle a public school district, for each home-schooled student who participates in a University Interscholastic League (UIL) activity for an applicable school, to an annual allotment under the foundation school program of \$1,500 per UIL activity in which the student participates.

House Bill 3712

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Hernandez

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3712 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to authorize a distributor's license holder or the license holder's agent, representative, or employee to provide a sample of malt beverages capped at 72 ounces to the holder of a permit or license authorizing the sale of such beverages at retail in the same manner as a wholesaler's permit holder or that permit holder's agent, representative, or employee who provides a sample of liquor to a holder of a permit authorizing the sale of that category of alcoholic beverages at retail, subject to certain requirements as revised by the bill.

House Bill 3727

Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Anderson

Senate Sponsor: Birdwell

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 3727, an omnibus local hotel occupancy tax bill, amends the Tax Code to set and revise annual hotel occupancy tax reporting requirements, update various Tax Code definitions applicable to the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue, implement a clawback mechanism for hotel and convention center projects, and provide for a biennial report to the legislature regarding the status of each such project. Moreover, the bill sets out and revises provisions regarding the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue, including the use of such revenue for visitor information centers, convention center projects, and transportation systems. Finally, the bill includes the City of Waco among the municipalities entitled to receive certain state tax revenue derived from a hotel and convention center project and authorized to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project.

House Bill 3730

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 3730 amends the Government Code to require the centralized capitol complex telephone service directory to also include email addresses.

House Bill 3731

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Murr

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3731 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to codify the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District. The bill retains the district's nature as a water control and improvement district but replaces its nature as an underground water conservation district with that of a groundwater

conservation district. The bill limits the district's exercise of its powers as a water control and improvement district to only the areas of the district that are not included in the territory of the Bandera County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1. The bill does not retain, in the district's codification, a number of provisions in the district's original enabling legislation.

House Bill 3731 amends the Government Code to remove the district from the list of river authorities subject to limited sunset review.

House Bill 3743 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3743 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions governing the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). Among other provisions, the bill clarifies that the date on which those agencies are set to be abolished under the Texas Sunset Act is September 1, 2033, expands the scope of TCLR's fee-setting authority with respect to the administration of programs or activities administered by TDLR, updates provisions governing TDLR's use of technology for delivering correspondence, and authorizes TDLR to accept a license application from a Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmate.

House Bill 3744 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3744 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to the regulation of water well drillers and water well pump installers. Among other provisions, the bill removes the requirements that the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) prepare and offer licensing examinations and instead requires TDLR to provide for the examination of license applicants. The bill also repeals provisions that require TDLR to maintain a current register of license holders.

House Bill 3765 **House Author:** Bucy et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3765 amends the Family Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to establish and maintain a decentralized supply of luggage to be used to transport a foster child's personal belongings. Among other provisions, the bill provides for luggage to be given to a child who is being removed from their home or changing placement and requires DFPS to maintain a record of each time a trash bag is used to move a foster child's personal belongings.

House Bill 3798 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3798 amends the Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, and Transportation Code to provide for the consolidation of provisions governing the making of voluntary contributions to certain funds, accounts, and programs when applying for a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or personal identification certificate to impose uniformity in terms of the amount that may be contributed and which applicants may opt to contribute.

House Bill 3803 **House Author:** Cunningham et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 3803 amends the Education Code to authorize a parent or guardian to elect for a student to repeat any course taken for high school credit, unless the public school district or open-enrollment charter school determines the student has met all of the requirements for graduation. The bill changes from grade

three to grade eight the maximum grade that a parent or guardian may elect for a student to repeat. A parent or guardian may make an election for grades one through eight or for courses taken for high school credit, or both.

House Bill 3808 **House Author:** Wilson **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3808 amends the Health and Safety Code to expand the types of providers who may serve on the Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome Advisory Council by replacing and removing certain eligibility requirements. The bill also removes the condition that the council's chair and vice chair be a legislator and authorizes the council's legislative members to designate another individual to serve in their place.

House Bill 3810 **House Author:** Landgraf **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 3810 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a person in charge of a nonindustrial public water supply system to maintain internal procedures to notify the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality immediately of an unplanned condition that has caused a public water supply outage or the system to issue a do-not-use advisory, do-not-consume advisory, or boil water notice.

House Bill 3813 **House Author:** DeAyala **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 3813 amends the Insurance Code to make an individual who was employed for at least 10 years by the Windham School District as the individual's last position of employment before retirement eligible to participate as an annuitant in the state employees group benefits program if the individual:

- has at least five years of eligible service credit and is the sole surviving spouse of military personnel who was killed in action or has at least 10 years of eligible service credit, including not more than five years of military service credited in the Employees Retirement System of Texas; and
- retires under the jurisdiction of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) and is at least 65 years of age or meets or exceeds the Rule of 80 in TRS.

House Bill 3824 **House Author:** Klick **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 3824 amends the Occupations Code to authorize a dentist to delegate to a dental hygienist who meets specific certification and training or experience requirements the authority to administer a local anesthetic agent by infiltration to a patient under certain circumstances for purposes of a procedure the dental hygienist is authorized to perform. Among other provisions, the bill requires the delegating dentist to be physically present in the facility where the procedure is occurring and continuously aware of the patient's physical status and well-being. The State Board of Dental Examiners must prescribe the requirements for a course to train dental hygienists to administer a local anesthetic agent and develop a procedure for the approval of such a course.

House Bill 3837 **House Author:** Geren et al. **House Committee:** Energy Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 3837 amends the Health and Safety Code to classify as an advanced clean energy project under the Texas Clean Air Act a project that is a facility for which an authorization to use a standard permit

was approved after January 1, 2020, but before September 1, 2023, and that both utilizes natural gas to create methanol and converts methanol to zero-sulfur transportation fuels.

[House Bill 3858](#) **House Author:** Frazier et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3858 amends the Government Code to authorize certain law enforcement agencies to establish a peace officer wellness program to provide mental health resource information to officers who may have been affected by a violent incident that occurred during the course of performing their official duties. The bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission to establish a related grant program and creates the peace officer wellness fund.

[House Bill 3860](#) **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3860 amends the Transportation Code to exempt a county tax assessor-collector from liability for an offense or damages arising from the misuse of license plates or other fraudulent activity related to vehicle registration and titling by an individual or business entity deputized by the county tax assessor-collector to perform titling services in accordance with adopted Texas Department of Motor Vehicles rules.

[House Bill 3908](#) **House Author:** Wilson et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-17-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 3908, Tucker's Law, amends the Education Code to require each public school district to annually provide research-based instruction related to fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness to students in grades 6 through 12. The bill sets out the required contents of the instruction and the entities that may provide it. The bill establishes that a district may satisfy a requirement to implement a substance abuse prevention and intervention program by providing fentanyl abuse prevention and drug poisoning awareness instruction. The bill includes among the duties of the local school health advisory council recommending appropriate grade levels and curriculum for instruction relating to the dangers of opioids.

House Bill 3908 requires the governor to designate Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week in public schools. The bill authorizes Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week to include age-appropriate instruction, including instruction on the prevention of the abuse of and addiction to fentanyl, as determined by each district.

[House Bill 3917](#) **House Author:** Buckley **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3917 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Education Code to provide for a court's dismissal of a complaint against a parent for contributing to a child's nonattendance of school on the parent's completion of counseling, training, or another program within a specified period, according to the terms of a written agreement with the applicable public school district.

[House Bill 3928](#) **House Author:** Toth et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 3928, the Beckley Wilson Act, amends the Education Code to set out certain provisions relating to dyslexia evaluations and services for public school students, the provision of services for

students with dyslexia and related disorders, and certain parental notice regarding the rights of parents of public school students with disabilities. The bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- provides for the eligibility of students with dyslexia for participation in a public school district’s special education program;
- establishes that dyslexia is an example of and meets the definition of a specific learning disability under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);
- requires a district, if the district suspects or has a reason to suspect that a student may have dyslexia and may be a child with a disability under IDEA, to comply with all applicable federal and state requirements and to do the following:
 - provide to the student’s parent or a person standing in parental relation to the student a form developed by the Texas Education Agency explaining the rights available under federal law; and
 - if the student is evaluated for dyslexia or a related disorder, evaluate the student in any other areas in which the district suspects the student may have a disability;
- requires the team convened to determine a student’s eligibility for special education and related services to include at least one member with specific knowledge regarding the reading process, dyslexia and related disorders, and dyslexia instruction and sets out qualification and documentation requirements for that member with respect to the evaluation of a student and any resulting individualized education program developed for the student;
- requires a provider of dyslexia instruction to be fully trained in the district’s adopted instructional materials for students with dyslexia;
- expressly does not require such a provider of dyslexia instruction to hold a certificate or permit in special education unless the provider is employed in a special education position;
- requires a district to provide, at least once each grading period, to the parent of or person standing in parental relation to a student receiving dyslexia instruction information regarding the student’s progress as a result of receiving that instruction;
- revises provisions relating to the State Board of Education (SBOE) program for testing students for dyslexia and related disorders and prohibits that program from including a distinction between standard protocol dyslexia instruction, as applicably defined, and other types of direct dyslexia instruction;
- requires each district board of trustees to adopt and implement a policy requiring the district to comply with all SBOE rules and standards to implement the SBOE testing program and to solicit input from parents of students enrolled in the district regarding such implementation; and
- requires the provision of information to the student’s parent or a person standing in parental relation to the student regarding the process to request a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services under the following circumstances:
 - on the placement of a student in a disciplinary alternative education program; and
 - after the student’s release from such a program, as part of the personalized plan for the student’s transition to a regular classroom.

House Bill 3929
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Cook et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hughes

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 3929 authorizes the Texas Supreme Court to adopt, before September 1, 2025, the Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act as rules of civil procedure and provides for the repeal on that date of statutory provisions establishing that a witness required by a court of record in any other state or foreign jurisdiction to give testimony in Texas may be compelled to appear and testify in the same manner and by the same process used for taking testimony in a proceeding pending in Texas, unless the supreme court does not adopt the act as rules.

[House Bill 3949](#) **House Author:** Raney **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3949 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to extend the applicability of provisions regarding the arbitration of certain controversies involving members of certain nonprofit entities to a corporation incorporated under Business Organizations Code provisions relating to grand lodges and to a controversy between an applicable corporation and its members. Accordingly, the bill includes such a corporation and such a controversy in the scope of the statutory provision establishing that a provision in the bylaws of a nonprofit corporation that requires a member of the corporation to arbitrate at common law a controversy that subsequently arises is a valid, enforceable, and irrevocable agreement by a member of the corporation to arbitrate the controversy. The bill establishes that provisions regarding the arbitration of any such controversy do not apply to the arbitration of a controversy between the following:

- members of a property owners' association, a condominium council of owners, or a condominium unit owners' association; or
- such an association or council and a member of that association or council of owners.

[House Bill 3956](#) **House Author:** Smith et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 3956 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to extend the applicability of DNA collection requirements to all felony arrests and to clarify the procedure for the expunction of DNA records upon a court's notice of an acquittal, dismissal, or grant of relief.

[House Bill 3980](#) **House Author:** Frazier et al. **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 3980 amends the Local Government Code to establish the methods by which member donations to the business leave time account of an applicable firefighter employee organization may be authorized, based on whether the majority of the membership has voted to require member contributions to the account. Among other provisions, the bill provides for a firefighter who is a member of an organization to choose not to donate time to the account for a specified 12-month period and requires the organization to make up for the costs which incurred during the business leave.

[House Bill 3981](#) **House Author:** Paul et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 3981 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to designate fire marshals and related municipal officers, inspectors, or investigators who hold a permanent peace officer license as peace officers.

[House Bill 3989](#) **House Author:** Raney **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 3989 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Department of Transportation to adopt a written preclusion policy before making a determination that a registered architect or licensed engineer is precluded from performing a contract for architectural or engineering services or from participating in the procurement for those services.

[House Bill 3991](#) **House Author:** Isaac et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 3991 amends the Education Code to designate the first Friday in April as Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day in public schools for purposes of promoting awareness of the health benefits of fruits and vegetables and encouraging students to consume more fruits and vegetables during Texas Fruit and

Vegetable Month. The bill requires Texas Fruit and Vegetable Day to include appropriate instruction, as determined by each public school district.

House Bill 3993

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Paul et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 3993 amends the Education Code to provide for the automatic admission of students with a nontraditional secondary education to a general academic teaching institution under the top 10 percent rule.

House Bill 4005

Effective: 6-12-23

House Author: Raney et al.

Senate Sponsor: Parker

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 4005 amends the Education Code to establish the Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program, administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to provide financial assistance for students to enroll in competency-based baccalaureate degree programs at eligible institutions. Among other provisions, the bill sets out eligibility and prioritization requirements for the grant program and provides for the inclusion in higher education funding formulas of funding for semester credit hours earned by a student who is enrolled in a competency-based baccalaureate degree program.

House Bill 4012

Effective: 6-11-23

House Author: Kitzman

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

The state business daily is administered by the comptroller of public accounts and allows state agencies to advertise pre-solicitation notices and other information relating to the state's business activity that the comptroller considers to be of interest to the public. House Bill 4012 amends the Government Code to modernize state law relating to the administration of the state business daily. Specifically, revisions are made to reflect the fact that the state business daily has gone digital and is now the electronic state business daily and the fact that the process for advertising has become more efficient with agencies now able to self-publish, update their advertisements in real time throughout the solicitation process, extend postings, and publish awards.

House Bill 4015

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Thompson, Ed

Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4015 amends the Transportation Code to change the fund to which the annual fee assessed against railroads operating within Texas is deposited from the general revenue fund to the state highway fund. The bill clarifies that the fee may be used only for the rail safety program.

House Bill 4018

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Ashby et al.

Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst et al.

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4018 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to authorize the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to enter into an agreement with a public or private entity for the purpose of developing a nature-based carbon sequestration or similar ecosystem services project on TPWD land. TPWD must deposit money received from a project to the credit of the game, fish, and water safety account, if the project is located on land primarily used for game or fish conservation, protection, or management, and to the credit of the state parks account, if the project is located on land primarily used for parks, recreation, or historic sites.

[House Bill 4034](#) **House Author:** Johnson, Julie et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4034, the David Walters Act, amends the Revised Statutes to change the method for calculating certain death benefits provided under the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System, thereby raising the cap on death benefits for qualified survivors of active service members who die in the line of duty.

[House Bill 4041](#) **House Author:** Bonnen **House Committee:** Appropriations
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4041 appropriates money for the payment of certain itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas from the general revenue fund, the state technology and instructional materials fund, the state highway fund, and the veterans financial assistance program fund.

[House Bill 4051](#) **House Author:** Goldman et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4051 amends the Government Code to eliminate the population of the principal municipality in an applicable metropolitan statistical area as an eligibility requirement for recognition of that area as a media production development zone.

[House Bill 4057](#) **House Author:** DeAyala **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4057 amends the Local Government Code to authorize, with certain exceptions, the owner of a property that is located in the City of Houston and is included within the boundaries of an applicable local preservation district authorized by ordinance to elect to exclude the property from the district by filing an applicable acknowledged statement in the county's real property records.

[House Bill 4062](#) **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 4062 amends the Family Code to require a child custody evaluator to create an audiovisual recording of each interview the evaluator conducts with a child who is the subject of a suit seeking conservatorship of, possession of, or access to the child. The bill provides for the confidentiality of the recording.

[House Bill 4069](#) **House Author:** Meyer **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4069 amends the Occupations Code to require the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to adopt rules that require a veterinarian to disclose to an owner or caretaker of an ill or injured animal the description and estimated price of a proposed emergency treatment before providing the treatment.

[House Bill 4073](#) **House Author:** Lozano **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4073 amends the Government Code to provide for the renewal of a fire protection personnel certificate that has been expired for more than one year but not more than five years. The bill requires the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to establish a system for renewing such an expired certificate, including a list of renewal criteria and a renewal fee.

House Bill 4077

Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Noble et al.

Senate Sponsor: Eckhardt et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4077 amends the Tax Code to revise current law entitling a person who receives a residence homestead property taxation exemption in a tax year to receive the mandatory residence homestead property tax exemption for those 65 years of age or older, as well as any local option exemption for those 65 years of age or older, on the same property in the next tax year without applying for the exemption if the person becomes 65 years of age in that next year. In doing so, the bill requires the chief appraiser of the applicable appraisal district to allow the person to receive the exemption without requiring the person to apply for or otherwise request the exemption.

House Bill 4082

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Goldman et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4082 amends the Local Government Code and the Government Code to categorize certain public improvements, as specified in the bill, as authorized by law for an issuer that is a municipality or county as a public work for purposes of both the Certificate of Obligation Act of 1971 and statutory provisions relating to anticipation notes used to pay for certain obligations.

House Bill 4085

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Spiller et al.

Senate Sponsor: Perry

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4085 amends the Health and Safety Code to exclude a filing fee or other cost associated with a hearing or proceeding under the Texas Mental Health Code from the costs the state or a county is conditionally prohibited from paying for a patient committed to a private mental hospital. The bill revises the requirement for a probate court judge to order the court clerk to refund court costs paid or advanced for a person by an inpatient mental health facility on the filing of an affidavit with the court clerk as follows:

- extends the applicability of the requirement to the judge of any court conducting a hearing or proceeding under the Texas Mental Health Code;
- expands the applicable inpatient mental health facilities, which currently only include a private mental hospital licensed by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or an identifiable part of a DSHS-licensed general hospital in which diagnosis, treatment, and care for persons with mental illness is provided, to also include a DSHS-operated facility and a local mental health authority or a facility operated by or under contract with such an authority; and
- expands the applicable affidavits, which currently only include an affidavit certifying that the facility has received no compensation or reimbursement for the person's treatment, to also include an affidavit certifying that the facility provided treatment for the person under a contract with a local mental health authority or provided treatment for the person and only received reimbursement under Medicaid.

House Bill 4087

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kuempel et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini et al.

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4087 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize an authorized agent to issue a permit to authorize the use of a temporary on-site sewage disposal system that operates in conjunction with the pumping and hauling of wastewater produced by the system and serves a property that has been subdivided for residential use but is of insufficient size to accommodate on-site disposal of all wastewater.

House Bill 4087 requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to adopt rules that, for Galveston and Cooke Counties, allow for the installation of aerobic drip emitter systems on subdivided

or platted properties less than one-half acre in size serving single-family residences supplied by a public drinking water system if site-specific planning materials have been submitted by a licensed engineer or registered sanitarian and approved by the appropriate authorized agent.

House Bill 4101 **House Author:** Shine **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4101 amends the Tax Code to authorize a property owner who files notice of a property tax protest to request limited binding arbitration to compel the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB), as appropriate, to comply with the hearing procedures adopted by the ARB.

House Bill 4106 **House Author:** Dean **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4106 amends the Water Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas to adopt a simplified procedure to resolve a complaint by a tenant against an owner about a bill for water or wastewater service brought under specified provisions relating to submetering and nonsubmetering for apartments and manufactured home rental communities and other multiple use facilities.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While House Bill No. 4106 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed.”

House Bill 4122 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 4122 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the lawful operation and movement of a motorcycle on a roadway laned for traffic, including certain prohibited actions.

House Bill 4123 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4123 amends the Education Code, Estates Code, Finance Code, Government Code, and Occupations Code to update and reorganize provisions relating to access to and use of criminal history record information and to clarify the duties and responsibilities of applicable entities with regard to that information. Among other provisions, the bill revises criminal background check requirements for various entities, including state entities and school-related entities, with regard to hiring, contracting, subcontracting, and occupational licensing. Additionally, the bill requires the destruction of criminal history record information by the applicable entities after it is used for its authorized purpose and provides for restrictions on the release or disclosure of that information, including a prohibition on releasing or disclosing any such information obtained from the FBI.

House Bill 4128 **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 4128 amends the Government Code to reclassify certain associate judges and their staff from county employees to state employees and provides for the payment of their salaries accordingly. The bill authorizes an applicable associate judge to oversee and monitor guardianship proceedings and protective services proceedings and establishes that the judge’s authority to oversee and monitor proceedings includes the authority to review certain issues with respect to the guardian’s reporting and accounting requirements, address concerns about a ward’s well-being, and take any other action the judge considers necessary to ensure the efficient administration of justice in guardianship proceedings

and protective services proceedings and curtail the risk of potential abuse, fraud, or exploitation of wards under a guardianship.

House Bill 4128 provides for the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to contract for available money, including state money, to fund the use of associate judges in certain guardianship and protective services proceedings and for an applicable court coordinator or court investigator to assist associate judges in those proceedings in specified tasks. The bill authorizes the presiding judges of the administrative judicial regions, state agencies, and counties to seek federal money and use state money and public or private grants to reimburse costs and salaries associated with the use of associate judges and associated personnel. The bill requires the presiding judges and OCA in cooperation with other state agencies and counties to take the action necessary to maximize the amount of federal money available for such purposes. The bill also requires OCA to make available to appointed associate judges guardianship compliance specialists and other resources and assistance to assist with the oversight and monitoring of the proceedings.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Last session, I approved House Bill No. 79 to protect vulnerable Texans through a system of specialized guardianship courts with associate judges. This session's House Bill No. 4128 goes too far, however, in building a new state bureaucracy. I have vetoed similar bills that would have burdened state taxpayers and given outsized authority to associate judges. House Bill No. 4128 suffers from the same flaws and meets the same fate."

House Bill 4141 **House Author:** Guillen et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4141 amends the Government Code to require the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to conduct a study on the feasibility of offering members who are peace officers alternative TRS service retirement benefits that assess the costs to and impact on TRS associated with offering such members certain alternative service retirement benefits or cash balance benefit. The bill requires TRS to prepare and submit a report to the legislature containing the findings of the study and the information submitted by employers responsible for public education who employ police officers not later than December 31, 2024, with assistance from the Legislative Budget Board and the State Pension Review Board, as necessary. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2025.

House Bill 4142 **House Author:** Thompson, Ed **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4142 amends the Property Code to entitle the prevailing party in an action to enforce a motor vehicle mortgage's lien to recover reasonable attorney's fees.

House Bill 4158 **House Author:** Schofield **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4158 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district, for each public school district in the appraisal district, to determine the number of residence homesteads of elderly or disabled individuals subject to the limitation on school district tax increases for such individuals for the current tax year and report that number to the comptroller of public accounts. The bill requires the comptroller in turn to submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature a report of the total number of residence homesteads in Texas subject to that limitation for the given tax year, as well as the number of those residence homesteads in each school district or a reference to where the information for each school district may be accessed.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 4158 appears to require more paperwork about property taxes, but does nothing to cut property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[House Bill 4164](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Cortez et al.
Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4164 amends the Human Resources Code to revise the conduct that constitutes the offense of improper use of an assistance or service animal and to raise the cap on the fine for the offense from \$300 to \$1,000.

[House Bill 4166](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Klick
Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

House Committee: Public Health
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4166 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the collection and redistribution of donated prescription drugs that are packaged in an original, unopened, sealed, and tamper-evident bottle or container and that are otherwise eligible for donation.

[House Bill 4169](#)
Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Price et al.
Senate Sponsor: Sparks

House Committee: Human Services
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4169 amends the Human Resources Code to establish that prevocational services provided under the community living assistance and support services (CLASS) waiver program or another Medicaid waiver program providing long-term services or supports to a Medicaid recipient should be designed to assist the recipient in achieving competitive integrated employment in the community receiving compensation at or above the minimum wage in the recipient's community. The bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to apply for and actively pursue federal authorization to include prevocational services as part of the individualized skills and socialization services delivered under a Medicaid waiver program providing long-term services and supports and sets out certain provisions relating to reimbursement that apply in the event HHSC's request is granted. If the request is not granted, HHSC must collaborate with stakeholders and federal agencies to establish a service similar to prevocational services in a manner that is authorized by federal law. The bill provides for the adoption of performance standards for providers providing prevocational or similar services under a Medicaid waiver program and for performance monitoring.

[House Bill 4170](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Campos
Senate Sponsor: LaMantia et al.

House Committee: Human Services
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4170 amends the Human Resources Code to make a person whose license to serve as a child-care or child-placing agency administrator was refused renewal by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) ineligible to apply for another license for a period of five years after HHSC refused to renew the license. The bill repeals outdated provisions establishing a process for appealing the revocation or denial of such a license that conflicts with another process established by law for administrative hearings regarding a denial, suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew such a license.

[House Bill 4183](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Price et al.
Senate Sponsor: Sparks et al.

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 4183 amends the Family Code to include associate judges and justices of the peace among the judges and justices who may provide a waiver of the 72-hour waiting period following a marriage license being issued before a marriage ceremony may take place.

[House Bill 4210](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Lujan
Senate Sponsor: Campbell

House Committee: Public Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 4210 amends the Education Code to authorize a person who retires from active duty or civilian service while serving a term as a member of a military reservation school district board of trustees to continue to serve for the remainder of that person's term. The bill replaces the authorization for the

State Board of Education to adopt rules for the governance of a special-purpose school district with a requirement to do so.

House Bill 4217

Effective: 6-18-23

House Author: Troxclair

Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4217 amends the Local Government Code to require a public utility agency to hold a public hearing and provide an opportunity for public comment before extending service to new customers located outside the service area identified in the agency's 10-year capital improvements plan that is in effect when an application for extension of service is received.

House Bill 4217 grants public utility agencies domiciled in Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, or Travis County the power of eminent domain to be exercised in the manner provided by the bill.

House Bill 4218

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Leach

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 4218 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to exempt a seller who rents or leases an applicable motor vehicle to another person from liability in any civil action, including a products liability action, alleging negligence, gross negligence, or strict liability, for failing to retrofit the vehicle with component parts or equipment or for failing to select component parts or equipment included in the vehicle that were not required by applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards in effect at the time the vehicle was manufactured or sold. The exemption does not apply if the seller fails to comply with a law or regulation, issued after the seller's motor vehicle was manufactured or sold, requiring a mandatory recall or retrofit of the vehicle.

House Bill 4219

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Lambert

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4219 amends the Finance Code to require the consumer credit commissioner, on March 1 and September 1 of each year, to compute the ceilings for a rate or amount of interest that may be provided by a consumer loan contract that is not secured by real property for the six-month period effective the following May 1 and November 1, respectively. The bill establishes that those ceilings are effective for the six-month period beginning on the effective date and are subject to adjustment after each six-month period. The bill also revises the current method of calculating the ceilings by adding the federal funds rate, as defined by the bill, to each of the existing percentages in that calculation.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 4219 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

House Bill 4227

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Goldman

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

Current law requires a municipality that has operated under a municipal civil service system for firefighters and police officers for at least one year to order an election on whether the system should be repealed upon receipt of a valid petition requesting the election. House Bill 4227 amends the Local Government Code to restrict the applicability of this requirement to municipalities with a population of less than 950,000.

[House Bill 4233](#) **House Author:** Zwiener et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4233 amends the Family Code to require each foster parent, prospective adoptive parent, and relative or other designated caregiver who provides care for children and youth in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) who are 10 years of age or older to complete a training program on runaway prevention measures and proper procedures in the event a child or youth runs away from the provider. The bill authorizes such training to also be offered to providers who provide care for children in DFPS conservatorship who are younger than 10 years of age and have a history of running away.

[House Bill 4246](#) **House Author:** Orr et al. **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4246 amends the Property Code to change the cap, which is currently set at \$2 million, on the total amount of money that may be transferred during a state fiscal year by all nonprofit cooperative corporations to a scholarship fund for rural students, to stimulate rural economic development, or to provide energy efficiency assistance to members of electric cooperatives. The bill sets the cap instead at 50 percent of the total money reported for that year by such corporations. Moreover, the bill removes the specification that no more than 20 percent of such funds be used for economic development.

[House Bill 4250](#) **House Author:** Lalani **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4250 amends the Tax Code to authorize the clerk of the court issuing the order of sale for a tax sale under the Property Tax Code to deduct from the amount of the excess proceeds from the sale the cost of postage for sending to the former owner of the property a notice of the former owner's right to claim the excess proceeds.

[House Bill 4256](#) **House Author:** Murr **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4256 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to establish and administer a leaking water wells grant program under which the TCEQ will provide grants to applicable districts for eligible projects to offset the cost of plugging leaking water wells. An applicable district is a district or authority that has the authority to regulate the spacing of water wells, the production of water wells, or both and is located in Cottle, Crockett, Dickens, King, Motley, or Pecos County.

[House Bill 4316](#) **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Business & Industry
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4316 amends the Service Contract Regulatory Act, Occupations Code, to make the following information submitted to or maintained by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) under the act confidential and not subject to disclosure under state public information law: the financial condition of an applicant for a service contract provider or administrator license or a seller, provider, or administrator of a service contract; the identity or number of service contract holders; or documents that are claimed, in a manner determined by TDLR, proprietary or confidential for competitive purposes. Moreover, with respect to the act in effect before the transfer of the residential service contract program from the Texas Real Estate Commission to TDLR, the bill clarifies that any information designated as confidential for competitive purposes under the former act by an applicant for a service contract provider or administrator license, or a seller, provider, or administrator of a service contract before September 1,

2023, is also confidential and not subject to disclosure under state public information law. TDLR may withhold the applicable submitted, maintained, or designated information without requesting a decision from the attorney general.

House Bill 4316 also revises the calculations for the amounts required to be maintained in a service contract provider's funded reserve account and funded reserves.

House Bill 4331 **House Author:** Klick **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

Current law authorizes individuals to donate unused prescription drugs to a provider that elects to participate in the collection and redistribution of donated prescription drugs. House Bill 4331 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for the donation of unused prescription drugs by a prescription drug manufacturer or health care facility, including a pharmacy.

House Bill 4332 **House Author:** Klick **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4332 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a provider who elects to participate in the collection and redistribution of donated prescription drugs to dispense to a recipient donated prescription drugs that are prepackaged and labeled in accordance with the requirements set out by the bill. The bill requires a participating provider to maintain a record containing certain information of each prepackaged prescription drug dispensed to a recipient.

House Bill 4333 **House Author:** Garcia et al. **House Committee:** Corrections
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 4333 amends the Government Code to postpone from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2027, the date on which the family violence pretrial diversion pilot program in Bexar County expires.

House Bill 4337 **House Author:** Canales et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Border Security

House Bill 4337 amends the Penal Code to classify a license, certificate, permit, seal, title, letter of patent, or similar document issued by an applicable foreign government as a "governmental record" for purposes of provisions relating to perjury and other falsification.

House Bill 4337 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a person who has a commercial driver's license (CDL) or permit issued by a qualifying foreign jurisdiction and is authorized under federal law to work in the United States to drive a commercial motor vehicle in Texas. A person who has a foreign CDL or permit but is not legally authorized to work in the United States may drive a commercial motor vehicle only in a county bordering Mexico.

House Bill 4363 **House Author:** Kuempel et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 4363 amends the Education Code to create the Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program, administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to recruit, prepare, and retain career teachers and to provide assistance for costs of attendance at a general academic teaching institution or a private or independent institution of higher education that operates an eligible educator preparation program. In addition to meeting other eligibility criteria, scholarship recipients must demonstrate a commitment to pursuing a career as a Texas public school teacher in a teaching field identified as experiencing a critical shortage or in a school in which a majority of students are educationally disadvantaged. The bill requires each public school district to notify specified students and their teachers, counselors, and parents of the scholarship program.

[House Bill 4372](#) **House Author:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Campbell et al. **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 4372 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Education Code to authorize a private school that has an enrollment of at least 1,500 students to commission peace officers to enforce state and local law on a campus of the school.

[House Bill 4375](#) **House Author:** VanDeaver et al. **House Committee:** Public Education
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 4375 amends the Education Code to expand the scope of provisions relating to the duty of a public school district or open-enrollment charter school to provide instruction to students in grades 7 through 12 in cardiopulmonary resuscitation to include instruction in the use of an automated external defibrillator for those students in a manner consistent with the applicable statutes and State Board of Education rules.

[House Bill 4381](#) **House Author:** DeAyala **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4381 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to require a trial court to allow the judgment debtor to post alternative security for a money judgment pending appeal in a civil action with a value sufficient to secure the judgment under the following conditions:

- the judgment debtor has a net worth of less than \$10 million; and
- on a showing by the judgment debtor that posting the amount of security required for the money judgment would require the debtor to substantially liquidate the debtor's interests in real or personal property necessary to the normal course of the debtor's business.

House Bill 4381 requires the judgment debtor during an appeal to continue to manage, use, and receive earnings from such interests in the normal course of business. If an appellate court reduces the amount of the judgment that the trial court used to set security, the judgment debtor pending appeal of the judgment to a court of last resort, is entitled to a redetermination of the amount of security required to suspend enforcement of a judgment under applicable law or under the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.

[House Bill 4385](#) **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4385 amends the Water Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas by rule to allow a municipality or utility or water supply corporation to render retail sewer service without a certificate of public convenience and necessity if the municipality has given applicable notice that it intends to provide retail sewer service to an area or if the utility or water supply corporation has less than 15 potential connections and is not within the certificated area of another retail public utility.

[House Bill 4415](#) **House Author:** Tepper **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4415 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to transfer to Lubbock Research MHMR Center d/b/a StarCare Specialty Health System certain property consisting of the complex site of the Lubbock Psychiatric Hospital d/b/a Sunrise Canyon Hospital to be used only for the provision of community-based mental health, physical health, health-related, or intellectual and developmental disability services.

House Bill 4416 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4416 amends the Occupations Code to revise statutory provisions relating to the regulation of auctioneering. Among other provisions, the bill transfers to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) regulatory authority currently granted to the executive director of TDLR, removes the requirement that an associate auctioneer be employed by a licensed auctioneer, requires an auctioneer providing services to do so pursuant to a written contract and provides for a written agreement containing an itemized inventory of property to be sold or offered for sale by the auctioneer, requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt practice standards, removes certain requirements with respect to management of the auctioneer education and recovery fund, and revises complaint and disciplinary procedures.

House Bill 4417 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4417 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to remove provisions requiring approval by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) of community services related to alcohol abuse prevention or treatment to which a court in certain counties may sentence a minor convicted of certain alcohol-related offenses as an alternative to an alcohol awareness program. The bill also removes references to a drug and alcohol driving awareness program for minors placed on deferred disposition for or convicted of certain alcohol-related offenses to conform to previously enacted changes to state law.

House Bill 4417 repeals Transportation Code provisions relating to TDLR duties with respect to a drug offense educational program for a person whose driver's license is suspended on final conviction of certain substance-related offenses.

House Bill 4421 **House Author:** Wilson et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 4421 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to be awarded to a Texas resident who receives the Congressional Medal of Honor, and, among other provisions, excludes such an award from the applicable limitation on the number of medals that the legislature may direct the governor to award.

House Bill 4422 **House Author:** Canales et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 5-27-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa et al. **Senate Committee:** Border Security

House Bill 4422 requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to conduct a study on public safety, border security, and transportation infrastructure from Texas-Mexico border crossings onto the state highway system to ensure safe, efficient, and streamlined commercial motor vehicle connectivity that amplify Operation Lone Star efforts. The bill sets out the parameters of the study and requires TxDOT to report the study's findings to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature.

House Bill 4443 **House Author:** Cunningham et al. **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4443 amends the Government Code to establish that a one-time lump sum payment provided to the state under the federal Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act for a specified use is not subject to certain general allocation requirements and may be allocated for the benefit of any area of Texas in the manner specified under federal law.

[House Bill 4446](#) **House Author:** Landgraf et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4446 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county to require a person employed by a game room in the county to obtain or periodically renew a license or permit as a condition of that employment. The bill additionally sets out application and fee requirements for owners, operators, and employees of game rooms in a county that requires such a person to obtain a license or permit.

[House Bill 4451](#) **House Author:** Bhojani et al. **House Committee:** International Relations & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 4451 amends the Labor Code to require the Texas Workforce Commission, in consultation with each local workforce development board, to prepare and submit to the legislature an annual report on available apprenticeship programs in Texas and make recommendations to expand the availability of apprenticeship programs in emerging and high-demand industries.

[House Bill 4456](#) **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4456 amends the Tax Code to remove the requirement for the comptroller of public accounts to prescribe tax rate calculation forms for use by public school districts and to establish that a school district's no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate is calculated in accordance with provisions of the Education Code governing school district fiscal management, not as provided by the Tax Code.

[House Bill 4494](#) **House Author:** Vasut **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

The Tax Code permits certain eligible coastal municipalities to allocate municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue for different purposes than other municipalities, including for certain purposes related to public beaches. House Bill 4494 amends the Tax Code to classify the Village of Surfside Beach as an eligible coastal municipality.

[House Bill 4500](#) **House Author:** Harris, Caroline **House Committee:** Insurance
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4500 amends the Insurance Code to require certain health benefit plan issuers to maintain and make available a secure online system through which a physician or health care provider for a hospital or freestanding emergency medical care facility may determine at any time whether the physician's or provider's patient is covered by the issuer's health benefit plan and the deductible, copayment, or coinsurance for which the patient is responsible.

[House Bill 4504](#) **House Author:** Moody **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 1-1-25 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Administration

House Bill 4504, a continuation of the legislature's ongoing statutory revision program, provides for the nonsubstantive revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, including conforming amendments to other enacted codes. The bill nonsubstantively revises laws governing general powers and duties of peace officers, law enforcement interactions with the public, venue, change of venue, justice and municipal courts, and expunction of criminal records.

House Bill 4510

Effective: 9-1-24

House Author: Smithee

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4510 amends the Government Code to change the deadline for an applicable state agency to submit its annual financial report from November 20 to November 1. However, the bill retains the November 20 deadline for a public institution of higher education. The bill authorizes a state agency to submit an audited financial report in place of the regular annual financial report and requires an audited report to be submitted not later than December 15 of each year.

House Bill 4510 removes the requirements for the comptroller of public accounts to provide copies of any reports received from a consultant contracting with the comptroller to conduct recovery audits to the governor, the state auditor's office (SAO), and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). The bill revises the requirement for the comptroller to issue a biennial report to the legislature summarizing the activities conducted under the state recovery audit program. Among other provisions, the bill changes the frequency of the report from a biennial report to an annual report; includes the governor, the SAO, and the LBB among the report's recipients; and conditions the comptroller's duty to issue the report on a recovery audit having been completed during the preceding state fiscal year.

House Bill 4510 amends the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act, Health and Safety Code, to remove the requirement for the comptroller to give certain tax information to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and authorize DSHS instead to require a county to provide that same information for the relevant period for the purpose of determining eligibility for state assistance under that act.

House Bill 4520

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Harris, Cody et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 4520 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, and Government Code to include a conviction of the offense of sale, distribution, or display of harmful material to a minor committed by a state licensed educator among the convictions that:

- require the court clerk to provide notice of the conviction to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) or the chief administrative officer of the private school at which the person is employed;
- require the revocation of the person's educator license and termination of their employment; and
- disqualify the person from receiving a service retirement annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

House Bill 4528

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4528 amends the Family Code and Transportation Code to remove the requirement for a peace officer to take possession of a driver's license and issue a temporary driving permit as a means of suspending the license following the license holder's failure to pass or refusal to consent to a test for intoxication.

House Bill 4538

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kacal

Senate Sponsor: LaMantia et al.

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4538 amends the Agriculture Code to update and modernize the regulation of the beekeeping industry in Texas.

[House Bill 4539](#) **House Author:** Goldman et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 4539 amends the Government Code to lower from 70 percent to 55 percent the minimum percentage of the production crew, actors, and extras of a moving image project who must be Texas residents, with certain exceptions, in order for that project to qualify for a grant under the moving image industry incentive program.

[House Bill 4550](#) **House Author:** Cunningham **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4550 amends the Government Code to revise provisions relating to the low income housing tax credit program administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The bill does the following:

- requires the TDHCA governing board to adjust to reflect inflation any amount specified in a qualified allocation plan relating to the acceptable cost of a proposed low income housing project;
- raises the cap on the amount of housing tax credits that may be allocated to an applicant in a single application round from \$3 million to \$6 million; and
- requires TDHCA to issue a final commitment for an allocation of housing tax credits not later than the 120th day after receiving the required cost certification package and any applicable tax forms.

The bill repeals the requirement for TDHCA to establish an executive award and review advisory committee to make recommendations regarding funding and allocation decisions.

[House Bill 4553](#) **House Author:** Longoria **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 4553 amends the Government Code to establish a comprehensive list of entities that are eligible customers for services the Department of Information Resources (DIR) provides, contingent on the executive director of DIR determining that a particular entity's participation in the service is in the state's best interest. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- allows for any eligible entity on that comprehensive list to participate in DIR's statewide technology centers, rather than only local governments, and allows for any eligible entity, other than a state agency, to request to receive services or operations through a center;
- expands the list of entities to whom DIR may agree to provide network security services and the list of entities authorized to contract with DIR for the use of the state's consolidated telecommunications system; and
- with respect to DIR's cooperative contracts purchasing program for information technology commodity items:
 - extends the authority to purchase commodity items through the program to all eligible entities on the comprehensive list; and
 - removes language conditioning DIR's authority to offer a particular commodity item through the program on DIR determining that reasonable demand exists for the item from two or more customers and allows DIR instead to offer items for which only a single eligible entity is providing the demand.

[House Bill 4559](#) **House Author:** Darby **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Redistricting, Special

House Bill 4559 amends the Agriculture Code, Alcoholic Beverage Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Education Code, Election Code, Family Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Insurance Code, Local Government Code, Natural Resources Code, Occupations Code,

Parks and Wildlife Code, Property Code, Tax Code, Transportation Code, Utilities Code, Water Code, and certain provisions in Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes to revise the population-based descriptions of certain political subdivisions used to limit the applicability of various provisions of state law to reflect changes in population that took place between the 2010 and 2020 decennial federal censuses so that the provisions continue to apply to the particular subdivisions.

House Bill 4595 **House Author:** Leach **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Administration

House Bill 4595, a continuation of the legislature's ongoing statutory revision program, makes certain nonsubstantive additions to, revisions of, and corrections in enacted codes; provides for the nonsubstantive codification or disposition of various laws omitted from enacted codes; and conforms codifications enacted by the 86th and 87th Legislatures to other acts of those legislatures.

House Bill 4611 **House Author:** Price **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 4-1-25 **Senate Sponsor:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Administration

House Bill 4611, a continuation of the legislature's ongoing statutory revision program, makes certain nonsubstantive additions to, revisions of, and corrections in certain health and human services laws governing the Health and Human Services Commission, Medicaid, and other social services and makes conforming changes to enacted codes.

House Bill 4615 **House Author:** Bumgarner **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs

House Bill 4615 amends the Government Code to make confidential and not subject to disclosure under state public information law the Department of Defense identification number of a member or former member of the state military forces or a component of the U.S. armed forces, including a reserve component.

House Bill 4628 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 4628 amends the Government Code to establish requirements and timelines for taking certain actions for law enforcement agencies, crime laboratories, and the Department of Public Safety following the comparison of DNA profiles obtained from biological evidence in the investigation of a sexual assault or other sex offense and DNA profiles contained in state and federal DNA databases.

House Bill 4635 **House Author:** Guillen **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores et al. **Senate Committee:** Border Security

House Bill 4635, the Texas Racketeering Act, sets out provisions relating to civil actions and remedies and criminal offenses for conduct that constitutes organized crime, racketeering, or unlawful debt collection and the filing of RICO liens with respect to such civil actions or criminal offenses. The bill amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Penal Code, and Property Code to do the following:

- create a second degree felony offense for the following conduct:
 - use of proceeds from racketeering or unlawful debt collection for acquiring title to, or any right, interest, or equity in, real property or in the establishment or operation of any enterprise;
 - acquisition of an interest in real property or control of an enterprise through racketeering or unlawful debt collection; and

- conducting or participating in an enterprise as an employee or associate through a pattern of racketeering or the collection of an unlawful debt;
- provide for a court to impose certain fines for a person convicted of such an offense; and
- expand the conduct that constitutes engaging in organized criminal activity to include certain conduct involving unlawful possession of controlled substances and dangerous drugs with intent to deliver as part of, or contributing to, a criminal street gang.

The bill sets the statute of limitations for an offense created by the bill at five years from the date of the commission of the offense with allowance for an extension under certain circumstances.

House Bill 4635 provides for civil remedies and enforcement related to racketeering and unlawful debt collection. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for civil investigative authority for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) or a local prosecutor with respect to a racketeering investigation, including setting out the required contents of each civil investigative demand;
- provides for a person who has been served, or in the case of a demand for a product of discovery the person from whom the discovery was obtained, to file a petition for an order modifying or setting aside the demand;
- creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who alters or falsifies any documentary material or otherwise provides inaccurate information with respect to the investigative demand;
- excepts certain information related to such an investigation from disclosure under state public information law and from disclosure, discovery, or subpoena;
- provides for a district court to enjoin conduct constituting a felony offense created by the bill;
- makes all property, real or personal, including money, used in the course of conduct constituting a felony offense created by the bill subject to civil forfeiture to the state;
- provides for a civil action for the forfeiture process and for the state's seizure and disposal of property and the disposition of funds obtained through forfeiture actions;
- provides for an aggrieved person to bring an action for civil remedies as authorized under the bill;
- authorizes the OAG to bring an action against a person who engages in conduct constituting a felony offense created by the bill;
- provides for the OAG or a local prosecutor to expedite an action brought under the bill's provisions; and
- prohibits a remedy provided by the bill from being assessed against certain property subject to seizure and forfeiture as contraband.

The bill also provides for required notice and cooperation by the OAG regarding a pending criminal investigation or prosecution with a local prosecutor who appears to have primary jurisdiction of the criminal prosecution of a target of the investigation, including the abatement of an action brought by the OAG if the local prosecutor determines that the action would interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution and makes a request in writing.

House Bill 4635 provides for an investigative agency, the OAG, or a local prosecutor, as applicable, to file a RICO lien notice with respect to conduct constituting a civil action or felony offense created by the bill. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for the format, duration, expiration, renewal, and termination of the notice;
- provides for a local prosecutor to consent before the OAG may file a RICO lien; and
- creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for a trustee who acquires knowledge that a RICO lien notice has been filed against a person for whom the trustee holds legal or record title to real property and does not immediately furnish required information to the appropriate investigative agency.

House Bill 4645

Effective: 1-1-24

House Author: Flores et al.

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4645 amends the Tax Code to entitle a qualifying 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that constructs or rehabilitates low-income housing and leases land under a ground lease to an exemption from property taxation of the improvements owned by the organization that the organization constructs or rehabilitates and uses to provide housing to low-income individuals or families.

House Bill 4660

Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Isaac

Senate Sponsor: Campbell

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 4660 amends the Tax Code to authorize the City of Wimberly to use a portion of its municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue for the promotion and preservation of dark skies through construction and maintenance of infrastructure and the purchase and installation of hardware that reduces light pollution and sky glow and for promotional and event expenses for an ecological tourism event. The bill prohibits the city from reducing the amount of the revenue it uses for advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourism and conventions as a result of its use of revenue for these additional purposes.

House Bill 4696

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Noble

Senate Sponsor: Miles et al.

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4696 amends the Family Code, Health and Safety Code, and Human Resources Code to transfer from the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) functions relating to the intake of reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an individual receiving services in certain long-term care settings and to make changes clarifying HHSC's duty to investigate such reports. In addition, the bill does the following:

- allows for electronic reporting of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in an applicable facility;
- provides HHSC more time to notify a state supported living center of a report of abuse or neglect of a child receiving services in the center;
- makes the performance of an on-site survey of a licensed home and community support services agency within the first 18 months of its initial license discretionary;
- clarifies the list of facilities whose employees are subject to the employee misconduct registry; and
- revises the timeline for HHSC to take action on a complaint against a facility under the Day Activity and Health Services Act.

House Bill 4700

Effective: 6-17-23

House Author: Clardy

Senate Sponsor: Nichols

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4700 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for a Nacogdoches County Hospital District health care provider participation program. The bill sets out provisions regarding the powers and duties of the district's board of directors, the creation of a local provider participation fund, and the assessment and collection of mandatory payments.

House Bill 4704

Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Morrison

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4704 amends the law to provide for local voter approval of a lower property tax rate cap for the Jackson County County-Wide Drainage District and to raise from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the annual cap on the amount of the fee to which the assessor and collector of taxes for the district is entitled for their services.

[House Bill 4714](#) **House Author:** Cortez et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 4714 amends the Government Code to authorize the governing body of the City of San Antonio to authorize the use of a good quality electronic recording device to report court proceedings in cases tried before the municipal court. If the governing body authorizes an electronic recording, the court reporter is not required to be present to certify the reporter’s record. The bill requires the recording to be kept for the 20-day period beginning the day after the last day of the court proceeding, trial, or denial of motion for new trial, whichever occurs last. The bill requires the proceedings to be transcribed from the recording by an official court reporter if the case is appealed.

[House Bill 4742](#) **House Author:** Lopez, Janie et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4742 authorizes the Texas Water Development Board, before January 1, 2025, to study issues faced by communities with artificial drainage systems and prepare a written report that contains possible recommendations relating to addressing identified issues facing those communities.

[House Bill 4758](#) **House Author:** Thierry et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: 1-1-24 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4758, the Protecting Children from Electronic Cigarette Advertising Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to create a Class B misdemeanor offense for marketing, advertising, selling, or causing to be sold an e-cigarette product, including any substance containing nicotine from any source that is intended for use in an e-cigarette, in certain containers that are designed to appeal to minors.

[House Bill 4759](#) **House Author:** Campos et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 4759 amends the Health and Safety Code to require San Antonio’s animal control authority to investigate reports of incidents involving dangerous dogs. The bill provides for the confidentiality of the identifying information of a witness who gives a sworn statement to an animal control authority investigating an incident relating to a dangerous dog and limits the disclosure of that information to the governing body of the municipality or county in which the incident occurred or other governmental or law enforcement agency for purposes of enforcing state law. Moreover, the bill enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of an attack by a dangerous dog offense and expands the conduct constituting an attack by a dog offense.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Texas’s existing criminal laws penalize attacks by dangerous dogs — so much so that felony arrests have already been made of the dog owners responsible for the tragic attack that took the life of a distinguished Air Force veteran in San Antonio, and that was the catalyst for House Bill No. 4759. The justice system should be allowed to work without the overcriminalization found in this bill. I look forward to working with the author to create investigations and procedures that stop dog attacks *before* they happen.”

[House Bill 4765](#) **House Author:** Dutton **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 4765 amends the Estates Code to define an “adoptive parent,” for purposes of matters affecting inheritance relating to an adopted child, as a parent who adopted a child through an existing or former statutory procedure or a parent considered by a court to have equitably adopted a child or adopted a child by acts of estoppel.

[House Bill 4779](#)
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Bhojani et al.
Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4779 amends the Penal Code to revise the conduct that constitutes organized retail theft and limit the application of the offense to only merchandise valued at \$100 or more.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Texas’s booming economy is built on a foundation of law and order. House Bill No. 4779 sought to advance that goal, but instead it could inadvertently chip away at that foundation, by making it harder to prosecute and punish organized retail theft.”

[House Bill 4797](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Romero, Jr. et al.
Senate Sponsor: Hancock et al.

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 4797 amends the Transportation Code to require a toll project entity that treats a roadway during icy or snowy weather to require each employee or contractor who develops and supervises a plan for the treatment to complete a training course on treating roadways during icy or snowy weather. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the required instruction for the training course.

[House Bill 4835](#)
Effective: See below

House Author: Metcalf
Senate Sponsor: Nichols

House Committee: County Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

Current law provides for a municipal health care provider participation program for the City of Beaumont. House Bill 4835 repeals those provisions and amends the Health and Safety Code to provide for a county health care provider participation program in Jefferson County. The bill establishes that such a program authorizes the county to collect a mandatory payment from each institutional health care provider located in the county for deposit in a local provider participation fund. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the powers and duties of a commissioners court with respect to the county health care provider participation program, sets out general financial provisions regarding the program and mandatory payment, and provides for the amount, assessment, and collection of the payment. The bill’s provisions regarding the program in Jefferson County take effect September 1, 2025, while the bill’s other provisions take effect September 1, 2023.

[House Bill 4844](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

House Author: Herrero
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa

House Committee: County Affairs
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4844 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Nueces County Hospital District to contract with a licensed real estate broker to sell a tract of real property that is owned by the district.

[House Bill 4856](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

House Author: Darby
Senate Sponsor: Perry et al.

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4856 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to specify that the exclusive jurisdiction of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality over the regulation and permitting of recharge injection wells includes such wells used for the injection of fluid oil and gas waste. The bill requires such waste to be treated to meet applicable standards before injection.

[House Bill 4879](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Holland
Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4879 amends the Government Code to require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and maintain a computer-based Texas crime information system consisting of incident-based crime information and statistics submitted by local law enforcement agencies for use by authorized personnel of criminal justice agencies. The bill requires DPS to use the information in the system to periodically publish reports regarding criminal activities in Texas, to submit the reports to the governor and the legislature, and to submit the information and statistics received from law enforcement agencies to the FBI.

[House Bill 4885](#) **House Author:** Landgraf et al. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 4885 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to establish and administer the Texas hydrogen infrastructure, vehicle, and equipment grant program to encourage the adoption of hydrogen infrastructure, vehicles, and equipment by providing funding for eligible projects to offset the incremental cost of projects that reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen from high-emitting sources in nonattainment areas and affected counties of the state. The bill sets out provisions relating to the program and provides for funding for the program under the Texas emissions reduction plan.

House Bill 4885 revises funding under the plan for the following:

- the new technology implementation grant program;
- the Texas natural gas vehicle grant program;
- administrative costs;
- the light duty motor vehicle purchase or lease incentive program; and
- the development and annual computation of creditable statewide emissions reductions for the state implementation plan.

House Bill 4885 expands the new technology projects relating to oil and gas activities that are eligible to be considered for a grant under the new technology implementation grant program.

[House Bill 4888](#) **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 4888 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure that Medicaid reimbursement is provided to a provider who provides a non-opioid treatment to a Medicaid recipient. The bill requires the executive commissioner of HHSC to adopt rules ensuring that, to the extent permitted by federal law, a hospital provider that provides outpatient department services to a Medicaid recipient is reimbursed separately under Medicaid for any non-opioid treatment provided as a part of those services.

[House Bill 4906](#) **House Author:** Hefner **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 4906 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to include commissioned school district peace officers and campus peace officers as authorized peace officers for purposes of provisions relating to the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications.

[House Bill 4928](#) **House Author:** Frank **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 6-9-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 4928 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of the authority of Wichita County to administer and operate a county health care provider participation program from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2027.

[House Bill 4932](#) **House Author:** Lopez, Janie et al. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 4932 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to estimate the contribution of foreign emissions at each federal air quality monitor located in each nonattainment area in Texas with respect to each air contaminant

for which the area is designated as being in nonattainment for any national ambient air quality standards for ozone or particulate matter. The bill requires the TCEQ executive director, using the estimate and not later than September 1, 2027, to report to the TCEQ a recommendation on whether to revise the state implementation plan to account for the foreign emissions contribution in each nonattainment area in any manner permissible under federal law.

House Bill 4964
Effective: 5-27-23

House Author: Burrows
Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 4964 amends the Government Code to authorize the Texas State History Museum to provide for the public sale, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages on property owned or controlled by the museum.

House Bill 4990
Effective: 6-13-23

House Author: Bonnen et al.
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Health Care Reform, Select
Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Bill 4990 amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative to provide cost-effective access to prescription drugs and other medical supplies for employees, dependents, and retirees of public higher education systems and institutions, members of the Employees Retirement System of Texas and the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, individuals confined by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and individuals served by a program operated or administered by the health and human services system. The bill provides for the appointment, qualifications, powers, and duties of the initiative's governing board, which is administratively attached to the Health and Human Services Commission, and establishes the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative Advisory Council to advise the board in implementing the initiative and carrying out the board's duties.

House Bill 4997
Effective: 6-11-23

House Author: Kuempel et al.
Senate Sponsor: Campbell

House Committee: Higher Education
Senate Committee: Education

House Bill 4997 amends the Education Code to expand the composition of the Texas State Technical College System to include a campus that operates as a collective unit of one or more locations in Comal County and Guadalupe County.

House Bill 5010
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Schofield
Senate Sponsor: Hall

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 5010 amends the Government Code to include among the criteria by which the State Bar of Texas chief disciplinary counsel's office must classify a grievance as a complaint that the grievance is submitted by specified individuals or any other person who has a cognizable individual interest in or connection to the legal matter or facts alleged in the grievance. The bill clarifies that a grievance that is submitted by an individual other than such a person must be classified as an inquiry. With respect to the requirement that the bar's chief disciplinary counsel dismiss any grievance classified as an inquiry and refer it to the bar's voluntary mediation and dispute resolution procedure, the bill requires the counsel to refer each inquiry classified under the bill's provisions to the voluntary mediation and dispute resolution procedure after such dismissal. The bill authorizes an attorney against whom a grievance is filed to appeal the classification of a grievance as an inquiry to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.

House Bill 5012 **House Author:** Clardy et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Birdwell et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 5012 amends the Tax Code to set out and revise provisions regarding the use by certain municipalities of tax revenue for hotel and convention center projects and other qualified projects.

House Bill 5012 includes the Cities of Allen, Austin, Bastrop, Beaumont, Brownsville, Carthage, Denton, Eagle Pass, Grapevine, Kauffman, Little Elm, Mansfield, McKinney, Mesquite, Rosenberg, Seguin, Temple, Terrell, and Waco among the municipalities entitled to receive certain state tax revenue derived from a hotel and convention center project and authorized to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project. Under state law, a hotel or convention center project must be wholly owned by the municipality in order to be considered a qualified project for purposes of that entitlement. However, the bill exempts the Cities of McKinney and San Antonio from that municipal ownership requirement.

House Bill 5012 includes the Cities of Allen, Brownsville, Denton, Little Elm, Mansfield, McKinney, Mesquite, San Antonio, and The Colony among the municipalities also entitled to receive sales and use tax and, if applicable, mixed beverage tax revenue derived from a qualifying establishment located near a qualified hotel or convention center facility in the municipality. With respect to that additional entitlement, the bill provides for a uniform list of qualifying establishments from which all applicable municipalities may receive that tax revenue, which are restaurants, bars, retail establishments, and hotel swimming pools and swimming facilities. The bill provides for establishments located on land owned by a nonprofit corporation, including a public facility corporation, that is acting as or on behalf of, or that is controlled by, the City of San Antonio to be classified as a “qualified establishment” for purposes of that additional entitlement.

House Bill 5012 implements a claw back mechanism for state tax revenue lost on a hotel and convention center project in the Cities of Brownsville or Waco.

House Bill 5012 extends to the Cities of Austin and Corpus Christi the authority to use municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue to fund a qualified convention center facility, a multipurpose arena or venue, and related infrastructure and to receive, for a period of up to 30 years, the incremental growth in state sales and use taxes, state hotel occupancy taxes, and state mixed beverage taxes collected by or at hotels within the project financing zone.

House Bill 5066 **House Author:** Geren et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 5066 amends the Utilities Code to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to direct ERCOT to identify each region in which transmission capacity is insufficient to meet the region’s existing and forecasted electrical load and develop a reliability plan to serve existing and forecasted electrical load in the identified region. The bill requires the PUC to develop a plan to implement each adopted reliability plan to ensure timely development and approval of necessary transmission service improvements. Moreover, the bill requires the PUC to direct ERCOT to develop a reliability plan for the Permian Basin region not later than January 30, 2024.

House Bill 5066 revises provisions relating to the criteria the PUC must consider in granting or denying a certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) for an electric utility by, among other things, requiring the PUC to consider historical load, forecasted load growth, and additional load currently seeking interconnection. The bill expedites the processing of applications for CCNs for new transmission facilities by changing the general deadline for the PUC to approve or deny an application to the 180th day after the filing date.

[House Bill 5105](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Stucky et al.
Senate Sponsor: Springer

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 5105 amends the Tax Code to authorize the Denton County Commissioners Court to impose a hotel occupancy tax, except with respect to any hotel that is located on contiguous property in more than one county. The bill caps the rate of that tax at two percent of the price paid for a hotel room and authorizes the county, in addition to the other purposes for which counties may generally use their hotel occupancy tax revenue, to use revenue from the tax for the construction, enlarging, equipping, improvement, maintenance, repairing, and operation of a civic center with an arena used for rodeos, livestock shows, and agricultural expositions to substantially enhance hotel activity and encourage tourism.

[House Bill 5135](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kacal
Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 5135 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of K9s4KIDs specialty license plates.

[House Bill 5142](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kacal
Senate Sponsor: Birdwell

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety
Senate Committee: Transportation

House Bill 5142 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Public Safety to accept an identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or U.S. Department of Defense as sufficient proof of a veteran's military service and honorable discharge for purposes of receiving a veteran designation on the veteran's driver's license or personal identification certificate.

[House Bill 5174](#)
Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Bonnen et al.
Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 5174 amends the Government Code to establish the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium as an advisory panel to the governor and the legislature to aid in strategic, long-term planning for the research, design, and manufacturing of semiconductors in Texas. Among other provisions, the bill also creates the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund as a dedicated account within the general revenue fund for the following purposes:

- providing matching funding to state entities for semiconductor manufacturing and design projects;
- awarding grants to business entities with an established presence in Texas to encourage economic development related to semiconductor manufacturing and design; and
- paying for staff support services to facilitate the consortium's work.

[House Bill 5178](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Ashby
Senate Sponsor: Nichols et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means
Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 5178 amends the Tax Code to authorize the Angelina County Commissioners Court to impose a hotel occupancy tax on hotels in the county, other than a hotel located in a municipality that imposes a municipal hotel occupancy tax applicable to the hotel. The rate of that tax is capped at seven percent of the price paid for a hotel room.

House Bill 5180**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Wilson et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes et al.**House Committee:** Elections**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 5180 amends the Election Code to require the general custodian of election records to make the following records available for public inspection:

- beginning on the first day after the final canvass of an election is completed, election records that are images of voted ballots, if a county maintains such images, or cast vote records; and
- beginning on the 61st day after election day, election records that are original voted ballots.

The bill requires the custodian to adopt procedures to ensure the redaction of any personally identifiable voter information before making a voted ballot available for public inspection.

House Bill 5183**Effective:** 6-18-23**House Author:** Guillen**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson**House Committee:** Corrections**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 5183 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, and Transportation Code to revise provisions relating to the approval, monitoring, and administration of equivalent educational programs for persons whose driver's license is suspended following conviction of certain drug offenses. The bill does the following:

- requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to approve, monitor, and administer the program in a substance abuse treatment facility or substance abuse felony punishment facility;
- removes the duty of the Department of State Health Services to monitor, coordinate, and provide training to residential treatment facilities providing such equivalent education and to administer the program in such residential treatment facilities; and
- requires the Health and Human Services Commission instead to monitor such equivalent education and to administer the program in a chemical dependency treatment facility.

House Bill 5195**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Thompson, Senfronia et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Johnson et al.**House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 5195 amends the Family Code to require a child detained in a juvenile detention facility pending transfer to court for adult criminal proceedings to be provided services consistent with the minimum standards adopted by the Texas Juvenile Justice Board for such facilities. The bill requires the facility administrator or administrator's designee to prepare an initial assessment of such a child's needs, a written plan for the child's progress on identified rehabilitation goals, and a related routine status report.

House Bill 5202**Effective:** 6-11-23**House Author:** Neave Criado et al.**Senate Sponsor:** Whitmire et al.**House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 5202 amends the Government Code to require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to maintain a computerized central database containing certain personal information of persons who have been convicted on two or more occasions of certain assaultive offenses involving family violence or stalking. The bill establishes the required contents of the database and the public nature of its contents and provides for the removal of a person's name from the database by petitioning DPS.

House Bill 5232**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Author:** Spiller**Senate Sponsor:** Hughes**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence**Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 5232 amends the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act of 1983, Business & Commerce Code, to increase the cap on the amount of the fine that may be imposed on an individual adjudged to have violated certain provisions of the act from \$100,000 to \$300,000. The bill makes the cap on the

amount of the fine that may be imposed against a corporation adjudged to have violated those provisions applicable to any person who is not an individual and increases that cap from a flat cap of \$1 million, irrespective of valuation, to the following:

- \$3 million, if the lesser of the person’s assets or market capitalization is less than \$100 million;
- \$20 million, if the lesser of the person’s assets or market capitalization is at least \$100 million but less than \$500 million; or
- \$30 million, if the lesser of the person’s assets or market capitalization is \$500 million or more.

House Bill 5260

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Bumgarner

Senate Sponsor: Hancock

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 5260 repeals the Government Code provision requiring the Texas Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Health and Human Services Commission, Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Department of Criminal Justice to assist the Office of Vehicle Fleet Management in preparing the management plan for the state’s vehicle fleet.

House Bill 5303

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Kuempel

Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5303 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Springs Hill Special Utility District in Guadalupe and Wilson Counties to effectively replace the Springs Hill Water Supply Corporation.

House Bill 5304

Effective: 6-11-23

House Author: Wilson

Senate Sponsor: Schwertner

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5304 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Williamson County Municipal Utility District No. 46.

House Bill 5307

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Metcalf

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5307 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 228.

House Bill 5309

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Leo-Wilson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 5309 amends the Human Resources Code to reduce the frequency with which the Galveston County Juvenile Board is required to meet from monthly to quarterly.

House Bill 5310

Effective: 6-9-23

House Author: Cook

Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5310 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Tarrant County Municipal Utility District No. 2.

House Bill 5311

Effective: 9-1-23

House Author: Toth

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Bill 5311 amends the law to provide for the creation of an economic development zone composed solely of one or more hotels in The Woodlands Township to increase hotel activity in the area. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the establishment of a project fund for such a development

zone as an alternative to a tax increment fund and authorizes the township's board and the development zone's governing body to enter into an agreement with an applicable convention and visitors bureau. The bill authorizes the agreement to dedicate revenue from the project fund to pay project costs. Additionally, the bill provides for the dissolution of the development zone and requires the township to be treated the same in all respects as an incorporated municipality for purposes of the mixed beverage tax clearance fund.

[House Bill 5312](#) **House Author:** Gates **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5312 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 147.

[House Bill 5314](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5314 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 56.

[House Bill 5315](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5315 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 219.

[House Bill 5316](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5316 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 235.

[House Bill 5318](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5318 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Water Control and Improvement District No. 6.

[House Bill 5320](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5320 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 227.

[House Bill 5322](#) **House Author:** Gerdes **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5322 amends the law to grant the Garfield Municipal Utility District No. 1 the authority to undertake certain road projects and to provide the district certain bonding and taxing authority relating to such a project. The bill excludes specified land from the district's territory and establishes a new temporary board of directors for the district, which is required to hold a confirmation and initial directors election for the district.

[House Bill 5325](#) **House Author:** Gates **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-17-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5325 excludes specified property from the territory of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 144.

[House Bill 5326](#) **House Author:** Gates **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-17-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5326 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Orchard Municipal Utility District No. 2 in Fort Bend County.

[House Bill 5329](#) **House Author:** Gates **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-17-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5329 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 262.

[House Bill 5330](#) **House Author:** Reynolds et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Education

House Bill 5330 amends the Education Code to expand the service area of the Houston Community College System District.

[House Bill 5332](#) **House Author:** Bailes **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5332 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 229.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 5332 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 5333](#) **House Author:** Gates **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5333 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 252.

[House Bill 5334](#) **House Author:** Harless **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5334 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Cypress Creek Drainage Improvement District in Harris and Waller Counties.

[House Bill 5336](#) **House Author:** Vasut et al. **House Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Transportation

House Bill 5336 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to limit the authority of the City of Freeport to regulate land use by the Port Freeport navigation district and to create a reinvestment zone containing property owned by the district. Among other provisions, the bill sets out certain powers of the district regarding ports and facilities and limits the acquisition and use by the district of real property within the corporate limits of Freeport. Additionally, the bill provides for the replatting of land owned by

the district and further establishes the relationship between the district and Freeport regarding certain land located in both the district and the boundaries or extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city.

House Bill 5337 **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5337 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 204.

House Bill 5339 **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5339 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 223.

House Bill 5340 **House Author:** Smith **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5340 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the North Grayson County Municipal Utility District No. 1.

House Bill 5343 **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5343 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Wharton County Municipal Utility District No. 1.

House Bill 5344 **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: See below **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5344 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Denton County Municipal Management District No. 2 and to provide for the creation of the following:

- Deer Creek Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Bell and McLennan Counties;
- Jarrell Estates Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Williamson County;
- Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 236; and
- Williamson County Municipal Utility District No. 49.

The bill does the following with respect to the 3 B&J Municipal Utility District:

- renames the district as the Williamson County Municipal Utility District No. 51;
- revises provisions relating to the district's property tax; and
- repeals certain provisions relating to the district's powers and duties.

House Bill 5344, effective September 1, 2023, amends the Local Government Code to entitle a person who retires from employment as a firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical services provider by a township with a population of 110,000 or more and who is entitled to receive retirement benefits from the township to purchase continued health benefits coverage.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect June 13, 2023.

House Bill 5345 **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5345 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 237.

[House Bill 5347](#) **House Author:** Oliverson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5347 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 597.

[House Bill 5348](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-2-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5348 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 49.

[House Bill 5349](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5349 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Austin County Municipal Utility District No. 4.

[House Bill 5350](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5350 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 48.

[House Bill 5355](#) **House Author:** Price **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5355 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Prairie View Municipal Management District No. 1 in Potter County.

[House Bill 5357](#) **House Author:** Wilson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5357 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Liberty Hill Municipal Utility District in Williamson County.

[House Bill 5358](#) **House Author:** Rogers et al. **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5358 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Ranger Ridge Municipal Utility District of Palo Pinto County.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While House Bill No. 5358 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed.”

[House Bill 5360](#) **House Author:** Shine **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5360 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Deer Creek Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Bell and McLennan Counties.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While House Bill No. 5360 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed.”

[House Bill 5362](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5362 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 57.

[House Bill 5365](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5365 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Austin County Municipal Utility District No. 3.

[House Bill 5366](#) **House Author:** Kacal **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5366 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Grimes County Municipal Utility District No. 3.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 5366 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 5367](#) **House Author:** Buckley **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5367 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Solana Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Bell and Williamson Counties.

[House Bill 5369](#) **House Author:** Gerdes **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5369 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Sandow Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Milam County.

[House Bill 5370](#) **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 5370 amends the Human Resources Code to expand the composition of the juvenile board of Navarro County to include the judges of the county courts at law in the county.

[House Bill 5372](#) **House Author:** Schofield **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5372 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of The Grand Prairie Management District in Harris County.

[House Bill 5373](#) **House Author:** Canales **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5373 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1.

[House Bill 5374](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5374 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 226.

[House Bill 5375](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5375 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Montgomery County Management District No. 2.

[House Bill 5377](#) **House Author:** Smith **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5377 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fannin Farms Municipal Utility District of Fannin County.

[House Bill 5379](#) **House Author:** Wilson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5379 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Williamson and Bell Counties Municipal Utility District No. 1.

[House Bill 5384](#) **House Author:** Oliverson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5384 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 9.

[House Bill 5385](#) **House Author:** Oliverson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5385 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 582.

[House Bill 5386](#) **House Author:** Thompson, Senfronia **House Committee:** Land & Resource
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Management

House Bill 5386 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 589.

[House Bill 5389](#) **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5389 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris-Waller Counties Municipal Utility District No. 8.

[House Bill 5390](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5390 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 52.

[House Bill 5391](#) **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5391 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 218.

[House Bill 5392](#) **House Author:** Smith **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5392 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Highland Park Municipal Utility District of Grayson County.

[House Bill 5393](#) **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5393 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 55.

[House Bill 5394](#) **House Author:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** County Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5394 amends the law to set out provisions relating to the powers, duties, territory, and governance of the Westwood Magnolia Parkway Improvement District in Montgomery County.

[House Bill 5395](#) **House Author:** Lalani **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-11-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5395 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District No. 11.

[House Bill 5396](#) **House Author:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5396 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Stanley Lake Municipal Utility District.

[House Bill 5398](#) **House Author:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hall **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5398 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the West Lake Ranch Municipal Management District in Navarro County.

[House Bill 5399](#) **House Author:** Allison **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-18-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Menéndez **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5399 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Jones Avenue Municipal Management District in Bexar County.

[House Bill 5405](#) **House Author:** Raymond **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5405 converts the Legacy Water Control and Improvement District to the Legacy Municipal Management District and amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers and duties of the converted district.

[House Bill 5407](#) **House Author:** Smith **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5407 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Blanton Creek Estates Municipal Utility District of Fannin County.

House Bill 5409 **House Author:** Paul et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: 6-10-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Bill 5409 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to add a county-appointed member to the Gulf Coast Protection District’s board of directors for each county annexed to the district and to correspondingly require the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to appoint an additional member as needed to ensure the board has an odd number of members. The bill requires the district to take certain actions if implementation of a district project disrupts the operations of or requires the use of property owned by a port authority, navigation district, or drainage district.

House Bill 5411 **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5411 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Twinwood Municipal Utility District No. 1.

House Bill 5412 **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5412 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise the road project powers of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 3 and to provide for the district’s division.

House Bill 5413 **House Author:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 6-12-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5413 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise the road project powers of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 2 and to provide for the district’s division.

House Bill 5414 **House Author:** Spiller **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5414 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Mountain Springs Municipal Utility District of Cooke County.

House Bill 5415 **House Author:** Spiller **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: 9-1-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5415 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Elm Fork Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Cooke County.

House Bill 5418 **House Author:** Goldman **House Committee:** Urban Affairs
Effective: 6-13-23 **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Local Government

House Bill 5418 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers, duties, operation, administration, and board of directors of the Karis Municipal Management District of Tarrant County.

House Joint Resolution 2 **House Author:** Bonnen et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
For Election: 11-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Joint Resolution 2 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to authorize the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of TRS and to

authorize the appropriation of money from the general revenue fund to the comptroller of public accounts for deposit to the trust fund of TRS to pay for such adjustments.

[House Joint Resolution 3](#) **House Author:** Bonnen **House Committee:** Higher Education
For Election: 11-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Joint Resolution 3 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to redesignate the National Research University Fund (NRUF) as the Texas University Fund (TUF). The resolution removes the provision that makes a state university permanently eligible to receive distributions from the fund once initial eligibility is established and makes all institutions supported by the Available University Fund (AUF) ineligible for TUF funding. The resolution provides for a dedicated source of revenue for the TUF from the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the Economic Stabilization Fund, otherwise known as the Rainy Day Fund, but caps the amount that may be appropriated in a state fiscal year. The resolution exempts money in the TUF and state tax revenues appropriated to the TUF from the constitutional state spending cap.

[House Joint Resolution 107](#) **House Author:** Price et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil
Jurisprudence
For Election: 11-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Joint Resolution 107 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to raise the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges from 75 to 79.

[House Joint Resolution 125](#) **House Author:** Ashby et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs
For Election: 11-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance

House Joint Resolution 125 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to create the broadband infrastructure fund as a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the comptroller of public accounts. The fund is to be used, without further appropriation, for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services, including the following:

- the development, construction, reconstruction, and expansion of broadband and telecommunications infrastructure or services;
- the operation of broadband and telecommunications infrastructure;
- the provision of broadband and telecommunications services; and
- the reasonable expenses of administering and managing the investments of the fund.

The proposed amendment takes effect January 1, 2024, and expires September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a concurrent resolution approved by a record vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature. Such a resolution suspends that expiration date until September 1 of the 10th year following the adoption of the resolution.

[House Joint Resolution 126](#) **House Author:** Burns et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock
For Election: 11-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Joint Resolution 126 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to establish that Texans have the right to engage in generally accepted agricultural practices on real property that they own or lease. This right expressly does not affect the authority of the legislature to regulate those practices to protect public health and safety, animal health or crop production, or the state's natural resources.

House Joint Resolution 132

For Election: 11-7-23

House Author: Hefner et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

House Joint Resolution 132 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family, including a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

House Joint Resolution 134

For Election: 11-7-23

House Author: Bonnen et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Joint Resolution 134 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to abolish the office of county treasurer of Galveston County, contingent on approval of a majority of voters in Galveston County. The resolution authorizes the Commissioners Court of Galveston County to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any of the functions that would have been performed by the treasurer if the office had not been abolished.

Senate Bill 10

Effective: See below

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 10 amends the Government Code to provide for two types of benefit enhancements to eligible retirees, beneficiaries, and alternate payees who are receiving a monthly annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The first, in a bill provision effective June 14, 2023, is a one-time stipend for eligible annuitants who have reached age 70 by August 31, 2023. The second, in a bill provision effective January 1, 2024, but only if House Joint Resolution 2, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is approved by voters, is a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible annuitants who retired on or before August 31, 2020. Accordingly, the bill provides the following:

- the one-time stipend is to be paid no later than the end of September 2023 and, as follows:
 - an annuitant will receive the one-time stipend for the eligible amount based on the annuitant's age;
 - the amount of the stipend is the same regardless of the annuitant's monthly annuity amount or retirement date;
 - the stipend amounts are as follows: \$7,500 for eligible annuitants 75 years of age and older and \$2,400 for eligible annuitants aged 70 to 74; and
 - annuitants must be eligible to receive a TRS annuity in August 2023 and meet the qualifying age on or before August 31, 2023; and
- the COLA is to be made as follows:
 - a two percent COLA for eligible retirees who retired between September 1, 2013, through August 31, 2020, or eligible beneficiaries receiving a monthly annuity if the member's date of death occurred between those dates;
 - a four percent COLA for eligible retirees who retired between September 1, 2001, through August 31, 2013, or eligible beneficiaries receiving a monthly annuity if the member's date of death occurred between those dates; and
 - a six percent COLA for eligible retirees who retired on or before August 31, 2001, or eligible beneficiaries receiving a monthly annuity if the member's date of death occurred before September 1, 2001.

Senate Bill 12
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hughes et al.
House Sponsor: Shaheen et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 12 amends the Health and Safety Code, Local Government Code, and Penal Code to provide for the regulation of sexually oriented performances. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- prohibits a person who controls the premises of a commercial enterprise from allowing a sexually oriented performance to be presented on the premises in the presence of an individual younger than 18 years of age;
- authorizes a municipality or county to regulate sexually oriented performances as the municipality or county considers necessary to promote the public health, safety, or welfare but expressly prohibits a municipality or county from authorizing a sexually oriented performance on public property or in the presence of an individual younger than 18 years of age; and
- creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who engages in a sexually oriented performance in the presence of an individual younger than 18 years of age or on public property at a time, in a place, and in a manner that could reasonably be expected to be viewed by a child.

The bill defines “sexually oriented performance” as a visual performance that appeals to the prurient interest in sex and features a performer who is nude or any other performer who engages in conduct classified by the bill as “sexual conduct.”

Senate Bill 14
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Campbell et al.
House Sponsor: Oliverson et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 14 amends the Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, and Occupations Code to prohibit a state-licensed physician or other applicable health care provider from knowingly performing procedures and providing treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria for children younger than 18 years of age, subject to the exceptions set out by the bill. The bill provides for enforcement of that prohibition by the attorney general and for certain disciplinary measures for physicians who violate the prohibition. Additionally, the bill prohibits the direct or indirect use of public money by any entity, organization, or individual that provides or facilitates the provision of a procedure or treatment to a child that is prohibited by the bill, prohibits Medicaid and CHIP reimbursements from being provided to a physician or health care provider for the provision of such a prohibited procedure or treatment, and prohibits Medicaid and CHIP from providing coverage for those prohibited services that are intended to transition a child’s biological sex.

Senate Bill 15
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Middleton et al.
House Sponsor: Swanson et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 15, the Save Women’s Sports Act, amends the Education Code to prohibit an intercollegiate athletic team sponsored or authorized by a public institution of higher education from allowing a student to compete on the team in an intercollegiate athletic competition that is designated for the biological sex opposite to the student’s biological sex or allowing a male student to compete on the team in a mixed-sex intercollegiate athletic competition in a position that is designated for female students. The bill allows for a female student to compete in a competition designated for male students if a corresponding competition designated for female students is not offered or available. The bill prohibits retaliation against a person for reporting a violation of the bill’s provisions and provides for the authority to bring a civil action for injunctive relief for such a violation.

Senate Bill 17
Effective: 1-1-24

Senate Author: Creighton et al.
House Sponsor: Kuempel et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 17 amends the Education Code to provide for a prohibition against a public institution of higher education doing the following:

- establishing or maintaining a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) office;
- hiring or assigning an employee or contracting with a third party to perform the duties of a DEI office;
- compelling, requiring, inducing, or soliciting any person to provide a DEI statement or giving preferential consideration to any person based on the provision of such a statement;
- giving preference on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for employment, an employee, or a participant in any function of the institution; or
- requiring any person to participate in DEI training as a condition of enrolling at the institution or performing any institution function.

Among other provisions relating to the scope and enforcement of that prohibition, the bill prohibits an institution from spending appropriated money until the institution's governing board certifies compliance with the bill's provisions during the preceding state fiscal year and provides for periodic compliance audits by the state auditor. An institution that is determined to have spent state money in violation of the bill's provisions and fails to cure the violation during a prescribed grace period is ineligible to receive formula funding increases, institutional enhancements, or exceptional items during the next state fiscal biennium. The bill requires the governing board of each institution to testify before the applicable legislative committees each interim regarding compliance with the bill's provisions and requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a biennial study on the impact of the bill's implementation.

Senate Bill 18
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Creighton et al.
House Sponsor: Kuempel

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 18 amends the Education Code to set out provisions relating to tenure at a public institution of higher education. Among other provisions, the bill establishes that only an institution's governing board, on the recommendation of the institution's chief executive officer and the university system's chancellor, if applicable, may grant tenure and requires each institution to adopt certain policies and procedures regarding tenure, including policies and procedures that allow for the dismissal of a tenured faculty member for the reasons specified by the bill. The policies and procedures may include provisions that authorize the summary dismissal of a tenured faculty member based on a finding of serious misconduct after providing the faculty member due process as required by the bill. The bill also requires that an institution's performance evaluation process for tenured faculty provide for a short-term development plan for a faculty member who receives an unsatisfactory rating in any area of evaluation.

Senate Bill 22
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Springer et al.
House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 22 amends the Local Government Code to establish grant programs to provide salary assistance for rural sheriff's offices, constable's offices, and prosecutor's offices in counties with a population of 300,000 or less. The bill requires the comptroller of public accounts to establish and administer the grant programs.

Senate Bill 24
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.
House Sponsor: Frank et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 24 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, and Local Government Code to transfer programs and services

provided through the prevention and early intervention division of the Department of Family and Protective Services to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and to consolidate them under a new family support services division. The bill makes certain revisions to the programs and provides for HHSC's development and implementation of a five-year strategic plan for family support services. The bill also provides for the establishment of the Thriving Texas Families Program as the continuation of the current HHSC alternatives to abortion (A2A) program.

Senate Bill 25**Effective:** 6-18-23**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst et al.**House Sponsor:** Klick**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 25 amends the Education Code to set out and revise provisions relating to support for nursing-related postsecondary education. The bill does the following:

- revives and amends a scholarship program for nursing students and a loan repayment program for nurses;
- makes part time nursing faculty eligible for assistance under the nursing faculty loan repayment assistance program and changes the cap on the amount of such assistance received in any one year from a set amount to an amount determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB);
- establishes certain grant programs to support nursing faculty at clinical sites and the clinical training of nursing students;
- eliminates requirements for the THECB to establish and administer a matching fund program and to appoint certain advisory committees; and
- extends the nursing innovation grant program until 2027.

Senate Bill 26**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst et al.**House Sponsor:** Jetton, Jacey et al.**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 26 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to set out provisions relating to the creation of a matching grant program for mental health early intervention and treatment, the voluntary admission of individuals to an inpatient mental health facility, plans for the transition of care for certain individuals, and performance and financial audits of local behavioral health authorities and local mental health authorities and other reporting requirements.

Senate Bill 26 also amends the Education Code to authorize a local mental health authority that is unable to employ a qualified non-physician mental health professional to request a waiver from the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission for approval to employ instead certain other licensed professionals to serve as a resource for an applicable regional education service center and local public school districts.

Senate Bill 28**Effective:** See below**Senate Author:** Perry et al.**House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. et al.**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 28 amends the Water Code to establish the New Water Supply for Texas Fund as a special fund in the state treasury to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The bill requires the TWDB by rule to undertake to finance projects through the fund that will lead to seven million acre-feet of new water supplies by December 31, 2033. The bill sets out authorized uses of the fund, which include the provision of financial assistance to political subdivisions to develop water supply projects that create new water sources for the state.

Senate Bill 28, effective January 1, 2024, and contingent on voter approval of Senate Joint Resolution 75, establishes that the Texas Water Fund is a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the TWDB for the purpose of transferring money to specified water assistance funds and accounts for applicable uses. The bill requires money in the fund to be held and

invested by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and provides for certain input by the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Advisory Committee with regard to the fund's operation.

Senate Bill 28 turns the statewide water conservation public awareness program into the broader statewide water public awareness program and establishes the statewide water public awareness account as an account in the general revenue fund to be used by the TWDB to develop, administer, and implement the program.

Senate Bill 28, among other provisions, requires the TWDB by rule to establish a program to provide technical assistance to retail public utilities in conducting applicable required water audits and in applying for financial assistance from the TWDB to mitigate the utility system's water loss.

Except as otherwise provided, Senate Bill 28 takes effect September 1, 2023.

Senate Bill 29

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

House Sponsor: Lozano et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 29 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit the state, a local government entity, an open-enrollment charter school, or an agency of the state or a local government entity from implementing, ordering, or otherwise imposing any of the following mandates to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- a mandate requiring a person to wear a mask or other face covering, with certain exceptions;
- a mandate requiring a person to be vaccinated against COVID-19, to the extent that the prohibition does not conflict with the final rule adopted by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and published at 86 Fed. Reg. 61555 (November 5, 2021); or
- a mandate requiring the closure of a private business, public or private school, or open-enrollment charter school.

The prohibition against a face-covering mandate does not apply to an order or mandate relating to an applicable state supported living center, a facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, a municipal or county jail, or a hospital or other health care facility owned by a governmental entity.

Senate Bill 30

Effective: 6-9-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Bill 30 makes supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and gives direction and transfer and other adjustment authority with respect to the General Appropriations Act adopted by the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, and the supplemental appropriations acts adopted by the 87th Texas Legislature in the Regular, 2nd Called, and 3rd Called Sessions.

Senate Bill 30 reduces unencumbered appropriations for the 2022-2023 state fiscal biennium from federal American Rescue Plan Act funds by \$200 million, from the general revenue fund by roughly \$170 million, and from the Foundation School Fund by nearly \$8.42 billion. The bill makes supplemental appropriations for the 2022-2023 state fiscal biennium totaling approximately \$22.4 billion, of which \$17.4 billion is from the general revenue fund; \$4.7 billion is from federal funds; \$221 million is from general revenue dedicated accounts; and \$44.7 million is from various other sources. In addition, the bill appropriates slightly more than \$1.3 billion in unexpended and unobligated balances remaining from various appropriations made by the 87th Texas Legislature; these appropriations are from the same sources and for the same purposes for which the original appropriations were made.

As part of the appropriations outlined above, Senate Bill 30 provides for a five percent pay raise for most state employees effective July 1, 2023, and adjusts the state salary schedule accordingly. Moreover, the bill sets the sum-certain appropriation to the Foundation School Program for state fiscal year 2023 at \$23,901,066,584.

Senate Bill 37
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: González, Mary

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Higher Education

Current law subjects a person who has firsthand knowledge of a hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution and fails to report that knowledge to an appropriate official of the institution to a criminal penalty and grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to a person who voluntarily makes such a report and cooperates with the investigation. Senate Bill 37 amends the Education Code to include a peace officer or law enforcement agency as entities to which the person may report the incident to avoid the criminal penalty and be granted immunity. The bill also clarifies that such immunity may be granted to an entity organized to support an organization.

Senate Bill 48
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 48 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, and Government Code to require the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System (OCA) to develop and make available on OCA's website standardized forms and other materials necessary to apply for, issue, deny, revise, rescind, serve, and enforce a protective order, magistrate's order for emergency protection, or a temporary ex parte order. The bill requires each standardized form to include the prohibitions and requirements imposed on the respondent, the duration of the order, the potential consequences of violating the order, and any other admonishments or warnings required by law and requires the developed materials to include a procedure to ensure that a copy of the order is transmitted to all required parties and all relevant information is entered into the statewide law enforcement information system and any other applicable databases.

Senate Bill 48 requires a person filing an application for a protective order to use the standardized application form available on OCA's website and requires a court or magistrate issuing a protective order, order for emergency protection, or temporary ex parte order to use the applicable standardized order form. The bill also requires OCA to conduct a study on the effectiveness of protective orders in protecting victims of violence in Texas and to create a report on the study and submit the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and appropriate committees of the legislature.

Senate Bill 49
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: González, Mary et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 49 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise provisions governing the crime victims' compensation program to do the following:

- expand the types of family members or household members who are eligible for compensation;
- expand the acts that qualify as family violence when determining eligibility for payments;
- make a broader group of individuals eligible for compensation for relocation and housing rental expenses and increase the cap on such compensation;
- remove the limit on the number of days of bereavement leave for which a family or household member of a deceased victim may be compensated and increase the cap on the amount of compensation for lost wages resulting from such leave; and
- remove the limit on the number of nights lodging for which a person may be compensated in traveling to witness an execution.

Senate Bill 52
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Smith

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 52 amends the Health and Safety Code to grant to a patient, the patient's guardian, or the patient's legally authorized representative the right to designate an essential caregiver with whom a state

hospital may not prohibit in-person visitation and, if the patient is a minor, to authorize the patient’s parent, guardian, or managing conservator to designate both of the minor’s parents as essential caregivers. The bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to assist state hospitals in establishing essential caregiver visitation policies and procedures and prohibits a state hospital from establishing more stringent safety protocols than those it establishes for hospital staff. The bill provides for the revocation of an individual’s essential caregiver designation for certain violations, an appeals process to evaluate the revocation, and the designation of an alternate essential caregiver. Additionally, the bill authorizes a state hospital to petition HHSC to suspend in-person essential caregiver visits for a limited period if the visitation poses a serious community health risk.

Senate Bill 55

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: González, Mary

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 55 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct a study to determine best practices for assisting students with autism spectrum disorder who are enrolled at public institutions of higher education. The bill sets out requirements regarding the study and requires the THECB to submit a report of the study’s findings and any related recommendations.

Senate Bill 58

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Thimesch et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 58 amends the Business & Commerce Code to prohibit a person, for commercial purposes, from selling, using, or causing to be used any technology, device, or software in the sale of goods on a website that does the following:

- functions as a bypass in the process of purchasing goods;
- disguises the purchaser’s identity;
- permits the purchase of a quantity of goods in a number that exceeds the maximum number of goods that may be sold to one purchaser by a seller or operator on the website;
- allows for the unauthorized access to or identification of gift card information; or
- circumvents a security measure, access control system, or other control, authorization, or measure in the purchasing process.

This prohibition does not apply to the seller of goods on the website or to the website operator. The attorney general may investigate a claim that a person violated this prohibition.

Senate Bill 59

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: King, Tracy O.

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 59 amends the Local Government Code and Tax Code to require a political subdivision located in certain counties near an international border to include prescribed notice of water and wastewater requirements in the public notice of the foreclosure sale of a residential property and the deed conveying the property.

Senate Bill 60

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: King, Ken et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 60 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to provide for the shared use of a distiller’s and rectifier’s permit holder’s premises by another distiller’s and rectifier’s permit holder or a nonresident seller’s permit holder to engage in certain activities pursuant to an operating agreement and subject to approval by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. The bill requires such an agreement to specifically

describe the nature, duration, and extent of the activities authorized by the agreement, which may relate to manufacturing, rectifying, purifying, refining, mixing, bottling, labeling, packaging, or selling alcoholic beverages as provided by the bill.

Senate Bill 61
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Hefner

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Ways & Means

Under current law, the comptroller of public accounts must deliver notice regarding the suspension or revocation of a permit or license and notice regarding the forfeiture of corporate privileges for franchise tax delinquency either through mail or in person, as applicable. Senate Bill 61 amends the Tax Code to give the comptroller the option to provide these notices instead by electronic means.

Senate Bill 62
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Guillen

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 62 amends the Property Code to require a county to prominently post a notice of a sale of real property under a contract lien that is filed with the county clerk on the county's website, including the date, time, and location of the sale, where the county posts auction information on its website.

Senate Bill 62 amends the Tax Code to require a county assessor-collector to post on the county's website the form a person must use to request a statement regarding delinquent taxes owed by the person. If the county assessor-collector permits a person to use a form prescribed by the comptroller of public accounts for that purpose, the county assessor-collector may instead post a link to the location where that form may be accessed.

Senate Bill 63
Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Raymond

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs
House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 63 amends the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to jointly produce and make publicly available an instruction guide for family members and caregivers of veterans who have mental health disorders. The instruction guide must include specified information regarding different mental health disorders, techniques for coping with related stress and handling crisis situations, and services available for such family members and caregivers. The bill requires HHSC and TVC each to publish the instruction guide on the respective agency's website.

Senate Bill 65
Effective: 10-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Noble et al.

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 65 amends the Tax Code to exclude the furnishing of an academic transcript from the information services subject to taxation under the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax Act.

Senate Bill 68
Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Murr et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 68 amends the Education Code to authorize a public school district to excuse a student in their junior or senior year of high school from attending school for a career investigation day to visit a professional at the professional's workplace for the purpose of determining the student's interest in pursuing the applicable career, provided that the district adopts a related excused absence policy and a procedure to verify the student's visit at the workplace. The bill caps the number of days a student may have excused per school year for such a purpose at two.

[Senate Bill 129](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Springer et al.
House Sponsor: Meyer

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 129 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to extend the statute of limitations period for possession or promotion of child pornography and revise the penalty enhancement scheme for subsequent convictions of the offense. Additionally, the bill establishes penalty enhancements for the offense based on the number of visual depictions possessed and for employees at certain child-care, residential, or youth-related facilities and persons receiving state funds for the depicted child's care.

[Senate Bill 133](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Hull et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Youth Health & Safety, Select

Senate Bill 133 amends the Education Code to prohibit a peace officer performing law enforcement duties or school security personnel performing security-related duties on the property of a public school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity from restraining or using a chemical irritant spray or Taser on a student enrolled in the fifth grade or below unless the student poses a serious risk of harm to the student or another person.

[Senate Bill 135](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: West
House Sponsor: Ramos

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 135 amends the Family Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services to maintain an electronic record of the status of a home study of a potential relative or designated caregiver required to be performed before the full adversary hearing in a child protection suit.

[Senate Bill 158](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Lambert

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 158 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county commissioners court, if only one bank located in the county applies to be designated as the county depository, to reject the applicant if the applicant proposes certain terms unacceptable to the county. The bill authorizes the commissioners court to advertise for applications from banks in an adjoining county. The bill sets out provisions regarding the continuity of the county depository designation when a bank selected to be a county depository and holding county funds closes or is sold to another bank in an adjoining county.

[Senate Bill 159](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Button et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 159 amends the Public Accountancy Act, Occupations Code, to revise eligibility requirements to take the uniform CPA examination and for the issuance of a public accountancy certificate by decreasing from 150 to 120 the minimum number of semester hours or quarter-hour equivalents in relevant courses that must be completed for examination eligibility and by removing the completion of at least two years of work experience under the supervision of a certified public accountant as a condition of certificate eligibility.

[Senate Bill 182](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Miles et al.
House Sponsor: Rose

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 182 amends the Human Resources Code to require each employee or contractor of the Department of Family and Protective Services or Texas Juvenile Justice Department who becomes aware of criminal conduct engaged in by another employee or contractor of the respective department against a person receiving services from the department or a department contractor to report the conduct to a

local law enforcement agency within 48 hours of becoming aware of the conduct. The bill establishes a criminal penalty for failure to make such a report. The bill prohibits an employer from taking any adverse employment action against a person who in good faith makes a report or initiates or cooperates with an investigation or proceeding relating to the reported conduct and provides for an employee's ability to sue for injunctive relief, damages, or both if that prohibition is violated.

Senate Bill 186

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Miles

House Sponsor: Rose et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 186 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a hospital or other health facility from discharging or otherwise releasing a patient to the care of a group home, boarding home facility, or similar group-centered facility that is operated by a person who does not hold the applicable license or permit, unless the patient voluntarily elects to reside in the facility or there is no group-centered facility operated in the county by a licensed or permitted person. The bill exempts a hospital or health facility from liability for damages to a patient resulting from the patient's discharge or release to an unlicensed or unpermitted group-centered facility under one of those exceptions. A local health authority may not issue an order authorizing the discharge or release of a patient to a group-centered facility in a manner that conflicts with the bill.

Senate Bill 188

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Miles

House Sponsor: Reynolds

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 188 amends the Health and Safety Code to require an owner or operator of certain group homes to obtain criminal history record information on each individual who is an applicant for employment with or an employee of the group home. The bill makes it a criminal offense for such an owner or operator to employ individuals with certain criminal convictions.

Senate Bill 189

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Miles et al.

House Sponsor: Rose et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 189 amends the Health and Safety Code to create a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who owns a building that they lease to another person operating a boarding home facility in the building, has actual knowledge that a facility resident is being or has been abused, neglected, or exploited, and fails to report the abuse, neglect, or exploitation to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The bill requires the annual report submitted to the Health and Human Services Commission by each county or municipality that requires a permit to operate a boarding home facility to include the total number of incidents occurring at each boarding home facility that required the intervention of a peace officer.

Senate Bill 189 amends the Penal Code to create a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person who has actual knowledge that a resident of a group home has suffered bodily injury due to assault, neglect, or an omission in care and fails to report that fact to law enforcement or DFPS. The bill provides for exceptions to the application of the offense.

Senate Bill 200

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.

House Sponsor: Howard

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Higher Education

Under current law providing for a Texas resident's right to an academic fresh start in applying for admission and enrollment as an undergraduate student, a public institution of higher education may not consider academic course credits or grades earned 10 or more years before the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll. Senate Bill 200 amends the Education Code to authorize

an institution to also disregard course credits or grades earned between five and 10 years prior to the applicable semester start date.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 200 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 222
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Nichols et al.
House Sponsor: Metcalf et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 222 amends the Government Code to entitle a state employee who is a member of the Employees Retirement System of Texas to 40 days of paid leave during their FMLA leave for the birth of a child or 20 days of paid leave for the birth of a child by their spouse or a gestational surrogate or for the adoption of a child. The bill authorizes the employee to take the paid leave without first using all available and applicable paid vacation or sick leave.

Senate Bill 224
Effective: See below

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.
House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 224, the Deputy Darren Almendarez Act, amends the Occupations Code, Penal Code, and Transportation Code to establish criminal offenses and increased penalties related to the theft of catalytic converters from motor vehicles and to set out additional regulations for certain transactions involving catalytic converters. Among other provisions, the bill requires metal recycling entities to maintain a fixed location for conducting their business activities and to submit additional information and declarations when applying for a certificate of registration, establishes limited circumstances under which such entities may purchase or otherwise acquire a catalytic converter removed from a motor vehicle, requires such entities to maintain and permit inspection of detailed records of each such transaction, and provides for the imposition of administrative penalties on noncompliant entities. Additionally, the bill prohibits vehicle repair entities and used vehicle sellers and purchasers from buying or selling catalytic converters unless the converter was removed from a vehicle in connection with their repair of the vehicle and establishes records requirements for certain entities that engage in the sale or transfer of catalytic converters removed from motor vehicles. Finally, the bill requires the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to develop and implement a plan to coordinate with certain appropriate state agencies to review the records of regulated entities pertaining to transactions involving catalytic converters and respond to suspicious activity detected in analyzing the records. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect May 29, 2023.

Senate Bill 232
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hinojosa et al.
House Sponsor: Geren

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 232 amends the Local Government Code to establish that a person who holds an elected or appointed office of a political subdivision is automatically removed from and vacates that office on the earlier of the date the person enters a guilty plea or nolo contendere to, receives deferred adjudication for, or is convicted of a qualifying offense related to public corruption.

Senate Bill 240
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Campbell et al.
House Sponsor: Howard et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 240 amends the Health and Safety Code to require certain health facilities to adopt, implement, and enforce a written workplace violence prevention policy and plan to protect health care providers and employees from violent behavior and threats of violent behavior occurring at the facility. Each facility must also establish a workplace violence prevention committee or authorize an existing

facility committee to develop, review, and evaluate the workplace violence prevention plan. The bill provides for the membership of such a committee and sets out requirements for a facility's workplace violence prevention policy and plan. The bill additionally establishes minimum requirements for a facility in responding to an incident of workplace violence and creates protections for individuals with respect to reporting incidents of workplace violence.

Senate Bill 241
Effective: 9-1-24

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Talarico

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 241 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the manufacturer, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a manufacturer, of a brand name insulin prescription drug for which a generic or biosimilar prescription drug is not available and that is included in the Medicaid vendor drug program formulary to submit a written verification as set out by the bill to the Health and Human Services Commission regarding the cause of generic or biosimilar prescription drug unavailability.

Senate Bill 246
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Alvarado
House Sponsor: Goldman

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 246 amends the Occupations Code to revise provisions relating to the regulation of motor fuel metering and quality by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). Among other provisions, the bill updates and clarifies terminology, removes references to weight as a method of measure for motor fuel, clarifies TDLR's role with respect to the sampling and testing of motor fuel and the issuance of a stop-sale order, repeals the requirement that the state metrology laboratory purchase standards for use by TDLR, provides for an alternative metrology laboratory to inspect and correct applicable standards, authorizes TDLR to inspect a motor fuel metering device it believes is being used to perpetuate fraud, and establishes that provisions relating to motor fuel metering and quality do not apply to a weighing or measuring device that measures liquefied petroleum gas.

Senate Bill 247
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Alvarado
House Sponsor: Perez

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 247 repeals the Transportation Code requirement for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates to honorary consuls authorized to perform consular duties.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 247 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 252
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.
House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 252 amends the Local Government Code and Occupations Code to require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to issue a license under its authority to certain honorably discharged veterans who are legal permanent residents of the United States. The bill authorizes a political subdivision to appoint or employ such a licensed veteran to hold an applicable public safety position, except for a supervisory position, which may only be held by such a veteran after they become a U.S. citizen.

Senate Bill 261
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Springer et al.
House Sponsor: Ashby

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 261 amends the Transportation Code to establish that an assembled trailer is considered to be a trailer, semitrailer, or travel trailer for purposes of the Certificate of Title Act and for vehicle registration purposes. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the registration application process for the owner of an assembled trailer and defines “hobbyist” under that act.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 261 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 267
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: King et al.
House Sponsor: Burrows et al.

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 267 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to provide for the mandatory accreditation of applicable law enforcement agencies and school district police departments by a specified organization or association. The bill sets out the duties of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and law enforcement agencies in implementing and reporting on agency accreditation. Additionally, the bill provides for the establishment of a grant program by the comptroller of public accounts to provide financial assistance to qualified law enforcement agencies for purposes of becoming accredited.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 267 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 271
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson
House Sponsor: Shaheen

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 271 amends the Government Code to revise provisions governing security breach notification procedures for applicable state agencies as follows:

- expands the incidents that require notification to include all security incidents;
- makes the provisions applicable also to local governments that own, license, or maintain computerized data that includes information for which disclosure is regulated by law;
- requires a state agency or local government subject to the notification procedures to comply with Department of Information Resources rules relating to reporting security incidents in the event of such an incident; and
- makes the provisions inapplicable to a security incident that a local government is required to report to ERCOT.

Senate Bill 280
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Raymond

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Defense & Veterans’ Affairs

Senate Bill 280 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for members of the U.S. armed services who participated in Operation Freedom’s Sentinel.

Senate Bill 281
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Lambert

Senate Committee: Administration
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 281 amends the Government Code to split the designation of the Texas state musician into two designations, one for the classical genre and one for the nonclassical genre.

Senate Bill 294
Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Author: Johnson et al.
House Sponsor: Klick et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Public Education

Current law authorizes a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school to adopt a policy for the maintenance and administration of asthma medicine at a campus. Senate Bill 294 amends the Education Code to revise the authorization and related provisions so that, instead of being applicable to asthma medicine in general, such provisions are applicable to the use of medication for respiratory distress. The bill also expands the locations at which such medication may be administered and provides for the medication to be administered by any school personnel and school volunteers who are authorized and trained to do so.

Senate Bill 294 requires the school, if the medication is administered to a student whose parent or guardian has not provided notification that the student has been diagnosed with asthma, to refer the student to the student's primary care provider on the day the medication is administered and inform the student's parent or guardian regarding the referral. If a student does not have a primary care provider, the student's parent or guardian must receive information to assist the parent or guardian in selecting a primary care provider for the student. The bill sets a deadline by which certain information regarding the administration of medication for respiratory distress must be reported to the district, the charter holder of a charter school, or the governing body of the private school; the physician or other person who prescribed the medication for respiratory distress; and the commissioner of state health services.

Senate Bill 294 establishes that each district, charter school, and private school that adopts the policy is responsible for training school personnel and school volunteers in the administration of medication for respiratory distress and sets out the required content of that training. The bill clarifies that statutory provisions regarding prescriptions, standing orders, and immunity from civil or criminal liability and disciplinary action relating to the administration of asthma medicine generally are applicable to the administration of medication for respiratory distress.

Senate Bill 294 expands the required duties of the advisory committee originally established to examine and review the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors to include examining and reviewing medication for respiratory distress and, for those purposes, advising the commissioner regarding the storage, administration, training, and staffing of school personnel on each campus as it relates to such medication.

Senate Bill 315
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hall et al.
House Sponsor: Ramos

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 315 amends the Business & Commerce Code, with respect to telephone solicitations, to define "telephone call" as a call or other transmission made to or received at a telephone number, including a call made by an automated telephone dialing system; a transmission to a facsimile recording device; and a call or other transmission, including a transmission of a text or graphic message or of an image, to a mobile telephone number serviced by a provider of commercial mobile service but excluding a transmission made to a mobile telephone number as part of an ad-based telephone service, in connection with which the telephone service customer has agreed with the service provider to receive the transmission.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 315 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 317
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Hall
House Sponsor: Kitzman

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 317 amends the Water Code to authorize an applicant for service from a water supply or sewer service corporation to appeal to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) for a determination of whether the regular membership fee or tap fee required to be paid to obtain service is consistent with the

corporation's tariff. The bill requires the PUC, if it finds that the fee is inconsistent with the tariff, to issue an order requiring the corporation to charge the applicant an amount consistent with the tariff.

Senate Bill 317 excludes groundwater conservation district and other governmental fees from the service fees for which an applicant for service from an affected county or a water supply or sewer service corporation may appeal to the PUC.

Senate Bill 322
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Huffman
House Sponsor: Morrison

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 322 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to raise the caps on compensation for a member of the seawall commission in Matagorda County from \$50 to \$150 for each day that a member attends an official commission meeting and from \$300 to \$600 for the total monthly amount of compensation.

Senate Bill 323
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.
House Sponsor: Kitzman

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 323 amends the Transportation Code to make a sheriff or deputy sheriff of Waller County eligible to apply for certification to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards.

Senate Bill 335
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner
House Sponsor: Hull

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 335 amends the Human Resources Code to require that an open meeting of the Family and Protective Services Council be broadcast live over the Internet on the Department of Family and Protective Services website or that archived video and audio of the meeting be made available on that website for a period of two years beginning not later than the end of the second business day after the day the meeting is held.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 335 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 336
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Cole

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Current law provides confidentiality protections for officers and employees of a public institution of higher education who make a report to the institution's compliance program or participate in a compliance investigation. Senate Bill 336 amends the Education Code to extend those protections to agents, contractors, subcontractors, or other persons acting on behalf of the institution.

Senate Bill 338
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hinojosa et al.
House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 338 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to make inadmissible against a defendant in any phase of a criminal trial all statements made during or after a hypnotic session by a person who has undergone investigative hypnosis performed by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of enhancing the person's recollection of an event at issue in the investigation or case.

Senate Bill 347
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Harless

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 347 amends the Transportation Code to change the period for which a driver's license suspension or disqualification following a conviction requiring automatic suspension is extended as a

result of the person being convicted of driving with an invalid license from a period that runs the same term as the original suspension or disqualification to a fixed 90-day period.

Senate Bill 348 **Senate Author:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Meyer **House Committee:** Ways & Means

State law currently generally prohibits a photograph, sketch, or floor plan of an improvement to real property designed primarily for use as a human residence that is contained in an appraisal record from being posted online. Senate Bill 348 amends the Tax Code to allow for the posting of a street level photograph of only the exterior of the building or certain field records or overhead sketches of the property online. Additionally, the bill revises the exception in law allowing an aerial photograph that depicts five or more separately owned buildings to be posted online to allow instead for an aerial photograph that depicts more than one separately owned building to be posted online.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 348 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 349 **Senate Author:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-10-23 **House Sponsor:** Anderson et al. **House Committee:** County Affairs

Senate Bill 349 amends the Local Government Code to require a housing authority policy permitting tenant ownership of a pet to comply with all applicable county or municipal restrictions and regulations relating to dangerous dogs.

Senate Bill 361 **Senate Author:** Eckhardt et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Shine **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 361 amends the Tax Code to authorize a person employed as a teacher by a public school district to serve on an appraisal district’s appraisal review board.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 361 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 365 **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Landgraf **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 365 amends the Utilities Code to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas to require an applicant for a certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) to provide written notice of each electrical substation proposed to be authorized by the CCN to each owner of property adjacent to the property on which the substation will be located and to each owner of property located directly across a highway, road, or street that is adjacent to the property on which the substation will be located.

Senate Bill 371 **Senate Author:** Eckhardt et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Turner et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 371 amends the Education Code to change the number of years of ROTC training that a recipient of the Texas armed services scholarship must complete, if applicable, from four years to one year for each year that the student receives the scholarship. The bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to post online and provide to applicable students information on the minimum and recommended ROTC service requirements for each military branch with which a scholarship recipient may choose to serve after graduating.

[Senate Bill 372](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Leach et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 372 amends the Government Code to create a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person, other than a justice or judge, who has access to non-public judicial work product and knowingly discloses, wholly or partly, the contents of any such work product to a person who is not court staff routinely involved in crafting an opinion or decision for an adjudicatory proceeding. The bill establishes as a defense to prosecution for the offense that the disclosure is authorized either in writing by the justice or judge for whom the work product is prepared or under the Texas Supreme Court's rules. The bill requires a justice or judge of an applicable court to comply with supreme court rules governing the confidentiality of non-public judicial work product and requires a person, other than a justice or judge, who is involved in crafting an opinion or decision for an adjudicatory proceeding, including a court staff attorney, court clerk, or law clerk, to maintain the confidentiality of all such work product in accordance with those rules.

[Senate Bill 374](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** DeAyala **House Committee:** Corrections

Senate Bill 374 amends the Government Code to revise provisions relating to the period for disposing of a charge that a person violated a condition of release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). The bill removes the following conditions for TDCJ to dispose of the applicable charge against a person before the 41st day after the date on which a warrant for the return of the person is executed:

- that the person is not charged before the 41st day after the date on which the warrant is executed of an offense other than a fine only offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle; and
- that the sheriff having custody of the person notifies TDCJ that the person has discharged the sentence for the offense or the prosecution of the alleged offense has been dismissed by the state's attorney.

The bill removes the condition for TDCJ to dispose of the charges within a reasonable time after the date on which the inmate or person is returned to the custody of TDCJ that immediately before the return the person was in custody in another state or in a federal correctional system or is transferred to the custody of TDCJ pending the hearing regarding revocation of parole, mandatory supervision, or conditional pardon.

Senate Bill 374 provides for a parole panel, a designee of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, or TDCJ to dispose of the charges against a person who has violated a condition of release on the 91st day after the date on which a warrant issued for the return of that inmate or person is executed if the inmate or person allegedly committed an offense after release and an indictment, information, or complaint for the offense has not been filed in court.

[Senate Bill 375](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Redistricting, Special
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Darby **House Committee:** Redistricting

Senate Bill 375 ratifies and adopts the districts established by the 87th Legislature as the permanent districts used to elect members of the Texas Senate beginning with the primary and general elections in 2024 for members of the 89th Legislature.

[Senate Bill 379](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Howard et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 379 amends the Tax Code to exempt from the sales and use tax a wound care dressing, an adult or children's diaper, a baby wipe, a feminine hygiene product, an article of maternity clothing, a breast milk pumping product, and a baby bottle.

Senate Bill 380
Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Moody

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 380 amends the Government Code to exempt a party to a court proceeding who files a statement of inability to afford payment of court costs under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure from the requirement to provide an interpreter at the party's expense or pay the costs associated with the services of a court-appointed interpreter that are incurred during the course of the court action, unless the statement has been contested and the court has ordered the party to pay costs pursuant to those rules. This exemption expressly is not intended to apply to interpreter services or other auxiliary aids for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have communication disabilities, which must be provided to those individuals free of charge under federal and state laws. The bill requires each county auditor, or other individual designated by the commissioners court of a county, in consultation with the district and county clerks, to submit to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System (OCA) certain information on the money the county spent during the preceding fiscal year to provide court-ordered interpretation services in civil and criminal proceedings. The bill requires OCA annually to submit to the legislature a report that aggregates such information by county and to publish the report on OCA's website.

Senate Bill 386
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hall et al.
House Sponsor: Harless et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 386, the Richard Houston II Act, amends the Penal Code to establish a presumption, for purposes of prosecuting capital murder committed against a peace officer or fireman acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty, that the actor knew the person murdered was a peace officer or fireman if they were wearing a distinctive uniform or badge indicating their employment as such.

Senate Bill 401
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: Harless

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 401 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit an applicable medical staffing services agency, during a designated public health disaster period and in an area subject to a declared state of disaster, from providing medical staffing services to a health care organization or other entity in Texas at an exorbitant or excessive price or demanding or charging an exorbitant or excessive price to provide the medical staffing services. The bill subjects a medical staffing services agency that violates that prohibition to a civil penalty and establishes the authority of the consumer protection division of the office of the attorney general to enforce the bill.

Senate Bill 402
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Whitmire et al.
House Sponsor: Harless

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 402 amends the Government Code to include murder and capital murder among the offenses to which trial courts must give preference over other criminal actions when setting hearings and trials.

Senate Bill 409
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hinojosa et al.
House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 409 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to expand the group of offenses for which victims, guardians of victims, and close relatives of deceased victims are entitled to additional rights within the criminal justice system and to include among those rights the right to be informed about and confer with the state's attorney regarding the disposition of the offense, if requested.

[Senate Bill 412](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton et al.
House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 412 amends the Education Code to establish protections for students enrolled in public institutions of higher education who are pregnant or are the parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age, including by prohibiting an institution from requiring such a student to take certain actions solely because of their status as a pregnant or parenting student or due to issues related to pregnancy or parenting and by requiring an institution to provide certain accommodations to a pregnant student. The bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish minimum periods for which a pregnant or parenting student must be given a leave of absence and requires each institution to adopt a policy for students on pregnancy and parenting discrimination.

[Senate Bill 414](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton
House Sponsor: Hefner

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 414 amends the Transportation Code to designate the State Highway 19 bridge crossing Lake Fork Reservoir in Rains County as the Mildred McMillan Garrett Memorial Bridge.

[Senate Bill 415](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton
House Sponsor: Smith

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 415 amends the Occupations Code to revise the requirement for a state-licensed physician who submits an application for renewal of a registration permit and who designates a direct patient care practice on the application to complete an approved human trafficking-related course as part of the physician's continuing medical education requirements. Among other provisions, the bill removes the role of the Health and Human Services Commission in approving the course, requires such a physician to complete at least one hour of continuing medical education regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons, and sets out the duties of the Texas Medical Board regarding the content of and approval requirements for that continuing medical education.

[Senate Bill 422](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton et al.
House Sponsor: Wilson

Senate Committee: Veteran Affairs
House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 422 amends the Occupations Code, with respect to state agency-issued occupational licenses that have a residency requirement, to extend the agency's recognition currently afforded to military spouses regarding their occupational licenses to the out-of-state occupational licenses of military service members who provide documentation, as determined by applicable agency rule, establishing such residency. Among other provisions, the bill also provides that a military spouse with a verified out-of-state license, in the event that the person's status as a military spouse is affected, to continue to engage in the applicable business or occupation until the third anniversary of the license verification.

[Senate Bill 423](#)
Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Paxton
House Sponsor: Wilson et al.

Senate Committee: Border Security
House Committee: Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 423 amends the Government Code to provide that an image captured using an unmanned aircraft in Texas by the Texas military forces as part of an operation, exercise, or mission of such forces is a lawfully captured image.

[Senate Bill 427](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: González, Mary

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 427 amends the Education Code to require a college or university receiving state support or state aid from public funds to enter into an agreement with another postsecondary educational institution

to offer at least three semester credit hours or the equivalent in Texas History to the college or university's undergraduate students if the college or university does not itself offer those credit hours.

Senate Bill 435 **Senate Author:** Middleton et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 5-24-23 **House Sponsor:** Bonnen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 435 amends the Government Code to authorize a prosecutor to permit a victim's family member or a victim, as applicable, to view a medical examiner's report and video evidence of a crime that resulted in a person's death. The bill prohibits a person permitted to view that evidence from duplicating, recording, or otherwise memorializing the information and authorizes the use of a confidentiality agreement by the prosecutor.

Senate Bill 459 **Senate Author:** Paxton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Harris, Caroline et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 459 amends the Education Code to require a public institution of higher education to provide early registration for courses or programs for a student who is the parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age in the same manner early registration is provided for any group of students, if applicable.

Senate Bill 464 **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Administration
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Lopez, Janie **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 464 amends the Government Code to designate October 17 as Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Day to recognize entrepreneurship as a career path for all people with disabilities and bring awareness and inclusion to every aspect of the workforce. The bill authorizes the regular observance of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Day by appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

Senate Bill 467 **Senate Author:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Leach **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 467 amends the Penal Code to increase the penalty for criminal mischief to a third-degree felony if the actor causes wholly or partly impairment or disruption to a retail motor fuel pump, regardless of the amount of pecuniary loss.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 467 would impose a harsher sentence for tampering with a gas pump than for damaging the electric grid or cutting a livestock fence. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 469 **Senate Author:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 469 amends the Water Code to change the rural political subdivisions that are eligible for assistance from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the rural water assistance fund.

Senate Bill 471 **Senate Author:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Harris, Cody **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 471 amends the Water Code to establish that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is not required to investigate the following complaints:

- a complaint that may be addressed during other TCEQ activities; or
- a complaint that was filed by an individual when there is not a reasonable probability that the TCEQ can substantiate the complaint and either:
 - the complaint is repetitious or redundant of other complaints concerning the same site investigated in the preceding 12 months that were not substantiated by the TCEQ; or

- the complainant has filed in the preceding seven years at least five complaints that were not substantiated by the TCEQ.

Senate Bill 477

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Bucy et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 477 amends the Election Code to establish the following requirements for accommodating voters with disabilities at a polling place:

- an election officer must give voting order priority at the polling place to a person with a mobility problem that substantially impairs the person’s ability to ambulate;
- notice of that priority must be posted at each entrance to a polling place; and
- each polling place must reserve a parking area for curbside voting by voters unable to enter the polling place that is clearly marked and provides a method by which the voter may request assistance from an election officer.

The bill requires all procedures and accommodations available for voters with disabilities to be posted in an accessible manner on the county clerk’s website.

Senate Bill 477 requires the early voting clerk to post the official mail-in ballot application form on the clerk’s website, if one exists, in a format that allows a person to easily complete the application directly on the website before printing. The bill requires the secretary of state to provide such a form to the clerk and authorizes the clerk to use either the provided form or the clerk’s own form.

Senate Bill 478

Effective: See below

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: King, Ken

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 478 amends the Transportation Code to remove certain eligibility requirements to apply for an instructor license regarding motorcycle operation and safety and to instead require the applicant to have completed an instructor training course approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The bill prohibits an individual from offering or conducting an instructor training course unless the individual holds an instructor training provider license issued by TDLR, and such a course must be approved by TDLR, offered and conducted in accordance with the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation’s rules, and conducted at a motorcycle school. These provisions, among others, take effect January 1, 2024.

Senate Bill 478, in provisions that take effect September 1, 2023, exempts a person who holds a valid driver’s license issued by another state that includes an authorization to operate a motorcycle from the following:

- license application requirements for a Class M license or other license that includes an authorization to operate a motorcycle;
- the requirement to complete and pass an applicable driver education course; and
- requirements for an application for an original commercial driver’s license that includes an authorization to operate a motorcycle.

Senate Bill 483

Effective: 5-13-23

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Johnson, Ann et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 483 amends the Occupations Code to revise the criminal history criteria that makes a person ineligible for a license as a massage establishment, massage school, massage therapist, or massage therapy instructor. The bill gives the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) or the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation discretion in deciding whether to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a massage-related license or reprimand the license holder based on certain

conduct or violations related to the license. The bill additionally authorizes TCLR or the executive director to impose an administrative penalty on a license holder for any such conduct.

Senate Bill 485 **Senate Author:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Administration
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 485 amends the Government Code to designate the second Saturday in October as Hospice and Palliative Care Day to bring awareness to the role of hospice and palliative care in optimizing the quality of life for seriously ill patients and their families.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 485 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 490 **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Harris, Caroline et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 490 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a health care provider that requests payment from a patient after providing a health care service or related supply to the patient to submit with the request a written, itemized bill of the alleged cost of each service and supply provided to the patient during the patient’s visit to the provider. The bill sets out the required contents of and the deadline for providing such an itemized bill, authorizes a provider to issue the itemized bill electronically, and entitles a patient to obtain the itemized bill on request at any time after the bill is initially issued. Additionally, the bill provides for disciplinary action by an appropriate licensing authority for violations of the bill and prohibits a provider from pursuing debt collection against a patient for a provided health care service or supply unless the provider has complied with the bill.

Senate Bill 493 **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Hefner et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans’ Affairs

Senate Bill 493 amends the Government Code to require that a former member of the U.S. armed forces who received a less than honorable discharge solely due to their refusal to receive a vaccination against COVID-19 be considered to have received an honorable discharge for purposes of determining qualifications for any veterans benefits or services from the state.

Senate Bill 496 **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 496 requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, in consultation with the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, to conduct a study to identify improvements to 9-1-1 emergency service dispatcher training and submit a report containing the study’s results and any recommendations for action to the legislature.

Senate Bill 497 **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Lozano et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 497, the Texas Kratom Consumer Health and Safety Protection Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to provide certain consumer protections regarding the processing and sale of kratom. Among other provisions, the bill sets out labeling requirements for kratom products; prohibits a kratom processor or retailer from preparing, distributing, selling, or offering to sell kratom products that are adulterated or contaminated with certain harmful substances or that are otherwise prohibited; creates a Class C misdemeanor offense for a person who distributes, sells, or exposes for sale a kratom product to an individual younger than 18 years of age; and establishes a civil penalty structure for violations of the act.

[Senate Bill 498](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Johnson
House Sponsor: Smithee

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 498 amends the Government Code to remove the language conditioning the authority of the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to provide a particular service to a governmental entity through a statewide technology center on that service being provided to two or more specified governmental entities. Moreover, the bill requires DIR to specify the services a statewide technology center may provide.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Senate Bill No. 498 conflicts with House Bill No. 4553, which I have already signed into law. To avoid uncertainty, I am vetoing Senate Bill No. 498.”

[Senate Bill 500](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Thompson, Senfronia et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 500 amends the Occupations Code to increase from \$250,000 to \$750,000 the maximum authorized value of a residential dwelling offered or awarded as a prize at a charitable raffle that is purchased by the organization conducting the raffle or for which the organization provides any consideration.

[Senate Bill 502](#)

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

Effective: 5-23-23

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 502 amends the Natural Resources Code to revise the exemption from liability in tort relating to the transfer of drill cuttings for a beneficial use so that, unless otherwise provided by a contract or other written agreement, a person who generates drill cuttings and transfers the drill cuttings in an arm’s length transaction to an applicable and unaffiliated third-party permit holder under a contract that requires that the drill cuttings be used in connection with road building or another beneficial use or disposed of is not liable in tort for a consequence of the subsequent use or disposal of the drill cuttings by the permit holder or by another person under specified conditions.

[Senate Bill 505](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Nichols et al.
House Sponsor: Canales

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 505 amends the Transportation Code to impose an additional registration fee on an electric vehicle in the amount of \$400, for a vehicle requiring the two-year initial inspection, or \$200, for a vehicle requiring an annual inspection. The fee is due at the time of registration application or renewal and must be deposited to the state highway fund.

[Senate Bill 507](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Darby

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 507 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 87 in Concho County as the Deputy Samuel Leonard Memorial Highway.

[Senate Bill 508](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Darby

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 508 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of FM 765 in Concho County as the Sergeant Stephen Jones Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 510
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry et al.
House Sponsor: Longoria

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 510 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to provide for the confidentiality of certain identifying information held by state licensing agencies about current licensees or those applying for or who previously held an occupational license. Moreover, the bill revises the provisions authorizing a person licensed to practice law in Texas to opt to make certain personal information maintained by the State Bar of Texas confidential and prohibited from public disclosure under state public information law by, among other things, removing the opt-in requirement to receive the confidentiality protections.

Senate Bill 526
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: West
House Sponsor: Cook et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 526 amends the Education Code to require an entity that seeks to offer a degree or certificate program to a person confined in a penal institution or required to reside in a facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office to obtain prior approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer the program if enrollment in the program would make the person eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 526 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 532
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Kuempel et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 532 amends the Education Code to lower from five to three years the cap on the number of years a mental health professional may receive student loan repayment assistance and to raise the authorized annual amount of repayment assistance accordingly. The bill extends eligibility for such assistance to mental health professionals providing services to patients in a state hospital or to individuals receiving community-based mental health services from a local mental health authority. The bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to administer the loan repayment program in a manner that, as program openings occur, allows for the continuous consideration and acceptance of applicants.

Senate Bill 532 extends eligibility for the math and science scholars loan repayment program to teachers at any public school, rather than only schools that receive certain federal funding as provided under current law.

Senate Bill 532 revises the requirement for a general academic teaching institution to provide specified information regarding mental health and suicide prevention services to each entering full-time student by making that requirement applicable to all public institutions of higher education and all entering students and by requiring the provision of a campus map identifying any location at which mental health services are provided to students on campus and information regarding how to access the services. The bill requires a tour provided during an on-campus orientation for entering students to identify at least one such location that is available for use by all students of the institution.

Senate Bill 533
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton et al.
House Sponsor: Shaheen et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 533 amends the Occupations Code to require peace officers to complete a training program established by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement on responding to and investigating child fatalities.

[Senate Bill 538](#) **Senate Author:** King **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs
Effective: 6-2-23 **House Sponsor:** Raymond et al. **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 538 amends the Government Code to establish that the prohibitions against a state agency using appropriated money for certain publicity activities do not prohibit the Texas State Guard from using appropriated money for recruiting and retention purposes.

[Senate Bill 539](#) **Senate Author:** Campbell **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 1-1-24 **House Sponsor:** Craddick **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 539 amends the Tax Code to require the collector for a taxing unit to indicate on each delinquent property tax roll if a delinquent tax included on the roll is legally deferred or abated under state law.

[Senate Bill 540](#) **Senate Author:** Campbell **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Isaac **House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 540 amends the Transportation Code to make police officers of certain cities in Comal County eligible to apply for certification to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards.

[Senate Bill 543](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources &
Economic Development
Effective: 5-24-23 **House Sponsor:** Ordaz **House Committee:** Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 543 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a municipality that has entered into an economic development agreement with an entity for the administration of an economic development program to transfer to that entity real property or an interest in real property for consideration, subject to certain conditions. The bill requires a municipality to provide public notice within 10 days before the date of the transfer.

[Senate Bill 544](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Moody **House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 544 amends the Education Code to require the State Board for Educator Certification to propose rules providing for a person who has at least two semesters' experience as a full-time instructor for the Community College of the Air Force and enrolls in an educator preparation program to be issued a temporary teaching certificate and to receive program credit for the person's education, training, and clinical or professional experience as an instructor for the Community College of the Air Force.

[Senate Bill 545](#) **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Toth **House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 545 amends the Health and Safety Code and Election Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to implement an efficient and effective method to provide death information, including a deceased person's full name, date of birth, and county of residence, to the secretary of state to assist in maintaining the statewide computerized voter registration list and to enter into a specified memorandum of understanding with the secretary of state for implementing the method. The bill requires a death certificate to include the county where the decedent died and the decedent's county of last legal residence.

[Senate Bill 565](#) **Senate Author:** Sparks **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Darby **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 565 amends the law to postpone the deadline by which the Health and Human Services Commission is required to execute an appropriate instrument to release and nullify a right of reverter with respect to an exchange of property in Howard County between the West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Cap Rock Holdings, LLC, a Texas limited liability company.

[Senate Bill 569](#) **Senate Author:** Springer **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Stucky **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 569 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to entitle a municipality to impose a record production or certification fee in the same amount and manner provided by state public information law for a copy of public information on receipt of a request for production or certification of a record under a subpoena, a request for production, or other instrument in relation to a matter to which the municipality is not a party and that is issued under the authority of a tribunal that compels the production or certification. The bill establishes that the document custodian who produces or certifies such a record but who is not required to appear in court is not entitled to a witness fee.

[Senate Bill 576](#) **Senate Author:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Thierry **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 576 amends the Penal Code to establish a rebuttable presumption that any transfer, appropriation, or use of an elderly individual's money or other property by a paid or unpaid caregiver of the individual is wrongful for purposes of what constitutes "financial abuse" or "financial exploitation" and thus an offense of financial abuse of an elderly individual if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the actor knew or should have known that, at the time of the offense, the elderly individual had been diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or a related disorder.

Senate Bill 576 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to immediately notify an appropriate law enforcement agency on receipt of a report of alleged abuse or exploitation that DFPS believes constitutes an offense of financial abuse of an elderly individual. The bill also makes certain clarifications to current law regarding the duty of a caseworker or the caseworker's supervisor to immediately make a report to law enforcement if the caseworker or supervisor has cause to believe that an elderly person or a person with disabilities has been abused, neglected, or exploited by another person in a manner that constitutes an offense under any law.

[Senate Bill 577](#) **Senate Author:** Springer et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Harris, Cody et al. **House Committee:** County Affairs

Senate Bill 577 amends the Health and Safety Code to establish provisions relating to the inspection of food service establishments following the adoption of certain municipal ordinances. The bill prohibits a municipality or an applicable public health district from conducting an inspection to determine compliance with an ordinance the municipality adopts that is different from state law or Department of State Health Services (DSHS) rules or orders before the 60th day following the date the municipality or district submits a copy of the ordinance to DSHS for inclusion in the online municipal ordinance registry created by the bill.

Senate Bill 577 prohibits DSHS, a county, a municipality, or a public health district that conducts authorized inspections from taking disciplinary action against or otherwise penalizing such establishments for failing to adhere to easily cleanable surface requirements, provided the surfaces are kept clean, and from restricting the type or quantity of packaging, utensils, or straws the establishments provide to customers. The bill prohibits a county or a municipality with a public health district that charges a fee for the issuance or renewal of a food establishment-related permit for a premises permitted or licensed by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission from also charging a local fee for an alcoholic beverage permit or license for the premises.

[Senate Bill 578](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Thompson, Senfronia et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 578 amends the Family Code to include county of residence among the personal information of a person applying for or protected by a family violence protective order that may be kept confidential by the court on request.

[Senate Bill 580](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 580 amends the Local Government Code to extend the conditional authority of certain county commissioners courts to cancel a subdivision for which the plat was filed and approved before September 1, 1989, and that has remained undeveloped to apply to real property located in a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction if the property is not subject to an applicable written agreement between the county and the municipality that authorizes the municipality to regulate subdivision plats and approve related permits in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

[Senate Bill 593](#) **Senate Author:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** Frank et al. **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 593 amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to contract with an independent entity to conduct an assessment of HHSC's and the Department of Family and Protective Services' rules, minimum standards, and contract requirements that apply to child-placing agencies, residential child-care facilities including foster homes, relative caregivers, and adoptive homes and the standards or oversight requirements prescribed by law. The bill sets out guidelines for the assessment and requires the independent entity to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to those state agencies. The bill requires HHSC to publish the report online and to submit a copy of the report and a plan for implementing the entity's recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the appropriate standing committees.

[Senate Bill 594](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Lozano et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 594 amends the Health and Safety Code and Water Code to require a drinking water supply provided by a public drinking water supply system to provide a quantity of water or capacity of water sufficient to serve the number of connections served by the system. The bill requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by rule to establish connection equivalency values for each meter size used to serve an applicable recreational vehicle park for use in determining the number of connections served by a system that provides service through meters. The bill requires an applicable retail public utility providing water or sewer service to such a park to ensure that billing for the service is based on actual water usage recorded by the utility and prohibits the utility from imposing a surcharge based on the number of recreational vehicle or cabin sites in the park.

[Senate Bill 599](#) **Senate Author:** Birdwell et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Anderson et al. **House Committee:** Community Safety, Select

Senate Bill 599 amends the Government Code to authorize a district or county clerk to obtain a handgun license using the streamlined procedures established for an active judicial officer, contingent on the clerk satisfying all applicable requirements, and to require the Department of Public Safety to waive any fee required for the issuance of an original, duplicate, or renewed handgun license for a district or

county clerk. Additionally, an applicable clerk, for purposes of obtaining a handgun license may establish evidence of handgun proficiency by obtaining a sworn statement from an approved handgun proficiency instructor. The bill also amends the Penal Code to exempt such a clerk carrying a handgun with a handgun license from the application of the offenses of unlawful carrying of a weapon and possessing or going with certain weapons in a place where weapons are prohibited.

[Senate Bill 602](#) **Senate Author:** Birdwell et al. **Senate Committee:** Border Security
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Harless **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 602 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to require the Department of Public Safety to develop a training program for federal border patrol agents on Texas' criminal laws and provide the program to an agent on request. The bill grants a border patrol agent who completes the training the powers of arrest and search and seizure as to any Texas felony offense if the arrest, search, or seizure is incident to a detention under federal law and occurs on the premises of a designated port of entry or at a border patrol traffic checkpoint.

[Senate Bill 604](#) **Senate Author:** King **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: See below **House Sponsor:** Hefner **House Committee:** Energy Resources

Senate Bill 604 amends the Occupations Code and Tax Code to revise and expand the activities considered to be land services performed by a landman with respect to the franchise tax and the exemption from the State Bar Act and the Private Security Act. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect May 24, 2023.

[Senate Bill 614](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Frank **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 614 amends the Family Code to revise provisions governing parental child safety placement agreements, which provide for the temporary out-of-home placement of a child with a caregiver during an investigation by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) or while the person making the placement is receiving services from DFPS. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires DFPS to notify both the person making the placement and the caregiver of the right to consult with an attorney;
- establishes limits on the duration of a placement agreement, the number of times the agreement may be renewed, and the total amount of time a child may be placed outside of their home without either a court order or the agreement of the child's parent and the parent's attorney;
- requires a placement agreement to include specified language regarding those limits and the voluntary nature of the agreement; and
- requires DFPS to report certain data relating to these placements.

[Senate Bill 617](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Border Security
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** González, Mary et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 617 amends the Tax Code to extend confidentiality protections for certain home address information in local property tax appraisal records to a customs and border protection officer or border patrol agent of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to the spouse, surviving spouse, or adult child of such an officer or agent.

Senate Bill 621
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Parker et al.
House Sponsor: Capriglione

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 621 amends the Government Code to codify the position of chief information security officer (CISO) within the Department of Information Resources. The bill tasks the CISO with overseeing cybersecurity matters for the state and sets out required duties for that position.

Senate Bill 622
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Parker et al.
House Sponsor: Smithee

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 622 amends the Insurance Code to require an applicable health benefit plan issuer that covers prescription drugs under a plan's pharmacy benefit to provide information regarding a covered prescription drug to an enrollee or the enrollee's prescribing provider on request. Such information includes the issuer's drug formulary and, for the prescription drug and any formulary alternative, the enrollee's eligibility, cost-sharing information, and applicable utilization management requirements. The bill sets out requirements regarding the issuer's provision of that information and provides for delayed compliance with the bill's requirements for an issuer with fewer than 10,000 enrollees.

Senate Bill 627

Senate Author: Menéndez

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

Effective: 6-18-23

House Sponsor: Allison

House Committee: Ways & Means

The City of San Antonio is among the municipalities entitled to receive certain tax revenue derived from a qualified hotel and convention center project located in the municipality and authorized to pledge or commit certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project. Under state law, a hotel or convention center project must be wholly owned by the municipality in order to be considered a qualified project for purposes of that entitlement.

Senate Bill 627 amends the Tax Code to exempt the City of San Antonio from that municipal ownership requirement and to entitle the city also to receive the sales and use tax and mixed beverage tax revenue derived from qualifying restaurants, bars, spas, retail establishments, and swimming pools and facilities located near a qualified hotel or convention center facility in the city. The bill provides for establishments located on land owned by a nonprofit corporation, including a public facility corporation, that is acting as or on behalf of, or that is controlled by, the city to be classified as a "qualified establishment" for purposes of that additional entitlement. The bill provides for the recapturing of lost state tax revenue from the city in the event the total amount of state tax revenue received by the city from the state in the first 10 years a qualified hotel project is open for occupancy exceeds the amount of revenue received by the state from the same sources over the next 10 years thereafter.

Senate Bill 629

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

Senate Committee: Education

Effective: 6-18-23

House Sponsor: Talarico et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 629 amends the Education Code and Government Code to require each public school district to adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists at each campus in the district that serves students in grades 6 through 12 and sets out provisions regarding the content of such a policy. The bill provides for such a policy to be adopted at district campuses serving grade levels below grade 6 and at campuses of an open-enrollment charter school or private school. The bill authorizes the use of money from the opioid abatement account to support efforts to prevent or reduce deaths from opioid overdoses or other opioid-related harms through increasing the availability or distribution of opioid antagonists by schools under such a policy.

Senate Bill 629 makes each district, charter school, or private school that adopts the policy responsible for training school personnel and volunteers in the administration of an opioid antagonist and requires the training to include specified information on recognizing and responding to an opioid-related drug

overdose. The bill provides for a physician or person who has been delegated prescriptive authority in accordance with state law to prescribe opioid antagonists in the name of a district, charter school, or private school and to provide a general standing order for the administration of the opioid antagonist. The bill grants a person who in good faith takes, or fails to take, any action regarding the maintenance and administration of opioid antagonists immunity from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action and grants to a district, charter school, or private school and school personnel and school volunteers immunity from suit resulting from an act, or failure to act, under the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 640 **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Metcalf **House Committee:** House Administration

Senate Bill 640 amends the Government Code to establish the duties of the State Preservation Board and the Texas Facilities Commission in providing facilities management services for specified state legislative office buildings. The bill also provides for the responsibilities of the appropriate agency administrative heads in overseeing certain projects in legislative office buildings, the Capitol, and the Capitol Extension.

Senate Bill 643 **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Thompson, Senfronia et al. **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 643 amends the Occupations Code to update and revise provisions regarding the operation of charitable bingo under the Bingo Enabling Act. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the issuance of 48 temporary bingo licenses to regular bingo license holders for each 12-month period ending on the anniversary of the regular license issuance or renewal date, extends the current one-year expiration date of a regular bingo license to two years, raises the cap on the total amount of regular bingo prizes that may be awarded on a single bingo occasion for all bingo games other than pull-tab bingo or bingo games that award individual prizes of \$50 or less, clarifies the imposition of penalties, and updates provisions relating to the remittance of prize fees to a county or municipality.

Senate Bill 646 **Senate Author:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Kuempel **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 646 amends the Education Code to provide for Lamar State College-Orange to receive formula funding for contact hours taught through distance education to certain students who reside in another state and who pay in-state tuition.

Senate Bill 656 **Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 656 amends the Transportation Code to provide for an optional designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate indicating that the license or certificate holder has a health condition or disability that may impede communication with a peace officer.

Senate Bill 658 **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Leach **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 658 amends the Property Code to require the comptroller of public accounts to deposit to the credit of the basic civil legal services account of the judicial fund certain money delivered to the comptroller as money in an abandoned account established as required by the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program or as unclaimed or unidentified money in a client trust account established by an attorney or law firm. The bill restricts the appropriation of that deposited money to the Texas Supreme Court for use in programs approved by the supreme court that provide basic civil legal services to indigent

persons. The bill requires the supreme court to reimburse the comptroller from the basic civil legal services account for the amount of any claim that the comptroller pays for money deposited to the credit of the account under the bill's provisions.

[Senate Bill 664](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 664 amends the Health and Safety Code to provide labeling requirements for analogue products, which are food products derived by combining processed plant products, insects, or fungus with food additives to imitate egg, fish, meat, poultry, or a product derived of such foods, and for cell-cultured products, which are food products derived by harvesting animal cells and artificially replicating those cells in a laboratory to produce tissue.

[Senate Bill 667](#) **Senate Author:** West et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Dutton et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 667 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Historical Commission to establish and administer a state historical marker program to honor African Americans who served in the Texas Legislature during Reconstruction.

[Senate Bill 681](#) **Senate Author:** Johnson **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Hull **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 681 amends the Health and Safety Code to make Occupations Code provisions establishing the consequences of criminal conviction on occupational licensure inapplicable with respect to the issuance or renewal of a nursing facility administrator license, a medication aide permit, or a nurse aide's certificate of registration or an applicant's inclusion in the nurse aide registry.

[Senate Bill 691](#) **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Wilson et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 691 amends the Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act, Health and Safety Code, to establish an exemption from inspection requirements for the slaughter of livestock under the ownership of an animal share and for the preparation of meat and meat food products prepared from livestock subject to an animal share, subject to certain conditions. The bill provides for the required terms of an animal share executed by a co-owner and a farmer or rancher and prohibits a farmer or rancher from publishing a statement implying the approval or endorsement by the Department of State Health Services regarding animal share meat or products. Additionally, the bill prohibits a person from selling, donating, or commercially redistributing meat or meat food products produced pursuant to the bill's animal share exemption, and the bill provides for the imposition of a civil penalty for violating that prohibition.

[Senate Bill 694](#) **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Leach **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 694 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to grant a religious organization or security personnel of a religious organization immunity from civil liability for any act or omission by the security personnel resulting in death, damage, or injury if the security personnel was acting in the course and scope of their employment or volunteer duties or functions, as applicable, to provide security services to the organization, including an intentional act and an act involving possession or use of a firearm.

Senate Bill 699
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.
House Sponsor: Howard et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 699 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of Central Health's authority to administer and operate a health care provider participation program in Travis County, and the expiration of provisions governing the program, from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2027.

Senate Bill 702
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Harris, Caroline

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 702 amends the Transportation Code to require a contract entered into by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles with a private vendor for the marketing and sale of specialty plates to allow for a range of premium embossed specialty license plates to be sourced, marketed, and sold by the vendor.

Senate Bill 718
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton
House Sponsor: Cook

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 718 amends the Family Code to require the court in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to order additional periods of possession of or access to a child to compensate for a denial of court-ordered possession or access due to a Department of Family and Protective Services investigation that did not result in a finding of abuse or neglect unless a party shows good cause why the order should not be rendered.

Senate Bill 719
Effective: 1-1-24

Senate Author: Paxton
House Sponsor: Thierry

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 719 amends the Tax Code to include providing services related to planning for the placement of or placing children in foster or adoptive homes or providing support or relief to women who are or may be pregnant and who are considering placing their unborn children for adoption among the services at least one of which a charitable organization organized exclusively to perform religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes must be engaged exclusively in performing to be eligible for the property tax exemption for qualifying charitable organizations.

Senate Bill 728
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.
House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Community Safety, Select

Senate Bill 728 amends the Government Code to provide that the clerk of a court must report mental health and intellectual disability information, with respect to certain children who are at least 16 years of age, for purposes of a federal firearm background check. The bill also amends the Family Code to exclude from records considered confidential under the juvenile justice code a juvenile record provided to the FBI for use with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and an applicable juvenile record forwarded to the Department of Public Safety.

Senate Bill 729
Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.
House Sponsor: Bonnen

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 729 amends the Government Code to revise and clarify certain provisions relating to the cash balance benefit for new members of the Employees Retirement System of Texas hired or taking office on or after September 1, 2022. Among other provisions, the bill, without amending the current benefit structure, does the following:

- gives a retiring member who is in the cash balance benefit group the option of electing to receive an optional cash balance annuity as an alternative to receiving the standard cash balance annuity;

- gives a cash balance group member who retired and selected an optional lifetime cash balance annuity the option of changing the annuity to a standard cash balance annuity;
- authorizes a member who is eligible for a cash balance annuity to select a standard cash balance annuity or an optional cash balance annuity together with a partial lump-sum distribution;
- revises provisions relating to the gain sharing interest adjustment for annuitants of a cash balance benefit; and
- sets out provisions regarding the reestablishment by a cash balance group member of previously canceled service credit.

Senate Bill 736

Effective: 6-2-23

Senate Author: Whitmire et al.

House Sponsor: Perez

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 736 amends the Local Government Code to provide for mandatory arbitration between the City of Houston and the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 341 if the parties reach an impasse in collective bargaining or are unable to settle following the failure to approve a contract reached through collective bargaining.

Senate Bill 739

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Oliverson et al.

Senate Committee: Administration

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 739 amends the Government Code to designate October 10 as Supportive Palliative Care Awareness Day to raise awareness about supportive palliative care optimizing the quality of life for seriously ill patients and their families.

Senate Bill 745

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Noble

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Current law contains provisions regarding Medicaid fraud prevention, including provisions that authorize the attorney general to investigate fraud that occurs within the Medicaid program and to bring civil enforcement actions against those who commit unlawful acts. Senate Bill 745 amends the Human Resources Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to extend the applicability of those provisions to CHIP and the Healthy Texas Women program.

Senate Bill 760

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: LaMantia

House Sponsor: Moody et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 760 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize a justice of the peace to order a physician, qualified technician, paramedic, chemist, registered professional nurse, or licensed vocational nurse to take a blood specimen from the body of a deceased person to aid in the confirmation or determination of the cause and manner of death while conducting an inquest.

Senate Bill 761

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Lambert et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 761 repeals the Business & Commerce Code provision that provides for the expiration on September 1, 2023, of statutory provisions authorizing a merchant to require an individual using a credit card or debit card to provide photo identification that verifies the individual's identity as the cardholder and to choose not to accept the card for payment if the individual fails to provide the photo identification.

Senate Bill 763**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Middleton et al.**House Sponsor:** Hefner et al.**Senate Committee:** Education**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 763 amends the Education Code to provide for a public school district or open-enrollment charter school to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the board of trustees of the district or the governing body of the charter school. Such a chaplain is not required to be certified by the State Board for Educator Certification. The bill sets out conditions for employing or accepting as a volunteer a chaplain and requires each board of trustees and each governing body to take a record vote on whether to adopt a policy authorizing such employment or acceptance as a volunteer not later than six months after the bill's effective date. The bill authorizes the use of funds from the school safety allotment for costs associated with certain support, services, and programs provided by chaplains.

Senate Bill 768**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Parker**House Sponsor:** Capriglione et al.**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Business & Industry

Senate Bill 768 amends the Business & Commerce Code to change the deadline by which a person who conducts business in Texas and owns or licenses computerized data that includes sensitive personal information must disclose to or notify the attorney general of a breach of system security that involves at least 250 Texas residents. The deadline is currently set at the 60th day after the date on which the person determines that the breach occurred but the bill requires that disclosure or notification instead be made as soon as practicable but not later than the 30th day after that date.

Senate Bill 773**Effective:** 6-18-23**Senate Author:** Parker**House Sponsor:** Toth et al.**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 773, the Medical Freedom Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to permit the use of investigational drugs, biological products, and devices by eligible patients who have a severe chronic disease that is designated as such by the commissioner of state health services, whose physician has considered and ruled out all other available treatment options, and who provides written informed consent. The bill provides protections for manufacturers of an investigational drug, biological product, or device and for persons or entities involved in the care of an eligible patient regarding access to and treatment with such a drug, product, or device. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state from interfering with an eligible patient's access to an investigational drug, biological product, or device unless it is adulterated or misbranded.

Senate Bill 780**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Hefner et al.**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 780 amends the Family Code to include a full-time local government fire department among the designated emergency infant care providers to which a parent may voluntarily surrender a newborn child who is 60 days old or younger. The bill authorizes a designated emergency infant care provider to place a newborn safety device, commonly known as a baby box, inside the provider's facilities to take possession of such a child and establishes safety requirements for the device.

Senate Bill 784**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Birdwell**House Sponsor:** Landgraf**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development**House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 784 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to establish that, to the extent not preempted by federal law, the state has exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in Texas. The bill prohibits a political subdivision from enacting or enforcing a measure that directly regulates such emissions.

Senate Bill 785

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

Effective: 6-18-23

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 785 amends the Insurance Code and Natural Resources Code to establish that, except as otherwise expressly provided by a binding obligation, the geothermal energy and associated resources below the surface of land are owned as real property by either the landowner or, if the surface estate and the mineral estate of the land have been severed, by the surface estate's owner. Subject to the Geothermal Resources Act of 1975, the property rights provided by the bill entitle the owner of the geothermal energy and associated resources and the owner's lessee, heir, or assignee to drill for and produce the energy and resources. The bill authorizes a title insurance company to include in a commitment for title insurance or a title insurance policy a general exception or a special exception to except from coverage the geothermal energy and associated resources below the surface of the land or an instrument that purports to reserve or transfer all or part of the energy and resources.

Senate Bill 786

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Darby et al.

House Committee: Energy Resources

Senate Bill 786 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to grant the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) jurisdiction over closed-loop geothermal injection wells and to authorize the RRC to issue permits for such wells. The bill provides for the transfer of the regulation of such wells from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the RRC.

Senate Bill 796

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

Effective: Vetoed

House Sponsor: Johnson, Ann

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 796 amends the Insurance Code to require an arbitration under a surplus lines insurance contract that is related to a risk located entirely in Texas to be conducted in Texas and to require the insurance contract, including the arbitration agreement, to be interpreted in accordance with Texas law. The bill prohibits those requirements from being construed as a defense to the enforcement of an arbitration agreement that complies with or has been reformed to comply with the bill or an award made under such an agreement.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Surplus lines insurance is a product for sophisticated parties who know how to bargain over the terms of an arbitration agreement. Senate Bill No. 796's interference with freedom of contract in this market could inadvertently increase premiums and drive out insurers who want to do business in Texas."

Senate Bill 798

Senate Author: Middleton

Senate Committee: Education

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Buckley

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 798 amends the Education Code to prohibit the qualifications for certification as a school counselor from including a requirement that a candidate for certification have experience as a classroom teacher.

Senate Bill 801

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Longoria

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 801 amends the Property Code to establish that the trustee of a trust is considered for all purposes to be the named party to an instrument that names the trust as a party to the instrument in any capacity, unless the trust is a legal entity under state law, and that such consideration is effective as of the effective date of the original instrument. The bill authorizes, but expressly does not require, the trustee of

a trust that is the named party to a recorded instrument to be identified by a correction instrument. The bill establishes that a document purporting to be a certification of trust is presumed to correctly identify the trust and trustee.

[Senate Bill 806](#) **Senate Author:** Paxton et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Manuel et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 806 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to set out the duties of a peace officer who investigates a sexual assault incident or responds to a disturbance call that may involve sexual assault with regard to providing certain information to the victim, requesting a forensic medical examination on the victim's behalf, and coordinating with a local response team to provide the victim continuing care or further investigate the offense.

[Senate Bill 811](#) **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Ashby **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 811 amends the Agriculture Code and Parks and Wildlife Code to require the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), as applicable, to provide notice of the location and nature of a reportable wildlife disease outbreak on a property, upon becoming aware of such an outbreak, to each owner of adjacent property and to TPWD or the TAHC, as applicable. The Parks and Wildlife Commission may disclose to the TAHC certain information that is collected during technical guidance provided to a private landowner if that disclosure is needed to carry out a governmental purpose and may also disclose to the TAHC, as so needed, information collected by a TPWD employee on privately owned land for the purposes of scientific investigations and research regarding wild game or fish.

[Senate Bill 812](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Cortez et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 812, the Sergio Lopez Food Allergy Awareness Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to require a food service establishment to display a poster containing certain food allergen awareness information in an area of the establishment regularly accessible to food service employees. The bill requires the Department of State Health Services to determine the poster's form and content and to create and update a sample poster. Additionally, the bill provides for the inclusion of food allergen awareness information in applicable education and training programs and as a testable subject of the food manager certificate examination.

[Senate Bill 813](#) **Senate Author:** Miles et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Lopez, Ray et al. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 813 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to notify the state representative and state senator who represent the area where an applicable violation occurred of an administrative penalty or a proposed administrative order or agreement to settle an administrative enforcement action if the representative and senator have respectively elected to receive such a notice.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 813 would add unnecessary bureaucratic duties to what is already required by Texas law. Our goal should be to eliminate bureaucracy, not add to it."

Senate Bill 818
Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Alvarado
House Sponsor: Perez

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 818 amends the Water Code to revise provisions applicable to a navigation district's authority to dispose of district land by sale or lease to make them applicable to a district's authority to sell, lease, or exchange real property or any interest in real property. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes a navigation district to impose restrictions on the development, use, and transfer of the property or interest in connection with a sale or exchange and provides for a district's authority to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer property to an electric or telecommunications utility at a discount rate.

Senate Bill 820
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: Klick et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 820 amends the Business & Commerce Code to require a vision support organization providing business support services to a state-licensed optometrist or therapeutic optometrist to register, beginning February 1, 2024, with the secretary of state not later than January 31 of each year for which the registration is effective and to create a civil penalty for the failure to file a registration or a corrected registration.

Senate Bill 821
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Nichols et al.
House Sponsor: Bell, Keith

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 821 amends the Government Code to require the Sunset Advisory Commission, as part of its review of a state agency, to determine whether the agency sells personal data the agency possesses. If an agency sells personal data, the sunset commission must also determine to whom the data is sold, the purpose of such sale, the amount the agency received for the sale, and the law authorizing the sale. The bill requires the sunset commission to recommend prohibiting the sale of personal data unless the commission identifies a compelling state or public interest justifying the agency's authority to sell the personal data and requires the commission, if recommending continuing an agency's authority to sell personal data, to make any recommendations to protect the data from improper use and dissemination.

Senate Bill 825
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt
House Sponsor: Cunningham

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 825 amends the Election Code to extend the deadline for submitting a petition for an initial recount by one day and to provide for the deadline to roll over to the next regular business day if it falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or official state holiday. The bill also extends the deadline for submitting a petition for an expedited recount by one day.

Senate Bill 833
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: King et al.
House Sponsor: Oliverson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 833 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit an insurer authorized to engage in the business of insurance in Texas from using an environmental, social, or governance model, score, factor, or standard to charge a rate different than the rate charged to another business or risk in the same class for essentially the same hazard unless the insurer's actions are based on an ordinary insurance business purpose or financial solvency considerations reasonably related to loss experience for the different types of risks and coverages made available by a particular insurer. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the construction of its provisions and establishes that it does not require the filing of rates for any line, type of insurer, or type of insurance business that is not specifically required by statute to file rates with the Texas Department of Insurance.

[Senate Bill 838](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 5-5-23 **House Sponsor:** Thierry et al. **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select

Senate Bill 838 amends the Education Code to require each public school district and open-enrollment charter school to provide each classroom with silent panic alert technology that allows for immediate contact with district or charter school emergency services and emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments.

[Senate Bill 840](#) **Senate Author:** West et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Anchía et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 840, the Jacqueline “Jackie” Pokuaa and Katie “Annette” Flowers Act, amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for assault that causes bodily injury from a Class A misdemeanor to a third degree felony if committed against a person the actor knows is hospital personnel while the person is located on hospital property, including all land and buildings owned or leased by the hospital.

[Senate Bill 849](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 6-2-23 **House Sponsor:** Moody **House Committee:** County Affairs

Senate Bill 849 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of the El Paso County Hospital District’s authority to administer and operate a health care provider participation program, and the expiration of provisions governing the program, from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2027. The bill authorizes the district to impose and collect interest and penalties on delinquent mandatory payments assessed under the program in any amount that does not exceed the maximum amount authorized for other delinquent payments owed to the district.

[Senate Bill 850](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Price **House Committee:** Youth Health & Safety, Select

Senate Bill 850 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise the composition of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium and the consortium’s executive committee and to provide for the terms and reappointment of executive committee members.

[Senate Bill 855](#) **Senate Author:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Hull et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 855 amends the Government Code to include training on the dynamics of family violence among the required judicial training related to family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, and child abuse and neglect for judicial officers. The bill requires the rules adopted by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals related to such judicial training to require that at least one hour of training dedicated to the dynamics of family violence be completed as part of an applicable judge or judicial officer’s initial term of training and as part of their additional terms of training. The bill changes the subjects on which each judge and judicial officer must complete at least two hours of training as part of the additional five hours of training from issues related to trafficking of persons and child abuse and neglect to issues of child development that pertain to trafficking of persons and child abuse and neglect and medical findings regarding physical abuse, sexual abuse, trafficking of persons, and child abuse and neglect. The bill removes the exemption from the training requirement for each judge or judicial officer who files an affidavit stating that the judge or judicial officer does not hear any cases involving family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect.

Senate Bill 861 **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Buckley et al. **House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 861 amends the Insurance Code to set out provisions regarding the coordination of vision and eye care benefits and the responsibilities of the primary and secondary issuers of an applicable health benefit plan or vision benefit plan for an enrollee who is covered by at least two different health or vision benefit plans and each plan provides the enrollee coverage for the same vision or medical eye care services, procedures, or products. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the coordination of benefits provisions that are prohibited and voids a provision of a health or vision benefit plan that violates the bill.

Senate Bill 867 **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 6-17-23 **House Sponsor:** Rose et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 867 amends the Health and Safety Code to include public and private institutions of higher education among the entities to whom the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission may provide opioid antagonists under the opioid antagonist program.

Senate Bill 869 **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Smithee **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 869 amends the Estates Code and Family Code to make revisions to provisions relating to suits affecting the parent-child relationship and the enforcement of child support obligations. The bill does the following:

- establishes that an assignment to a third party of inherited property or an interest in such property by a child support obligor does not take effect to the extent that the property or interest could be applied to satisfy a support obligation;
- authorizes a party to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to use a digitized signature when executing a waiver of citation;
- requires a final order in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship to include each party's email address and requires a party to the order to provide notice of any change in their email address;
- provides clarification with respect to the application of Social Security Disability lump-sum payments paid directly to a child due to a child support obligor's disability;
- makes the prohibition against a court retroactively reducing child support, medical support, or dental support arrears applicable to all actions involving arrearages, rather than only enforcement actions as under current law;
- prohibits a court from delaying an adjudication of parentage solely because the court does have jurisdiction over all parties to the proceeding; and
- repeals a provision requiring that child support liens be renewed every 10 years to remain effective with respect to real property.

Senate Bill 870 **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Smithee **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 870 amends the Estates Code, Family Code, Government Code, Property Code, and Tax Code to revise provisions establishing procedures for child support cases and the powers and duties of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in its capacity as the Title IV-D agency. The bill makes certain clarifying changes to those provisions and also does the following:

- provides statutory authority for a court or the OAG to order an unemployed or underemployed child support obligor to participate in employment-related assistance programs when establishing, modifying, or enforcing a child support obligation and for the OAG to refer a non-delinquent obligor to employment services;

- establishes that a release of a child support lien does not require verification and exempts such a release from signature requirements for a paper document;
- requires notice to be provided to the OAG when there has been a reinstatement of an individual's parental rights to a child after an involuntary termination of those rights;
- authorizes certain child support proceedings and judicial actions to be conducted or performed using remote communication;
- authorizes the dismissal of frivolous, malicious, or baseless claims against the OAG or an OAG employee;
- requires the OAG to distribute a child support payment received on behalf of a child placed in substitute care to the appropriate state agency;
- provides for the administrative adjustment of support obligations during an obligor's incarceration;
- prohibits a court from ordering the OAG to release confidential or privileged information regarding child support cases;
- establishes that the OAG's authority to issue and enforce a child support review order containing a determination of arrearages is not subject to a certain time limitation on the court's jurisdiction to render a judgment for arrearages;
- requires the omission of a party's address when utilizing an unsworn declaration to execute a waiver during the child support review process (CSRP) if a nondisclosure order exists or is included in the CSRP order; and
- provides for the confidentiality of certain personal information of current or former employees of the OAG's child support division.

[Senate Bill 876](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Flores et al.
House Sponsor: Buckley et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Licensing &
 Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 876 amends the Dog or Cat Breeders Act, Occupations Code, to reduce from 11 to 5 the minimum number of adult intact female dogs or cats that a person engaged in the business of breeding those animals for sale or for exchange in return for consideration must possess to be considered a breeder under the act and to remove the condition that such a person sell or exchange, or offer to sell or exchange, at least 20 animals in a calendar year to be considered a breeder. The bill also removes the specification that the uses for which a dog may be bred that exempt a person from the act are for a personal use.

[Senate Bill 887](#)
Effective: 5-27-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Gerdes

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 887 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Maxwell Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Caldwell County.

[Senate Bill 888](#)
Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Frank

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 888 amends the Health and Safety Code to exempt a county courthouse constructed before September 1, 1989, and located in a county with a population of less than 50,000 from statutory provisions that require and regulate fire escapes.

[Senate Bill 893](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: King, Tracy O.

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 893 amends the Water Code to authorize the executive director of the Public Utility Commission of Texas to make, at the executive director's discretion or on the certificate holder's request,

certain corrections to a certificate of public convenience and necessity, without observing formal amendment procedures, by reissuing the certificate or issuing an endorsement to the certificate.

[Senate Bill 895](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson
House Sponsor: Lambert et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 895 amends the Finance Code to enact the Money Services Modernization Act, which modernizes the regulation of money services businesses with the goals of protecting the interests of purchasers of money services and the public, preserving and protecting the safety and soundness of money services businesses, and protecting against drug trafficking, terrorist funding, and money laundering, structuring, or related financial crimes. The bill, among other provisions, repeals the Money Services Act and authorizes the banking commissioner of Texas or a person designated by the banking commissioner and acting under the banking commissioner's direction and authority to participate in multistate supervisory processes that are coordinated through the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Money Transmitter Regulators Association, and other related affiliates and successors for all money services licensees that hold licenses in Texas and other states. The bill also makes conforming changes to the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Finance Code, Labor Code, and Tax Code.

[Senate Bill 904](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Springer et al.
House Sponsor: Landgraf

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Current law establishes an offense for the unauthorized use of parking designated for persons with disabilities. Senate Bill 904 amends the Transportation Code to establish that it is not a defense to prosecution for the offense that the space or area is not designated in compliance with applicable standards and specifications if the parking space or area is generally in compliance and is distinguishable as being designated for persons with disabilities. A peace officer may issue only a warning for such an offense if the parking space or area does not have sufficient identification designating its specific use for persons with disabilities.

[Senate Bill 922](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Orr et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 922 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to require the executive director of the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to allow a TPWD-commissioned peace officer to voluntarily transfer up to eight hours of compensatory time or annual leave per year to a legislative leave pool and to entitle such an officer to use time contributed to the leave pool for legislative leave on behalf of an applicable law enforcement association that is related to the officer's employment with TPWD.

[Senate Bill 924](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Springer
House Sponsor: Hayes

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 924 amends the Election Code to authorize a commissioners court of a county with a population of less than 1.2 million that does not participate in the countywide polling place program to combine county election precincts on recommendation of the county election board if the commissioners court cannot secure a suitable polling place location and the location of the combined polling place adequately serves the voters of the combined precinct. The bill removes the existing authorization to combine precincts if changes in precinct boundaries to give effect to a redistricting plan result in precincts where the number of registered voters does not meet a certain threshold. The bill raises from 5,000 to 10,000 the cap on the number of registered voters a combined precinct may contain.

[Senate Bill 926](#)
Effective: 5-13-23

Senate Author: Parker
House Sponsor: Thimesch

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Licensing &
 Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 926 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to provide for the temporary sale of wine and malt beverages by a mixed beverage permit holder in an area of a facility with a 40,000-plus seating capacity that is open to the public and not otherwise covered by a license or permit during a motor vehicle racing event sponsored by a professional motor racing association, subject to certain limitations. A mixed beverage permit holder temporarily selling wine and malt beverages, or the permit holder's officer, agent, or employee, may allow a person to possess, consume, and remove alcoholic beverages brought onto the premises by the person.

[Senate Bill 929](#)
Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Parker et al.
House Sponsor: Rogers et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 929 amends the Local Government Code to require a municipality's governing body or a municipal zoning commission to provide written notice of each public hearing regarding any proposed adoption of or change to a zoning regulation or boundary under which a current conforming use of a property would be a nonconforming use if the regulation or boundary were to be adopted or changed.

Senate Bill 929 authorizes a person using a property in a manner considered to be a nonconforming use as a result of the adoption of or change to a zoning regulation or boundary to continue to use the property in the same manner unless required by a municipality to stop the nonconforming use. The bill entitles a property owner or lessee who is required by a municipality to stop such a nonconforming use to the following remedies:

- certain payment from the municipality to compensate for such stoppage; or
- continued nonconforming use of the property until the owner or lessee recovers through the owner or lessee's continued business activities the amount of the applicable diminution in the property's market value.

The bill, among other provisions, provides for the appeal of the determination of a remedy.

[Senate Bill 938](#)
Effective: See below

Senate Author: Blanco
House Sponsor: Moody

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial
 Services

Senate Bill 938 amends the Water Code to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by property taxes to pay for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities, including parks, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 32.

[Senate Bill 943](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.
House Sponsor: Hunter

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 943 amends the Government Code to provide for a governmental entity's public notice to be published on the websites of the newspaper in which the notice is published and the Texas Press Association.

[Senate Bill 944](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: Lambert

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Current law requires an interdisciplinary team review and recommendation in order for a person to be admitted or committed to a residential care facility. Senate Bill 944 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a court to commit a proposed resident to long-term placement in a residential care facility

without such review and recommendation if the court determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the proposed resident meets the statutory requirements for commitment to a residential care facility. With respect to those requirements, the bill specifies that the evidence showing the proposed resident, because of their intellectual disability, represents certain risk of impairment or injury and cannot provide for their most basic personal physical needs because of their intellectual disability must be contained in either:

- a petition to the court to issue the commitment order by the guardian of the proposed resident or, if the proposed resident is a minor, the parent of the proposed resident; or
- the current interdisciplinary team report and recommendations.

Senate Bill 947

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: King et al.

House Sponsor: Hunter

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 947 amends the Penal Code to create the second degree felony offense of damaging a critical infrastructure facility for a person who does so and causes an extended power outage. The bill enhances the penalty for this offense to a first degree felony under certain circumstances and also enhances the penalty for manslaughter to a first degree felony if the defendant committed an offense of damaging a critical infrastructure facility that caused a person's death.

Senate Bill 956

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: LaMantia et al.

House Sponsor: Longoria

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 956 amends the Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Human Resources Code to eliminate the requirement for the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to develop and biennially update a coordinated, six-year strategic plan for health and human services in Texas.

Senate Bill 957

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Alvarado et al.

House Sponsor: Walle et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 957 amends the Transportation Code to designate a portion of U.S. Highway 59 in Harris County as the Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 975

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Dorazio et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 975 amends the Transportation Code to require the procedures for issuing a personal identification certificate to a person whose driver's license is surrendered to require that the person be notified of the need to update their voter registration information to include the certificate identification number and be provided an opportunity to do so at the time of applying for the certificate.

Senate Bill 983

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton

House Sponsor: Holland

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 983 amends the Government Code to exempt from required disclosure under state public information law any matter reasonably related to information involving the provision of cable, Internet, or broadband services by a municipally owned utility that provided such services and electricity services on or before January 1, 2003.

Senate Bill 983 requires a municipally owned utility that provides electricity and broadband services and that provided electricity services and cable, Internet, or broadband services on or before January 1, 2003, to maintain separate books and records of broadband service operations and to ensure that the rates charged for provision of electric service do not include any broadband service costs or any other costs not related to the provision of electric service.

[Senate Bill 987](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Kolkhorst
House Sponsor: Gerdes

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 987 amends the Government Code to remove the requirement for the comptroller of public accounts to provide copies of any recovery audit reports the comptroller receives to the governor, the state auditor’s office, and the Legislative Budget Board. Instead, the bill replaces the requirement for the comptroller to issue a biennial report to the legislature summarizing the activities conducted under the state recovery audit program during the state fiscal biennium ending August 31 of the previous year with a requirement for the comptroller to issue a single, annual report to the legislature and those other oversight entities summarizing all applicable recovery audits completed in the previous state fiscal year, if any such audits were completed.

Senate Bill 987 amends the Health and Safety Code to remove the requirement for the comptroller to give the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) under the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act information relating to the taxable value of property by each county for the relevant period, each county’s applicable general revenue tax levy, and the amount of sales and use tax revenue received by each county in that period and to authorize DSHS instead to require a county to provide that same information for the relevant period for the purpose of determining eligibility for state assistance under that act.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 987 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 989](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.
House Sponsor: Bonnen et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 989 amends the Insurance Code to require a health benefit plan to provide coverage for biomarker testing for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of an enrollee’s disease or condition to guide treatment when the test is supported by certain kinds of medical and scientific evidence. A health benefit plan must provide such coverage in a manner that limits disruptions in care and a health benefit plan issuer must provide the coverage only when use of biomarker testing provides clinical utility because use of the test for the condition is evidence-based and scientifically valid, informs a patient’s outcome and a provider’s clinical decision, and predominately addresses the issue for which the test is being ordered, though a test may include some information that cannot be immediately used in clinical decision-making.

[Senate Bill 991](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hinojosa et al.
House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 991 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Government Code to require the Department of Public Safety to establish and maintain a central computerized crime laboratory portal for requesting crime laboratory records and for transferring those records among crime laboratories, state’s attorneys, and parties authorized to access the records as part of discovery in a criminal action, including defendants and defense counsel. The bill requires mandatory participation in the portal for certain crime laboratories, subjects a noncompliant laboratory to disciplinary action, and revises provisions establishing disciplinary proceedings applicable to a crime laboratory or license holder being investigated by the Texas Forensic Science Commission.

[Senate Bill 994](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.
House Sponsor: Burrows

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 994 amends the Election Code to provide for a candidate in the general election for state and county officers to be declared ineligible for placement on the ballot for failure to pay the filing fee or

submit a petition in lieu of the filing fee. The bill authorizes a political party executive committee to make a replacement nomination following such a declaration of ineligibility only if the replacement candidate pays the filing fee or submits a petition in lieu of a filing fee.

[Senate Bill 997](#) **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Leach **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 997, the Kobe and Gianna Bryant Act, amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit an individual from publishing a photograph of human remains that the individual obtained while acting within the course and scope of the individual's duties as an officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state. The bill makes an individual who violates the prohibition liable for a civil penalty in an amount capped at \$10,000 for each violation. The bill authorizes the attorney general or the appropriate county or district attorney to sue to collect the civil penalty and to recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in obtaining relief. The bill establishes certain defenses to liability for the civil penalty but prohibits a defendant from asserting official immunity as a defense in an action brought under these provisions of the bill.

[Senate Bill 998](#) **Senate Author:** West et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Geren **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 998 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to require the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to develop a training program that provides training on the signs and symptoms of an opioid-related drug overdose and the administration of an opioid antagonist. The bill requires the holder of a mixed beverage permit or a private club registration permit, other than such a permit holder that is a restaurant, and certain employees of the permit holder to complete the training annually.

[Senate Bill 999](#) **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 999 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to establish a certification program for active shooter training providers and to prohibit an individual or legal entity from providing active shooter training to peace officers at a public primary or secondary school or a public institution of higher education on or after December 1, 2024, unless the individual or legal entity is certified by TCOLE to provide the training. A legal entity providing such training must use certified instructors in addition to being certified itself.

Senate Bill 999 amends the Education Code to prohibit a public school district or public institution of higher education from contracting for the provision of active shooter training for its peace officers unless the training provider is certified by TCOLE.

[Senate Bill 1001](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Ken **House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1001 amends the Occupations Code to create a regulatory framework for electric vehicle supply equipment with oversight by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the use of nationally recognized specifications for the installation and operation of electric vehicle supply equipment; the registration, maintenance, and inspection of such equipment; certain consumer protections; consumer complaint procedures; disciplinary actions for violations of the bill; and the creation of a stakeholder work group.

Senate Bill 1002**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Schwertner et al.**House Sponsor:** Hernandez**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1002 amends the Utilities Code to set out provisions establishing a framework designed to encourage competitive private sector investment in the deployment of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations both inside and outside of the ERCOT power region. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- limits the authority of electric utilities that operate solely outside of the ERCOT power region to provide EV charging services directly to a customer by establishing a right of first refusal process and by establishing requirements relating to the construction of public EV charging stations and rate-setting requirements with which a utility must comply; and
- within the ERCOT power region, prohibits a transmission and distribution utility (TDU) from directly owning, operating, or providing EV charging service from a public EV charging station or including costs of such a station for recovery through rates approved by the PUC but authorizes a TDU to procure service from a public EV charging station on its premises for the sole purpose of serving its vehicles.

Senate Bill 1003**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Johnson**House Sponsor:** Smithee et al.**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 1003 amends the Insurance Code to expand the types of health care providers for which an applicable health benefit plan issuer offering coverage for health care services through preferred providers, exclusive providers, or a network of physicians or health care providers must include certain information in its provider directory by replacing references to a facility-based physician, which is limited to certain state-licensed specialists, with references to a facility-based physician or provider, which includes any authorized health care practitioner or other applicable person. Furthermore, the bill includes nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants, nurse midwives, surgical assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and any other specialty that the commissioner of insurance identifies among the professions that the directory must list in separate headings under the applicable provider facility name. The bill also removes assistant surgeons as a required separate heading and establishes that the directory is not required to list a physician or health care provider who is employed by the facility.

Senate Bill 1004**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Huffman et al.**House Sponsor:** Herrero et al.**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Corrections

Senate Bill 1004 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to create the state jail felony offense of tampering with an electronic monitoring device for a person who is required to submit to electronic monitoring of the person's location as part of an electronic monitoring program or as a condition of community supervision, parole, mandatory supervision, or bail and knowingly removes or disables, or causes or conspires or cooperates with another person to remove or disable, a tracking device that the person is required to wear to enable the electronic monitoring of the person's location. The bill enhances the penalty to a third degree felony for a person who is in the super-intensive supervision program and commits such conduct.

Senate Bill 1004 authorizes a judge sentencing a defendant convicted of an offense of tampering with an electronic monitoring device committed while on parole or mandatory supervision to order the sentence for the offense to run concurrently with the sentence for the offense for which the defendant was released on parole or to mandatory supervision, or, if the defendant's parole or mandatory supervision has been revoked, to commence immediately on completion of the sentence for the offense for which the defendant was released on parole or to mandatory supervision. The bill provides for a defendant who has been sentenced to serve consecutive sentences to be transferred to the Texas Department of

Criminal Justice (TDCJ) if the defendant has not been taken into TDCJ custody following the revocation of the defendant's parole or mandatory supervision.

Senate Bill 1008

Senate Author: Flores et al.

Senate Committee: Education

Effective: 5-10-23

House Sponsor: Buckley et al.

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1008 amends the Education Code to extend the deadline by which a person whose parent or guardian is an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces and transferred to a military installation in or adjacent to a public school district's attendance zone must provide proof of residence for purposes of public school admission to the district from the 10th day after the arrival date specified in the military transfer order to the 90th day after that arrival date.

Senate Bill 1013

Senate Author: Hughes

Senate Committee: Finance

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Noble

House Committee: Ways & Means

The historic preservation tax credit is currently wholly contained within Chapter 171, Tax Code, which governs the franchise tax, and the credit can be taken against either franchise tax or insurance premium tax liability. Senate Bill 1013 amends the Tax Code to transfer provisions applicable to this tax credit to a stand-alone chapter of the code.

Senate Bill 1015

Senate Author: King

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

Effective: 6-18-23

House Sponsor: Spiller

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1015 amends the Utilities Code to revise provisions of the Public Utility Regulatory Act providing for the periodic adjustment of an electric utility's rates through the distribution cost recovery factor process by increasing the number of times a utility may seek to recover costs through a rate adjustment each year from once to twice, removing the cap on the number of rate adjustments that may be made between comprehensive base rate proceedings, limiting the entities with the authority to approve an application for a rate adjustment to only the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), and decreasing the time the PUC has to take action on an application from 120 days to 60 days.

Senate Bill 1016

Senate Author: King

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

Effective: 5-5-23

House Sponsor: Dean et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1016 amends the Utilities Code to require a regulatory authority, when establishing an electric utility's rates, to presume that employee compensation and benefits expenses are reasonable and necessary, provided the expenses are consistent with recent market compensation studies.

Senate Bill 1017

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Landgraf et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1017 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, order, regulation, or similar measure that directly prohibits or restricts the use, sale, or lease of an engine based on its fuel source or limits access to or use of an energy source or results in the effective prohibition of infrastructure that is necessary to provide access to a specific energy source or related infrastructure.

Senate Bill 1021

Senate Author: Nichols

Senate Committee: Transportation

Effective: 5-24-23

House Sponsor: Canales

House Committee: Transportation

Current law authorizes the Texas Transportation Commission to allow bids on highway project contracts estimated to involve an amount less than \$300,000. Senate Bill 1021 amends the Transportation Code to raise that cap from less than \$300,000 to less than \$1 million and to specify that the authorization applies to contracts other than building construction contracts. For a building construction contract estimated

to involve an amount less than \$1 million, bids may be filed with the director of the division of the Texas Department of Transportation that is responsible for the construction.

Senate Bill 1023 **Senate Author:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** Canales **House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 1023 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to post a maximum load notice for a bridge on behalf of a county or municipality if TxDOT is required or authorized by federal law to post the notice.

Senate Bill 1032 **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Hunter **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1032 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to set out and revise certain guidelines within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Parks and Wildlife Commission for the management of state oyster beds, including provisions governing the renewal of an oyster certificate of location. Accordingly, the bill redefines “natural oyster bed” as an area with a substrate that is predominantly composed of oyster shell or live oysters and the bill removes a provision excepting an oyster bed or reef, other than a natural oyster bed, that has been exhausted within an eight-year period from being subject to location by the TPWD, instead authorizing the TPWD to subject a natural oyster bed to such location if it determines that the bed is degraded. Among other provisions, the commission must establish a program to issue certificates of location for the restoration of natural oyster beds, but the bill provides that certain fees, sales and transfers, rental terms, and acreage restrictions related to public and private oyster beds do not apply under this program.

Senate Bill 1040 **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1040 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a health benefit plan issuer from covering a human organ transplant or post-transplant care if the transplant operation is performed in, or the organ to be transplanted was procured by a sale or donation originating in, China or another country known to have participated in forced organ harvesting, as designated by the commissioner of state health services, for the purposes of combating the practice of forcibly harvesting organs from living persons for transplant, bringing awareness to China’s state-sanctioned practice of forced organ harvesting of certain persons, curbing illicit transplant tourism, and preventing Texas residents from unknowingly involving themselves in forced organ harvesting.

Senate Bill 1045 **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1045 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Occupations Code, and Utilities Code to create the Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, composed of all counties in Texas, and the Fifteenth Court of Appeals on September 1, 2024. The bill establishes that the court has exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction over the following matters arising out of or related to a civil case:

- matters brought by or against the state or an agency in the executive branch of the state government or by or against an officer or employee of the state or an agency in the executive branch of the state government arising out of that officer’s or employee’s official conduct, other than in specified proceedings and actions;
- matters in which a party to the proceeding files a pleading challenging the constitutionality or validity of a state law or rule and the attorney general is a party to the case; and
- any other matter as provided by law.

The bill establishes that the court is held in the City of Austin but may transact its business in any county in Texas as the court determines is necessary and convenient. If the court is created, the initial

vacancies of the justices must be filled by appointment. The bill provides for the salary of the justices of the court.

Senate Bill 1045 provides for the transfer of cases pending in other courts of appeal of which the Fifteenth Court of Appeals has exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction to the Fifteenth Court of Appeals. The bill prohibits the Texas Supreme Court from transferring any case or proceeding properly filed in the Fifteenth Court of Appeals to another court of appeals for the purpose of equalizing the dockets of the courts of appeals. The bill changes from the Third Court of Appeals to the Fifteenth Court of Appeals the court to which a Travis County district court may request transfer of an action for specified purposes and the venue in which certain judicial reviews of a final order, rule, decision, or other action must be commenced. The bill requires the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System to submit an annual report to the legislature on the number and types of cases heard by the court in the preceding state fiscal year.

Senate Bill 1047 **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 5-13-23 **House Sponsor:** Tepper et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1047 requires the Texas Produced Water Consortium, by certain deadlines, to select a pilot project or program for consideration and implementation and submit to the legislature a related report. The bill repeals the Education Code provision that generally prohibits the consortium from receiving state money. Implementation of a provision of this bill by the consortium is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

Senate Bill 1051 **Senate Author:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Harris, Caroline **House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 1051 amends the Insurance Code to require the commissioner of insurance to establish a uniform coordination of benefits questionnaire to be used by all health benefit plan issuers in Texas. Accordingly, each applicable health benefit plan issuer that issues a health benefit plan that includes a coordination of benefits provision must use the questionnaire and make the questionnaire available to health care providers as appropriate.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1051 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1052 **Senate Author:** Springer **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** González, Jessica et al. **House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 1052 amends the Election Code to increase from one to two the maximum number of hours for which an election judge or clerk may be paid for certain work completed before the polls open.

Senate Bill 1054 **Senate Author:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Burrows **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1054 amends the Election Code to prohibit the trial date for a contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment from being later than the 180th day after the date of the contested election. The bill requires the appellate court, if a contestant files an appeal of the contest, to ensure that the action is brought to final disposition not later than the 180th day after the date the judgment becomes final.

[Senate Bill 1055](#) **Senate Author:** Nichols et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: See below **House Sponsor:** Clardy et al. **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 1055 amends the Education Code to provide for Stephen F. Austin State University to move into The University of Texas System. The bill accordingly entitles the university to participate in the permanent university fund and, effective September 1, 2023, removes its entitlement to distributions from the higher education fund. Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect May 10, 2023.

[Senate Bill 1056](#) **Senate Author:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Canales **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1056 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the elections and board of directors of the Hidalgo County Water Improvement District No. 3.

[Senate Bill 1057](#) **Senate Author:** Whitmire et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources &
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Harless et al. **House Committee:** Economic Development
House Committee: Ways & Means

Under current law, the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth are authorized to use municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue to fund a qualified convention center facility, a multipurpose arena or venue, and related infrastructure and are allowed, for a period of up to 30 years, to receive the incremental growth in state sales and use taxes, state hotel occupancy taxes, and state mixed beverage taxes collected by or at hotels within the project financing zone. Senate Bill 1057 amends the Tax Code to extend this authority also to the City of Houston and to Houston First, which is the convention and marketing local government corporation for the city.

[Senate Bill 1070](#) **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Jetton, Jacey et al. **House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 1070, the Alan Vera Memorial Act, amends the Election Code to expand the scope of the interstate voter registration crosscheck program to include the identification of voters who are disqualified from voting on the basis of a felony conviction or who are registered to vote in more than one state. The bill also gives the secretary of state the option to identify and contract with the provider of a private sector data system to identify certain voters as an alternative to developing systems with other states and jurisdictions, such as the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). The bill sets out requirements for a private sector data system with respect to functionality, cost, compliance with state and federal law, and employee background checks and restricts the information that the secretary of state may provide to the system. The secretary of state must record information related to the system and quarterly submit a report on that information to the legislature. The bill requires the secretary of state to use the National Change of Address database to identify voters whose addresses have changed in addition to using a voter registration crosscheck program.

[Senate Bill 1076](#) **Senate Author:** King **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 6-2-23 **House Sponsor:** Geren **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1076 amends the Utilities Code to change the general deadline for the Public Utility Commission of Texas to approve or deny an application for a certificate of convenience and necessity for a new transmission facility from the first anniversary of the date the application is filed to the 180th day after that filing date.

[Senate Bill 1080](#) **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Gerdes **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1080 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to require the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to establish a mitigation program to address excessive drawdown of an aquifer or subdivision of an aquifer in the district that results either in the potentiometric surface being below a desired future condition or in nonproductive wells. The bill sets out provisions relating to the program and revises provisions relating to district fees.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While creating a mitigation plan for a single groundwater conservation district is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 1088](#) **Senate Author:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-23-23 **House Sponsor:** Lambert et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1088 amends the law to revise the qualification for appointment as a director of the West Central Texas Municipal Water District by expanding the jurisdiction in which such a person must reside and own taxable property from the city that appoints the person to a county in which that city is located.

[Senate Bill 1089](#) **Senate Author:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Capriglione **House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 1089 repeals Election Code provisions that provide for an unopposed candidate for a state or county government office to be declared elected without an election for that office being held.

[Senate Bill 1093](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** Metcalf **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1093 amends the Utilities Code to do the following with respect to the state’s electricity supply chain map:

- add water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as certain roads, to the map;
- include the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as a member of the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee and allow TxDOT access to the map; and
- provide a means for transmission and distribution service providers to obtain view only access to relevant portions of the map.

[Senate Bill 1094](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Price **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1094 amends the Utilities Code to authorize an electric utility to apply to the Public Utility Commission of Texas for review and approval of a power purchase agreement if such approval is a precondition to the effectiveness of the electric utility’s right or obligation to purchase power under the agreement with a term of three years or more. The bill’s provisions expire September 1, 2033.

[Senate Bill 1097](#) **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 5-23-23 **House Sponsor:** Stucky **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1097 amends the Health and Safety Code to establish that a municipal hospital authority that is wholly located in a county with a population of less than 70,000 and that enters into a contract to sell a hospital owned by the authority waives governmental immunity to a suit for the purpose of adjudicating a claim for breach of the contract. The bill prohibits a claimant for such a breach of contract claim from being awarded consequential or exemplary damages or a total amount that exceeds the amount due

and owed by the municipal hospital authority under the contract. The bill authorizes a municipal hospital authority that enters into such a contract to indemnify the purchaser of the hospital according to the terms of the contract.

[Senate Bill 1098](#) **Senate Author:** Paxton et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Hull **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1098, the Kairo and the Kids' Law, amends the Human Resources Code to grant certain rights to a parent or guardian of a child in an applicable child-care facility, including the right to enter and examine the facility during its hours of operation without advance notice, rights regarding record access and review, and, subject to certain conditions, the right to inspect a video recording of an alleged incident of abuse or neglect involving the parent's or guardian's child. The bill requires a child-care facility to provide the parent or guardian of each child enrolled at the facility with a written copy of their rights.

[Senate Bill 1112](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Guillen **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1112 amends the Government Code and Utilities Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to obtain criminal history record information from the Department of Public Safety or a private vendor in order to perform a criminal history record check on an applicant for employment with the PUC.

[Senate Bill 1115](#) **Senate Author:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Patterson et al. **House Committee:** Transportation

Current law defines "autocycle" for purposes of titling, registering, and operating the vehicle. Senate Bill 1115 amends the Transportation Code to revise that definition by including the condition that the autocycle is equipped with seat belts and by changing from a steering wheel to a steering mechanism the steering equipment for the autocycle. The bill excepts an autocycle that has a partially or fully enclosed cab from the applicability of provisions relating to protective headgear for motorcycle operators and passengers.

[Senate Bill 1122](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Turner **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1122 amends the Tax Code to exclude a medical service, examination, or test required or authorized under the Texas Workers' Compensation Act for the purpose of determining the appropriate level of workers' compensation benefits from the insurance services subject to the sales and use tax.

[Senate Bill 1124](#) **Senate Author:** King et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Neave Criado et al. **House Committee:** County Affairs

Current law makes a person ineligible to serve as a sheriff unless the person has a high school diploma or equivalent, is 21 years of age, and is not a convicted felon. Senate Bill 1124 amends the Local Government Code and Occupations Code to revise that eligibility criteria by retaining the education requirement but providing the option to either hold an active permanent peace officer license or satisfy the age and criminal history requirement, while also possessing certain military or federal investigator experience. The bill makes a person ineligible to be a candidate for sheriff unless the person holds such a license or is a person with such experience and timely obtains a peace officer license. The bill repeals provisions relating to the authorization for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to require each county sheriff who is not a commissioned peace officer to attend certain law enforcement instruction.

[Senate Bill 1131](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Blanco
House Sponsor: Ortega

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1131 amends the Election Code to authorize the governing body of the El Paso Independent School District to change the date on which it holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date.

[Senate Bill 1133](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Blanco et al.
House Sponsor: King, Tracy O.

Senate Committee: Border Security
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1133 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide for the establishment of a grant program under the authority of the Office of the Attorney General to compensate landowners who suffer property damage on agricultural land caused by a trespasser as a result of an offense of arson, criminal mischief, or other property damage or destruction or a law enforcement response to a trespasser who was engaged in a “border crime,” which consists of any conduct involving transnational criminal activity that also constitutes the smuggling of persons, evading arrest or detention, a trafficking of persons offense, or an offense under the Texas Controlled Substances Act. The maximum amount of compensation that may be awarded per incident causing damage is \$75,000.

[Senate Bill 1136](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Schwertner
House Sponsor: Orr

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 1136 amends the Transportation Code to remove the exemption for Limestone County from provisions relating to the road commissioner system and the road superintendent system. The bill repeals provisions relating to the Limestone County road law.

[Senate Bill 1145](#)
Effective: See below

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Talarico et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1145 amends the Tax Code to create a local option property tax exemption under which a person is exempt from county or municipal taxation, as applicable, of all or part of the appraised value of the real property the person owns and operates as a qualifying child-care facility or the portion of that property the person leases to another who uses the property to operate such a facility. The amount of the exemption adopted by a county or municipality may not be less than 50 percent of a property’s appraised value. The bill makes a person ineligible to claim the exemption if the property in question receives a residence homestead exemption or if any part of the property is leased to another person for use as a principal residence. The bill takes effect January 1, 2024, contingent on voter approval of Senate Joint Resolution 64.

[Senate Bill 1146](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: West et al.
House Sponsor: Klick et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1146 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to establish procedures to be used during the regularly scheduled transportation of female inmates for nonemergency medical care to The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) or another medical facility that provides medical services for inmates. The bill sets out requirements relating to performing searches that conform with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003; transportation that is equipped with bathrooms, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products; sufficient food and nutrition; and overnight stays with an adequate number of beds. The bill requires TDCJ, in conjunction with UTMB and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, to establish procedures to increase opportunities and expand access to telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, and on-site medical care for inmates.

Senate Bill 1155
Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Author: Menéndez
House Sponsor: Allison

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 1155 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of the Bexar County Hospital District's authority to administer and operate a health care provider participation program, and the expiration of provisions governing the program, from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2027. The bill authorizes the district to impose and collect interest and penalties on delinquent mandatory payments assessed under the program in any amount that does not exceed the maximum amount authorized for other delinquent payments owed to the district.

Senate Bill 1158

Senate Author: Whitmire

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Paul

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1158 amends the Government Code to classify each series of games for the World Cup soccer tournament held in a market area designated for that series as a separate, single event for the purposes of eligibility for funding under the major events reimbursement program.

Senate Bill 1170

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Tepper

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1170 amends the Utilities Code to authorize a municipally owned utility that has initiated customer choice to delegate the authority to designate the provider or providers of last resort to the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Among other provisions, the bill also establishes that a municipally owned utility that has initiated customer choice but does not sell electric energy to retail customers is not required to bill directly for distribution, transmission, and generation services provided to retail electric customers located in its certificated service area and authorizes a retail electric provider instead to provide the billing services.

Senate Bill 1179

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Herrero

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1179 amends the Penal Code to revise Texas Civil Commitment Office (TCCO) duties and administrative procedures and to create certain criminal offenses for sexually violent predators. Among other provisions, the bill creates offenses for an individual who engages in certain prohibited conduct while committed to a civil commitment facility and for an officer or employee of TCCO who has improper sexual activity with an individual committed to a civil commitment facility.

Senate Bill 1179 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to the civil commitment of sexually violent predators with respect to transfer to confinement facilities and petitions for transfer; the conditions under which an employee of TCCO, a contractor with TCCO, or a contractor's employee may use mechanical restraints; and the circumstances under which a judge is required to set a hearing on or to deny a petition for a committed individual's release. The bill also provides for the administration of psychoactive medication to a civilly committed individual who is having a medication-related emergency or is under an applicable court order and provides for related appeals.

Senate Bill 1179 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to set out procedures governing an action, excluding an action brought under the Family Code, brought by a sexually violent predator who has been committed to a facility operated by or under contract with TCCO relating to that individual's inability to pay court costs. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the applicable court's dismissal of such an individual's claim under certain circumstances and sets out requirements for filing the claim, including an affidavit relating to previous filings and additional information for a claim that is subject to a grievance system established by TCCO or a facility under contract with TCCO. The bill authorizes the court to hold a hearing relating to an applicable claim at a facility operated by or under contract with TCCO or

through video communications technology; to order the individual who has filed the claim to pay court fees, court costs, and other costs; and to develop a questionnaire for use by the individual for purposes of implementing the bill's provisions. The bill also provides for limited liability of first responders who refuse to provide wellness checks at civil commitment facilities.

Senate Bill 1179 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise provisions relating to Department of Public Safety (DPS) and TCCO duties and responsibilities regarding the sex offender registration program, including by requiring DPS to release all relevant information contained in its sex offender registration database to an employee of TCCO on request.

Senate Bill 1179 amends the Occupations Code to require a person who is licensed or certified in Texas to provide health or medical services, a criminal justice agency, and a local law enforcement authority, each on request or in the normal course of official business, to release information concerning the treatment of a sex offender to TCCO.

Senate Bill 1179 amends the Government Code to authorize TCCO to designate a family liaison officer for a civilly committed sex offender and implement policies that encourage family unity and support for such an offender. The bill also excepts from the public availability requirement of state public information law information obtained or maintained by TCCO regarding a civilly committed sexually violent predator.

Senate Bill 1180

Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: King, Ken

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1180 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to set out procedures governing an action, excluding an action brought under the Family Code, brought by a sexually violent predator who has been committed to a facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office (TCCO) relating to that individual's inability to pay court costs. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- provides for the applicable court's dismissal of such an individual's claim if it is false, frivolous, or malicious;
- requires such an individual who files an affidavit or unsworn declaration of inability to pay costs to file a separate affidavit or declaration that includes certain information regarding the individual's previous involvement in the judicial system and exhaustion of all grievance processes applicable to the matter;
- requires such an individual who files a claim that is subject to a grievance system established by TCCO or a facility under contract with TCCO to file certain information regarding the grievance procedure with the court;
- requires the court to dismiss such a claim if the individual fails to file the claim before the 31st day after the date the individual receives the written decision from the grievance system;
- requires the court to stay the proceeding with respect to the claim for a period not to exceed 180 days to permit completion of the grievance system procedure;
- provides for the court to order the individual who has filed the claim to pay court fees, court costs, and other costs;
- authorizes the court to dismiss a claim if the civilly committed individual fails to pay the fees and costs required by the court;
- authorizes a court to hold a hearing relating to an applicable claim at a facility operated by or under contract with TCCO or through video communications technology that meets specified audio, visual, and recording requirements; and
- authorizes a court to develop a questionnaire for use in that court to be filed by the civilly committed individual for purposes of implementing the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1186**Senate Author:** Hughes**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development**Effective:** 5-27-23**House Sponsor:** Darby et al.**House Committee:** Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1186 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to issue permits for brine production wells. The bill specifies that an injection well for brine mining of brine extracted by the solution of a subsurface salt formation is a Class III well under the RRC's underground injection control program and designates a Class V brine injection well as a Class V well under the program. The bill, if rules or regulations adopted to govern Class V brine injection wells under federal law allow the state to seek primary enforcement authority under the program, requires the RRC to seek primacy to administer and enforce the program for such wells in Texas.

Senate Bill 1187**Senate Author:** Hughes**Senate Committee:** Local Government**Effective:** 5-23-23**House Sponsor:** VanDeaver**House Committee:** County Affairs

Current law authorizes the TexAmericas Center to provide services or operate facilities for certain enterprising purposes. Senate Bill 1187 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to expand that authority to include providing such services or investment capital and operating such facilities as an independent contractor to promote, enhance, develop, or assist a person in the creation, operation, expansion, or relocation of a business, industry, commercial activity, or manufacturing operation. The bill expands the projects and purpose for which the center may authorize the creation of a nonprofit corporation and authorizes the center, after creation of such a nonprofit corporation, to authorize the creation of a limited liability company for applicable center purposes and the designation of the nonprofit corporation to participate as a member of the company.

Senate Bill 1188**Senate Author:** Hinojosa**Senate Committee:** Local Government**Effective:** 9-1-23**House Sponsor:** Muñoz, Jr.**House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1188 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to revise the governing provisions of the Agua Special Utility District by doing the following:

- establishing additional director candidacy requirements;
- establishing additional conditions under which a director may be removed from the district's board of directors;
- requiring a director to be removed from the board if the director has been convicted of or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to specified civil or criminal offenses;
- establishing conditions under which a director is disqualified from serving as a director;
- providing for the automatic resignation of a director on the director's candidacy for another elective office;
- providing for public access to director reports; and
- requiring the attorney general, at the request of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to bring an action for the appointment of a receiver to collect the assets and carry on the business of the district under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 1191**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**Senate Committee:** Local Government**Effective:** 5-23-23**House Sponsor:** Hefner**House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1191 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district to accept and approve or deny a late application for the appraisal of land as qualified open-space land filed by families who own qualifying agricultural land that they inherited following the death of the previous owner.

Senate Bill 1192 **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Noble **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1192 amends the Government Code to revise provisions entitling the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to obtain criminal history record information maintained by the Department of Public Safety that relates to certain HHSC employees and applicants for employment who have or would have access to sensitive personal or financial information. Among other changes, the bill extends that entitlement to volunteer and contractor positions and to applicants for a position with the regulatory services division of HHSC. The bill also entitles HHSC to obtain criminal history record information for the applicable individuals from the FBI or any other criminal justice agency in Texas.

Senate Bill 1207 **Senate Author:** Menéndez **Senate Committee:** Finance
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Allison et al. **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1207 amends Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes to revise provisions relating to the San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund to incorporate technical updates, clarifications, and other provisions. Among other provisions, the bill revises provisions regarding the following general matters:

- membership in and contributions to the fund regarding a member of the fund who enters any uniformed service of the United States;
- a member's eligibility for disability retirement benefits and the calculation of the respective disability retirement benefits based on time of service;
- provisions governing the medical reexamination of a disability retiree and the reduction of disability retirement benefits;
- the suspension of the disability retirement annuity of a retiree who fails to provide an income tax return until the retiree does so and the restoration of a disability retirement annuity that has been reduced based on income received from other employment;
- the provision prohibiting the accrual of a service retirement annuity, disability retirement annuity, death benefit, or any other benefit under the provisions governing the system from exceeding benefit limits applicable to the fund under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
- provisions authorizing a 13th and 14th pension check to retirees and beneficiaries under certain circumstances;
- the death benefit annuity for surviving spouses and children and the death benefit annuity for the spouse and children of a member killed in the line of duty;
- the effect of a marriage on benefits;
- common law spouses as beneficiaries;
- beneficiaries of a member who dies while on an indefinite suspension that has not become final; and
- the provision establishing that the election by a surviving spouse to receive a lump sum death benefit annuity payment does not affect the amount of the annuity payable to a dependent child of a deceased member.

Senate Bill 1210 **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Guerra et al. **House Committee:** Energy Resources

Senate Bill 1210 amends the Natural Resources Code to provide for the designation of a person as the operator of an orphaned well under the orphaned well reduction program of the Railroad Commission of Texas based on a continuing possessory right in the geothermal energy and associated resources estate accessed by the well or, for the purpose of an energy conservation well, in the geologic space accessed by the well.

[Senate Bill 1213](#)
Effective: 5-29-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Goldman

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing &
 Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1213 amends the Occupations Code to create the Mold Assessment and Remediation Advisory Board to advise the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation on technical matters relevant to the administration of statutory provisions relating to mold assessors and remediators, standards or performance and work practices for mold assessment or remediation, qualifications for the issuance or renewal of a license, and other issues affecting mold assessment and remediation.

[Senate Bill 1222](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Kuempel

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing &
 Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1222 amends the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Act, Occupations Code, to clarify the applicability of the act, revise what constitutes acceptable appraisal experience for purposes of determining an applicant's qualifications for a certificate or license, and remove the requirement that the applicant provide an affidavit stating that the applicant has the required number of hours of experience in performing appraisals as recognized by the Appraiser Qualifications Board. The bill also amends the Texas Appraisal Management Company Registration and Regulation Act to authorize the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board's presiding officer to appoint an investigative committee to review complaints submitted under the act.

[Senate Bill 1226](#)
Effective: 5-13-23

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Hefner

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1226 amends the law to revise provisions governing the appointment of directors of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District.

[Senate Bill 1236](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Flores et al.
House Sponsor: Murr

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1236 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to extend to all counties the prohibition against a person discharging a firearm or shooting an arrow from a bow if the person is located in or on the bed or bank of a navigable river or stream at the time the firearm is discharged or the arrow is shot or if any portion of the ammunition discharged or arrow shot could physically contact the bed or bank of a navigable river or stream. A violation of this prohibition, formerly applicable in only 10 counties, is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor. Moreover, the bill adds another exception to the expanded prohibition that authorizes an owner of the land adjacent to or through which the navigable river or stream runs or an agent of such an owner to discharge a firearm during the legal taking of an alligator or discharge a firearm from the bank of a navigable river or stream to take a venomous snake or nonindigenous rodent.

[Senate Bill 1237](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Flores
House Sponsor: Geren

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1237 amends the Government Code to provide for the compensation of security officers and investigators commissioned by the comptroller of public accounts and to make provisions relating to injury leave for certain peace officers applicable to those commissioned officers.

Senate Bill 1238

Effective: 6-2-23

Senate Author: Nichols et al.

House Sponsor: Ashby et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1238 amends the Government Code to revise provisions relating to the administration of the broadband development office, the development of the state broadband development map, and the state's broadband development program to better align existing state statute with the updated federal guidelines regarding broadband mapping and availability. Specifically, among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- increases speed thresholds for Internet service to qualify as “broadband service” and provides for latency to be factored in when determining whether service meets the qualifications to be considered broadband service;
- requires the map to classify areas of Texas as “served,” “unserved,” or “underserved,” and establishes statutory definitions for each term;
- expands the purposes for which the office may award financial incentives to include eligible broadband infrastructure projects designed to provide qualifying broadband service to unserved and underserved locations, middle-mile broadband infrastructure projects, and projects not involving the deployment of broadband infrastructure that expand the accessibility, affordability, or adoption of broadband service;
- establishes restrictions on the authority of the office to award a financial incentive for deployment of last-mile broadband service for a location that is subject to a federal commitment to deploy qualifying broadband service; and
- requires the office to prioritize funding for projects that employ fiber optic connectivity.

Senate Bill 1242

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: LaMantia et al.

House Sponsor: Campos

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1242 amends the Human Resources Code to authorize a person who is the director of a day-care center to provide training for the center's employees regardless of whether the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) imposed an administrative penalty against the day-care center, provided that the person was not the center's director at the time HHSC imposed the penalty.

Senate Bill 1243

Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Ashby

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1243 amends the Tax Code to require a taxable entity to exclude from its total revenue when determining franchise tax liability proceeds from qualifying broadband grants made for the purposes of broadband deployment in Texas. However, the bill authorizes a taxable entity to include as a cost of goods sold or as compensation when determining that tax liability any expense paid using those grant proceeds.

Senate Bill 1245

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1245 amends the Government Code to set out provisions applicable to contributions to, benefits from, and the administration of the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan Two (JRS-2). Among other provisions, including provisions creating an excess benefit arrangement outside the JRS-2 trust fund, the bill establishes a new cash balance benefit retirement plan under JRS-2 and also includes provisions relating to the resumption of full-time judicial service by certain retirees under the existing plan. Furthermore, in its amendments to the Insurance Code, the bill makes a JRS-2 cash balance group member eligible to participate in the state employees group benefits program under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act.

[Senate Bill 1246](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Huffman
House Sponsor: Bonnen

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1246 amends the Government Code to authorize the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to form a title-holding entity that is a 501(c) tax-exempt organization for the purpose of investing TRS's assets in real property and to establish, among other related provisions, that an interest in an entity controlled by TRS is considered a security for purposes of the investment and reinvestment of TRS assets. The bill further provides that the TRS board of trustees is to set the limit on its hedge fund investments and, accordingly, removes the statutory limit for such investments. The bill, in making a number of other changes with respect to the state treasury operations of the comptroller of public accounts in regard to state depositories and the authorized investment of state funds, authorizes TRS and the Texas Comptroller's Trust Company to directly enter into repurchase agreements.

Senate Bill 1246 also provides that at least 10 percent of the economic stabilization fund balance, rather than at least one-quarter of the balance as provided in current law, be invested in a manner that ensures the liquidity of that amount.

[Senate Bill 1249](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hancock et al.
House Sponsor: Oliverson

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1249 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish a living organ donor education program to educate Texas residents about the need for living organ donors, certain organ donor registries, the requirements for registering as a potential living organ donor, medical screenings and procedures necessary to become a living organ donor, and the availability of information about living organ donation in certain facilities. The bill requires DSHS, in consultation with Donate Life Texas, to develop written and electronic informational materials regarding living organ donation and the process of registering with a living donor registry and provides for the dissemination of those materials by DSHS, the Department of Public Safety, and other appropriate facilities and organizations.

[Senate Bill 1250](#)
Effective: 6-2-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt
House Sponsor: Swanson

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1250 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 110 to implement a program to require and issue an annual written certificate of compliance to the owner or operator of a stormwater detention facility within district boundaries to ensure that each such facility is operating to abate flooding as designed and approved by the applicable regulatory authority.

[Senate Bill 1259](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Vasut

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1259 amends the Property Code to increase the maximum judgment amount that may be awarded by a justice court in a case involving the repair or remedy of conditions of a residential rental property from \$10,000 to \$20,000, excluding interest and costs of court.

[Senate Bill 1260](#)
Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Romero, Jr. et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1260 amends the Transportation Code to prohibit a local government or person operating an airport from entering into an infrastructure or equipment contract for the procurement of a passenger boarding bridge with an entity that has misappropriated intellectual property or trade secrets and is affiliated with the government of the People's Republic of China.

[Senate Bill 1286](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Johnson, Ann **House Committee:** Insurance

Current law provides exemptions from the mandatory forfeiture of the right to payment of a health benefit plan claim that is triggered when a physician or health care provider fails to submit the claim to an applicable health maintenance organization (HMO) or insurer in accordance with prompt payment deadlines when the failure is a result of a catastrophic event. Senate Bill 1286 amends the Insurance Code to remove these exemptions and to instead provide for the discretionary extension of prompt payment deadlines by the commissioner of insurance or the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) due to a catastrophic event. The bill accordingly changes the conditions under which an HMO and insurer are not liable for a penalty regarding a failure to promptly pay a claim to account for the discretion of the commissioner and TDI in extending payment deadlines due to a catastrophic event.

[Senate Bill 1289](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 1289 amends the Water Code to authorize a wastewater treatment facility or reclaimed water production facility that treats domestic wastewater for reuse to dispose of the treated wastewater without a permit for an alternative means of disposal if the facility disposes of the treated wastewater through a wastewater collection system and the facility has the consent of the operator of the wastewater collection system that will receive the treated wastewater and the consent of the operator of any wastewater treatment facility that will further treat the treated wastewater.

[Senate Bill 1290](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Landgraf **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 1290 requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to conduct a study on the current and potential effects of the installation, operation, removal, and disposal of solar, wind turbine, and energy storage equipment on the environment and watersheds.

[Senate Bill 1300](#) **Senate Author:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Thompson, Senfronia **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1300 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise the prioritized list of persons who, in addition to the cemetery organization operating the cemetery, must consent to removal of a decedent's remains from a plot in a cemetery to match the prioritized list of those who have the right to control the disposition of such remains. The bill makes related revisions to the form prescribed for that written instrument.

[Senate Bill 1305](#) **Senate Author:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-13-23 **House Sponsor:** Clardy **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1305 requires the City of Nacogdoches to enter into a contract with the Angelina and Neches River Authority to transfer the city's ownership interests in the specified Central Heights Water System to the authority.

[Senate Bill 1308](#) **Senate Author:** Hancock et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Geren **House Committee:** State Affairs

Previously, Chapter 423, Government Code, established penalties for the unauthorized use of an unmanned aircraft with the goal of preserving the safety and privacy of certain critical infrastructure in Texas from potential dangers posed by these aircraft. With Chapter 423 having been ruled unconstitutional,

Senate Bill 1308 restores protections for the security of military installations and airports by amending the Penal Code to create the standalone offense of operating an unmanned aircraft over an airport or military installation.

Senate Bill 1319 **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Turner et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1319 amends the Health and Safety Code and Local Government Code to require a local health authority or law enforcement agency to enter into a participation agreement with an entity that maintains a system for mapping controlled substances overdoses for public safety purposes under which the authority or entity provides incident-specific information reported by emergency medical services personnel operating in the authority's or agency's jurisdiction who respond to overdose incidents. Among other provisions, the bill provides for immunity from liability in reporting or providing the overdose incident-related information and for the confidentiality and limited use of the information.

Senate Bill 1322 **Senate Author:** Menéndez **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Holland et al. **House Committee:** Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1322 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to authorize a package store permit holder and a local distributor's permit holder to purchase vintage distilled spirits from a vintage distilled spirits seller and to provide for the regulation of such purchases. The permit holders may then sell the vintage distilled spirits to consumers for off-premises consumption, passenger transportation permit holders, or mixed beverage permit holders, as applicable. Among other provisions, the bill provides a process for remedying an injury to a permit holder's business or property caused by certain actions of a vintage distilled spirit seller, establishes affirmative defenses for a violation of provisions relating to illicit beverages, and exempts liquor sold as vintage distilled spirits from state liquor taxes.

Senate Bill 1325 **Senate Author:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 5-13-23 **House Sponsor:** Goodwin et al. **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1325, the Natalia Cox Act, amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt a written notice to be provided to victims of family violence, stalking, harassment, or terroristic threat to assist those victims in obtaining services. The bill sets out the required contents of the notice, provides for periodic updates, and requires the notice to be available on HHSC's website in both English and Spanish.

Senate Bill 1325 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Education Code to require a peace officer, including a campus peace officer at an institution of higher education, who investigates an allegation of family violence, stalking, harassment, or terroristic threat or responds to a disturbance call that may involve family violence to advise any possible adult victim of all reasonable means to prevent the occurrence of further offenses, including by providing the written notice adopted by HHSC. In addition, the peace officer may provide to the possible victim any available written information regarding local or campus resources for such victims. The bill removes certain existing requirements for a written notice provided by a peace officer to a possible family violence victim.

Senate Bill 1325 amends the Family Code to replace a provision prescribing the required form and contents of a written notice that a medical professional must provide to a person treated for injuries that the professional has reason to believe were caused by family violence with a requirement that the professional give the person the written notice adopted by HHSC.

[Senate Bill 1327](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Rose **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1327 amends the Human Resources Code to authorize a candidate for the position of director of a day-care center operating under an initial license who meets all the qualifications for a director except for the education requirements to serve as the center’s interim director for not longer than 12 months while the candidate completes the requisite education or obtains a waiver to the education requirement authorized by Health and Human Services Commission rule. If the interim director completes the education or obtains a waiver before the end of the 12-month period, they may become the center’s director. If not, the center must employ a new director.

[Senate Bill 1332](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Bonnen **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1332 amends the Government Code to create the historic infrastructure sustainability trust fund as a trust fund outside the treasury held, managed, and invested by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and administered by the comptroller of public accounts as trustee on behalf of the people of Texas to generate earnings on money in the fund for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic sites throughout Texas. The bill sets out the fund’s composition, distribution, and management. The bill, among other provisions:

- subjects all expenditures by the commission from the fund to audit by the state auditor and requires the commission to include in its strategic plan of operations a report on each project funded with money from the fund during the two-year period preceding the plan’s submission date and a list of each project the commission anticipates will be funded using that money for the period covered by the plan;
- authorizes the commission, with specified notice to the Legislative Budget Board, to make an expenditure from the historic site account for a historic site not included on the list of sites under the commission’s jurisdiction;
- requires the commission to allocate at least one-third of each annual distribution from the fund for the historic courthouse preservation program; and
- raises to \$10 million the cap on the amount of a grant from the historic courthouse preservation fund for a historic courthouse project, which applies only if that cap is greater than two percent of the amount appropriated for implementing the historic courthouse preservation program during the given state fiscal biennium.

[Senate Bill 1333](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance
Effective: See below **House Sponsor:** Bonnen **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1333 amends the Government Code to create the Texas State Buildings Preservation Endowment Fund as a fund outside the treasury held, managed, and invested by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate, and restore the state buildings and grounds over which the State Preservation Board (SPB) has jurisdiction, to abolish the capital renewal trust fund and, on September 1, 2024, to repeal provisions creating the Governor’s Mansion renewal trust fund and the State Cemetery preservation trust fund. The bill provides for the transfer of the unencumbered balances of the former trust funds to the new endowment fund on September 1, 2024, and exempts the transfers from the one-third museum expenditure requirement in state law. The bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- sets out the fund’s composition, provides for the fund’s management and use, and exempts the fund from the State Funds Reform Act;
- authorizes SPB to request annually a distribution from the fund and to request an additional fund distribution;

- subjects all expenditures by SPB from the fund to audit by the state auditor; and
- requires SPB to include in its strategic operations plan a report on each project funded using money in the fund during the two-year period preceding the date on which SPB submits the plan as well as a list of each project SPB anticipates will be funded using money in the fund for the period covered by the plan.

Except as otherwise provided, Senate Bill 1333 takes effect September 1, 2023.

Senate Bill 1340

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

Effective: 1-1-24

House Sponsor: Meyer

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1340 amends the Government Code to require the Chapter 380 and 381 Agreement Database to also include agreements entered into under the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act and to require that the database be a consolidated searchable data tool. Accordingly, the bill renames the database the Local Development Agreement Database. The bill requires the database to include certain additional information for each applicable agreement and authorizes the comptroller of public accounts to prescribe the form and manner in which a local government must submit information about a particular agreement.

Senate Bill 1340 amends the Tax Code to require a taxing unit that maintains a website and that executes a tax abatement agreement under the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act to provide on the website a direct link to the location of the agreement information published on the comptroller's website as part of the Local Development Agreement Database.

Senate Bill 1342

Senate Author: Perry

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Smithee

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1342 amends the Government Code and Human Resources Code to revise provisions regarding the liability of third-party health insurers in relation to Medicaid to reflect changes in federal regulations. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a third-party health insurer that is responsible for payment for an item or service provided to a Medicaid-eligible individual that was previously paid for by the state to accept authorization that the item or service is covered under the state Medicaid program as if that authorization is a prior authorization made by the insurer, with certain exceptions;
- prohibits a responsible third-party health insurer from denying a claim submitted by the state for which payment was made under Medicaid solely on the basis of a failure to obtain prior authorization for the item or service for which the claim is being submitted; and
- establishes a deadline for a third-party health insurer to respond to any inquiry from the state regarding a claim for payment for a health care item or service.

The bill repeals certain requirements for health insurers and the state's Medicaid third-party recovery division relating to the identification of Medicaid recipients who have third-party health coverage or insurance.

Senate Bill 1343

Senate Author: LaMantia et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Moody

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1343 amends the Occupations Code to revise the composition of the Texas Board of Nursing by adding a second advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) member and a fifth member who represents the public. The bill also provides for the appointment of applicable APRNs to act as expert reviewers and to assist with complaints and investigations relating to alleged standard of care violations by APRNs.

Senate Bill 1346

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Miles et al.

House Sponsor: Bowers

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1346 amends the Texas Litter Abatement Act of the Health and Safety Code to expand the scope of prosecution for offenses involving illegal dumping or discarding lighted materials by subjecting those offenses to provisions governing preparatory criminal offenses.

Senate Bill 1361

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Huffman

House Sponsor: Burrows

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1361 amends the Penal Code to create the Class A misdemeanor offense of unlawful production or distribution of certain sexually explicit videos for a person who, without the effective consent of the person appearing to be depicted, knowingly produces or distributes by electronic means a deep fake video that appears to depict the person with the person's intimate parts exposed or engaged in sexual conduct.

Senate Bill 1364

Effective: 6-2-23

Senate Author: Alvarado

House Sponsor: Lujan et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1364 amends the Transportation Code to allow a motor vehicle or electric vehicle to exceed the statutory weight limitation for the vehicle by up to 2,000 pounds provided that the maximum gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed 82,000 pounds.

Senate Bill 1367

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1367 amends the Election Code, Government Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code to provide protections for the sensitive information of full-time employees at county courthouses, the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, and the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. Specifically, the bill, among other provisions, allows these court employees to omit their address from election registration lists and on their driver's licenses and also allows them to withhold their personal information on publicly accessible government databases and to keep their tax form personal information private.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1367 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1371

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Lambert

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1371 amends the Finance Code and Tax Code to revise a variety of provisions regarding the regulation of consumer credit transactions and the regulatory authority of the consumer credit commissioner. In modernizing, clarifying, making technical corrections to, and repealing certain of these provisions, the bill also does the following:

- establishes that the method for investment and reinvestment of annual assessment fees and the amount in the state licensed residential mortgage loan originator recovery fund is the method used for managing the assets of the permanent university fund;
- authorizes the Texas Finance Commission to make grants for the Texas financial education endowment;
- replaces the amount of the processing fee that the holder of a retail charge agreement may charge for a returned check to an amount that does not exceed the amount prescribed in Business & Commerce Code provisions for the return of a payment device;

- provides that the commission determines the amount of the registration fee that a holder under a retail installment contract or a retail charge agreement must pay for each location at which a retail installment transaction or credit transaction is originated, serviced, or collected;
- clarifies that a property owner may not waive or limit a requirement imposed on a property tax lender by applicable state law unless specifically permitted; and
- establishes that the processes for which the commissioner may revoke or suspend a pawnshop employee license is by sending notice and providing an opportunity for a hearing.

Senate Bill 1372**Effective:** 5-15-23**Senate Author:** Perry**House Sponsor:** Ashby**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs**House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1372 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to require the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to waive the costs associated with the destruction of breeder deer at a facility covered by a deer breeder's permit where a breeder deer has tested positive for chronic wasting disease. However, the bill prohibits TPWD from waiving testing costs if TPWD determines that the permit holder or an agent of the permit holder caused either the introduction of chronic wasting disease into the facility or a delay in the detection of chronic wasting disease at the facility.

Senate Bill 1373**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Smithee**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1373 amends the Estates Code to revise provisions relating to decedents' estates and to authorize the delivery of certain communications in connection with those estates or multiple party accounts to be made by a qualified delivery method as an alternative to certified or registered mail. The bill also authorizes a person to make and sign a declaration as an alternative to taking an oath to be qualified to serve as a personal representative or to be issued letters of administration to serve as an executor or administrator or temporary administrator for the estate of a deceased person.

Senate Bill 1373 clarifies the liability and powers of the surviving spouse and of the deceased spouse's heirs or devisees with respect to community property. The bill does the following with respect to a proceeding to declare heirship:

- increases from 12 years of age to younger than 16 years of age the maximum age of a distributee for whom a parent, managing conservator, guardian, attorney ad litem, or guardian ad litem may waive the citation required to be served on the distributee; and
- authorizes a required testimony regarding a decedent's heirs and family history to be taken by a recorded statement of facts contained in an affidavit or instrument or in a judgment of a court of record under certain conditions.

Senate Bill 1373 authorizes an heir who is 16 years of age or older or the parent, managing conservator, guardian, attorney ad litem, or guardian ad litem of an heir who is younger than 16 years of age to waive the citation required to be served on an heir on the filing of an application for the probate of a will that cannot be produced in court. The bill also provides for a convicted felon to serve as an executor or administrator of an estate if the person is named as executor in the decedent's will, the person is otherwise qualified to serve as executor, and the court approves the person.

Senate Bill 1375**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Parker**House Sponsor:** King, Ken et al.**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1375 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to authorize a distiller's and rectifier's permit holder to conduct samplings or tastings at a civic or distilled spirits festival, farmers' market, celebration, or similar event with distilled spirits manufactured by the permit holder. The bill caps the amount of sample portions served at one-half ounce and makes the permit holder providing the sampling or tasting

responsible for the cost of providing the distilled spirits. A person who receives a sample may not remove the sample from the event premises, but the permit holder or the permit holder's agent or employee may legally transport distilled spirits to the event for the purpose of providing a sample or tasting.

[Senate Bill 1376](#) **Senate Author:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Wilson **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1376 amends the Government Code and Penal Code to make the spouse of an active duty member of the U.S. armed forces or Texas National Guard eligible for the veterans employment preference for purposes of employment with or appointment to an applicable state agency and, accordingly, redesignates the preference as a "military employment preference." The bill, among other provisions, grants the spouse priority for that preference after a veteran, with or without a disability, but before a qualifying surviving spouse or qualifying orphan of a veteran.

[Senate Bill 1379](#) **Senate Author:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Lujan et al. **House Committee:** Human Services

Senate Bill 1379 amends the Family Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to establish a pilot program to assist foster youth to achieve financial security and independence as the youth transition to independent living. Among other provisions relating to the program's operation, the bill requires DFPS to enter into an agreement with one or more financial institutions to establish savings and checking accounts for participating foster youth who are at least 14 but not more than 21 years of age and authorizes DFPS to seek partnerships with persons who will match money deposited into those accounts.

[Senate Bill 1381](#) **Senate Author:** Eckhardt et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 1-1-24 **House Sponsor:** Hefner **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1381 amends the Tax Code to entitle the surviving spouse of a person receiving a residence homestead property tax exemption for an individual 65 years of age or older who dies in a tax year to receive that exemption in the next tax year on the same property without applying for the exemption, provided the appraisal district has the information necessary to determine that the surviving spouse qualifies for the exemption. The entitlement does not apply if the chief appraiser determines that the surviving spouse is no longer entitled to any applicable exemption on the property.

[Senate Bill 1393](#) **Senate Author:** Middleton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Paul **House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 1393 amends the Insurance Code to establish that an offer of coverage in the voluntary market for residential properties in the area surrounding, but not located more than four miles beyond, the designated Texas Windstorm Insurance Association catastrophe area that is at a cost exceeding 110 percent of the cost for a FAIR Plan policy providing substantially equivalent coverage of residential property with similar rating characteristics is considered a declination of coverage from an insurer for purposes of establishing FAIR Plan coverage eligibility.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The FAIR Plan Association was established in 2005 as an insurer of last resort for owners of residential property in underserved markets. Senate Bill No. 1393 would fundamentally change the Association's purpose by making certain homeowners eligible for subsidized FAIR policies even though insurance is available to them on the traditional market. I look forward to working with the bill authors on ways to improve this legislation."

[Senate Bill 1397](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Bell, Keith et al. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 1397 amends the Health and Safety Code and Water Code to continue the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) until September 1, 2035. Among other provisions, the bill requires the TCEQ to issue a standard permit for a temporary concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing to support a public works project. The bill sets out general permitting procedures applicable to programs and permits arising under the air, waste, or water programs within TCEQ jurisdiction and requires the TCEQ to provide outreach and education to the public on participating in the permitting process under such programs. The bill requires the TCEQ to post on its website a permit application and any associated materials at the time the application becomes administratively complete.

Senate Bill 1397 requires the TCEQ to set the number of major, moderate, and minor violations needed for a person to be classified as a repeat violator with respect to the person's compliance history. The bill authorizes the TCEQ executive director to review, suspend, or reclassify a person's compliance history in accordance with TCEQ rules if the executive director determines that exigent circumstances exist. The bill increases from \$25,000 to \$40,000 the maximum daily administrative penalty for certain violations within TCEQ jurisdiction. The bill requires the TCEQ to establish an enforcement diversion program for small businesses and local governments.

Senate Bill 1397 requires the environmental flows advisory group to periodically review the environmental flow standards for each river basin and bay system adopted by the TCEQ and requires the TCEQ to submit a biennial report to the advisory group on the implementation and effectiveness of environmental flow standards. The bill repeals provisions that provide for the eventual abolishment of the advisory group, the Texas environmental flows science advisory committee, and each basin and bay area stakeholders committee and basin and bay expert science team.

Senate Bill 1397 requires the TCEQ to develop and make accessible on its website recommended best management practices for certain aggregate production operations that operate under TCEQ jurisdiction.

[Senate Bill 1399](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Bell, Keith **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 1399 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, with regard to an air quality standard permit issued for a permanent concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing, to conduct a protectiveness review of the permit at least once every six years. Each authorization to use a permit is subject to review at least once every six years to determine whether the authority to operate the facility authorized by the permit should be renewed.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1399 appears to add more bureaucracy and cost."

[Senate Bill 1401](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Johnson, Ann **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1401 repeals Code of Criminal Procedure provisions that provide for a bifurcated approach to handling forensic medical examinations for sexual assault victims who report their assault to law enforcement and for sexual assault victims who do not and amends provisions of that code and the Family Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Occupations Code relating to the rights of sexual assault victims and to certain procedures and reimbursements for law enforcement agencies and health care providers with respect to a sexual assault or other sex offense to provide for an updated, consolidated statutory approach for all sexual assault victims. Among other provisions, the bill replaces the attorney

general's discretion to make payments to sexual assault victims for certain medical care costs with a requirement for the attorney general to do so.

Senate Bill 1402

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Howard et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1402 amends the Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Occupations Code to make the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force a permanent entity, expand its membership, and entitle certain of its members to a per diem and a reimbursement of applicable expenses. Additionally, the bill clarifies the evidence collection training required for a person who performs a forensic medical examination on a sexual assault survivor and provides for mandatory basic sexual assault response training for certain employees of health care facilities that have an emergency department and for the establishment of a mandatory basic education and training program on responding to child sexual abuse and adult sexual assault for peace officers.

Senate Bill 1403

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Spiller et al.

Senate Committee: Border Security

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1403 amends the Government Code to authorize the governor to develop and execute an interstate compact for border security among interested states to provide for joint action among such states on the following matters:

- sharing law enforcement intelligence on illegal activity occurring at the border with Mexico;
- sharing state resources in order to build a physical barrier, a comprehensive technological surveillance system, or both, on state land to deter or detect illegal activity occurring at the border with Mexico; and
- sharing other law enforcement resources to ensure the protection of personnel and property.

The bill prohibits the compact from increasing the political power of the compacting states in relation to the federal government.

Senate Bill 1404

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Parker et al.

House Sponsor: Smithee et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1404 creates the coal-to-nuclear conversion work group to study the benefits of converting sites in Texas with coal-fired electric generating facilities to use nuclear electric generating facilities instead and to develop a model plan for implementing coal-to-nuclear conversion to provide affordable and sustainable power in Texas. The bill's provisions expire and the work group is abolished June 30, 2025.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1404 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1413

Effective: 5-27-23

Senate Author: Johnson et al.

House Sponsor: Frazier et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1413 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a fire department to remove personal property from a roadway if the property blocks the roadway or endangers public safety. The bill requires political subdivisions to develop and implement a policy concerning the consultation of a fire department with law enforcement agencies regarding the removal of the property.

[Senate Bill 1414](#) **Senate Author:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Holland et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 1414 amends the Occupations Code to expedite the next sunset review of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) from the 2028-2029 review cycle to the 2026-2027 review cycle and to provide for the temporary regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) until September 1, 2027. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires TDLR to assume all policy-making powers of the TBVME and to administer the Veterinary Licensing Act;
- provides for the review of TBVME rules with input and recommended changes from license holders and the public;
- provides for the dismissal and replacement of the TBVME executive director;
- makes the TBVME an advisory board to TDLR and requires the TBVME and certain advisory committees to provide advice and recommendations on relevant technical matters;
- requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt all rules necessary to implement the act, except with respect to rules remaining under the purview of the TBVME; and
- requires the Department of Information Resources to consult with TDLR and the TBVME to assess and address the TBVME's database needs.

[Senate Bill 1420](#) **Senate Author:** Birdwell **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: 6-2-23 **House Sponsor:** Anderson **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1420, an omnibus local hotel occupancy tax bill, amends the Tax Code to revise annual hotel occupancy tax reporting requirements, update various Tax Code definitions applicable to the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue, implement a claw back mechanism for hotel and convention center projects, and provide for a biennial report to the legislature regarding the status of each such project. Moreover, the bill sets out and revises provisions regarding the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue, including the use of such revenue for visitor information centers, convention center projects, and transportation systems.

[Senate Bill 1424](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Clardy et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 1424 amends the Agriculture Code to continue the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) under the Texas Sunset Act until September 1, 2035. The bill codifies TSSWCB's dam structural repair grant program and requires the Sunset Advisory Commission to conduct a limited-scope review of TSSWCB for the 90th Legislature by reviewing the grant program.

Senate Bill 1424 amends the Government Code to remove September 1, 2023, as the expiration date of the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee. The bill requires the committee to be reviewed during each sunset review cycle in which TSSWCB is reviewed and removes the discretion of the committee to undertake certain actions.

[Senate Bill 1425](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** Smithee et al. **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1425 amends the Utilities Code to postpone the expiration of provisions relating to the disbursement of support from the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) for certain small and rural local exchange companies or cooperatives from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2033. The bill requires an applicable small provider submitting a request for a determination and disbursement of support from

the TUSF under a mechanism which permits the provider the opportunity to earn a reasonable return to file annually with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) a report that includes certain financial information regarding the provider's operations that are regulated by the PUC. The bill specifies that such information reported to the PUC is not confidential nor exempt from public disclosure.

Senate Bill 1429

Senate Author: Hinojosa

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Herrero

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1429 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Board of Nursing to adopt rules related to the use by a school of nursing or educational program of a standardized examination prepared by a private entity. The bill specifies the authorized uses of such a standardized examination and requires the rules to prohibit the use of a standardized examination as a graduation requirement or to deny students an affidavit of graduation. The bill also requires the rules to provide that a score on a standardized examination may not account for more than 10 percent of a course grade and prohibits a school or program that determines a student is in need of academic remediation on the basis of a standardized examination from requiring the student to attend any course offered by the examination provider.

Senate Bill 1431

Senate Author: Hinojosa

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

Effective: Vetoed

House Sponsor: Guerra

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1431 amends the Government Code to make the following exceptions to required disclosure under state public information law applicable to a current or former administrative law judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH):

- the exception for information that relates to the person's home address, home telephone number, emergency contact, or social security number or that reveals whether the person has family members; and
- the exception for certain personal identifying information of peace officers and other officials performing sensitive governmental functions.

Senate Bill 1431 amends the Tax Code to extend to a current or former administrative law judge for SOAH the confidentiality protections for certain home address information in local property tax appraisal records.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1431 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1439

Senate Author: Springer

Senate Committee: Local Government

Effective: Vetoed

House Sponsor: Hefner

House Committee: Ways & Means

State law provides a property tax exemption for income-producing tangible personal property valued at less than \$2,500. Senate Bill 1439 amends the Tax Code to close a loophole that allows a business to receive multiple of these exemptions by establishing separate, related business entities, such as a limited-liability company, all housed at one physical location. The bill does this by requiring that property be tied to a physical address for purposes of claiming this exemption and by providing for the aggregation of any property owned by a person who is considered a related business entity when determining the taxable value of property for purposes of eligibility for this exemption.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1439 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[Senate Bill 1444](#)
Effective: See below

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Bucy

Senate Committee: Finance
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1444 amends Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes to revise and set out certain provisions governing the City of Austin Employees’ Retirement System. In addition to matters regarding contributions, benefits, and governance, the bill establishes that the interest rate assumed to have been earned by the retirement system’s trust fund for any period, effective January 1, 2024, is a rate equal to the actuarial assumed rate of return in effect on the date of purchase. Generally, the bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- increases the member contribution rate from eight percent to 10 percent over two years;
- establishes an actuarially determined employer contribution rate with limits on the maximum employer contributions;
- provides for risk sharing valuation studies to determine the system’s unfunded actuarial accrued liability; and
- establishes a process for future cost-of-living adjustments that adheres to actuarial guidelines and receives approval by the system’s board of trustees and the city.

The bill takes effect September 1, 2023, but certain of its provisions related to benefits and contributions take effect January 1, 2024.

[Senate Bill 1445](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Paxton et al.
House Sponsor: Goldman

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1445 amends the Occupations Code to continue the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) until September 1, 2031. Among other provisions, including certain across-the-board sunset recommendations, the bill requires TCOLE to establish minimum standards for law enforcement agencies; adopt a model policy that must be used by such agencies for medical and psychological fit-for-duty exams; establish a database containing the licensing status of each officer, including records of any license action TCOLE has taken and records of any agency investigations into alleged misconduct, and a public database containing personal service reports of each licensed officer; designate a national law enforcement database that agencies must use for preemployment background checks; and submit information on revoked TCOLE licenses to a designated national database. The bill also provides for TCOLE’s authority to establish advisory committees and to issue subpoenas for certain records.

Senate Bill 1445 sets out requirements for TCOLE with respect to officer misconduct, including those in requesting records of out-of-state license holders and in disqualifying certain officers whose license has been suspended or revoked by another state from TCOLE licensure, and requires TCOLE to adopt model policies to be used by law enforcement agencies in hiring and investigating alleged misconduct by license holders and regarding the maintenance of personnel files of license holders. Finally, the bill establishes TCOLE’s duty to take disciplinary action against a law enforcement agency for certain violations and to issue an emergency license suspension on determining a license holder constitutes an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

[Senate Bill 1447](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Miles
House Sponsor: Campos

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1447 amends the Family Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to develop a training program for each person who investigates any instance of suspected child abuse or neglect at the state or local level and the person’s investigative supervisor. The bill sets out the requisite topics of instruction and requires DFPS to administer to each investigator and investigative supervisor an examination to test the individual’s knowledge and competency of the information provided in the training program. An individual may not be assigned to investigate or supervise the investigation of any case until they successfully complete the training program and pass the examination.

Senate Bill 1457

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Thompson, Senfronia et al.

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary &
Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1457 amends the Estates Code to revise provisions relating to guardianship proceedings and to authorize the delivery of certain communications in connection with those proceedings to be made by a qualified delivery method as an alternative to certified or registered mail in an action or a proceeding. The bill also clarifies that an attorney ad litem representing a proposed ward in a guardianship proceeding may accept service on the ward's behalf if the proposed ward has been personally served with notice of the proceeding. With respect to the surviving parent of an adult who is an incapacitated person, and the parent is the guardian of the individual's estate, the bill does the following:

- authorizes the parent to designate an eligible individual to serve as guardian after the parent dies or in the event of the parent's incapacity; and
- includes the parent's resignation as guardian among the events that trigger the designated person's service.

The bill authorizes a surviving parent who is both the guardian of the individual's person and estate to designate different eligible persons to serve in each guardianship role.

Senate Bill 1457 provides for a guardian of the person of a ward for whom the court has not appointed a guardian of the estate to access, manage, and spend a certain amount of the ward's funds for the ward's benefit. The bill clarifies that a guardian of an estate is not required to give notice to persons with claims against the estate if another person also appointed as guardian or a former guardian has given that notice. The bill gives the court the option to cap compensation for a guardian serving as a guardian of the person of the ward at a specified amount instead of a percent of the ward's gross income.

Senate Bill 1457 provides for a court, when a ward's spouse fails to comply with an order to deliver to the guardian of the ward's estate certain community property, to order the delivery of the property to the guardian. The bill raises the cap on the net value of certain property that is subject to sale or mortgage by an applicant after court approval and the cap on the amount of money to which certain persons are entitled from an applicable debtor as a result of transactions in Texas. The bill also removes the condition that a nonresident minor or nonresident person adjudged by a foreign court to be incapacitated have a nonresident guardian in order to be entitled to money from an applicable debtor.

Senate Bill 1467

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hancock

House Sponsor: Price

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1467 amends the Occupations Code to prohibit a pathology or radiology report that has a reasonable likelihood of showing a finding of malignancy or a test result that may reveal a genetic marker from being disclosed to a patient or patient representative by electronic means before the third day after the date such a sensitive test result is finalized.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1467 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1469

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Noble et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1469 amends the Human Resources Code to require an applicant for a position with a child-care facility to submit a pre-employment affidavit disclosing whether the applicant has ever been charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor. The bill requires an applicant who answers affirmatively concerning an inappropriate relationship with a minor to disclose in the affidavit all relevant facts pertaining to the charge, adjudication, or conviction, but an applicant is not precluded from being employed based on a disclosed charge if the employing entity determines that

the charge was false on the basis of the information disclosed in the affidavit. A determination that an employee failed to disclose any requisite information is grounds for termination of employment.

Senate Bill 1471
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt
House Sponsor: Noble et al.

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1471 amends the Education Code and Government Code to provide for a qualified private school to obtain state criminal history record information from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) that relates to an employee or an applicant for employment, subject to a DPS determination. Among other provisions, the bill requires for such information to be destroyed by the school after the information is used for the authorized purpose. The bill also authorizes a qualified private school to obtain criminal history record information from the FBI and prohibits such information from being released or disclosed except on court order.

Senate Bill 1471 authorizes the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to obtain from any law enforcement or criminal justice agency all criminal history record information and all records contained in any closed criminal investigation file that relate to a specific applicant for employment or current or former employee of a qualified private school. The bill authorizes a qualified private school to require an applicant for employment or current employee to submit to a national criminal history record information review and to take certain actions related to obtaining and reporting that information to DPS. The bill further sets out requirements for a qualified private school with respect to submitting criminal history record information to DPS and TEA.

Senate Bill 1484
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Holland

Senate Committee: Border Security
House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1484 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and administer a border operations training program to prepare peace officers for collaboration and cooperation with law enforcement agencies, district and county attorneys, the border prosecution unit, and other prosecutors on investigations and prosecutions related to criminal activity in the Texas-Mexico border region. Among other provisions, the bill requires DPS to identify opportunities for these officers to assist in its border operations-related duties and authorizes the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to recognize, administer, or assist in administering the training program as a continuing education program for officers.

Senate Bill 1495
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson et al.
House Sponsor: Davis

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1495 amends the Transportation Code to make certain personal identifying information collected by a local government or joint municipal airport board confidential if the information is collected in relation to a person's use of an airport parking facility.

Senate Bill 1499
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Nichols
House Sponsor: Canales

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1499 amends the Transportation Code to revise provisions relating to the funding of certain port projects. The bill clarifies that the Port Authority Advisory Committee determines the facilities necessary for certain project funding purposes, extends the eligibility for port project funding to projects acquiring equipment used to move cargo and passengers in all types of commerce and trade, and caps the funding that an eligible applicant may receive from the port access account fund at 20 percent of the total amount of appropriations to the Texas Department of Transportation in a fiscal biennium to fund eligible projects. The bill requires money appropriated to the fund by the legislature and money received from the

federal government to be credited to the fund and restricts the use of such money appropriated by the legislature to funding eligible port projects.

Senate Bill 1500

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Canales

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1500 amends the Water Code to revise and update provisions relating to navigation districts and the boards of trustees of municipal port facilities. The bill provides for a port commission to delegate the authority of making routine purchases or contracts, provides for a navigation district to make emergency purchases, contracts, or amendments when responding to a supply chain emergency, and exempts a purchase contract in response to such an emergency from competitive bidding requirements and proposal procedures. The bill clarifies that the condemnation procedure available for a navigation district is the procedure provided in Property Code provisions relating to eminent domain. The bill extends the authority of a navigation and canal commission to take certain actions regarding salvage and surplus property to a board of trustees of a municipal port facility and provides for the sale of dredge material by either entity.

Senate Bill 1506

Effective: 5-27-23

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Clardy

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1506 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Education Agency, not later than December 1, 2023, to adopt and post on its website a form to be used in submitting a seizure management and treatment plan developed by the parent or guardian of a student with a seizure disorder and the physician responsible for the student's seizure treatment. The bill removes specific content requirements for such a plan and requires the form instead to request specified information relating to the student's emergency contacts, medical history and condition, and treatment protocol in the event of a seizure emergency.

Senate Bill 1509

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1509 repeals the Government Code provision that provides the following:

- a member of the Employees Retirement System of Texas may retire without separating from a position in the class of membership from which the member is eligible to retire if the member is at least 60 years old and has accrued enough service credit in the class to receive the maximum annuity permitted by ERS; and
- a member who so retires without separating from the applicable position is not entitled to earn any additional ERS retirement benefits.

Senate Bill 1514

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Longoria

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1514 amends the Business & Commerce Code and Business Organizations Code to revise and set out a number of provisions with respect to corporations, limited liability companies (LLC), and partnerships. Generally, the bill does the following:

- eliminates the need for repeating an initial mailing address in a restated certificate of formation;
- amends the definition of "assumed name" to confirm that a protected series of an LLC does not have an assumed name if its name includes the name of its associated LLC;
- provides more flexibility for filing certificates of merger, exchange, or conversion;

- permits a method of electronic notice to owners of a meeting of owners, or solicitation of written consents of owners in lieu of a meeting, to approve a proposed action regarding which the owners have dissent and appraisal rights;
- eliminates the requirement that dissenting owners must surrender endorsed certificates representing ownership interests to obtain payment of a judgment resulting from an appraisal proceeding;
- eliminates, for corporations, the requirement to produce and keep open lists of shareholders or voting members at shareholder or voting member meetings;
- eliminates the three year deadline for reinstatement of a voluntarily terminated entity;
- makes provisions currently applicable to corporations also applicable to the ratification of void acts by or transactions by LLCs and partnerships;
- allows an LLC to be responsibly closed out when the member status of the last remaining member terminates and also extends the default deadline from 90 days to one year for replacement of the last remaining member whose status terminates; and
- makes numerous nonsubstantive technical and clarifying changes, such as a revision that clarifies the doctrine of independent legal significance in interpreting Business Organizations Code provisions.

Senate Bill 1516**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** King**House Sponsor:** Cook**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1516 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to revise and clarify provisions relating to the procedures for an application for a writ of habeas corpus and the courts in which the writ may be issued.

Senate Bill 1517**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** King et al.**House Sponsor:** Paul**Senate Committee:** Education**House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 1517 amends the Education Code to prohibit, with certain exceptions, a public institution of higher education from implementing an academic boycott of a foreign country that would prevent a student or faculty member of the institution from studying or conducting research in or about the country or interacting with the country's scholars or representatives.

Senate Bill 1518**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** King**House Sponsor:** Guillen et al.**Senate Committee:** Border Security**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1518 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Penal Code to create the criminal offenses of terrorism, aiding in the commission of terrorism, and hindering the prosecution of terrorism and to establish a terrorist offender registration program. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Department of Public Safety to maintain a central database containing the information required for registration, to provide notification of a person's registration to a licensing authority or institution of higher education under certain circumstances, and to establish procedures for sharing registration information with law enforcement personnel and criminal justice officials and for establishing an alert flag on criminal history record information of persons required to register. Additionally, the bill establishes registration and verification requirements and provides for prerelease notification to persons subject to registration, the provision of a DNA specimen by registrants, residential restrictions and requirements relating to driver's licenses or personal identification certificates, an offense for failure to comply with registration requirements, the expiration of a person's duty to register, and the removal of registration information upon that expiration.

Senate Bill 1520 **Senate Author:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Clardy **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1520 repeals the Government Code provisions authorizing the Texas Historical Commission, after certain consultations, to replace the original Republic of Texas Granite Boundary Marker and the International Boundary Marker with a replica boundary marker.

Senate Bill 1523 **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Anderson et al. **House Committee:** Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 1523 amends the Occupations Code to require the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) to establish criteria for determining unfounded or baseless complaints filed with the TBVME and to provide that, if the TBVME determines that a filed complaint is baseless or unfounded, the TBVME must dismiss the complaint and include a statement in the record that the complaint was dismissed because the complaint was baseless or unfounded.

Senate Bill 1524 **Senate Author:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 5-23-23 **House Sponsor:** Lujan et al. **House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 1524 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to provide any TxDOT services on federal military property.

Senate Bill 1525 **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Rose **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1525 amends the Tax Code to extend confidentiality protections for certain home address information in local property tax appraisal records to a current or former attorney for the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Senate Bill 1526 **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Morales, Eddie **House Committee:** County Affairs

Senate Bill 1526 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to authorize the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to provide mobile emergency medical services within the district's boundaries.

Senate Bill 1527 **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Thompson, Senfronia et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1527 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Penal Code, and Transportation Code to revise provisions relating to the entities responsible for preventing and combatting human trafficking in Texas and to the prosecution and punishment of trafficking related offenses. Among other provisions, the bill revises the composition of the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council and the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, revises the task force's duties, includes disabled individuals in the scope of certain child trafficking and prostitution offenses, and increases penalties for certain trafficking and prostitution offenses. The bill also creates the offense of child grooming and establishes penalty enhancements for possession of child pornography under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 1527 expands the applicability of provisions relating to the admissibility of hearsay statements of certain abuse victims and of evidence of other crimes committed against a child victim. The bill revises the information required to be reported by certain law enforcement entities to the attorney general concerning human trafficking investigations and provides for the confidentiality of that information. Finally, the bill requires an indication that a person is subject to sex offender registration because of a trafficking conviction to be included in driver's license and personal identification certificate records.

[Senate Bill 1551](#) **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Frazier **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1551 amends the Penal Code to create a failure to identify offense for a motor vehicle operator who is detained by a peace officer for an alleged violation and who fails to provide or display their driver’s license and intentionally refuses to give their identifying information on the officer’s request. The bill provides a penalty enhancement for giving a false or fictitious name during the commission of the offense.

[Senate Bill 1563](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** Metcalf et al. **House Committee:** Appropriations

Senate Bill 1563 repeals the Education Code provision making Sam Houston State University ineligible to receive any formula funding for the university’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

[Senate Bill 1565](#) **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Paul **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 1565 amends the Education Code to require the governing board of each public institution of higher education to establish a policy framework that promotes secure academic research while mitigating the risk of foreign espionage and interference. Among other required components, the framework must provide for the designation of a research security officer. The governing board of a university system must establish a separate framework for each institution under the board’s management and control, but a research security officer designated by the board may serve in either an institutional or system-wide capacity.

[Senate Bill 1568](#) **Senate Author:** Campbell **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Shaheen **House Committee:** Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1568 amends the Property Code, for purposes of provisions generally applicable to liens, to redefine “substitute trustee” as an individual, corporation, organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, or other legal entity appointed by the current mortgagee or mortgage servicer under the terms of the security instrument to exercise the power of sale of real property. The bill, for those same purposes, also redefines “trustee” as an individual, corporation, organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, or other legal entity authorized to exercise the power of sale under the terms of a security instrument in accordance with statutory provisions relating to the duties of a trustee so authorized.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 1568 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 1577](#) **Senate Author:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 1-1-24 **House Sponsor:** King, Ken et al. **House Committee:** Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1577 amends the Education Code to rename the Real Estate Research Center as the Texas Real Estate Research Center and to make certain changes to the real estate research advisory committee regarding the committee’s leadership, compensation for travel expenses, and meeting protocols.

Senate Bill 1577 amends the Occupations Code to, among other provisions, exclude a business entity that meets the criteria set out in the bill from licensing requirements under The Real Estate License Act, revise the eligibility criteria for a broker license and a sales agent license, specify that additional fees

for such licenses and a certificate of registration are for each year of the term for which the license or certificate is issued, rename the commissioner of the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board (TALCB) as the executive director of TALCB, and raise the cap on payments made from the real estate recovery trust account.

Senate Bill 1577 amends the Property Code to require an equitable interest disclosure with respect to the sale of an option or the assignment of an interest in a contract to purchase real property to be in writing to the owner of the real property.

Senate Bill 1585 **Senate Author:** Sparks et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Johnson, Ann et al. **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 1585 amends the Family Code to revise and consolidate provisions relating to proceedings for children with mental illness or an intellectual disability under the juvenile justice code, including provisions relating to the forensic mental examination process for identifying children who are unfit to proceed in juvenile court or lack responsibility for conduct due to mental illness or an intellectual disability. Among other changes, the bill sets out criteria for court-ordered inpatient or outpatient mental health services, either temporary or extended, and for court-ordered residential intellectual disability services and requires treatment ordered for a child with mental illness to focus on the stabilization of the child's mental illness and on meeting the child's psychiatric needs in the least restrictive appropriate setting. The bill also authorizes juvenile probation departments to provide restoration classes in collaboration with an outpatient setting and gives a juvenile court discretion to transfer proceedings involving an applicable child to a criminal court on or after the child's 18th birthday, whereas previous law required that transfer to occur.

Senate Bill 1588 **Senate Author:** Blanco et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Morales, Eddie **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1588 amends the Health and Safety Code to revise provisions regarding variances granted by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for certain emergency medical services (EMS) providers. Among other provisions, the bill removes as a condition of eligibility for the variance that the EMS provider exclusively use volunteers to provide prehospital care or is otherwise exempt from EMS fees, removes the requirement for DSHS to grant a variance from minimum equipment standards, and removes the specification that basic life-support services are the services that may be provided under a variance. Furthermore, the bill removes the authority of the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt a variance application filing fee and revises requirements for the submission of an application letter.

Senate Bill 1592 **Senate Author:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Herrero **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 1592 amends the Health and Safety Code to increase the number of members of the radiation advisory board from 18 to 19 by adding one individual appointed by the governor who is licensed by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Senate Bill 1598 **Senate Author:** Hancock **Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Guillen **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1598 amends the Government Code to update references to legislative committees with respect to the membership of the Homeland Security Council.

Senate Bill 1599**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Bucy**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 1599 amends the Election Code to revise provisions relating to mail-in ballots, including with respect to the application for a mail-in ballot, the opportunity to correct a defect in an application or ballot, and the acceptance of a ballot. The bill requires an election officer to maintain a register of mail-in ballots that are returned at a polling place by a person desiring to cancel their application to vote by mail and provides for the storage of such returned ballots.

Senate Bill 1599 establishes a process through which an applicant for a mail-in ballot may correct certain defects in their application. The bill requires the early voting clerk to determine if it would be possible for the applicant to correct the defect and return an application form by mail before the applicable deadline and, if so, to either return the application to the applicant or deliver an official application form to the applicant. If it would not be possible for the applicant to correct the defect and return an application form by mail before the applicable deadline, the clerk may notify the applicant by telephone or email of the defect and inform the applicant that they may come to the clerk's office before the deadline and correct the defect in person.

Senate Bill 1599 removes requirements for a signature verification committee or early voting ballot board, on discovering a defect in a mail-in ballot, to return the carrier envelope to the voter if time allows for the voter to correct the defect and return the envelope. The bill requires the committee or board instead to send the voter a corrective action form, to be developed by the secretary of state, and a notice that explains the defect and informs the voter that they may correct the defect in person or by submitting a corrective action form or may cancel their application to vote by mail.

Senate Bill 1599 requires an early voting clerk, signature verification committee, or early voting ballot board, with respect to a defective mail-in ballot application or voted mail-in ballot, as applicable, to additionally notify the applicant or voter of the defect using the online mail-in ballot application and mail-in ballot tracking tool and, if possible, to permit the applicant or voter to correct a defect using the online tool. The bill replaces the voter's registration address with the voter's date of birth as information that a voter must provide to access the online tool.

Senate Bill 1599 revises the timeline for delivery of mail-in ballots to the early voting ballot board and requires the board to make its determination whether to accept mail-in ballots after the ballots are delivered to the board. The bill clarifies that an early voting ballot board is required to compare mail-in ballot application and carrier envelope signatures when determining whether to accept a voter's ballot regardless of whether a presumption exists that the signatures are those of the voter because the voter provided certain identifying information.

Senate Bill 1602**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Cain et al.**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1602 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to require an action brought against a social media platform under the authority of state law governing discourse on such platforms to be brought and maintained in a court in Texas and to specify that state law applies to the action. These requirements apply notwithstanding any other law, any contract, or any venue, forum selection, or choice-of-law provision in a contract.

Senate Bill 1603**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Smithee**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1603 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to require a court of appeals, if it does not accept an appeal from an interlocutory order that is permitted to be appealed based on the order involving a controlling question of law as to which there is a substantial ground for difference of opinion and the possibility that an immediate appeal may materially advance the ultimate termination of the

litigation, to state in its decision the specific reason for finding that the appeal is not warranted. The bill authorizes the Texas Supreme Court to review a decision by a court of appeals not to accept the appeal de novo. If the supreme court concludes that the requirements to permit the appeal are satisfied, the supreme court may direct the court of appeals to accept the appeal.

Senate Bill 1606

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: State Affairs

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Leach

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1606 amends the Estates Code to make the current requirements for the letter or certificate from a physician that must be presented to the court by an applicant for modification of a ward's guardianship or restoration of a ward's capacity inapplicable when the basis of the ward's alleged incapacity is an intellectual disability. The bill sets out provisions requiring the court to consider instead a written letter or certificate the applicant presents from either a physician licensed in Texas or a psychologist licensed in Texas or certified by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to perform the examination, in accordance with rules adopted by the executive commissioner of HHSC governing examinations of that kind. The bill sets out the criteria for the letter or certificate and establishes that a physician or psychologist who provides such a letter or certificate or who conducts a capacity evaluation for a proposed ward with an intellectual disability in a proceeding for the appointment of a guardian must preferably have experience examining individuals with an intellectual disability. The bill removes the requirement for an order completely restoring a ward's capacity to specify that the ward's mental capacity is completely restored if the ward's incapacity resulted from a mental condition.

Senate Bill 1612

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

Effective: See below

House Sponsor: Orr et al.

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1612 amends the Estates Code, Family Code, Government Code, and Local Government Code to do the following, effective September 1, 2023:

- set out standard procedures for court clerks transferring or receiving probate and guardianship cases between courts, including sending or marking specified documents in each transferred case and using the standardized forms created by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System; and
- provide for the application of certain statewide electronic filing system requirements and documentation requirements for cases transferred from a district court or a county court to a case that is transferred to a constitutional or statutory county court or another district court.

The bill also does the following with respect to court fees:

- sets fees for certain services performed by a district court clerk and non-court fees for services relating to certified and noncertified papers performed by a county clerk;
- clarifies that the services for which the commissioners court of a county may set reasonable fees are for service of process, including service of writs, by the offices of the sheriff and constables;
- revises certain provisions relating to the state consolidated civil fee on filing a civil case;
- changes the entity authorized to use money collected from certain criminal and civil fees allocated to the records management and preservation fund from the applicable county to the clerk of the court who collects the fee, upon commissioners court approval; and
- increase court fees for suits affecting the parent-child relationship.

Effective September 1, 2023, Senate Bill 1612 does the following:

- makes the sending county in a transfer between counties of a child's probation supervision financially responsible for any special treatment program or placement that the juvenile court of the sending county requires as a condition of probation, regardless of whether the child's family is financially unable to pay for the program or placement; and

- removes from the applicability of statutory provisions regarding the rights and responsibilities of parents and other eligible persons, among other proceedings, a proceeding to enter a juvenile court order requiring the parent or other eligible person to reimburse the county for payments the county has made to an attorney appointed to represent the child in a juvenile proceeding.

Except as otherwise provided, the bill takes effect January 1, 2024.

Senate Bill 1614

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Price

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1614 amends the Tax Code to clarify that, for purposes of state law allowing an entity with the principal business activity of broadcasting to factor in the costs of goods sold when calculating franchise tax liability, “broadcasting” means television or radio broadcasting under a television or radio broadcast license issued by the FCC.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 1614 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 1615

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Wilson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1615 amends the Occupations Code to enact and enter into the cosmetology licensure compact to facilitate the interstate practice and regulation of cosmetology with the goals of improving public access to, and the safety of, cosmetology services and reducing unnecessary burdens related to cosmetology licensure. The bill sets out the compact’s provisions and designates the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as the compact administrator for Texas.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Before ceding sovereign power over our State’s cosmetologists to a Cosmetology Licensure Compact Commission that does not yet exist, Texas should wait and see who joins this proposed interstate compact. There is simply no need to rush into such an arrangement, as evidenced by the fact that Senate Bill No. 1615 would not even go into effect until 2026.

“I have long been a champion of occupational-licensing reforms like those in Senate Bill No. 1615, especially when they help military spouses. That is why I signed Senate Bill No. 1200 into law in 2019. As a result, a military spouse with an out-of-state license can now practice a trade in the Lone Star State without the hassle of securing another license from Texas.

“To take another example, I signed House Bill No. 3742 in 2015 so that Texas can enter into licensing-reciprocity agreements with sister states. Instead of waiting until 2026 for someone else to cut red tape, I hereby direct the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to redouble its efforts on entering into those bilateral agreements. A copy of this disapproval message shall be filed with that state agency.

“There will be time enough to reassess the membership and direction of this Cosmetology Licensure Compact Commission in 2025, when the 89th Legislature convenes. Meanwhile, I will continue to defend Texas’s sovereignty and push for real reforms that let Texans get to work.”

Senate Bill 1624

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1624 amends the Estates Code, Government Code, and Health and Safety Code to revise provisions relating to guardianship proceedings. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires an applicable attorney appointed or retained for a ward or proposed ward to represent the ward’s or proposed ward’s interests, including the ward’s or proposed ward’s expressed wishes;
- provides for any ward or proposed ward to retain an attorney to represent the person’s interests in a guardianship proceeding instead of having those interests represented by an attorney ad

litem and provides for such an attorney to be provided current records in the guardianship case and access to all of the proposed ward's relevant records;

- prohibits a guardian ad litem from being a person having a property right in or claim against an estate or an attorney ad litem appointed for the guardianship proceeding, except under specified circumstances;
- provides for a ward to have private communications with the ward's physicians or other medical professionals; and
- authorizes a court in which a guardianship proceeding is pending to conduct a hearing to determine whether a guardianship should be continued, modified, or terminated.

With respect to the mandatory annual review of a guardianship, the bill does the following:

- replaces the authorization for a statutory probate court to review certain reports prepared by a court investigator, guardian ad litem, or court visitor as well as the annual account of the estate or the annual report regarding the ward with a requirement for the statutory probate court to do so;
- removes the authorization for a statutory probate court in its annual review of a guardianship to conduct a related hearing;
- requires a court investigator to take additional steps in evaluating a guardianship and provides for additional reports relating to the support and maintenance of a ward; and
- requires a ward's statement of guardianship to include whether the ward desires a full restoration of the ward's capacity or modification of the ward's guardianship and any other information the ward wishes to share with the court.

Senate Bill 1624 also replaces requirements relating to presenting a physician's letter or certificate for purposes of a court order for the complete restoration of a ward's capacity or modification of guardianship with the following provisions:

- a requirement for an applicant for a court order for complete restoration of a ward's capacity or modification of guardianship, or applicant for the creation of a guardianship for an incapacitated person, to present to the court a letter or certificate from an appropriate physician or psychologist as evidence of capacity, or sufficient capacity with supports and services;
- a requirement for the physician or psychologist to have experience examining individuals with the physical or mental condition resulting in the ward's incapacity or have an established patient-provider relationship with the ward;
- an authorization for a court to consider certain evidence of capacity, or sufficient capacity with supports and services, at the hearing;
- a requirement for the court to appoint a physician or psychologist to complete an examination of the ward if the court determines necessary; and
- a requirement for a court investigator and a court visitor to complete certain additional training on alternatives to guardianship and supports and services available to a proposed ward.

Senate Bill 1624 requires the Texas Supreme Court to ensure that at least one hour of training related to such alternatives and supports and services is provided to each judge with jurisdiction to hear a guardianship proceeding, each court investigator appointed in such a proceeding, and each court visitor appointed in the proceeding, at least once every two years.

Senate Bill 1624 specifies that the requirement to transport a person who is apprehended in relation to exhibiting mental illness and an imminent, substantial risk of serious harm to the person or others for a preliminary examination applies to a person who is not physically located in a mental health facility at the time the requisite warrant is issued. The bill replaces the authorization for a judge or magistrate to permit an applicant who is a physician for emergency detention to present an application by email or other secure electronic means with a requirement to do so. The bill requires the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System to develop and implement a process for an applicant for emergency detention to

electronically present such an application. The bill authorizes a facility to detain a person who is physically located in the facility to perform a preliminary examination if a judge or magistrate transmits a warrant for the detention of the person and the person is not under an order for mental health services.

[Senate Bill 1639](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Thimesch et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1639 amends the Business & Commerce Code to prohibit a person from using or creating a bot to do the following with respect to ticket sales on a website:

- purchase tickets in excess of posted limits for an online ticket sale;
- use multiple Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, multiple purchaser accounts, or multiple email addresses to purchase tickets in excess of posted limits for an online ticket sale;
- circumvent or disable an electronic queue, waiting period, presale code, or other sales volume limitation system associated with an online ticket sale; or
- circumvent or disable a security measure, access control system, or other control or measure that is used to facilitate authorized entry to an event.

The bill establishes civil penalties for a violation of the prohibition and for the violation of a court order or injunction issued to enforce the prohibition. The attorney general may investigate a violation of the prohibition, bring an action in the name of the state to restrain or enjoin a person from violating the prohibition, and recover all reasonable costs of bringing an action.

[Senate Bill 1645](#)

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Lambert et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1645 amends the Finance Code to clarify that a hearings officer employed by the Texas Department of Banking to serve the department, the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending, and the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner may be retained under contract to provide services for the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

[Senate Bill 1646](#)

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Lambert et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1646 amends the Finance Code to revise certain statutory provisions relating to the regulation of state trust companies to make certain technical corrections or updates. Among other provisions regarding such regulatory issues, the bill does the following:

- makes fiduciary experience, rather than banking experience as currently specified, one of the qualities that the officers and directors of a trust institution applying to convert into a state trust company must have to be eligible to receive a certificate of authority; and
- replaces the requirement of a state trust company to dispose of certain real property according to the current limitations regarding state trust company facilities with the requirement that such a company comply instead with regulatory accounting principles in accounting for its investment in and depreciation of trust company facilities, furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

[Senate Bill 1647](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Hefner

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 1647 amends the Education Code to revise statutory provisions authorizing a public school district to use a dropout recovery program for the purposes of providing alternative education programs for students at risk of dropping out of school. Among other provisions, the bill provides for the option of using

a private or public community-based education management organization for such purposes, provides for such programs to be offered remotely or through a hybrid of in-person and remote instruction, and restricts the entities that may operate a dropout recovery education program. The bill also extends the authorization to use a dropout recovery program or organization to an open-enrollment charter school. The bill requires a dropout recovery program to offer or provide referrals for mental health services to students enrolled in the program and prohibits the program from marketing directly to students enrolled in a traditional education program. The bill authorizes a district or charter school to operate one campus-based dropout recovery education program for all students in the district or charter school and provides for an administrator or counselor to refer a student to a dropout recovery education program.

Senate Bill 1647 requires a district or charter school to annually post on its website a report on the percentage of students enrolled in each dropout recovery education program who attained certain measurable outcomes. The bill requires the commissioner of education to include a student who successfully completes a course offered through such a program in the computation of the district's or charter school's average daily attendance for funding purposes and provides for a student who completes a remote course offered through such a program to be included in that computation. The bill authorizes an entity that operates a program to administer an applicable statewide standardized test or end-of-course test.

Senate Bill 1648 **Senate Author:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: See below **House Sponsor:** Walle et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1648 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to create the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund held outside the treasury by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and administered by the Parks and Wildlife Department for the purpose of the creation and improvement of state parks. The bill provides for the administration and management of the fund, requests for distributions from the fund, the required approval of real property acquisitions by the fund, prohibited expenditures by the fund, expenditure audits by the state auditor, and requirements, as prescribed under state law, for a strategic plan of operation. The bill takes effect January 1, 2024, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 74.

Senate Bill 1650 **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Smithee **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1650 amends the Durable Power of Attorney Act, Estates Code, to make the following clarifications:

- a principal who signs or directs the signing of a durable power of attorney is an adult individual;
- the consideration of whether an actor is disabled or incapacitated applies to an individual; and
- the actor who may empower an agent through a statutory durable power of attorney is an individual.

The bill revises provisions regarding the relationship between a ward's named durable power of attorney and a court-appointed guardian for the ward's estate after execution of a durable power of attorney as follows:

- establishes that if a court appoints a permanent guardian for the ward's estate, on the qualification of the guardian, the powers and authority granted to the named agent are automatically revoked unless the court orders the agent's powers to be suspended during the pendency of the guardianship of the estate;
- establishes that if a court appoints a temporary guardian for the ward's estate, on the qualification of the guardian, the powers and authority granted to the named agent are automatically suspended for the duration of the guardianship unless a court order affirms and states the effectiveness of the power of attorney and confirms the validity of the appointment of the named agent; and

- removes the specification that the appointment of such a guardian is made by a court of the principal's domicile.

Senate Bill 1650 extends to any government agency authorized to provide protective services to the principal the authority to bring an action requesting a court to construe, or determine the validity or enforceability of, a durable power of attorney, or to review an agent's conduct under a durable power of attorney and grant appropriate relief. The bill authorizes a court with respect to such an action to award costs and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees in an amount the court considers equitable and just. The bill expands the applicability of a statutory durable power of attorney, as it relates to authority with respect to business operating transactions, to include powers relating to an entity or entity ownership interest, subject to the terms of an agreement or other document governing or relating to that entity or interest, and revises the enumerated powers that may be exercised by the agent with respect to business transactions to reflect this expansion.

Senate Bill 1650 amends the Property Code to exempt a disclaimer by a fiduciary acting in a fiduciary capacity that would result in an interest in or power over property passing to the person making the disclaimer from the requirement for the court to approve the disclaimer in order for it to be effective if the disclaimer is authorized instead under the Durable Power of Attorney Act.

Senate Bill 1653

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Cook et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Under current law, the penalty for promotion of prostitution is enhanced to a first degree felony if the applicable conduct involves a person younger than 18 years of age engaging in prostitution. Senate Bill 1653 amends the Penal Code to remove the condition that the person must engage in prostitution in order for that penalty to apply.

Senate Bill 1659

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Holland et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1659, the biennial sunset scheduling bill, amends the Agriculture Code, Education Code, Finance Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Occupations Code, Parks and Wildlife Code, and Special District Local Laws Code to change the review cycle for certain state agencies and other entities under the Texas Sunset Act. Additionally, the bill removes the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District from the sunset review process.

Senate Bill 1659 requires the Sunset Advisory Commission to conduct a special-purpose review of the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) for the 89th Texas Legislature. The staff evaluation and report must be limited to reviewing the required disclosures by a seller of real property and associated forms developed by the TREC.

Senate Bill 1661

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Smith et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 1661 amends the Election Code to restrict the ballot scan system that an authority operating a central counting station may purchase or use to a system that is only capable of using a data transfer media device that meets the following criteria:

- once a cast vote record is written, the device is incapable of being modified without automatic detection of the modification and automatic rejection of the cast vote record; and
- the device does not allow the automatic detection and rejection of a modified cast vote record to be overridden or circumvented.

Senate Bill 1668
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Turner

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence
House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1668 amends the Property Code to revise provisions relating to property owners' associations and condominium owners' associations. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a condominium owners' association to make the current version of the association's dedicatory instruments relating to the association and filed in the county deed records available on a website that is accessible to association members and maintained by the association or a management company on behalf of the association, applicable only to an association of a condominium governed under the Uniform Condominium Act that is composed of at least 60 units or an association that has contracted with a management company;
- sets out provisions regarding a management certificate or an amended management certificate filed with the Texas Real Estate Commission, provisions regarding liability for a delay or failure in recording or filing the certificate, and provisions prescribing additional information that must be stated in the certificate, such as the amount and description of a fee or fees charged to a unit seller or buyer relating to a transfer of a property interest in a unit of the condominium;
- authorizes a condominium owners' association to charge a reasonable and necessary fee, capped at \$375, to furnish a resale certificate to a unit owner other than a declarant who intends to sell a unit;
- specifies and further clarifies the actions that a property owners' association is not prohibited from taking; and
- sets out provisions regarding perimeter fencing and fencing in front of the front-most building line of a dwelling if the property owner's residential address is exempt from state or federal public disclosure law or the property owner provides to the association documentation from a law enforcement agency of the property owner's need for enhanced security measures.

In addition, the bill revises provisions relating to an architectural review authority of a property owners' association that consists of more than 40 lots.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1668 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1670 **Senate Author:** LaMantia et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Martinez **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1670 amends the Water Safety Act, Parks and Wildlife Code, to redesignate boating accident reports under the act as boating incident reports, to change the threshold for the mandatory reporting under the act of certain boating incidents, and to further clarify certain of the act's parameters applicable to the required reports of such incidents involving a collision, accident, or other casualty that results in death or injury to a person or damage to property. Among other provisions, including the bill's removal of the current act's provisions making reports confidential and inadmissible in court as evidence, the bill provides the following:

- the injury resulting from such an incident that triggers the reporting requirement is an injury that requires medical treatment beyond the provision of first aid;
- the person at the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to whom the report of an incident must be provided is a marine safety enforcement officer or TPWD-commissioned game warden;
- a marine safety enforcement officer who in the regular course of duty investigates such an incident must electronically file a written report of the incident with TPWD not later than the 15th day after the date the officer initially became aware of the incident; and
- such incident reports, with certain exceptions, held by TPWD or another governmental entity are confidential and only for the use of TPWD and an authorized official or agency of the United

States or a state or local governmental entity but must be released to entities specified in the bill, on an entity's written request, by TPWD or an applicable governmental entity.

Senate Bill 1677

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Price

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Corrections

Senate Bill 1677 amends the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), if it is appropriated money to implement grant programs to provide certain services to individuals with mental illness in excess of the total amount of grants awarded under the programs in the previous state fiscal year, with regard to selecting grant recipients for the excess amount, to accept applicants that were not selected in the previous state fiscal year or that were selected but require additional funding. The bill requires HHSC to establish procedures to assist a community collaborative that includes a county with a population of less than 250,000 with the submission of a petition to HHSC for seeking a grant from the applicable program to reduce recidivism, arrest, and incarceration among individuals with mental illness and to reduce wait time for forensic commitment.

Senate Bill 1677 requires HHSC, in cooperation with local mental health authorities located primarily in rural areas, to contract with nonprofit organizations or governmental entities to establish or expand behavioral health centers or jail diversion centers in the authorities' local service areas to provide for the following:

- additional forensic hospital beds and competency restoration services;
- inpatient and outpatient mental health services to adults and children; and
- services to reduce recidivism and the frequency of arrest, incarceration, and emergency detentions among persons with mental illness in the service areas.

The bill requires the executive commissioner of HHSC to develop criteria for the evaluation of applications or proposals submitted by a nonprofit organization seeking such a contract.

Senate Bill 1677 requires the State Auditor's Office to conduct an audit of the inmates in county jails who are waiting for a forensic hospital bed for the provision of competency restoration services that identifies any issues and inefficiencies in the commitment process and provides for a public report of the audit.

Senate Bill 1699

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Hunter

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1699 amends the Utilities Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to establish rules and registration requirements for the aggregation of distributed energy resources and to establish that a person who aggregates distributed energy resources:

- is not required to register as a power generation company to aggregate the resources;
- is required to comply with rules, guidelines, and registration requirements established by the PUC and by applicable provisions of the Public Utility Regulatory Act; and
- remains accountable for compliance with the applicable statutes and rules by a subcontractor, an agent, or any other entity compensated by the person for activities conducted on the person's behalf.

The bill clarifies that a retail electric provider may aggregate distributed energy resources.

Senate Bill 1699 requires the PUC by rule to establish goals in the ERCOT power region to reduce the average total residential load. The rules adopted by the PUC must provide for the adoption of a program that, among other things, provides demand response participation to residential customers where reasonably available and allows for the use of funding obtained by a retail electric provider (REP) through an energy efficiency incentive program to cover costs associated with offering a demand response program. The bill entitles customers in the ERCOT power region to participate in demand response programs through REPs that offer such programs and to receive notice from their REP when ERCOT issues an emergency energy alert.

[Senate Bill 1710](#)
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Perry et al.
House Sponsor: Burrows

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1710 amends the Utilities Code to reinstate the needs testing for certain incumbent local exchange companies or cooperatives receiving support from the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) under the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan and for certain local exchange companies that are electing companies or cooperatives receiving TUSF support under the Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan that was originally instituted in 2013. Under this reinstated needs testing scheme, an incumbent local exchange company or a cooperative, or an incumbent local exchange company that is an electing company or a cooperative, that served greater than 31,000 access lines in Texas on September 1, 2022, or a company or cooperative that is a successor to such a company or cooperative, will have the TUSF support it receives reduced to zero by 2027 if the support is received under the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan or by 2028 if the support is received under the Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan. The bill reinstates the process for a company or cooperative whose support is slated to be reduced to petition the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to initiate a contested case hearing and demonstrate a financial need for continued support from the TUSF.

Senate Bill 1710 requires that the support provided to an incumbent local exchange company or cooperative from the TUSF that before December 31, 2022, was reduced to 25 percent of the amount the company or cooperative was otherwise eligible to receive under the initial needs testing scheme to be further reduced to zero on December 31, 2024. The bill also authorizes an eligible telecommunications provider to notify the PUC that the provider relinquishes the support it is entitled to receive from the TUSF.

Senate Bill 1710 entitles a cooperative or an affiliate of a cooperative that is receiving continued support from the TUSF under the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan for services in an incumbent local exchange that is ineligible for support from the TUSF to continued support through December 31, 2023.

[Senate Bill 1712](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Darby

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1712 amends the Occupations Code to exempt the following from The Real Estate License Act:

- the purchase, sale, or lease of real property for a limited partnership (LP) by a general partner of the LP, an employee of a general partner of the LP who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment, or an employee of the LP who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment; and
- the purchase, sale, or lease of real property for a limited liability company (LLC) by a manager or managing member of the LLC, an employee of a manager or managing member of the LLC who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment, or an employee or member of the LLC who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1712 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[Senate Bill 1716](#)
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Gerdes

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1716 amends the Transportation Code to increase the term limits for certain contracts regarding airports and associated air navigation facilities operated by or on behalf of a local government from 40 years to 50 years.

Senate Bill 1717**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Moody**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1717 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to revise the conduct and results that constitute the offense of stalking and to clarify provisions relating to evidence in stalking prosecutions.

Senate Bill 1720**Effective:** 6-18-23**Senate Author:** Kolkhorst**House Sponsor:** Lozano**Senate Committee:** Education**House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 1720 amends the Education Code to require the policies and procedures adopted by a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team at each public school district campus to provide for a district employee who reports a potential threat to the team to elect for their identity to be confidential and exempt from disclosure under state public information law, except as necessary for investigation of the potential threat, and for the district to maintain a record of the identity of such an employee.

Senate Bill 1725**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Leo-Wilson**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1725 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to establish that multiple alcohol-related violations committed during the same incident by a minor arrested for but not convicted of the violations are eligible for expunction.

Senate Bill 1727**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Schwertner et al.**House Sponsor:** Canales et al.**Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice**House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 1727 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Family Code, Government Code, and Human Resources Code to continue the Texas Juvenile Justice Board and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) until September 1, 2027, and to revise the laws governing those entities and TJJD's office of inspector general (OIG) and office of independent ombudsman (OIO). Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- revises the board's composition and provides for the expiration of all current board members' terms;
- sets out specific qualifications for the TJJD executive director and strengthens board oversight duties;
- requires TJJD to track the frequency with which the executive director takes specified actions and to report that data to the board and the Sunset Advisory Commission;
- revises the composition and duties of the advisory council on juvenile services and requires the board to adopt certain rules regarding the advisory council's operation;
- authorizes the board to establish advisory committees and requires the establishment of a youth career and technical education advisory committee;
- requires TJJD and OIO to each adopt a policy prioritizing facility inspections based on risk and develop risk assessment tools for that purpose;
- requires TJJD to publish a statistical analysis of complaints received against certified officers;
- revises requirements for TJJD's regionalization plan and provides for biennial plan updates;
- authorizes the use of retrofitted adult facilities for the confinement of youth offenders;
- requires TJJD to partner with institutions of higher education to inventory and map resources available for children in the juvenile justice system;
- authorizes a juvenile probation department to house a child awaiting transfer to TJJD in a pre-adjudication secure detention facility or a post-adjudication secure correctional facility;
- revises eligibility requirements for juvenile probation officers and detention officers;

- authorizes the issuance of provisional certifications for employees of a juvenile probation department or a private facility that houses youth on probation;
- authorizes TJJD to incentivize county-level diversion and collaboration through grantmaking;
- requires juvenile probation departments to apply for the placement of a child in a regional specialized program before a juvenile court commits the child to TJJD custody;
- requires TJJD to publish certain annual and quarterly data on children committed to TJJD;
- requires TJJD to place a child in the most restrictive setting appropriate as the child awaits an adjudication or prosecution for conduct constituting a first or second degree felony while in TJJD custody;
- requires TJJD to refer a determinate-sentenced youth to their committing juvenile court for approval of a transfer to Texas Department of Criminal Justice confinement if they are convicted or adjudicated of certain high-level offenses committed when they were at least 16 years old and in TJJD custody;
- revises provisions outlining the circumstances under which TJJD is authorized or required to disseminate juvenile justice information;
- entitles certain TJJD employees to compensatory time off for work performed on a holiday that falls on a weekend;
- updates the OIG statutes to align with current practice, requires legal sufficiency review of OIG investigations, and includes OIG in the scope of statutory provisions regarding law enforcement use of tracking equipment and access to communications;
- clarifies OIO's authority and duties in facilities operated by or contracted with a juvenile probation department or juvenile board; and
- requires TJJD and juvenile probation departments to notify OIO regarding private facilities with which they contract to place post-adjudicated children.

Senate Bill 1730

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Cole

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 1730 amends the Government Code to specify that the duties a district court clerk may perform to process a U.S. passport application include selling money orders to applicants for payment purposes. The bill authorizes a clerk to collect a reasonable fee to recover the costs of selling the money orders.

Senate Bill 1732

Effective: 5-24-23

Senate Author: Hancock

House Sponsor: Patterson

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1732 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, in consultation with the Texas Department of Transportation, to adopt standards for public electric vehicle charging stations that require standard electric connector or plug types widely compatible with as many electric vehicles as practicable.

Senate Bill 1741

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Raymond

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1741 amends the Transportation Code to authorize the Texas Transportation Commission to authorize the City of Laredo to issue permits for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles carrying cargo in Webb County on certain portions of State Highway 255 and Farm-to-Market Road 3338.

[Senate Bill 1745](#) **Senate Author:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Burrows **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1745 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to make the prohibition against the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District charging an annual production fee of more than 17 cents per thousand gallons of water authorized to be produced for nonagricultural use under a permit from a well located in certain shared territory applicable only before September 1, 2023. The bill authorizes the district to increase such fee by not more than 10 cents per thousand gallons per year beginning on such date for such water until the fee is equal to a certain statutory maximum amount.

[Senate Bill 1746](#) **Senate Author:** Perry **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1746 amends the Water Code to provide for an exemption from a groundwater conservation district requirement to obtain a permit for the drilling of a water well that is to be temporarily used to supply water for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling a groundwater production well permitted by a district.

[Senate Bill 1750](#) **Senate Author:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Cain et al. **House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 1750 amends the Election Code to abolish the position of county elections administrator in Harris County and transfer all applicable powers, duties, employees, property, and records to the county tax assessor-collector and county clerk. The bill restricts the authority of a county commissioners court to create the position of county elections administrator by written order to a county with a population of 3.5 million or less.

[Senate Bill 1758](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 5-19-23 **House Sponsor:** Gerdes **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1758 amends the law to change the purposes for which certain land conveyed or transferred by the Parks and Wildlife Department to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute may be used by the system from the purposes of a science park and research purposes to any purpose consistent with the mission of the system or a component institution of the system.

[Senate Bill 1766](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Paul **House Committee:** County Affairs

Senate Bill 1766 amends the Local Government Code to set out provisions relating to the contents of a contract for appraisal services entered into by a licensed appraiser and a governmental agency. The bill does the following:

- renders void and unenforceable a contract provision or a promise in connection with the contract that requires an appraiser to take certain actions;
- requires the contract to establish a specific standard of care; and
- authorizes the contract to require the reimbursement of a governmental agency's attorney's fees in proportion to an appraiser's liability and an appraiser to name a governmental agency as an additional insured under the appraiser's general liability insurance policy.

Senate Bill 1766 does not prohibit a governmental agency from including and enforcing a contract provision that relates to the scope, fees, and schedule of a project in the contract.

Senate Bill 1768 **Senate Author:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 5-29-23 **House Sponsor:** Bryant **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1768 amends the Property Code to make nonsubstantive corrections and remove obsolete references to the Texas Residential Construction Commission Act, Vernon’s Texas Insurance Code, the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, the Cooperative Association Act, and the Community Homes for Disabled Persons Location Act. The bill also repeals Property Code provisions requiring a seller of residential real property that is exempt from the former Texas Residential Construction Commission Act to give to the purchaser of the property a notice regarding the nonapplicability of certain warranties.

Senate Bill 1778 **Senate Author:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Rogers et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1778 amends the Water Code to authorize a retail public utility to initiate, transfer, or terminate a customer’s retail water or sewer service on receipt of a customer request by mail, by telephone, through a website, or through another electronic transmission.

Senate Bill 1780 **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 1-1-24 **House Sponsor:** Capriglione **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 1780 amends the Government Code to revise and set out provisions to provide for the online notarization by an online notary public of tangible instruments or electronic documents that are notarized by the online notary public with a tangible symbol and not an electronic signature. Among other provisions, the bill requires an online notary public to keep a record of documents that are tangible instruments notarized by the online notary public with a tangible symbol and requires the record to contain the same elements as those for the records kept by the online notary public for electronic documents. The bill requires an online notary public to authenticate all online notarizations with the online notary public’s electronic seal if the online notarization was performed with respect to an electronic document or with the online notary public’s seal of office if the online notarization was performed with respect to a tangible document. The bill revises provisions requiring an online notary public to verify the identity of a person creating an electronic signature at the time that the signature is taken and requires the notarial certificate for an online notarization to indicate if the applicable signature was a tangible symbol or an electronic signature. The bill authorizes an online notary public to administer an oath or affirmation to a principal as an online notarization under certain conditions.

Senate Bill 1794 **Senate Author:** Menéndez et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 3-1-24 **House Sponsor:** Cortez **House Committee:** County Affairs

Senate Bill 1794 repeals a Health and Safety Code provision that authorizes the City of San Antonio to negotiate with Bexar County conditions under which the city will grant its consent to the inclusion of its extraterritorial jurisdiction in an emergency services district.

Senate Bill 1794 amends the Health and Safety Code to update population brackets for the City of San Antonio in certain provisions regarding the creation of an emergency services district located in Bexar County.

Senate Bill 1801 **Senate Author:** Springer **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Darby et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1801 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district to develop and implement a program for the periodic review of each residence homestead property tax exemption granted by the district to confirm that the recipient still qualifies for the exemption.

[Senate Bill 1802](#)**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Springer
House Sponsor: Goldman**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1802 amends the Government Code to extend to the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation the authority currently granted to the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to impose an administrative penalty on a building owner for a violation of state law relating to the elimination of architectural barriers. The bill repeals provisions requiring notice to be provided with respect to administrative penalties and complaint monitoring.

[Senate Bill 1809](#)**Effective:** 5-27-23**Senate Author:** Sparks
House Sponsor: Smithee**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1809 amends the Tax Code to authorize the Armstrong County Commissioners Court to impose a hotel occupancy tax. The rate of that tax is capped generally at seven percent of the price paid for a hotel room, except that the cap is instead two percent of that price if the hotel is located in a municipality or an extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality that imposes a municipal hotel occupancy tax applicable to the hotel.

[Senate Bill 1831](#)**Effective:** 5-19-23**Senate Author:** Hinojosa
House Sponsor: Lambert**Senate Committee:** Finance
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1831 amends the Government Code to grant the Employees Retirement System of Texas exclusive authority over all aspects of the purchase of goods and services related to the operation of home office facilities used in administering the retirement system, including a purchase related to the administration of tenant leases in the facilities, that are made using money other than money appropriated from the general revenue fund.

[Senate Bill 1837](#)**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hinojosa
House Sponsor: Lozano**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1837 amends the Tax Code to authorize the City of Alice to use revenue derived from its hotel occupancy tax to promote tourism by enhancing and upgrading an existing sports facility or field, in addition to the other uses authorized by law for municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue, provided that the municipality complies with a certain cap on the amount spent for these purposes.

[Senate Bill 1839](#)**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hinojosa
House Sponsor: Morrison et al.**Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1839 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to establish that a person commits a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor offense for the unlawful sale or purchase of shark fins or shark fin products if the person processes in a place of business or restaurant a shark carcass into steaks or fillets and fails to immediately destroy and discard a shark fin in violation of the bill's provisions. The bill, among other provisions, exempts a person who possesses, transports, sells, or purchases a shark fin in accordance with a permit issued by the Parks and Wildlife Department for a bona fide scientific research purpose from the provisions making such conduct an offense. The bill includes advertising for sale a shark fin among the conduct constituting the offense and establishes that for purposes of the prohibited possession of a shark fin for the purpose of sale under existing law, proof that the person possessed a shark fin, other than a shark fin that has been destroyed, in a place of business or restaurant or on any commercial vessel on the waters of this state is prima facie evidence that the person possessed the shark fin for the purpose of sale.

Senate Bill 1841

Effective: 9-1-24

Senate Author: Hinojosa et al.

House Sponsor: Howard et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1841 amends the Human Resources Code to update provisions relating to contracts between the Health and Human Services Commission and family violence centers. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a center to demonstrate that it is using a voluntary and trauma-informed advocacy service model as a condition of eligibility for a contract;
- revises the list of services a contracted center is required to provide;
- requires the contracts to specify that participation in services by a victim of family violence is voluntary and to prohibit center operators from requiring a victim of family violence to participate in other services as a condition of receiving shelter.

Senate Bill 1849

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Noble et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 1849 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of Information Resources to establish an interagency reportable conduct search engine for persons to search information on reportable conduct maintained by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) in certain registries and other resources. The bill sets out provisions relating to the search engine's content and the use of the search engine by the participating state agencies and other applicable entities to conduct background checks of individuals in education, long term care, child care, or juvenile justice settings, including employees, volunteers, contractors, and license or certification holders. The bill establishes the Office of Interagency Coordination on Reportable Conduct within DFPS to facilitate coordination and communication relating to the use of the search engine.

Senate Bill 1849 authorizes the executive commissioner of HHSC to adopt rules establishing criteria for a person to submit a request for removal from the employee misconduct registry and a process to determine whether the person meets the requirements for inclusion in the registry.

Senate Bill 1849 amends the Education Code to entitle certain persons identified through the search engine as having engaged in misconduct making them ineligible for employment in public schools to due process in the same manner as a person who is the subject of a report alleging such misconduct.

Senate Bill 1849 amends the Human Resources Code to expand the list of resources that DFPS must use to conduct background and criminal history checks in connection with entities providing child care services to include both the search engine and any information provided by TJJD under a memorandum of understanding. The bill also establishes a process through which TJJD may designate an individual who has been terminated from employment with TJJD as permanently ineligible for certification.

Senate Bill 1850

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Clardy

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Agriculture & Livestock

Senate Bill 1850 amends the Occupations Code to require the presiding officer of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to be a veterinarian.

Senate Bill 1852

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Metcalf et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 1852 amends the Occupations Code to require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to require peace officers to complete a specified training program on responding to an active shooter as part of the minimum officer school curriculum and continuing education requirements.

Senate Bill 1854**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Paxton et al.**House Sponsor:** Lambert**Senate Committee:** Finance**House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 1854 amends the Insurance Code to require the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to establish or contract for and make available under the Texas Public School Employees Group Insurance Program for retirees, dependents, surviving spouses, and surviving dependent children an optional plan that provides coverage for dental care and an optional plan that provides coverage for vision care.

Senate Bill 1859**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hancock**House Sponsor:** Raymond**Senate Committee:** Veteran Affairs**House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 1859 amends the Government Code to revise, update, remove, and repeal provisions relating to assistance and services for veterans, including the removal of statutory references to inactive state agencies and programs. The bill, among other provisions, does the following:

- revises procedures regarding the format and distribution method for the state veterans benefits booklet created by the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC);
- specifies that a performance incentive to an individual or an entity for providing services to veterans is a monetary award only; and
- revises the information that must be used by the TVC in evaluating and improving the administration of claims assistance services for veterans.

Finally, the bill repeals the "TAPS" tuition voucher program and the authorization for TVC to accept donated computers from any person for the establishment of a program to provide computers at no cost to interested veterans county service officers.

Senate Bill 1860**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Hughes et al.**House Sponsor:** Craddick**Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1860 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a home-rule municipality from holding an election for voter approval of a proposed climate charter unless the legislature adopts a resolution approving the proposed charter. The bill establishes that a climate charter adopted by a municipality before the bill's effective date remains valid and enforceable until January 1, 2026, but requires the municipality to comply with the legislative approval requirement not later than September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 1866**Effective:** 5-19-23**Senate Author:** Nichols**House Sponsor:** Metcalf et al.**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 1866 amends the Utilities Code to authorize an electric utility that operates solely outside of ERCOT in areas of Texas included in the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council to provide backup electric service to a nonresidential retail customer through a customer-sited distributed generation facility. The bill requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas to establish rates for backup electric service supplied using a customer-sited distributed generation facility and establishes that the full cost of the utility's investment in such a generation facility is eligible for recovery in a rate proceeding.

Senate Bill 1869**Effective:** 5-27-23**Senate Author:** Perry**House Sponsor:** Darby**Senate Committee:** Transportation**House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 1869 amends the Transportation Code to raise from \$10,000 to \$100,000 the threshold on the value of surplus real property no longer needed for a state highway purpose below which such property may be sold or transferred by the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation without a recommendation to the governor and the approval of the attorney general.

Senate Bill 1887
Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: West
House Sponsor: Turner

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 1887 amends the Education Code to revise requirements relating to the early college education program and revise the process for dispute resolution concerning the transfer of lower division course credit between public institutions of higher education. The bill also provides for the following, among other provisions:

- a general academic teaching institution’s authority to adopt a set of courses that must be completed as part of a field of study curriculum;
- approval of a core curriculum of fewer than 42 semester credit hours for an associate degree program; and
- a student’s entitlement to a “Texas Direct” associate degree on completion of a field of study curriculum and the applicable core curriculum.

Senate Bill 1893
Effective: 6-14-23

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.
House Sponsor: Anderson

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1893 amends the Government Code to require all state agencies and political subdivisions to adopt a policy that prohibits the installation or use of certain social media applications or services such as TikTok that pose a potential security risk to the state on any device owned or leased by the governmental entity and requires the removal of these applications and services from those devices. However, the bill provides for the installation and use of such an application or service to the extent necessary for providing law enforcement or developing or implementing information security measures.

Senate Bill 1900
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Birdwell et al.
House Sponsor: Guillen

Senate Committee: Border Security
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1900 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Penal Code to provide for the designation of drug cartels and other similar groups as “foreign terrorist organizations” under state law and to expand the scope of certain existing state laws, including those establishing criminal offenses related to organized crime and to sedition, to make those laws applicable also to foreign terrorist organizations and the conduct typical of these organizations, which includes drug trafficking and operating stash houses. Among other provisions, the bill also adds foreign terrorist organizations to current intelligence databases and allows local entities to seek public nuisance claims against foreign terrorist organizations who are operating in their communities.

Senate Bill 1914
Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Manuel

Senate Committee: Transportation
House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 1914 amends the law to clarify that the Sabine-Neches Navigation District of Jefferson County, Texas, is the project sponsor of any improvement project authorized by a federal development initiative to improve an existing facility of the district or to deepen or widen the Sabine-Neches Waterway.

Senate Bill 1916
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Parker
House Sponsor: Shine

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 1916 amends the Local Government Code to revise provisions relating to the Public Improvement District Assessment Act. Among other provisions, the bill requires the governing body of a municipality or county to submit to each applicable appraisal district the assessment roll, and any updated assessment roll, within a week of levying an assessment or making a supplemental assessment, reassessment, or new assessment, as applicable. The bill establishes content and submission requirements

for an assessment roll and sets out online posting requirements following the approval, amendment, or update of a service plan for a public improvement district.

Senate Bill 1916 amends the Tax Code to require the property tax database maintained by each appraisal district to include for each public improvement district certain information regarding assessments levied by the district.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1916 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1929

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Johnson et al.

House Sponsor: Dean

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1929 amends the Utilities Code to provide for the registration of virtual currency mining facilities in the ERCOT power region that demand a large load of interruptible power. The bill authorizes the Public Utility Commission of Texas to share with ERCOT information received in the registration process.

Senate Bill 1930

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst

House Sponsor: Dutton et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 1930 amends the Family Code to make revisions to the policies and procedures regarding children placed by the Department of Family and Protective Services in a residential treatment center or qualified residential treatment program. The bill requires a guardian ad litem appointed for a child for certain evaluations to seek to elicit the child's opinion of and concerns regarding the child's placement. Among other provisions, the bill sets out additional requirements for a guardian ad litem with respect to a child who is considered for placement in such a center or program and requires a court to make certain determinations on a child's placement in or referral to a center. The bill also requires the court, at each permanency hearing before and after a final order is rendered, to determine whether a child's continued placement in a center or program is appropriate.

Senate Bill 1932

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: King, Ken

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1932 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to authorize an eligible wine collection seller to sell to a permitted restaurant lawfully owned or lawfully possessed wine that is in an original container sealed by the manufacturer and that is manufactured not less than 20 years before the date of such a sale. The permitted restaurant may then sell that wine to an ultimate consumer for on-premises consumption. The bill sets out records requirements for wine sales between a wine collection seller and a permitted restaurant, exempts such sales from state liquor taxes, and provides for the assessment of an administrative penalty against a permitted restaurant for violations of the bill's provisions.

Senate Bill 1933

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Oliverson

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 1933, the Alan Vera Election Accountability Act of 2023, amends the Election Code to establish procedures for the secretary of state to have administrative oversight of a Harris County office administering elections or voter registration in the county if all of the following conditions are met:

- an administrative election complaint is filed with the secretary of state by a person who participated in the relevant election as a candidate, a county chair or state chair of a political party, a presiding judge, an alternate presiding judge, or the head of a specific purpose political committee that supports or opposes a measure;

- the secretary of state has notified the relevant county election official of the complaint as provided by the bill; and
- the secretary of state, after conducting an investigation, has good cause to believe that a recurring pattern of problems with election administration or voter registration exists in the county.

Among other provisions, the bill sets out procedures for the secretary of state's investigation of the complaint and requires the secretary of state to notify the applicable county election official and the county judge if the secretary makes a determination to implement administrative oversight. The bill specifies that the authority of administrative oversight granted to the secretary of state must include requiring the secretary's approval and review of any county election administration policies or procedures and authorizing all appropriate personnel in the secretary's office to conduct in person observations of the county election office's activities.

Senate Bill 1933 establishes a quarterly reporting requirement for the secretary of state during the oversight period and requires the secretary of state to conduct the administrative oversight until the earlier of December 31 of the even numbered year following the first anniversary of the date the complaint was received or the date on which the secretary determines that the recurring pattern of problems with election administration or voter registration is rectified. The bill authorizes the secretary of state, at the conclusion of administrative oversight, to file a petition for the removal of the applicable county officer if the recurring pattern is not rectified or continues to impede the free exercise of a citizen's voting rights in the county.

Senate Bill 1933 also revises provisions requiring the secretary of state to conduct an election audit for four randomly selected counties every two years. The bill specifies that the elections to be audited are those held on the uniform election date but authorizes the secretary of state to conduct an audit of other elections held in the county in the previous two years if, not later than July 31 of the first odd numbered year following the commencement of the audit, the audit findings demonstrate that a recurring pattern of problems with election administration or voter registration exists in the county and the problems impede the free exercise of a citizen's voting rights. In such circumstances, the secretary of state must publicly release the preliminary findings of the audit and recommend the county for administrative oversight. Additionally, the bill authorizes the secretary of state, if an audit of a county is completed before the end of the two year period, to randomly select another county with a total population of less than 300,000 to be audited.

Senate Bill 1965 **Senate Author:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Thompson, Senfronia **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1965 amends the Water Code to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) by rule to adopt an expedited process that allows a person appointed by the PUC or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under specified statutory provisions as a temporary manager of a utility, utility in receivership, or utility in supervision, who is also an operator of a Class A or Class B utility, to apply for PUC approval of the person's acquisition of the stock, ownership interest, or assets of the temporarily managed and operated utility, utility in receivership, or utility in supervision, its facilities, and, if applicable, its certificated service area. Among other provisions, the bill requires the PUC and the TCEQ to provide a reasonable period for a person acquiring a utility under such process to bring the acquired utility into compliance with PUC and TCEQ rules before imposing a penalty for any violation committed by the acquired utility for which no enforcement action has been completed at the time of acquisition.

Senate Bill 1979 **Senate Author:** Hughes et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Harris, Caroline **House Committee:** Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1979 amends the Education Code to require the Texas A&M University Real Estate Research Center to annually study and report on institutional buyers' purchases and sales of single-family homes

in Texas. The bill sets out the information that must be compiled and requires the report to include a summary of that information, an assessment of any trends or patterns relating to the relative number of purchases by institutional buyers, and an analysis of institutional buyers' impact on housing costs and the advantages, if any, that institutional buyers have over individual buyers in the real estate market.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1979 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1985 **Senate Author:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Cain et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 1985 reestablishes the 18-member committee originally created to provide for the study of the formation of a Texas Bicentennial Commission but which expired on January 1, 2023. The bill continues the committee and provides for periodic reports to the legislature on the formation of such a commission. A person who served on the previous committee may be reappointed by the relevant appointing authority. The bill, among other provisions, sets out provisions regarding the committee's composition, meetings, and operations, with the General Land Office and the Texas Historical Commission providing administrative support services at the committee's request. The bill expires and the committee is abolished on January 1, 2027.

Senate Bill 1991 **Senate Author:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Oliverson **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1991 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to require the North Harris County Regional Water Authority's board of directors to determine an efficient and effective means of authorizing disbursements of the authority, including by electronic means.

Senate Bill 1998 **Senate Author:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Shine **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1998 amends the Tax Code to require the tax rate calculation forms prescribed by the comptroller of public accounts to be capable of including for each entry, other than an entry making a mathematical calculation, a hyperlink to a document that evidences the accuracy of the entry. In addition, the bill requires the designated officer or employee of a taxing unit that is tasked with calculating the unit's no-new-revenue tax rate and voter-approval tax rate to include a hyperlink for each entry on the tax rate calculation form, other than an entry making a mathematical calculation.

Senate Bill 1998 requires that, for a taxing unit in which a tax rate calculation is affected by the application of statutory provisions regarding the treatment of captured appraised value and tax increment, the adjustments to the value of property taxable by the unit and to the amount of taxes imposed or collected by the unit be calculated separately for each reinvestment zone in which the taxing unit participates.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill 1998 requires data reporting on property taxes, but does nothing to cut property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1999 **Senate Author:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 1-1-24 **House Sponsor:** Hefner **House Committee:** Ways & Means

The current formula for calculating a taxing unit's unused increment rate for property tax purposes is the sum of the year one voter-approval tax rate less the year one actual tax rate, the year two voter-approval tax rate less the year two actual tax rate, and the year three voter-approval tax rate less the year three actual tax rate. Senate Bill 1999 amends the Tax Code to replace the current formula with a new

formula, which is the sum of the year one foregone revenue amount, year two foregone revenue amount, and year three foregone revenue amount divided by the current total value. For this purpose, “foregone revenue amount” means the greater of zero or the amount expressed in dollars calculated according to the following formula: the voter-approval tax rate less the actual tax rate, then multiplied by the taxing unit’s current total value in the applicable preceding tax year.

Senate Bill 2008

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Kolkhorst et al.

House Sponsor: Bailes et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 2008 amends the Insurance Code to change what constitutes rural property for purposes of a farm mutual insurance company’s general operating requirements from property located outside an area of land subject to the taxing authority of a municipality with a population of more than 2,500 to property located outside an area of land subject to the taxing authority of a municipality with a population of more than 6,500, adjusted to reflect an increase or decrease in Texas’ population following a federal decennial census.

Senate Bill 2010

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Slawson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2010 amends the Utilities Code to require the report to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) from the independent market monitor (IMM) for the ERCOT wholesale electric market regarding potential manipulation of the wholesale electric market and discovered or potential violations of PUC or ERCOT rules to include all discovered or potential violations and to require that the IMM’s report be provided also to PUC staff. The bill requires the PUC to submit an annual report to the legislature regarding information contained in the IMM’s report.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2010 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 2011

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Slawson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Under state law, power generators can enter into a voluntary mitigation plan (VMP) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas if they are concerned they may be in violation of market power rules. Senate Bill 2011 amends the Utilities Code to increase the maximum daily administrative penalty for a violation of a VMP from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 and replaces the provision establishing that adherence to the VMP constitutes an absolute defense against an alleged violation with respect to activities covered by the VMP with a provision establishing that adherence to the VMP must be considered in determining whether a violation occurred, and if so, the penalty to be assessed. Among other provisions, the bill also provides for the regular review of VMPs and further provides for the termination of a VMP determined to no longer be in the public interest.

Senate Bill 2013

Effective: 6-9-23

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Hunter

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2013 amends the Business & Commerce Code, Government Code, and Utilities Code to enact provisions aimed at hardening the security of the state’s power grid and put in place necessary protections to prevent the grid from being exposed to attacks. Specifically, the bill prohibits ERCOT from registering or maintaining a registration of a business entity to operate in the ERCOT power region unless the business entity attests that it complies with state law prohibiting a business entity from entering into an agreement with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure. The bill also requires ERCOT to require that a business entity operating in the ERCOT power region report to ERCOT

the purchase of any critical electric grid equipment or service from a company that is headquartered in China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or a country designated as a threat to critical infrastructure or from certain other companies that are potentially under the influence of such a country.

Senate Bill 2013 revises statutory provisions prohibiting governmental entities from contracting with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure to classify ERCOT as a “governmental entity” and establish that the term “affiliate,” with respect to a company entering into an agreement in which the critical infrastructure is electric grid equipment, has the meaning assigned by ERCOT protocols.

Senate Bill 2013 requires ERCOT to identify all employee positions in ERCOT that are critical to the security of the electric grid and, before hiring, obtain from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) or a private vendor criminal history record information relating to the prospective employee and any other necessary background information. The bill entitles ERCOT to obtain from DPS criminal history record information maintained by DPS that relates to a person who has or is seeking employment at or access to ERCOT’s systems that affect the security of the electric grid or any other background information maintained by DPS that relates to the person that is considered necessary by ERCOT or required by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Senate Bill 2016
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.
House Sponsor: Goldman

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2016 amends the Licensed Dietitian Act, Occupations Code, to revise and clarify certain licensing requirements to align with national standards. Under current law, an applicant for a dietitian license must possess a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree that meets certain criteria to qualify for the licensing examination. The bill repeals that requirement and instead requires an applicant to possess at least a master’s degree accepted by the Commission on Dietetic Registration or another applicable certifying entity. Among other provisions, the bill also requires an applicant to provide evidence of the applicant’s compliance with all professional, ethical, and disciplinary standards established by the applicable certifying entity. Further, the bill repeals a provision authorizing the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to waive the examination requirement for a license applicant who is a registered dietitian and a provision requiring TDLR to prepare a registry of licensed dietitians and provisional licensed dietitians.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Removing unnecessary barriers that prevent capable Texans from getting to work has been a priority of mine since I first took office. Senate Bill No. 2016 would impose an unnecessary occupational-licensing limitation that hurts workers and consumers, while straining the economic engine of Texas. A dietitian should not be required to obtain a master’s degree to become registered or licensed by the State of Texas.”

Senate Bill 2017
Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Price

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2017 amends the Occupations Code to establish that a person is not required to obtain a license under provisions relating to speech-language pathologists and audiologists and hearing instrument fitters and dispensers to engage in servicing, marketing, selling, dispensing, providing customer support for, acquiring, or distributing over-the-counter hearing aids and to exempt those activities from the applicability of those provisions regardless of whether the transaction occurs in person, online, or through other means, except as provided by the bill. The bill further establishes that the supervision, prescription, order, involvement, or intervention of a person licensed in Texas is not required for a consumer to access over-the-counter hearing aids. Among other provisions, the bill changes the contents of the written contracts that a state-licensed audiologist or audiologist intern who fits and dispenses hearing aids must use when providing services in Texas and that a hearing instrument fitting and dispensing practice owner must provide to clients who purchase hearing instruments.

Senate Bill 2032
Effective: 5-29-23

Senate Author: Creighton et al.
House Sponsor: Buckley

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 2032 amends the Education Code to provide for the following entities to be granted a charter to operate an adult education program and to contract with an eligible nonprofit entity to operate such a program:

- a public school district;
- an entity granted an open-enrollment charter; and
- a general academic teaching institution, public junior college, or public technical institute.

The bill establishes a 60-day period beginning on September 1 during which the commissioner of education must annually accept charter applications and requires the commissioner to provide each applicant with a written notice of the preliminary decision to grant or deny the charter and an opportunity to cure any defects in the application. The bill authorizes the provision of funds available to the commissioner to an entity granted a charter for costs of implementing an adult education program.

Senate Bill 2032 replaces restrictions on the number of charters that may be granted by the commissioner during specified years with a general prohibition on the commissioner granting more than 10 charters. The bill also changes the conditions under which the commissioner may revoke a charter to operate an adult education program from the program failing to meet the applicable minimum performance standards for three consecutive school years after the first year of operation to the program failing to meet those standards for three consecutive years after the second year of operation.

Senate Bill 2035
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Bettencourt
House Sponsor: Capriglione

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 2035 amends the Government Code to prohibit the governing body of a county, municipality, eligible school district, or eligible countywide district from authorizing an anticipation note to pay a contractual obligation if a bond proposition to authorize such issuance was submitted to and rejected by the voters during the preceding five years, except under certain circumstances as set out in the bill.

Senate Bill 2035 amends the Local Government Code to extend from three years to five years the period during which the governing body of a municipality, county, or eligible hospital district is prohibited from authorizing a certificate to pay a contractual obligation to be incurred if a bond proposition to authorize the issuance of bonds for the same purpose was submitted to and rejected by the voters.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill 2035 has too many loopholes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2038
Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt
House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil et al.

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2038 amends the Local Government Code to establish that a municipal annexation commenced after January 1, 2023, does not expand a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction unless contemporaneously with the annexation the owner or owners of the area that would be included in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction as a result of the annexation request that the area be included in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Senate Bill 2038 provides for the release of an area from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election by authorizing the following:

- a resident of an area in a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction, or the owner or owners of the majority in value of an area consisting of one or more parcels of land in the extraterritorial jurisdiction, to file a petition with the municipality for the respective area to be released from the extraterritorial jurisdiction; and

- a resident of an area in a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction to request the municipality to hold an election on the question of whether to release the area from the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The bill sets out provisions relating to the petition and election process and requires the release of the area from the extraterritorial jurisdiction if, as applicable, the petition has the required number of signatures or the release is approved at the election. The bill exempts certain areas from being released by such process.

Senate Bill 2040

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Springer et al.

House Sponsor: Clardy et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2040 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, and Occupations Code to abolish the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas as a standalone state agency, transfer its functions, as modified by the bill, to the Texas Funeral Service Commission, and create the State Anatomical Advisory Committee. The bill also provides for the regulation of willed body programs, non-transplant anatomical donation organizations, and anatomical facilities. The bill, among other provisions, revises provisions relating to administrative fees, the donation of a body by a written instrument, and the transportation and distribution of bodies and anatomical specimens.

Senate Bill 2052

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Ashby

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2052 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to raise the cap on the well permit fee of the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District from one cent per thousand gallons of withdrawn groundwater to seven cents per such thousand gallons.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Increasing fees may be important in certain circumstances, but it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2057

Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: Hinojosa et al.

House Sponsor: Lopez, Janie et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2057 amends the Government Code to authorize the Texas Historical Commission to enter into a contract with the nonprofit entity that owns the Iwo Jima monument and museum at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, to transfer to the commission the operation and management of the monument and museum. The bill establishes the Iwo Jima monument and museum fund as a fund outside the state treasury, consisting of admissions revenue from the operation of the monument and museum, sales revenue from the operation of the monument and museum gift shop, and donations made to the commission for the monument and museum. The bill authorizes the money in the fund to be spent without legislative appropriation but only for the purposes of administering, operating, preserving, repairing, expanding, or otherwise maintaining the monument and museum.

Senate Bill 2069

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Schaefer

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Public Education

Senate Bill 2069 amends the Education Code to revise statutory provisions relating to the requirement for schools to post warning signs of increased trafficking penalties at certain locations. The bill removes the applicability of the requirement to a private primary or secondary school and the following requirements:

- that the warning signs be posted in certain locations; and
- that rules adopted by the Texas Education Agency, in consultation with the human trafficking prevention task force, address the placement, installation, design, size, and maintenance procedures for the warning signs.

[Senate Bill 2085](#) **Senate Author:** Whitmire et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Walle **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 2085 amends the Government Code to require the governor’s criminal justice division to establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to law enforcement agencies for purposes of purchasing or developing crime victim notification systems. The bill establishes operations requirements for the notification systems and reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies and the division.

[Senate Bill 2091](#) **Senate Author:** West **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Sherman, Sr. **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2091 amends the Tax Code to authorize certain real property seized under a tax warrant or ordered sold pursuant to foreclosure of a tax lien to be sold by a taxing unit to an owner of abutting property at a private sale if certain conditions are met.

[Senate Bill 2101](#) **Senate Author:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Morales, Christina et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2101 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a judge, state’s attorney, peace officer, or law enforcement agency notifying, informing, or disclosing information to a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim in accordance with rights granted to crime victims to provide the notification or information electronically, including by text message, videoconference, or email; by mail; through an anonymous, online portal; or by telephone contact or otherwise making personal contact.

[Senate Bill 2102](#) **Senate Author:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Raney **House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 2102 amends the Transportation Code to establish an initial registration and inspection period of three years for certain newer rental cars sold or purchased for use in Texas. The bill establishes that payment of all applicable registration fees is due at the time of registration and provides for the calculation and remittance of the applicable inspection fee.

Senate Bill 2102 amends the Health and Safety Code to include \$6 from the portion of each inspection fee collected for a rental car and remitted to the state among the fees that compose the Clean Air Act fees. The bill sets out certain requirements contingent on the state’s air quality state implementation plan providing for a three-year emissions inspection period for a rental car under the bill’s provisions and requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to submit a revision of the plan to provide for the new inspection period to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

[Senate Bill 2105](#) **Senate Author:** Johnson et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Holland **House Committee:** Business & Industry

Senate Bill 2105 amends the Business & Commerce Code to require an applicable data broker to register annually with the secretary of state, to pay a filing fee, and submit a registration statement containing certain information, and to post a conspicuous notice on the data broker’s website or application that states that the entity maintaining the website or application is a data broker. The bill sets out a range of information that must be contained in the registration statement, including the number of security breaches the data broker has experienced during the year immediately preceding the year in which the

registration is filed and if known, the total number of consumers affected by each breach. The secretary of state's website must include a searchable, central registry of data brokers registered with the secretary of state that includes a search feature with specified functionality.

Senate Bill 2105 requires a data broker to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive information security program which, in addition to other requirements, must incorporate safeguards that are consistent with the safeguards for protection of personal data and information of a similar character under state or federal laws and regulations applicable to the data broker. A data broker that violates the bill's notice or registration requirements is liable to the state for a civil penalty and further establishes that a violation of its provisions relating to the protection of personal data by a data broker and to the comprehensive information security program constitutes a deceptive trade practice and is actionable under that act.

Senate Bill 2105 applies to personal data from an individual that is collected, transferred, or processed by a data broker, except for the following data: deidentified data, but only under specified conditions as specified by the bill; employee data; publicly available information; inferences made exclusively from multiple independent sources of publicly available information that do not reveal sensitive data with respect to an individual; or data subject to Title V of the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. Finally, the bill applies only to a data broker that, in a 12-month period, derives more than 50 percent of the broker's revenue from processing or transferring personal data that the broker did not collect directly from the individuals to whom the data pertains or derives revenue from processing or transferring the personal data of more than 50,000 individuals that the data broker did not collect directly from the individuals to whom the data pertains.

[Senate Bill 2106](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Johnson, Julie **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2106 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Supreme Court to adopt rules on an applicant's ineligibility to renew a certification, registration, or license for court professionals issued by the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC) based on information that indicates the person lacks the honesty, trustworthiness, or integrity to hold the certification, registration, or license. The bill specifies that such information, and information on which an applicant's ineligibility for initial certification, registration, or licensing is based, includes failure to comply with JBCC orders or to timely pay fees or administration penalties.

Senate Bill 2106 requires the JBCC to determine the severity of an administrative sanction, including the length of the period of time for revocation, suspension, refusal to renew a certification, registration, or license, based upon the following conditions:

- the seriousness of the violation;
- the threat to health or safety caused by the violation;
- any previous violations;
- the administrative sanction necessary to deter a future violation;
- whether the violator demonstrated good faith; and
- any other matter that justice may require.

[Senate Bill 2119](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Hunter **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2119 amends the Government Code to require the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), with the assistance of the comptroller of public accounts, to create, annually update, and publish on the PUC website a map that shows locations in Texas that are, as follows:

- receiving reliable broadband service at speeds of not less than 100 megabits per second for a download and not less than 20 megabits per second for an upload;

- served by a telecommunications provider determined eligible by the PUC that receives support for that purpose under a plan of the Texas Universal Service Fund; and
- both receiving such reliable broadband service and served by such a provider.

[Senate Bill 2120](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Cook **House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 2120 amends the Government Code to provide for the establishment of a family protection representation program within the Texas Indigent Defense Commission to serve indigent parents or children named in a suit filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services. The bill also provides for the reporting of county level information regarding legal representation provided to such parents and children.

Senate Bill 2120 amends the Family Code to establish an annual reporting requirement for an attorney ad litem appointed in a child protection case regarding the amount of professional practice time dedicated to that role and to increase the number of years of experience in practicing law required for a chief counsel directing an office of child representation or office of parent representation.

[Senate Bill 2123](#) **Senate Author:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Hefner **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 2123 amends the Education Code to include the medical school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler among the medical schools participating in the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) and sets out a timeline for the school to begin participating in JAMP programming.

[Senate Bill 2124](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton et al. **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Howard **House Committee:** Public Education

Senate Bill 2124 amends the Education Code to require each public school district and open-enrollment charter school to develop an advanced mathematics program for middle school students that is designed to enable those students to enroll in Algebra I in eighth grade for purposes of increasing the number of students who complete advanced mathematics courses in high school. The bill requires sixth grade students who met certain qualifying standards in fifth grade mathematics to be automatically enrolled in an advanced mathematics course under such a program unless the student is opted out by their parent or guardian.

[Senate Bill 2133](#) **Senate Author:** Miles et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Oliverson et al. **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 2133 amends the Health and Safety Code to require that each applicable emergency medical services provider have a plan for providing a dialysis patient who places an emergency 9-1-1 telephone call during a declared disaster an alternative mode of transportation directly to and from an outpatient end stage renal disease facility if the patient's normal and alternative modes of transportation cannot be used during the disaster. The bill authorizes such a plan to prioritize providing transportation for a patient suffering from an acute emergency condition over transportation for a dialysis patient and repeals a provision providing for the approval by each applicable emergency medical services medical director of protocols that give preference to the emergency transfer of a dialysis patient from the patient's location directly to an outpatient end stage renal disease facility during a declared disaster.

[Senate Bill 2139](#) **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Longoria **House Committee:** Higher Education

Senate Bill 2139 amends the Education Code to establish the opportunity high school diploma program to provide an alternative means by which adult students enrolled in a workforce education program at a

public junior college may earn a high school diploma through concurrent enrollment in a competency-based education program.

[Senate Bill 2144](#) **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Cook et al. **House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 2144 amends the Transportation Code to set out provisions relating to advanced air mobility. The bill requires the Texas Department of Transportation to ensure state aviation standards and guidelines are applicable to advanced air mobility, support the development of federal and industry safety standards for advanced air mobility technology, develop a statewide infrastructure plan regarding the future operational environment of advanced air mobility, and provide resources and assistance on the use of the technology and infrastructure to appropriate entities. The bill provides for collaboration between state agencies, school districts, institutions of higher education, and interested stakeholders on educational opportunities related to the technology and requires the Texas Transportation Commission to appoint an advisory committee to assess current state law and any potential changes to facilitate the implementation of the technology.

[Senate Bill 2150](#) **Senate Author:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Clardy **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans' Affairs

Senate Bill 2150 amends the Transportation Code to designate the portion of U.S. Highway 84 in the municipal limits of Joaquin as the Lt. General O.R. "Cotton" Whiddon Memorial Highway.

[Senate Bill 2158](#) **Senate Author:** King **Senate Committee:** Education
Effective: 5-23-23 **House Sponsor:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Corrections

Senate Bill 2158 amends the Education Code to require the Windham School District (WSD), not later than September 1, 2024, to establish and implement a pilot program under which one or more nonprofit entities provide an adult education program to enable eligible inmates to successfully complete a high school program that can lead to a diploma. The bill makes a person confined or imprisoned in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice eligible to enroll in such an adult education program if the person is at least 26 years of age and not more than 50 years of age and has failed to complete the curriculum requirements for high school graduation, to perform satisfactorily on a test required for high school graduation, or to earn a high school equivalency certificate. The bill requires WSD, in consultation with each nonprofit entity with which WSD enters into a memorandum of understanding as required by the bill, to identify at least three schools operated by WSD that are suitable to serve as sites for the pilot program.

[Senate Bill 2171](#) **Senate Author:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Davis **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2171 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to establish that a person may qualify as an expert witness in a suit involving a health care liability claim against a chiropractor on the issue of the causal relationship between the alleged departure from accepted standards of care and the injury, harm, or damages claimed if the person is a chiropractor or physician and is otherwise qualified to render opinions on that causal relationship under the Texas Rules of Evidence.

[Senate Bill 2173](#) **Senate Author:** Alvarado et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Dean **House Committee:** Public Health

Senate Bill 2173 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) to develop and implement a prescription drug safe disposal pilot program to increase the number of locations in Texas where unused, unwanted, or expired prescription drugs are collected from the public for

safe disposal. The bill prescribes the TSBP's duties with respect to providing program incentives, community outreach, and reports and recommendations. The bill also sets provisions regarding a pharmacy's eligibility to participate in the program, the application and selection process for program participation, the designation of a participating pharmacy and such a pharmacy's recordkeeping requirements, collection receptacle and mail-back requirements for the safe disposal of prescription drugs under the program, the program's sources of funding, and the program's expiration.

Senate Bill 2186

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Thompson, Senfronia

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2186 repeals the Texas Anatomical Gift Act, which provides for the execution of an anatomical gift made by a document, including a statement or symbol in an online donor registry. The bill amends the Health and Safety Code to instead authorize a donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act to make a gift through an online registry in substantially the same manner as in the repealed provisions. Furthermore, the bill gives an individual signing a record relating to an anatomical gift at the direction of a donor or other individual, as applicable, who is physically unable to sign the record the option of having the record acknowledged before a notary public as an alternative to signing the record before at least two qualifying witnesses.

Senate Bill 2192

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hall

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2192 amends the Water Code to require, before a petition is filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requesting the creation of a proposed municipal utility district all of which is to be located outside municipal corporate limits, certain notice to be sent to the commissioners court of each county in which the proposed district is to be located.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2192 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2193

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: LaMantia et al.

House Sponsor: Frank et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Health Care Reform, Select

Senate Bill 2193 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a federally qualified health center (FQHC) to establish and operate a primary care access program for the provision of primary care services and benefits directly to the employees of participating employers and their dependents within the FQHC's service area. The bill sets out program requirements and provides for the powers and duties of FQHCs in operating a program, including the authority to require the use of certain health care providers, establish program participation criteria, and require payment of a share of the premium or other costs, and the duty to solicit funding for the program's purposes. The bill exempts an FQHC that operates such a program from regulation by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) and provides for the establishment and administration of a primary care access grant program by TDI and the Health and Human Services Commission to award grants to FQHCs operating such a program.

Senate Bill 2196

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Kuempel

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 2196 amends the Education Code to require The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to do the following:

- conduct a study to identify the following:
 - locations in Texas suitable for aggregate production operations; and

- existing land uses or planning policies of political subdivisions that could result in such a location becoming incompatible with use as an aggregate production operation;
- develop and maintain a database that maps applicable aggregate production operation locations and that is accessible to political subdivisions;
- update the study and map not less than once every 10 years; and
- submit a related report to the legislature.

Implementation of a provision of this bill by the bureau is mandatory only if a specific appropriation is made for that purpose.

[Senate Bill 2200](#)

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Hancock

House Sponsor: Harris, Caroline

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2200 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the public acknowledgement of donations made to the Texas Department of Transportation or its roadside assistance and safety service patrol program.

[Senate Bill 2214](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Blanco

House Sponsor: Noble

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2214 amends the Government Code to entitle an employee of the Department of Family and Protective Services in the statewide intake division who receives reports of abuse or neglect to compensatory time off at the rate of one hour for each hour the employee is required to work on a national or state holiday that falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

[Senate Bill 2220](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Gervin-Hawkins

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Committee: Ways & Means

Under current law, the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth are authorized to use municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue to fund a qualified convention center facility, a multipurpose arena or venue, and related infrastructure and are allowed, for a period of up to 30 years, to receive the incremental growth in state sales and use taxes, state hotel occupancy taxes, and state mixed beverage taxes collected by or at hotels within the project financing zone. Senate Bill 2220 amends the Tax Code to extend this authority also to the City of San Antonio and to a local government corporation acting on the city's behalf.

[Senate Bill 2221](#)

Effective: 5-19-23

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Raney

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2221 amends the Transportation Code to provide for the issuance of specialty license plates to honor the personnel of sheriff's offices.

[Senate Bill 2232](#)

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: LaMantia et al.

House Sponsor: Perez et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 2232 amends the Insurance Code to authorize the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) to establish requirements for insurance agents offering or selling a Texas windstorm and hail insurance policy. TWIA may audit such an agent to determine the agent's compliance with the requirements and to take appropriate action to limit or prohibit an agent from offering or selling a policy until the agent complies with the requirements. The bill clarifies that an agent who offers or sells Texas windstorm and hail insurance policies is not an agent of TWIA.

Senate Bill 2233

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: LaMantia et al.

House Sponsor: Perez et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 2233 amends the Insurance Code to exclude any non-residential insurance policies from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association’s automatic renewal process.

Senate Bill 2248

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Murr

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2248 amends the Estates Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the transfer of guardianship proceedings, powers and duties of a guardian, termination of guardianship, and guardianship bonds. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- sets out standard procedures for court clerks transferring or receiving guardianship cases between courts, including sending or marking specified documents in each transferred case and using the standardized forms created by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System;
- revises provisions relating to fees and notices for the transfer of guardianship cases;
- revises provisions relating to the payment and deposit of guardianship bonds;
- requires guardians to notify the court of certain changes in the ward’s status or contact information;
- requires the court to enter an order canceling the letters issued to an applicable guardian at certain conclusions of the guardianship;
- requires the guardian of an estate for purposes of presenting an account for final settlement to file an affidavit relating to each person to whom citation is served or who waives the citation; and
- revises provisions relating to the citation issued by a court clerk on the filing of an application for temporary guardianship.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill 2248 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 2258

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Blanco

House Sponsor: Murr

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Elections

Senate Bill 2258 amends the Election Code to authorize the City of Fort Stockton to change the date on which it holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date.

Senate Bill 2260

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Blanco

House Sponsor: Rose

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 2260 repeals the Human Resources Code provision that requires an adult protective services supervisor of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to review and take certain other action regarding a reported case of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person, a person with a disability, or an individual receiving services from certain providers if DFPS has received and investigated two previous such reports with respect to the same victim and closed those investigations.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “This bill purports to repeal the requirement for Adult Protective Services supervisors to review cases in which recidivism is a factor, but it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 2261**Effective:** 9-1-23**Senate Author:** Blanco**House Sponsor:** Noble**Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services**House Committee:** Human Services

Current law requires a newly hired or assigned Department of Family and Protective Services employee to complete the new employee adult protective services training program before initiating an investigation of a report of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person or a person with a disability or providing protective services to such a person. Senate Bill 2261 amends the Human Resources Code to establish an exception to that requirement for a newly hired or assigned employee who is in the process of receiving the required training and who initiates the investigation or provides protective services under the direct supervision of the person providing the training.

Senate Bill 2269**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Author:** Perry**House Sponsor:** Shine**Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce**House Committee:** Business & Industry

Senate Bill 2269 amends the Labor Code to require the board of directors of the Texas self-insurance group guaranty fund, not later than December 1, 2023, to submit for approval to the commissioner of insurance a revised plan of operation to wind down and dissolve the Texas self-insurance group guaranty fund and trust fund for payment of workers' compensation liabilities of insolvent self-insurance groups. The commissioner must approve the plan if it sufficiently describes the actions the board will take to wind down and dissolve the funds.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2269 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2275**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Author:** Hughes**House Sponsor:** Smithee**Senate Committee:** State Affairs**House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2275 repeals Government Code provisions that establish that a rule adopted by the Texas Supreme Court repeals all conflicting laws and parts of laws governing practice and procedure in civil actions, but that substantive law is not repealed, and that further require the supreme court to file with the secretary of state a list of laws or parts of laws repealed or modified in any way at the time of filing a rule.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 2275 calls out a sloppy subsection in the 1939 Act that lets the Texas Supreme Court write procedural rules for the judicial branch. Senator Hughes is right to ring the alarm about this statutory text, thoughtful lawyer that he is. To avoid unintended consequences within our courts, however, the offending subsection should be rewritten rather than repealed. Next session, the three branches of government should collaborate on new-and-improved language that I can sign into law."

Senate Bill 2277**Effective:** Vetoed**Senate Author:** Zaffirini**House Sponsor:** Cook**Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence**House Committee:** Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 2277 amends the Family Code to set out and revise provisions relating to an amicus attorney appointed in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, including provisions relating to the appointment process, minimum qualifications, conflicts of interest, standard of care, powers and duties, and removal.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2277 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2284

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Middleton

House Sponsor: Harris, Cody

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2284 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code to increase the cap on the amount of distilled spirits a distiller's and rectifier's permit holder may sell to the same ultimate consumer for off-premises consumption within a 30-day period from two 750 milliliter bottles of distilled spirits or the equivalent to four 750 milliliter bottles of distilled spirits or the equivalent. The bill removes the specification that such a permit holder check a purchaser's identification as part of the permit holder's recordkeeping requirement to ensure compliance with state law governing sales to ultimate consumers.

Senate Bill 2289

Effective: See below

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

House Sponsor: Bonnen

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2289 amends the Tax Code to entitle a person to an exemption from property taxation of medical or biomedical property the person owns or leases that is located in a medical or biomedical manufacturing facility that the person owns or leases. The bill takes effect January 1, 2024, contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 87.

Senate Bill 2292

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Murr

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2292 amends the Government Code to increase the bond amount set by an applicable county commissioners court that the judge of either a statutory county court or a constitutional county court presiding over guardianship or probate proceedings is required to execute before beginning the duties of office from not less than \$100,000 for a court in a county with a population of 125,000 or less or not less than \$250,000 for a court in a county with a population of more than 125,000 to not less than \$500,000 regardless of the population of the county in which the court is located. The bill removes an exemption from provisions relating to the bond requirement and the removal of a statutory county court judge from office for a judge of a statutory county court who does not preside over guardianship proceedings.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2292 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2294

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Creighton et al.

House Sponsor: Kuempel et al.

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 2294 amends the Education Code to make any public institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and in the Texas First Scholarship Program. The bill also establishes a requirement for a public school district or open-enrollment charter school to allow a student to graduate and receive a high school diploma under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program if the student meets prescribed standards.

Senate Bill 2304

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: LaMantia

House Sponsor: Hernandez et al.

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2304 amends the Education Code to require each public school district and open-enrollment charter school to annually provide information regarding the Texas Driving with Disability Program to certain students with a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer and to the parents of those students. The bill requires the Texas Education Agency to collaborate with the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities to develop the information materials and provides for

the inclusion of information about the program in the curriculum of driver education and driving safety courses.

Senate Bill 2310

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hinojosa

House Sponsor: Smith

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2310 amends the Government Code to entitle a district attorney, criminal district attorney, state prosecuting attorney, and each state prosecutor to receive a monthly amount of longevity pay based on the attorney's years of service that would be paid to the attorney if the attorney were an active judge or justice that is a member of the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan One or the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan Two.

Senate Bill 2314

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: VanDeaver

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 2314 amends the Business Organizations Code to clarify that statutory provisions relating to a membership interest in a limited liability company subject to a charging order apply to both single-member limited liability companies and multiple-member limited liability companies.

Senate Bill 2315

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Clardy

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: International Relations & Economic Development

Senate Bill 2315 amends the Labor Code to establish a nine-member task force on the consolidation of workforce and social services, with members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives. The task force must develop a plan and make recommendations to the legislature regarding the consolidation of workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services programs administered by the Health and Human Services Commission.

Senate Bill 2325

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Flores et al.

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Committee: Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Bill 2325 amends the Government Code to revise and set out provisions regarding the Major Events Reimbursement Program. With respect to current provisions making a Formula One automobile race and its related and associated activities eligible for program funding, the bill specifies that the particular race eligible for program funding is the Formula One United States Grand Prix and classifies the national governing body of a sport that is recognized by any successor to Formula One Management Limited as a site selection organization for purposes of eligibility for program funding. Furthermore, the bill makes the following events eligible for program funding and classifies their associated entities, as applicable, as site selection organizations for purposes of program funding eligibility:

- the Bassmaster Classic;
- the CMT (Country Music Television) Music Awards;
- a Federation Equestre Internationale World Cup Final;
- a Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) World Supercross Championship race;
- any event in the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) Championship Series;
- the Professional Bull Riders World Finals; and
- a series of cricket matches or competitions within the T20 World Cup.

Moreover, the bill provides the following specifications regarding eligibility for program funding:

- the applicable cricket match may receive funding through the program if a portion of the event is held at one or more sites located in another state or country;

- each series of games for the World Cup soccer tournament held in a market area designated for that series is considered a separate, single event; and
- an eligible sporting event is considered to be held one time in each year if the event is held only one time in any annual season for that sport.

Senate Bill 2333

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Metcalf

Senate Committee: Administration

House Committee: House Administration

Senate Bill 2333 amends the Government Code to make the exception for Seeing Eye dogs from State Preservation Board rules prohibiting pets in the Capitol applicable to any service dog.

Senate Bill 2350

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Shine

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2350 amends the Tax Code to establish that, for purpose of calculating a taxing unit's unused increment rate for property tax purposes, the unit's voter-approval tax rate in the applicable preceding tax year used in that calculation is the rate adopted by the unit during the applicable preceding tax year.

Senate Bill 2355

Effective: 1-1-24

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Noble

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2355 amends the Tax Code to remove the requirement that a request for binding arbitration under the Property Tax Code and the required deposit be filed with the appraisal district and instead allow such a request and deposit to be filed directly with the comptroller of public accounts. With respect to binding arbitration, the bill further does the following:

- requires the appraisal district to provide to the comptroller any information reasonably necessary to process the request and appoint an arbitrator;
- sets out requirements relating to the designation of an agent to represent an owner during binding arbitration; and
- establishes that a settlement reached following arbitration is a final determination of an appeal for purposes of postappeal administrative procedures.

Senate Bill 2370

Effective: 6-18-23

Senate Author: Campbell

House Sponsor: Kuempel

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: County Affairs

Senate Bill 2370 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the division of an emergency services district located in the Comal County Water Improvement District No. 3 by petition of at least 60 percent of the district's qualified voters.

Senate Bill 2376

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Campbell et al.

House Sponsor: Canales et al.

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 2376 amends the Government Code and Transportation Code to change the name of the Choose Life specialty license plate program to the Support Adoption specialty license plate program. The bill makes certain adoption organizations and agencies eligible for funding under the program and provides for voluntary contributions to the account during the driver's license application and renewal process.

Senate Bill 2379

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Harris, Caroline

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2379 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by rule or permit to authorize an aquifer storage and recovery project that includes

an ASR injection well that transects the Edwards Aquifer in the area of Williamson County east of Interstate Highway 35 for the injection of water into a geologic formation that underlies the aquifer.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2379 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 2399

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Guillen

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2399 amends the Utilities Code to clarify that the Public Utility Commission of Texas has the authority to grant a service provider certificate of operating authority to a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) provider.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2399 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 2406

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Manuel

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2406 amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize a hospital located in Jefferson County to drill a water well on property owned by the hospital for the purpose of producing water to supplement the hospital’s water supply in the event that an emergency or natural disaster prevents the hospital from receiving water from the hospital’s usual source.

Senate Bill 2429

Effective: 9-1-23

Senate Author: Hancock et al.

House Sponsor: Klick et al.

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 2429 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Occupations Code to establish additional duties and procedures for law enforcement agencies upon receiving a report of a missing child. The bill prescribes the circumstances under which a missing child is considered high risk for reporting purposes and establishes additional procedures for an agency that receives a report of a high risk missing child. Additionally, the bill requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to establish a basic education and training program required for peace officers on missing children and missing persons and to make a voluntary advanced education and training program on missing children and missing persons available to officers.

Senate Bill 2440

Effective: 1-1-24

Senate Author: Perry et al.

House Sponsor: Burrows

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2440 amends the Local Government Code to replace the authority of a municipal authority responsible for approving plats and of a county commissioners court to require a plat application for the subdivision of a tract of land for which the source of the water supply intended for the subdivision is groundwater under that land to have an attached statement regarding the availability of groundwater with a requirement for the application to have such attached statement. The bill authorizes the municipal authority and commissioners court, respectively, to waive such requirement under certain conditions.

Senate Bill 2453

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Hernandez

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2453 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to exempt the following from the prohibition against a governmental entity adopting or enforcing certain regulations regarding commercial building products, materials, or methods:

- an energy code adopted by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO);

- an energy and water conservation design standard established by SECO; and
- a qualifying high-performance building standard approved by the board of regents of an applicable public institution of higher education.

The bill authorizes SECO to amend an adopted edition of the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code or an adopted edition of the International Energy Conservation Code.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2453 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2474](#)

Senate Author: Hinojosa

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

Effective: Vetoed

House Sponsor: Jetton, Jacey

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2474 amends the Health and Safety Code to include among the factors that must be considered in determining the amount of a civil or administrative penalty for a person’s or facility’s violation of provisions or rules regulating chemical dependency treatment facilities the person’s or facility’s ability to pay the penalty and to continue providing chemical dependency services after paying the penalty. The bill additionally includes the degree of the person’s culpability in causing the violation among the factors on which an administrative penalty is based. Furthermore, the administrative penalty schedules that are posted on the Health and Human Services Commission website and applicable to a person licensed or regulated under provisions relating to chemical dependency treatment facilities must be based on a consideration of the economic impact of a penalty assessed against such a person and the factors on which the penalty amount must be based.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2474 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2476](#)

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

Effective: See below

House Sponsor: Oliverson

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 2476 amends the Insurance Code to, among other provisions, provide the method for determining the amount that a health maintenance organization, the administrator of a health benefit plan offered by a nonprofit agricultural organization, an insurer offering a preferred provider benefit plan, and the administrator of a managed care plan provided under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act, Texas Public School Retired Employees Group Benefits Act, or Texas School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage Act, as applicable, must pay for a covered health or medical care service performed for, or a covered supply or transport related to that service provided to, an enrollee, participant, or insured by a non-network or out-of-network emergency medical services (EMS) provider. A political subdivision may submit to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) a rate set, controlled, or regulated by the political subdivision for purposes of such providers and out-of-network EMS provider payments, and TDI must establish a publicly-accessible database for the rates. The bill sets certain of its provisions to expire on September 1, 2025. Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect September 1, 2023.

[Senate Bill 2479](#)

Senate Author: Zaffirini

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

Effective: 9-1-23

House Sponsor: Moody

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2479 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Health and Safety Code to include defendants charged with a Class C misdemeanor in the scope of provisions regarding the early identification of defendants suspected of having a mental illness or an intellectual disability. Additionally, the bill clarifies the time at which a peace officer who transports an apprehended person to a facility under a warrant for an emergency detention may leave the facility, authorizes certain mental health professionals to apply for such a warrant by email and other secure electronic means, and establishes that a court order authorizing

the administration of a psychoactive medication to certain patients ordered to receive inpatient mental health services authorizes the taking of a blood sample.

Senate Bill 2493

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Middleton

House Sponsor: Bryant

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 2493 amends the Property Code to revise provisions relating to repairs made to a rental unit under a residential tenancy and a manufactured home tenancy by requiring repairs made pursuant to a tenant's notice of intent to repair to be made by an independent company, contractor, or repairman that is licensed in accordance with the municipality's requirements in which the rental unit is located, if applicable. A tenant of a residential rental property or of a lot in a manufactured home community satisfies the requirement to provide to a landlord a written statement of the tenant's forwarding address for the purpose of refunding the security deposit by providing the statement in accordance with the lease or, regardless of the lease terms, by hand-delivering the statement to the landlord or landlord's property manager if rent has been paid in that manner or sending the statement to the landlord or landlord's property manager or to an address where the tenant has paid rent under the lease through certain delivery services. The bill establishes that a tenant who complies with the authorized methods of delivery has satisfied the requirement, even if the landlord fails to claim or refuses delivery of the written statement of the tenant's forwarding address. The bill includes a tenant's satisfaction of the forwarding address requirement among the conditions that must be met in order for a landlord to be presumed to have acted in bad faith if the landlord fails either to return a security deposit or to provide a written description and itemization of deductions on or before the 30th day after the date the tenant has met the applicable conditions.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While updating our laws about landlord-tenant relations is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2538

Effective: 6-2-23

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Longoria et al.

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Higher Education

Under current law, The University of Texas at Austin is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission under the top 10 percent rule in excess of the number required to fill 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designed for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year. Senate Bill 2538 repeals the Education Code provision that makes the 75 percent cap inapplicable if the university is prohibited by court order or its governing board from considering an applicant's race or ethnicity as a factor in first-time undergraduate admission decisions.

Senate Bill 2566

Effective: 5-27-23

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Guillen

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2566 dissolves the McMullen County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 and requires the McMullen County judge to appoint a trustee to close the district's affairs as a result of the dissolution.

Senate Bill 2571

Effective: 5-23-23

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2571 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 225.

[Senate Bill 2576](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Gerdes **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2576 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set out provisions relating to the powers and duties of the Open R Fresh Water Supply District of Caldwell County.

[Senate Bill 2577](#) **Senate Author:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2577 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Atascosa County Municipal Utility District No. 2.

[Senate Bill 2579](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Kuempel **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2579 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Guadalupe County Municipal Utility District No. 8.

[Senate Bill 2580](#) **Senate Author:** Nichols **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-23-23 **House Sponsor:** Bailes **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2580 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Liberty County Municipal Utility District No. 12.

[Senate Bill 2583](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Cain **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2583 repeals the Special District Local Laws Code provision that prohibits the Crosby Municipal Utility District of Harris County, Texas, from exercising the power of eminent domain outside the district.

[Senate Bill 2588](#) **Senate Author:** Huffman **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Kitzman **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2588 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 264.

[Senate Bill 2592](#) **Senate Author:** Paxton et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Clardy et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2592 amends the law to revise and update the governing provisions of the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, following Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations. Among other provisions, including across-the-board sunset provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires the authority's board of directors to appoint a general manager of the authority;
- decreases the length of a director's term from six years to four years; and
- changes the frequency with which directors are appointed from biennially to annually.

[Senate Bill 2595](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2595 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 204.

[Senate Bill 2597](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Bell, Cecil **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2597 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 237.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2597 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2598](#) **Senate Author:** Paxton **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Frazier **House Committee:** Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 2598 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Honey Creek Improvement District No. 1 in Collin County.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2598 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2599](#) **Senate Author:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Oliverson **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2599 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 594.

[Senate Bill 2600](#) **Senate Author:** Bettencourt **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 5-27-23 **House Sponsor:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2600 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Firefly Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Montgomery County.

[Senate Bill 2601](#) **Senate Author:** Hinojosa **Senate Committee:** Transportation
Effective: 6-18-23 **House Sponsor:** Canales **House Committee:** Transportation

Senate Bill 2601 amends the Transportation Code to make the relocation of certain water supply or sewer service corporations eligible for financial assistance from the state if their relocation is required to accommodate a state highway project.

[Senate Bill 2603](#) **Senate Author:** Creighton **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: 1-1-24 **House Sponsor:** Metcalf **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2603 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 216.

[Senate Bill 2604](#) **Senate Author:** Miles **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Thompson, Senfronia **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2604 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 589.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2604 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2605](#) **Senate Author:** Flores **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Buckley **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2605 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Knob Creek Municipal Utility District of Bell County.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2605 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2612](#) **Senate Author:** Flores et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Allison et al. **House Committee:** Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 2612 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Natural Resources Code to require the General Land Office to commission as a peace officer an Alamo complex ranger who has been certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

[Senate Bill 2613](#) **Senate Author:** Parker **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Stucky **House Committee:** Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 2613 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Tabor Ranch Municipal Management District in Denton County.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2613 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2616](#) **Senate Author:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Local Government
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Flores **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2616 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Travis County Municipal Utility District No. 27.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2616 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2620](#) **Senate Author:** Springer **Senate Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: 9-1-23 **House Sponsor:** Spiller **House Committee:** Elections

Senate Bill 2620 amends the Election Code to authorize a municipality, independent school district, or hospital district wholly or partly located in Montague County to change the date on which it holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date.

[Senate Bill 2627](#) **Senate Author:** Schwertner et al. **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
Effective: See below **House Sponsor:** Hunter **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 2627 amends the Utilities Code to enact the Powering Texas Forward Act, which seeks to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of dispatchable electric generation facilities by creating the Texas Energy Fund, which is to be used to provide up to \$7.2 billion in low-interest loans to construct new facilities and upgrade existing facilities and in completion bonus grants for facilities that are interconnected in the ERCOT power region by a qualifying date. The bill also provides for up to \$1 billion in grants to be used for transmission and distribution infrastructure and electric generating

facilities outside the ERCOT power region for facility modernization, facility weatherization, reliability and resiliency facility enhancements, or vegetation management.

Senate Bill 2627 provides for up to \$1.8 billion in funding for grants or loans for the design, procurement, installation, and use of stand-alone, behind-the-meter, multiday backup power sources that can be used for islanding to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid for facilities on which communities rely for health, safety, and well-being.

Senate Bill 2627 takes effect on the date on which the constitutional amendment proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 93 takes effect. If that amendment is not approved by the voters, the bill has no effect.

[Senate Joint Resolution 32](#) **Senate Author:** Blanco **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
For Election: 11-7-23 **House Sponsor:** Moody **House Committee:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Joint Resolution 32 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the district's development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

[Senate Joint Resolution 64](#) **Senate Author:** West et al. **Senate Committee:** Local Government
For Election: 11-7-23 **House Sponsor:** Talarico **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Joint Resolution 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for a local option property tax exemption for all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The value of the exemption would have to be at least 50 percent of the property's appraised value.

[Senate Joint Resolution 74](#) **Senate Author:** Parker et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
For Election: 11-7-23 **House Sponsor:** Walle et al. **House Committee:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Senate Joint Resolution 74 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the treasury to be used only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The resolution provides, among other provisions, for the fund's composition and authorizes the legislature to appropriate money from the fund to the Parks and Wildlife Department or its successor in function for the purposes prescribed for the fund by the resolution's provisions and general law.

[Senate Joint Resolution 75](#) **Senate Author:** Perry et al. **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
For Election: 11-7-23 **House Sponsor:** King, Tracy O. et al. **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Joint Resolution 75 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to create the Texas water fund as a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the purpose of transferring money to other funds or accounts administered by the TWDB. The transferred money may be spent without further legislative appropriation in the manner provided by general law governing the use of money in the fund or account to which the money was transferred.

Senate Joint Resolution 75 requires the legislature by general law to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used, subject to the limitations provided by the resolution, and requires the TWDB to allocate not less than 25 percent of the amount of money initially appropriated to the fund to be used only for transfer to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

Senate Joint Resolution 87 **Senate Author:** Huffman et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance
For Election: 11-7-23 **House Sponsor:** Bonnen **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Joint Resolution 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for a property tax exemption for tangible personal property held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

Senate Joint Resolution 93 **Senate Author:** Schwertner **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce
For Election: 11-7-23 **House Sponsor:** Hunter **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Joint Resolution 93 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to create the Texas Energy Fund, which will be administered and used by the Public Utility Commission of Texas to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities, including associated infrastructure, necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in Texas.

2ND CALLED SESSION, 2023

[House Joint Resolution 2](#) **House Author:** Metcalf et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means
For Election: 11-7-23 **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** n/a

House Joint Resolution 2 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to provide for a temporary limitation on the annual appraised-value increase for non-homestead real property and to increase the amount of the general school district residence homestead property tax exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The resolution also does the following:

- sets out provisions with respect to the ceiling on the amount of taxes a school district may impose on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled;
- establishes that certain appropriations made for the purpose of paying for property tax relief do not count toward the constitutional spending limit; and
- authorizes the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for members of the board of directors of an appraisal district in a county with a population of 75,000 or more.

[Senate Bill 2](#) **Senate Author:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** Finance
Effective: See below **House Sponsor:** Meyer et al. **House Committee:** Ways & Means

Senate Bill 2, the Property Tax Relief Act, amends the Education Code, Government Code, and Tax Code to provide for a \$0.107 reduction in a public school district's maximum compressed tax rate for the 2023-2024 school year, increase the amount of the general school district residence homestead property tax exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000, and provide for a temporary circuit breaker limitation of 20 percent on the annual appraised-value increase for non-homestead property valued at not more than \$5 million. Among other provisions, the bill also does the following:

- prohibits the governing body of a school district, municipality, or county that adopted a local option general residence homestead exemption for the 2022 tax year from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption;
- revises certain calculations for the ceiling on the school district taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of an elderly or disabled individual;
- revises the information required to be posted online by the Texas Education Agency for purposes of calculating the amount of the elderly and disabled tax ceiling;
- provides additional state aid for school districts beginning with the 2023-2024 school year to account for funding reductions attributable to property tax changes made by the bill;
- makes temporary adjustments to the recapture process for school districts with local revenue in excess of entitlement to account for the election that will be held on the bill's corresponding constitutional amendment and its effects on local revenue levels for the 2023-2024 school year if approved, including by providing for the delay of an election held by certain districts to approve an option to reduce local revenue levels;
- for counties with a population of 75,000 or more, increases the membership of the appraisal district's board of directors by three members, to be elected in nonpartisan elections, and provides for the appointment of members of the appraisal review board by the appraisal district's board of directors; and
- sets out transitional tax year provisions.

Except as otherwise provided by the bill, the bill takes effect October 12, 2023.

[Senate Bill 3](#)

Effective: 1-1-24

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Geren et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 3 amends the Tax Code to increase the amount of the total revenue exemption for the franchise tax to \$2.47 million. The bill prohibits the comptroller of public accounts from requiring an entity that qualifies for the exemption to file any type of franchise tax information report and repeals the authorization for the comptroller to require a new veteran-owned business to file an information report.

3RD CALLED SESSION, 2023

Senate Bill 4

Effective: 2-6-24

Senate Author: Flores et al.

House Sponsor: Guillen et al.

Senate Committee: Border Security

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 4 amends the Penal Code to increase the punishment for the offenses of smuggling of persons, continuous smuggling of persons, and operation of a stash house to the punishment prescribed for the next higher category of offense if the offense was committed in an area subject to an emergency evacuation order or a disaster declaration. The bill establishes applicable 10-year and 15-year mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment for these offenses following such an increase.

Senate Bill 4 establishes a 10-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for the offense of smuggling of persons and for the second degree felony and first degree felony offenses of continuous smuggling of persons, with certain exceptions. The bill increases the penalty for the offense of operation of a stash house from a Class A misdemeanor to a third degree felony with a five-year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment and further enhances the penalty for that offense to a second degree felony under certain conditions.

Senate Bill 4 provides penalty enhancements for the following offenses if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the actor committed the offense in the course of committing an offense of smuggling of persons involving encouraging or inducing a person to enter or remain in the United States in violation of federal law by concealing, harboring, or shielding that person from detection:

- assault in which the actor intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another, including the person's spouse;
- burglary of a building other than a habitation or burglary of vehicles;
- criminal trespass or evading arrest or detention; and
- arson, criminal mischief, reckless damage or destruction of property, interference with railroad property, or graffiti punishable as a misdemeanor or state jail felony.

Senate Bill 4 provides for concurrent sentencing for a person found guilty in a single criminal action of more than one offense of smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons involving such encouragement or inducement and provides for consecutive sentencing for an offense of smuggling of persons or continuous smuggling of persons involving such conduct with any of the offenses listed above that arises out of that same criminal episode.

Senate Bill 7

Effective: 2-6-24

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

House Sponsor: Leach et al.

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 7 amends the Health and Safety Code to prohibit a private employer from doing the following:

- adopting or enforcing a mandate requiring an employee, contractor, applicant for employment, or applicant for a contract position to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment or a contract position; or
- taking an adverse action against an employee, contractor, applicant for employment, or applicant for a contract position for a refusal to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The bill excepts from the prohibition against taking such an adverse action a health care facility, health care provider, or physician that establishes and enforces a reasonable policy that includes requiring the use of protective medical equipment by an individual who is an employee or contractor of the facility, provider, or physician and who is not vaccinated against COVID-19 based on the level of risk the individual presents to patients from the individual's routine and direct exposure to patients.

Senate Bill 7 establishes a process by which an employee, contractor, applicant for employment, or applicant for a contract position against whom an employer took an adverse action in violation of the bill's

provisions may file a complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Additionally, the bill provides for the following:

- a requirement that TWC conduct an investigation of such a complaint;
- TWC's authority to request that the attorney general bring an action for injunctive relief against the employer; and
- the imposition of a \$50,000 administrative penalty on an employer for each violation of the bill, unless the employer takes certain corrective action.

4TH CALLED SESSION, 2023

[Senate Bill 3](#)

Effective: 3-5-24

Senate Author: Huffman et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Sponsor: Jetton, Jacey et al. **House Committee:** Appropriations

Senate Bill 3 appropriates \$1,540,000,000 from the general revenue fund to the trusted programs within the governor's office for the purpose of providing funding for border security operations and the construction, operation, and maintenance of border barrier infrastructure. The bill provides for a transfer of \$40,000,000 of that amount to the Department of Public Safety for border security operations, including paying for additional overtime expenses and costs due to an increased law enforcement presence to preserve public safety and security in the Colony Ridge development in Liberty County. The bill sets out prohibitions on the use of the money appropriated by the bill.

[Senate Bill 4](#)

Effective: 3-5-24

Senate Author: Perry et al.

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Sponsor: Spiller et al.

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 4 amends the Penal Code to make it a Class B misdemeanor offense for a person who is an alien to enter or attempt to enter Texas directly from a foreign nation at any location other than a lawful port of entry. The bill enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of this illegal entry offense to a state jail felony and establishes certain affirmative defenses to the prosecution of the offense.

Senate Bill 4 also makes it an offense for a person who is an alien to enter, attempt to enter, or be found in Texas after the person has been denied admission to or excluded, deported, or removed from the United States or has departed from the United States while an order of exclusion, deportation, or removal is outstanding. The penalty for this offense of reentry by certain aliens ranges from a Class A misdemeanor to a second degree felony depending on whether certain circumstances applied to the defendant's removal or exclusion.

Senate Bill 4 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide for the authority of a magistrate or judge to issue an order discharging a person who is charged with either the illegal entry or illegal reentry offense and requiring that person to return to the foreign nation from which they entered or attempted to enter if the person agrees to the order, has not previously been convicted of an offense under the bill's provisions or obtained a discharge under such an order, and is not charged with another offense that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or any higher category of offense. Issuance of the order is also conditioned on the arresting law enforcement agency collecting all available identifying information of the person and cross-referencing that information with criminal databases and federal lists or classifications used to identify threats or potential threats to national security. Additionally, the bill requires a judge, on a person's conviction of an offense under the bill's provisions, to issue an order for the person to return to the foreign nation from which they entered or attempted to enter that takes effect on completion of the person's term of confinement or imprisonment. The bill sets out certain information to be included in an order to return to a foreign nation and requires that such an order be filed with the county or court clerk, as applicable, and reported to the Department of Public Safety for inclusion in the computerized criminal history system. The bill creates a second degree felony offense under the Penal Code for refusal to comply with an order to return to a foreign nation issued by a magistrate or judge under these provisions.

Senate Bill 4 prohibits a peace officer from arresting or detaining a person for the enforcement of any of the offenses created by the bill if, for specified purposes, the person is on the premises or grounds of a public or private primary or secondary school, an established place of religious worship, a health care facility or health care provider's office, or a facility that provides forensic medical examinations to sexual assault survivors. In addition, the bill prohibits a court from abating the prosecution of any of the bill's offenses on the basis that a federal determination regarding the immigration status of the defendant is

pending or will be initiated and makes a defendant charged with or convicted of any of those offenses ineligible for community supervision.

Senate Bill 4 amends the Government Code to make an inmate serving a sentence for the bill's offense of illegal reentry by certain aliens or of refusal to comply with an order to return to a foreign nation ineligible for release on parole or to mandatory supervision.

Senate Bill 4 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to provide immunity from liability and indemnification for actions taken by a state or local government official, employee, or contractor in enforcing the offenses created by the bill or an order to return to a foreign nation.

VETOES BY THE GOVERNOR

REGULAR SESSION, 2023

[House Bill 1](#)

Effective: See below

House Author: Bonnen

Senate Sponsor: Huffman et al.

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Finance

House Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, as passed by the legislature, appropriated approximately \$321.3 billion for the 2024-2025 state fiscal biennium. However, following the regular session, the governor exercised his line-item veto authority to veto Section 17.36 of Article IX of the bill, which prohibited the executive director of the Texas Lottery Commission from allowing the order, purchase, or sale of lottery tickets by telephone, including facilitating the sale of tickets via an application on a phone. The governor also vetoed Section 18.76 of Article IX, a contingency rider for Senate Joint Resolution 81, which did not pass. As a result of the line-item vetoes, roughly \$320.3 billion of the amount originally appropriated ultimately became law as part of the biennial state budget, of which \$172.2 billion is for state fiscal year 2024 and \$148.1 billion is for state fiscal year 2025. Those amounts include all funding sources except interagency contracts. (Figures and percentages may not add up due to rounding.)

Of the total amount appropriated, more than \$149.9 billion, or roughly 46.7 percent, is derived from general revenue, both dedicated and nondedicated. Another \$102.3 billion, or 31.8 percent, represents federal funding, while the remaining \$68.1 billion, or 21.2 percent, comes from other funds. The \$320.3 billion budgetary total for the 2024-2025 biennium represents an increase of just over 29 percent compared to the budget approved for the 2022-2023 biennium.

Legislative appropriations for major governmental functions and services for the 2024-2025 biennium compared with appropriations for the 2022-2023 biennium are as follows, listed by budgetary article:

- Article I - General Government receives \$10.9 billion, an increase of 58 percent;
- Article II - Health and Human Services receives \$102.2 billion, an increase of 17.9 percent;
- Article III - Agencies of Education receives \$99.4 billion, an increase of 6.3 percent;
- Article IV - The Judiciary receives \$1.2 billion, an increase of 29.3 percent;
- Article V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice receives \$18.9 billion, an increase of 46.5 percent;
- Article VI - Natural Resources receives \$8.6 billion, an increase of 14.7 percent;
- Article VII - Business and Economic Development receives \$45.9 billion, an increase of 25.8 percent;
- Article VIII - Regulatory receives \$921.7 million, an increase of 26.6 percent;
- Article IX - General Provisions receives \$32.9 billion, an increase of 1,270.8 percent; and
- Article X - The Legislature receives \$489.8 million, an increase of 55.2 percent.

As part of the appropriations included in Article IX, the bill provides for a five percent annual salary increase for most state employees effective September 1, 2023, with a minimum increase of \$3,000, and another five percent annual salary increase effective September 1, 2024, with a minimum increase of \$3,000. Additionally, Article IX contains the state employee position classification plan and salary schedule for the 2024-2025 biennium.

Except for Sections 17.36 and 18.76 of Article IX, which do not take effect due to the governor's vetoes, House Bill 1 takes effect September 1, 2023.

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 17.36 of Article IX: "...Section 17.36 of Article IX is unconstitutional. Section 17.36 purports to tell the Lottery Commission that it must issue a new rule on a particular subject. This attempt to make general law in the General Appropriations Act violates Article III, Section 35 of the Texas Constitution. A similar command to the Lottery Commission was proposed in Senate Bill No. 1820, but the Legislature did not pass that bill."

Governor's Reason for Veto of Section 18.76 of Article IX: "This veto deletes a contingency rider for a joint resolution that did not pass."

[House Bill 181](#) **House Author:** Johnson, Jarvis et al. **House Committee:** Public Health
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Miles et al. **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 181 amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish and maintain a sickle cell disease registry for use as a single repository of accurate, complete records of sickle cell disease cases to aid in the disease's cure and treatment in Texas. The bill requires an applicable health care facility to provide DSHS with certain data concerning cases of sickle cell disease and provides for DSHS's implementation powers and duty to submit an annual report to the legislature.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "I am signing House Bill No. 1488 into law because sickle cell disease is a serious problem in Texas. House Bill No. 181, however, would force hospitals to share reams of sensitive health information with a sickle cell disease registry, putting the privacy of patients at risk. It would leave the hard work of ensuring confidentiality to agency rulemaking, even though no funds were appropriated to achieve the bill's purported purpose."

[House Bill 279](#) **House Author:** Jetton, Jacey et al. **House Committee:** Criminal Jurisprudence
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Bettencourt et al. **Senate Committee:** Criminal Justice

House Bill 279 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Government Code, and Penal Code to subject sex trafficking of a disabled individual to the same conditions for prosecution as child sex trafficking.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "I am vetoing House Bill No. 279 at the author's request because it is largely duplicative of Senate Bill No. 1529, which I have proudly signed into law. I applaud Representative Jacey Jetton and Senator Paul Bettencourt for working with Senator Joan Huffman and Representative Senfronia Thompson to protect trafficking victims."

[House Bill 558](#) **House Author:** Raymond **House Committee:** State Affairs
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Paxton et al. **Senate Committee:** State Affairs

House Bill 558 amends the Government Code to prohibit an executive order, proclamation, or regulation issued by the governor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 restricting the operation of or the hours of operation for a business that sells alcoholic beverages from including a tax-exempt organization that benefits veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Future governors must have the flexibility to respond to unforeseen calamities and meet the rapidly changing needs that each disaster will present. House Bill No. 558, however, would exempt some organizations that sell alcohol from any emergency directive whatsoever, no matter the disaster at hand. The bill does not carefully distinguish between a future pandemic, in which those organizations should stay open, and a hurricane or a wildfire, in which a mandatory evacuation order might be necessary. Hacking away at the Texas Disaster Act like this poses an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of Texans. I will be glad to work with the author on a more nuanced approach to this issue."

[House Bill 729](#) **House Author:** Rose et al. **House Committee:** Human Services
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** West **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services

House Bill 729 amends the Government Code to establish the statewide intellectual and developmental disability coordinating council to ensure the state develops a strategic approach for the provision of intellectual and developmental disability services in Texas.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 729 pursues the laudable goal of improving the provision of intellectual and developmental disability services in Texas. That goal is so laudable, however, that several Texas committees already do that same important work. Creating a new bureaucracy to duplicate their efforts is wasteful at best, and could even frustrate existing programs."

[House Bill 1466](#)
Effective: Vetoes

House Author: Clardy et al.
Senate Sponsor: Johnson et al.

House Committee: Insurance
Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 1466 amends the Insurance Code to remove the provision that makes participation in a certified continuing education program for licensed fire alarm technicians, residential fire alarm technicians, residential fire alarm superintendents, or fire alarm planning superintendents voluntary. The bill also prohibits the commissioner of insurance from adopting a rule that excludes or devalues a certificate of training meeting certain criteria or that requires more than eight hours of continuing education for any license renewal period.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “As governor, I have dismantled unnecessary barriers to employment. Texans should have the freedom to get—and keep—a job, but House Bill No. 1466 would raise an unjustified obstacle to maintaining an occupational license for installing fire alarms. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed.”

[House Bill 2138](#)

House Author: Kacal et al.

House Committee: Licensing &
 Administrative Procedures

Effective: Vetoes

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 2138 amends the Charitable Raffle Enabling Act, Occupations Code, to authorize a qualified nonprofit wildlife conservation association to sell or offer to sell raffle tickets online to its previously identified supporters.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Though House Bill No. 2138 would expand gambling for a worthy cause, our oath obliges us to take a second look at statewide sales of online raffle tickets so that they do not run afoul of Article III, Section 47(d) of the Texas Constitution. Laws authorizing online raffle ticket sales are simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[House Bill 2416](#)

Effective: Vetoes

House Author: Paul et al.
Senate Sponsor: Alvarado et al.

House Committee: Natural Resources
Senate Committee: Natural Resources &
 Economic Development

House Bill 2416 amends the Natural Resources Code to create the gulf coast protection account as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund to be administered by the General Land Office (GLO) to pay for expenditures that satisfy the following conditions:

- the expenditures are eligible for credit towards the non-federal match of the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Galveston District, Southwestern Division, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- the expenditures comply with the terms of a local cooperation agreement executed by the GLO and the Gulf Coast Protection District; and
- the expenditures are for projects that are necessary or useful for the protection of the portion of the gulf coast located within the district’s territory.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Texas has a rock-solid commitment to protecting its hundreds of miles of beautiful coastline. House Bill No. 2416 was proposed as part of that commitment. Unfortunately, the bill’s text would require the deposit of *any* federal money the State receives for coastal protection into an account that can be spent *only* on a small portion of the Gulf Coast, if at all. I look forward to working with the author on enacting language that will achieve its intended purpose.”

House Bill 2629

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Rogers et al.

Senate Sponsor: Middleton et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

Current law requires a campaign finance report to list each candidate or officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure made during the reporting period by the person or political committee filing the report. House Bill 2629, the P.A.C. Transparency and Accountability Act, amends the Election Code to require instead that such a report list each candidate or officeholder for whom a direct campaign expenditure was made to support or oppose during the reporting period.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 2629 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

House Bill 2879

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Oliverson et al.

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Bill 2879 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to make void as a matter of public policy a venue provision in a contract for an improvement to real property that requires an action involving a contractor, subcontractor, or materialman who is a Texas resident to be brought outside of Texas. The bill requires an action arising out of a contract with such a provision to be brought only in Texas in the county in which the defendant resides, the cause of action accrued, or the property that is the subject of the litigation is located, unless the parties stipulate to another venue after the dispute arises.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 2879 would insert the government into private negotiations involving the work of contractors, subcontractors, and materialmen. Laws about venue selection are simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

House Bill 2956

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Shine

Senate Sponsor: Flores

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 2956 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a municipality that is annexing an area under specified annexation provisions to also annex with the initial area an additional area adjacent to a right-of-way of a railway line, spur, or other railroad property that is contiguous and runs parallel to the municipality's boundaries and that is contiguous to the initial area being annexed, contingent on each owner of the additional area agreeing to the annexation.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 2956 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

House Bill 3159

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Leach et al.

Senate Sponsor: Hughes et al.

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Bill 3159 amends the Election Code to provide for the establishment of an accessible absentee mail system to be used for the sole purpose of enabling a voter who has a disability and needs assistive technology for marking or reading the ballot to mark, print, and mail their ballot without the assistance of another person. Among other provisions, the bill requires the accessible absentee mail system to be an electronic system and authorizes a person eligible for early voting by mail on the grounds of disability or confinement for childbirth to receive and cast a ballot using the system.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "According to its author, House Bill No. 3159 is intended 'to benefit blind, visually impaired Texans, people with dyslexia, or persons with limited dexterity of their arms or hands such as persons with quadriplegia.' While this intent is laudable, the text of the bill is not limited to assisting this group. Instead, it allows any voter who qualifies to vote by mail to receive a ballot electronically. I look forward to working with the author to craft language that achieves his worthy goal, without unintended consequences."

[House Bill 3436](#) **House Author:** Rogers **House Committee:** Land & Resource Management
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** King **Senate Committee:** Business & Commerce

House Bill 3436 establishes a process for the release by the Texas Military Department of the state's reversionary interest in specified real property in Palo Pinto County that was transferred by the state to the City of Mineral Wells to be used as a fair, livestock show, and rodeo ground and of the state's interest in any buildings, structures, or other property located or installed on that transferred property.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 3436 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 4106](#) **House Author:** Dean **House Committee:** Natural Resources
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Alvarado **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Bill 4106 amends the Water Code to authorize the Public Utility Commission of Texas to adopt a simplified procedure to resolve a complaint by a tenant against an owner about a bill for water or wastewater service brought under specified provisions relating to submetering and nonsubmetering for apartments and manufactured home rental communities and other multiple use facilities.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 4106 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 4128](#) **House Author:** Murr et al. **House Committee:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Effective: Vetoed **Senate Sponsor:** Zaffirini **Senate Committee:** Jurisprudence

House Bill 4128 amends the Government Code to reclassify certain associate judges and their staff from county employees to state employees and provides for the payment of their salaries accordingly. The bill authorizes an applicable associate judge to oversee and monitor guardianship proceedings and protective services proceedings and establishes that the judge's authority to oversee and monitor proceedings includes the authority to review certain issues with respect to the guardian's reporting and accounting requirements, address concerns about a ward's well-being, and take any other action the judge considers necessary to ensure the efficient administration of justice in guardianship proceedings and protective services proceedings and curtail the risk of potential abuse, fraud, or exploitation of wards under a guardianship.

House Bill 4128 provides for the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to contract for available money, including state money, to fund the use of associate judges in certain guardianship and protective services proceedings and for an applicable court coordinator or court investigator to assist associate judges in those proceedings in specified tasks. The bill authorizes the presiding judges of the administrative judicial regions, state agencies, and counties to seek federal money and use state money and public or private grants to reimburse costs and salaries associated with the use of associate judges and associated personnel. The bill requires the presiding judges and OCA in cooperation with other state agencies and counties to take the action necessary to maximize the amount of federal money available for such purposes. The bill also requires OCA to make available to appointed associate judges guardianship compliance specialists and other resources and assistance to assist with the oversight and monitoring of the proceedings.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Last session, I approved House Bill No. 79 to protect vulnerable Texans through a system of specialized guardianship courts with associate judges. This session's House Bill No. 4128 goes too far, however, in building a new state bureaucracy. I have vetoed similar bills that would have burdened state taxpayers and given outsized authority to associate judges. House Bill No. 4128 suffers from the same flaws and meets the same fate."

House Bill 4158

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Schofield

Senate Sponsor: Bettencourt

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 4158 amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district, for each public school district in the appraisal district, to determine the number of residence homesteads of elderly or disabled individuals subject to the limitation on school district tax increases for such individuals for the current tax year and report that number to the comptroller of public accounts. The bill requires the comptroller in turn to submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature a report of the total number of residence homesteads in Texas subject to that limitation for the given tax year, as well as the number of those residence homesteads in each school district or a reference to where the information for each school district may be accessed.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "House Bill No. 4158 appears to require more paperwork about property taxes, but does nothing to cut property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

House Bill 4219

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Lambert

Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Bill 4219 amends the Finance Code to require the consumer credit commissioner, on March 1 and September 1 of each year, to compute the ceilings for a rate or amount of interest that may be provided by a consumer loan contract that is not secured by real property for the six-month period effective the following May 1 and November 1, respectively. The bill establishes that those ceilings are effective for the six-month period beginning on the effective date and are subject to adjustment after each six-month period. The bill also revises the current method of calculating the ceilings by adding the federal funds rate, as defined by the bill, to each of the existing percentages in that calculation.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 4219 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

House Bill 4759

Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Campos et al.

Senate Sponsor: Menéndez

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4759 amends the Health and Safety Code to require San Antonio's animal control authority to investigate reports of incidents involving dangerous dogs. The bill provides for the confidentiality of the identifying information of a witness who gives a sworn statement to an animal control authority investigating an incident relating to a dangerous dog and limits the disclosure of that information to the governing body of the municipality or county in which the incident occurred or other governmental or law enforcement agency for purposes of enforcing state law. Moreover, the bill enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of an attack by a dangerous dog offense and expands the conduct constituting an attack by a dog offense.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texas's existing criminal laws penalize attacks by dangerous dogs — so much so that felony arrests have already been made of the dog owners responsible for the tragic attack that took the life of a distinguished Air Force veteran in San Antonio, and that was the catalyst for House Bill No. 4759. The justice system should be allowed to work without the overcriminalization found in this bill. I look forward to working with the author to create investigations and procedures that stop dog attacks *before* they happen."

[House Bill 4779](#)
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Bhojani et al.
Senate Sponsor: Whitmire

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence
Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Bill 4779 amends the Penal Code to revise the conduct that constitutes organized retail theft and limit the application of the offense to only merchandise valued at \$100 or more.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Texas's booming economy is built on a foundation of law and order. House Bill No. 4779 sought to advance that goal, but instead it could inadvertently chip away at that foundation, by making it harder to prosecute and punish organized retail theft."

[House Bill 5332](#)
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Bailes
Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5332 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 229.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 5332 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 5358](#)
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Rogers et al.
Senate Sponsor: King

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5358 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Ranger Ridge Municipal Utility District of Palo Pinto County.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 5358 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 5360](#)
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Shine
Senate Sponsor: Creighton

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5360 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Deer Creek Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Bell and McLennan Counties.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 5360 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[House Bill 5366](#)
Effective: Vetoed

House Author: Kacal
Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst

House Committee: Land & Resource Management
Senate Committee: Local Government

House Bill 5366 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Grimes County Municipal Utility District No. 3.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While House Bill No. 5366 is important, it is simply not as important as education freedom. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering education freedom to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after education freedom is passed."

[Senate Bill 200](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.
House Sponsor: Howard

Senate Committee: Education
House Committee: Higher Education

Under current law providing for a Texas resident's right to an academic fresh start in applying for admission and enrollment as an undergraduate student, a public institution of higher education may not consider academic course credits or grades earned 10 or more years before the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll. Senate Bill 200 amends the Education Code to authorize

an institution to also disregard course credits or grades earned between five and 10 years prior to the applicable semester start date.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 200 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 247

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Alvarado

House Sponsor: Perez

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 247 repeals the Transportation Code requirement for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates to honorary consuls authorized to perform consular duties.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 247 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 261

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Springer et al.

House Sponsor: Ashby

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Bill 261 amends the Transportation Code to establish that an assembled trailer is considered to be a trailer, semitrailer, or travel trailer for purposes of the Certificate of Title Act and for vehicle registration purposes. Among other provisions, the bill sets out the registration application process for the owner of an assembled trailer and defines "hobbyist" under that act.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 261 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 267

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: King et al.

House Sponsor: Burrows et al.

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Homeland Security & Public Safety

Senate Bill 267 amends the Government Code and Occupations Code to provide for the mandatory accreditation of applicable law enforcement agencies and school district police departments by a specified organization or association. The bill sets out the duties of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and law enforcement agencies in implementing and reporting on agency accreditation. Additionally, the bill provides for the establishment of a grant program by the comptroller of public accounts to provide financial assistance to qualified law enforcement agencies for purposes of becoming accredited.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 267 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 315

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hall et al.

House Sponsor: Ramos

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 315 amends the Business & Commerce Code, with respect to telephone solicitations, to define "telephone call" as a call or other transmission made to or received at a telephone number, including a call made by an automated telephone dialing system; a transmission to a facsimile recording device; and a call or other transmission, including a transmission of a text or graphic message or of an image, to a mobile telephone number serviced by a provider of commercial mobile service but excluding a transmission made

to a mobile telephone number as part of an ad-based telephone service, in connection with which the telephone service customer has agreed with the service provider to receive the transmission.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 315 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 335

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Hull

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 335 amends the Human Resources Code to require that an open meeting of the Family and Protective Services Council be broadcast live over the Internet on the Department of Family and Protective Services website or that archived video and audio of the meeting be made available on that website for a period of two years beginning not later than the end of the second business day after the day the meeting is held.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 335 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 348

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Springer

House Sponsor: Meyer

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

State law currently generally prohibits a photograph, sketch, or floor plan of an improvement to real property designed primarily for use as a human residence that is contained in an appraisal record from being posted online. Senate Bill 348 amends the Tax Code to allow for the posting of a street level photograph of only the exterior of the building or certain field records or overhead sketches of the property online. Additionally, the bill revises the exception in law allowing an aerial photograph that depicts five or more separately owned buildings to be posted online to allow instead for an aerial photograph that depicts more than one separately owned building to be posted online.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 348 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 361

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Eckhardt et al.

House Sponsor: Shine

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 361 amends the Tax Code to authorize a person employed as a teacher by a public school district to serve on an appraisal district's appraisal review board.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 361 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 467

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Bettencourt et al.

House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: Criminal Justice

House Committee: Criminal Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 467 amends the Penal Code to increase the penalty for criminal mischief to a third-degree felony if the actor causes wholly or partly impairment or disruption to a retail motor fuel pump, regardless of the amount of pecuniary loss.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 467 would impose a harsher sentence for tampering with a gas pump than for damaging the electric grid or cutting a livestock fence. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 485

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Oliverson et al.

Senate Committee: Administration

House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 485 amends the Government Code to designate the second Saturday in October as Hospice and Palliative Care Day to bring awareness to the role of hospice and palliative care in optimizing the quality of life for seriously ill patients and their families.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 485 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 498

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Johnson

House Sponsor: Smithee

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 498 amends the Government Code to remove the language conditioning the authority of the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to provide a particular service to a governmental entity through a statewide technology center on that service being provided to two or more specified governmental entities. Moreover, the bill requires DIR to specify the services a statewide technology center may provide.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 498 conflicts with House Bill No. 4553, which I have already signed into law. To avoid uncertainty, I am vetoing Senate Bill No. 498."

Senate Bill 526

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: West

House Sponsor: Cook et al.

Senate Committee: Education

House Committee: Higher Education

Senate Bill 526 amends the Education Code to require an entity that seeks to offer a degree or certificate program to a person confined in a penal institution or required to reside in a facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office to obtain prior approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer the program if enrollment in the program would make the person eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 526 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 796

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Middleton et al.

House Sponsor: Johnson, Ann

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 796 amends the Insurance Code to require an arbitration under a surplus lines insurance contract that is related to a risk located entirely in Texas to be conducted in Texas and to require the insurance contract, including the arbitration agreement, to be interpreted in accordance with Texas law. The bill prohibits those requirements from being construed as a defense to the enforcement of an arbitration agreement that complies with or has been reformed to comply with the bill or an award made under such an agreement.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Surplus lines insurance is a product for sophisticated parties who know how to bargain over the terms of an arbitration agreement. Senate Bill No. 796's interference with freedom of contract in this market could inadvertently increase premiums and drive out insurers who want to do business in Texas."

[Senate Bill 813](#) **Senate Author:** Miles et al. **Senate Committee:** Natural Resources & Economic Development
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Lopez, Ray et al. **House Committee:** Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 813 amends the Water Code to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to notify the state representative and state senator who represent the area where an applicable violation occurred of an administrative penalty or a proposed administrative order or agreement to settle an administrative enforcement action if the representative and senator have respectively elected to receive such a notice.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 813 would add unnecessary bureaucratic duties to what is already required by Texas law. Our goal should be to eliminate bureaucracy, not add to it."

[Senate Bill 987](#) **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Finance
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Gerdes **House Committee:** State Affairs

Senate Bill 987 amends the Government Code to remove the requirement for the comptroller of public accounts to provide copies of any recovery audit reports the comptroller receives to the governor, the state auditor's office, and the Legislative Budget Board. Instead, the bill replaces the requirement for the comptroller to issue a biennial report to the legislature summarizing the activities conducted under the state recovery audit program during the state fiscal biennium ending August 31 of the previous year with a requirement for the comptroller to issue a single, annual report to the legislature and those other oversight entities summarizing all applicable recovery audits completed in the previous state fiscal year, if any such audits were completed.

Senate Bill 987 amends the Health and Safety Code to remove the requirement for the comptroller to give the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) under the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act information relating to the taxable value of property by each county for the relevant period, each county's applicable general revenue tax levy, and the amount of sales and use tax revenue received by each county in that period and to authorize DSHS instead to require a county to provide that same information for the relevant period for the purpose of determining eligibility for state assistance under that act.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 987 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[Senate Bill 1051](#) **Senate Author:** Hughes **Senate Committee:** Health & Human Services
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Harris, Caroline **House Committee:** Insurance

Senate Bill 1051 amends the Insurance Code to require the commissioner of insurance to establish a uniform coordination of benefits questionnaire to be used by all health benefit plan issuers in Texas. Accordingly, each applicable health benefit plan issuer that issues a health benefit plan that includes a coordination of benefits provision must use the questionnaire and make the questionnaire available to health care providers as appropriate.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1051 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[Senate Bill 1080](#) **Senate Author:** Kolkhorst **Senate Committee:** Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Effective: Vetoed **House Sponsor:** Gerdes **House Committee:** Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1080 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to require the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to establish a mitigation program to address excessive drawdown of an aquifer or subdivision of an aquifer in the district that results either in the potentiometric surface being below a

desired future condition or in nonproductive wells. The bill sets out provisions relating to the program and revises provisions relating to district fees.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While creating a mitigation plan for a single groundwater conservation district is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1367

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Creighton

House Sponsor: Leach

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1367 amends the Election Code, Government Code, Tax Code, and Transportation Code to provide protections for the sensitive information of full-time employees at county courthouses, the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, and the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. Specifically, the bill, among other provisions, allows these court employees to omit their address from election registration lists and on their driver's licenses and also allows them to withhold their personal information on publicly accessible government databases and to keep their tax form personal information private.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1367 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1393

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Middleton

House Sponsor: Paul

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Insurance

Senate Bill 1393 amends the Insurance Code to establish that an offer of coverage in the voluntary market for residential properties in the area surrounding, but not located more than four miles beyond, the designated Texas Windstorm Insurance Association catastrophe area that is at a cost exceeding 110 percent of the cost for a FAIR Plan policy providing substantially equivalent coverage of residential property with similar rating characteristics is considered a declination of coverage from an insurer for purposes of establishing FAIR Plan coverage eligibility.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "The FAIR Plan Association was established in 2005 as an insurer of last resort for owners of residential property in underserved markets. Senate Bill No. 1393 would fundamentally change the Association's purpose by making certain homeowners eligible for subsidized FAIR policies even though insurance is available to them on the traditional market. I look forward to working with the bill authors on ways to improve this legislation."

Senate Bill 1399

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Economic Development

House Committee: Environmental Regulation

Senate Bill 1399 amends the Texas Clean Air Act, Health and Safety Code, to require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, with regard to an air quality standard permit issued for a permanent concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing, to conduct a protectiveness review of the permit at least once every six years. Each authorization to use a permit is subject to review at least once every six years to determine whether the authority to operate the facility authorized by the permit should be renewed.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1399 appears to add more bureaucracy and cost."

Senate Bill 1404
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Parker et al.
House Sponsor: Smithee et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1404 creates the coal-to-nuclear conversion work group to study the benefits of converting sites in Texas with coal-fired electric generating facilities to use nuclear electric generating facilities instead and to develop a model plan for implementing coal-to-nuclear conversion to provide affordable and sustainable power in Texas. The bill's provisions expire and the work group is abolished June 30, 2025.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1404 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1431
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hinojosa
House Sponsor: Guerra

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 1431 amends the Government Code to make the following exceptions to required disclosure under state public information law applicable to a current or former administrative law judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH):

- the exception for information that relates to the person's home address, home telephone number, emergency contact, or social security number or that reveals whether the person has family members; and
- the exception for certain personal identifying information of peace officers and other officials performing sensitive governmental functions.

Senate Bill 1431 amends the Tax Code to extend to a current or former administrative law judge for SOAH the confidentiality protections for certain home address information in local property tax appraisal records.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1431 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1439
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Springer
House Sponsor: Hefner

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Ways & Means

State law provides a property tax exemption for income-producing tangible personal property valued at less than \$2,500. Senate Bill 1439 amends the Tax Code to close a loophole that allows a business to receive multiple of these exemptions by establishing separate, related business entities, such as a limited-liability company, all housed at one physical location. The bill does this by requiring that property be tied to a physical address for purposes of claiming this exemption and by providing for the aggregation of any property owned by a person who is considered a related business entity when determining the taxable value of property for purposes of eligibility for this exemption.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1439 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1467
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hancock
House Sponsor: Price

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 1467 amends the Occupations Code to prohibit a pathology or radiology report that has a reasonable likelihood of showing a finding of malignancy or a test result that may reveal a genetic marker

from being disclosed to a patient or patient representative by electronic means before the third day after the date such a sensitive test result is finalized.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1467 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1568

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Campbell

House Sponsor: Shaheen

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1568 amends the Property Code, for purposes of provisions generally applicable to liens, to redefine "substitute trustee" as an individual, corporation, organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, or other legal entity appointed by the current mortgagee or mortgage servicer under the terms of the security instrument to exercise the power of sale of real property. The bill, for those same purposes, also redefines "trustee" as an individual, corporation, organization, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, or other legal entity authorized to exercise the power of sale under the terms of a security instrument in accordance with statutory provisions relating to the duties of a trustee so authorized.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1568 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1614

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Price

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1614 amends the Tax Code to clarify that, for purposes of state law allowing an entity with the principal business activity of broadcasting to factor in the costs of goods sold when calculating franchise tax liability, "broadcasting" means television or radio broadcasting under a television or radio broadcast license issued by the FCC.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1614 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1615

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Wilson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing &
Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1615 amends the Occupations Code to enact and enter into the cosmetology licensure compact to facilitate the interstate practice and regulation of cosmetology with the goals of improving public access to, and the safety of, cosmetology services and reducing unnecessary burdens related to cosmetology licensure. The bill sets out the compact's provisions and designates the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as the compact administrator for Texas.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Before ceding sovereign power over our State's cosmetologists to a Cosmetology Licensure Compact Commission that does not yet exist, Texas should wait and see who joins this proposed interstate compact. There is simply no need to rush into such an arrangement, as evidenced by the fact that Senate Bill No. 1615 would not even go into effect until 2026.

"I have long been a champion of occupational-licensing reforms like those in Senate Bill No. 1615, especially when they help military spouses. That is why I signed Senate Bill No. 1200 into law in 2019. As a result, a military spouse with an out-of-state license can now practice a trade in the Lone Star State without the hassle of securing another license from Texas.

"To take another example, I signed House Bill No. 3742 in 2015 so that Texas can enter into licensing-reciprocity agreements with sister states. Instead of waiting until 2026 for someone else to cut red tape,

I hereby direct the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to redouble its efforts on entering into those bilateral agreements. A copy of this disapproval message shall be filed with that state agency.

“There will be time enough to reassess the membership and direction of this Cosmetology Licensure Compact Commission in 2025, when the 89th Legislature convenes. Meanwhile, I will continue to defend Texas’s sovereignty and push for real reforms that let Texans get to work.”

Senate Bill 1668

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hughes

House Sponsor: Turner

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1668 amends the Property Code to revise provisions relating to property owners’ associations and condominium owners’ associations. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- requires a condominium owners’ association to make the current version of the association’s dedicatory instruments relating to the association and filed in the county deed records available on a website that is accessible to association members and maintained by the association or a management company on behalf of the association, applicable only to an association of a condominium governed under the Uniform Condominium Act that is composed of at least 60 units or an association that has contracted with a management company;
- sets out provisions regarding a management certificate or an amended management certificate filed with the Texas Real Estate Commission, provisions regarding liability for a delay or failure in recording or filing the certificate, and provisions prescribing additional information that must be stated in the certificate, such as the amount and description of a fee or fees charged to a unit seller or buyer relating to a transfer of a property interest in a unit of the condominium;
- authorizes a condominium owners’ association to charge a reasonable and necessary fee, capped at \$375, to furnish a resale certificate to a unit owner other than a declarant who intends to sell a unit;
- specifies and further clarifies the actions that a property owners’ association is not prohibited from taking; and
- sets out provisions regarding perimeter fencing and fencing in front of the front-most building line of a dwelling if the property owner’s residential address is exempt from state or federal public disclosure law or the property owner provides to the association documentation from a law enforcement agency of the property owner’s need for enhanced security measures.

In addition, the bill revises provisions relating to an architectural review authority of a property owners’ association that consists of more than 40 lots.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 1668 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 1712

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Perry

House Sponsor: Darby

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 1712 amends the Occupations Code to exempt the following from The Real Estate License Act:

- the purchase, sale, or lease of real property for a limited partnership (LP) by a general partner of the LP, an employee of a general partner of the LP who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment, or an employee of the LP who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment; and
- the purchase, sale, or lease of real property for a limited liability company (LLC) by a manager or managing member of the LLC, an employee of a manager or managing member of the LLC who

negotiates the transaction in the course of employment, or an employee or member of the LLC who negotiates the transaction in the course of employment.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1712 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1916

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Shine

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 1916 amends the Local Government Code to revise provisions relating to the Public Improvement District Assessment Act. Among other provisions, the bill requires the governing body of a municipality or county to submit to each applicable appraisal district the assessment roll, and any updated assessment roll, within a week of levying an assessment or making a supplemental assessment, reassessment, or new assessment, as applicable. The bill establishes content and submission requirements for an assessment roll and sets out online posting requirements following the approval, amendment, or update of a service plan for a public improvement district.

Senate Bill 1916 amends the Tax Code to require the property tax database maintained by each appraisal district to include for each public improvement district certain information regarding assessments levied by the district.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1916 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1979

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hughes et al.

House Sponsor: Harris, Caroline

Senate Committee: State Affairs

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 1979 amends the Education Code to require the Texas A&M University Real Estate Research Center to annually study and report on institutional buyers' purchases and sales of single-family homes in Texas. The bill sets out the information that must be compiled and requires the report to include a summary of that information, an assessment of any trends or patterns relating to the relative number of purchases by institutional buyers, and an analysis of institutional buyers' impact on housing costs and the advantages, if any, that institutional buyers have over individual buyers in the real estate market.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 1979 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 1998

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Shine

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Bill 1998 amends the Tax Code to require the tax rate calculation forms prescribed by the comptroller of public accounts to be capable of including for each entry, other than an entry making a mathematical calculation, a hyperlink to a document that evidences the accuracy of the entry. In addition, the bill requires the designated officer or employee of a taxing unit that is tasked with calculating the unit's no-new-revenue tax rate and voter-approval tax rate to include a hyperlink for each entry on the tax rate calculation form, other than an entry making a mathematical calculation.

Senate Bill 1998 requires that, for a taxing unit in which a tax rate calculation is affected by the application of statutory provisions regarding the treatment of captured appraised value and tax increment,

the adjustments to the value of property taxable by the unit and to the amount of taxes imposed or collected by the unit be calculated separately for each reinvestment zone in which the taxing unit participates.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill No. 1998 requires data reporting on property taxes, but does nothing to cut property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2010

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner et al.

House Sponsor: Slawson et al.

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2010 amends the Utilities Code to require the report to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) from the independent market monitor (IMM) for the ERCOT wholesale electric market regarding potential manipulation of the wholesale electric market and discovered or potential violations of PUC or ERCOT rules to include all discovered or potential violations and to require that the IMM's report be provided also to PUC staff. The bill requires the PUC to submit an annual report to the legislature regarding information contained in the IMM's report.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2010 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2016

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini et al.

House Sponsor: Goldman

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: Licensing & Administrative Procedures

Senate Bill 2016 amends the Licensed Dietitian Act, Occupations Code, to revise and clarify certain licensing requirements to align with national standards. Under current law, an applicant for a dietitian license must possess a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree that meets certain criteria to qualify for the licensing examination. The bill repeals that requirement and instead requires an applicant to possess at least a master's degree accepted by the Commission on Dietetic Registration or another applicable certifying entity. Among other provisions, the bill also requires an applicant to provide evidence of the applicant's compliance with all professional, ethical, and disciplinary standards established by the applicable certifying entity. Further, the bill repeals a provision authorizing the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to waive the examination requirement for a license applicant who is a registered dietitian and a provision requiring TDLR to prepare a registry of licensed dietitians and provisional licensed dietitians.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Removing unnecessary barriers that prevent capable Texans from getting to work has been a priority of mine since I first took office. Senate Bill No. 2016 would impose an unnecessary occupational-licensing limitation that hurts workers and consumers, while straining the economic engine of Texas. A dietitian should not be required to obtain a master's degree to become registered or licensed by the State of Texas."

Senate Bill 2035

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Bettencourt

House Sponsor: Capriglione

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

Senate Bill 2035 amends the Government Code to prohibit the governing body of a county, municipality, eligible school district, or eligible countywide district from authorizing an anticipation note to pay a contractual obligation if a bond proposition to authorize such issuance was submitted to and rejected by the voters during the preceding five years, except under certain circumstances as set out in the bill.

Senate Bill 2035 amends the Local Government Code to extend from three years to five years the period during which the governing body of a municipality, county, or eligible hospital district is prohibited from

authorizing a certificate to pay a contractual obligation to be incurred if a bond proposition to authorize the issuance of bonds for the same purpose was submitted to and rejected by the voters.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Senate Bill 2035 has too many loopholes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2052

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Nichols

House Sponsor: Ashby

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2052 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to raise the cap on the well permit fee of the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District from one cent per thousand gallons of withdrawn groundwater to seven cents per such thousand gallons.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "Increasing fees may be important in certain circumstances, but it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2192

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hall

House Sponsor: Bell, Keith

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2192 amends the Water Code to require, before a petition is filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requesting the creation of a proposed municipal utility district all of which is to be located outside municipal corporate limits, certain notice to be sent to the commissioners court of each county in which the proposed district is to be located.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2192 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2248

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Murr

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2248 amends the Estates Code to set out and revise provisions relating to the transfer of guardianship proceedings, powers and duties of a guardian, termination of guardianship, and guardianship bonds. Among other provisions, the bill does the following:

- sets out standard procedures for court clerks transferring or receiving guardianship cases between courts, including sending or marking specified documents in each transferred case and using the standardized forms created by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System;
- revises provisions relating to fees and notices for the transfer of guardianship cases;
- revises provisions relating to the payment and deposit of guardianship bonds;
- requires guardians to notify the court of certain changes in the ward's status or contact information;
- requires the court to enter an order canceling the letters issued to an applicable guardian at certain conclusions of the guardianship;
- requires the guardian of an estate for purposes of presenting an account for final settlement to file an affidavit relating to each person to whom citation is served or who waives the citation; and
- revises provisions relating to the citation issued by a court clerk on the filing of an application for temporary guardianship.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2248 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

[Senate Bill 2260](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Blanco
House Sponsor: Rose

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Human Services

Senate Bill 2260 repeals the Human Resources Code provision that requires an adult protective services supervisor of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to review and take certain other action regarding a reported case of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person, a person with a disability, or an individual receiving services from certain providers if DFPS has received and investigated two previous such reports with respect to the same victim and closed those investigations.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “This bill purports to repeal the requirement for Adult Protective Services supervisors to review cases in which recidivism is a factor, but it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2269](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Perry
House Sponsor: Shine

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 2269 amends the Labor Code to require the board of directors of the Texas self-insurance group guaranty fund, not later than December 1, 2023, to submit for approval to the commissioner of insurance a revised plan of operation to wind down and dissolve the Texas self-insurance group guaranty fund and trust fund for payment of workers’ compensation liabilities of insolvent self-insurance groups. The commissioner must approve the plan if it sufficiently describes the actions the board will take to wind down and dissolve the funds.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2269 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

[Senate Bill 2275](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hughes
House Sponsor: Smithee

Senate Committee: State Affairs
House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2275 repeals Government Code provisions that establish that a rule adopted by the Texas Supreme Court repeals all conflicting laws and parts of laws governing practice and procedure in civil actions, but that substantive law is not repealed, and that further require the supreme court to file with the secretary of state a list of laws or parts of laws repealed or modified in any way at the time of filing a rule.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “Senate Bill No. 2275 calls out a sloppy subsection in the 1939 Act that lets the Texas Supreme Court write procedural rules for the judicial branch. Senator Hughes is right to ring the alarm about this statutory text, thoughtful lawyer that he is. To avoid unintended consequences within our courts, however, the offending subsection should be rewritten rather than repealed. Next session, the three branches of government should collaborate on new-and-improved language that I can sign into law.”

[Senate Bill 2277](#)
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini
House Sponsor: Cook

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence
House Committee: Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

Senate Bill 2277 amends the Family Code to set out and revise provisions relating to an amicus attorney appointed in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, including provisions relating to the appointment process, minimum qualifications, conflicts of interest, standard of care, powers and duties, and removal.

Governor’s Reason for Veto: “While Senate Bill No. 2277 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed.”

Senate Bill 2292

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Murr

Senate Committee: Jurisprudence

House Committee: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

Senate Bill 2292 amends the Government Code to increase the bond amount set by an applicable county commissioners court that the judge of either a statutory county court or a constitutional county court presiding over guardianship or probate proceedings is required to execute before beginning the duties of office from not less than \$100,000 for a court in a county with a population of 125,000 or less or not less than \$250,000 for a court in a county with a population of more than 125,000 to not less than \$500,000 regardless of the population of the county in which the court is located. The bill removes an exemption from provisions relating to the bond requirement and the removal of a statutory county court judge from office for a judge of a statutory county court who does not preside over guardianship proceedings.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2292 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2379

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Harris, Caroline

Senate Committee: Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Committee: Natural Resources

Senate Bill 2379 amends the Injection Well Act, Water Code, to authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by rule or permit to authorize an aquifer storage and recovery project that includes an ASR injection well that transects the Edwards Aquifer in the area of Williamson County east of Interstate Highway 35 for the injection of water into a geologic formation that underlies the aquifer.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2379 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2399

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Schwertner

House Sponsor: Guillen

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2399 amends the Utilities Code to clarify that the Public Utility Commission of Texas has the authority to grant a service provider certificate of operating authority to a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) provider.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2399 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2453

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Menéndez et al.

House Sponsor: Hernandez

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Bill 2453 amends the Government Code and Health and Safety Code to exempt the following from the prohibition against a governmental entity adopting or enforcing certain regulations regarding commercial building products, materials, or methods:

- an energy code adopted by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO);
- an energy and water conservation design standard established by SECO; and
- a qualifying high-performance building standard approved by the board of regents of an applicable public institution of higher education.

The bill authorizes SECO to amend an adopted edition of the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code or an adopted edition of the International Energy Conservation Code.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2453 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2474
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Hinojosa
House Sponsor: Jetton, Jacey

Senate Committee: Health & Human Services
House Committee: Public Health

Senate Bill 2474 amends the Health and Safety Code to include among the factors that must be considered in determining the amount of a civil or administrative penalty for a person's or facility's violation of provisions or rules regulating chemical dependency treatment facilities the person's or facility's ability to pay the penalty and to continue providing chemical dependency services after paying the penalty. The bill additionally includes the degree of the person's culpability in causing the violation among the factors on which an administrative penalty is based. Furthermore, the administrative penalty schedules that are posted on the Health and Human Services Commission website and applicable to a person licensed or regulated under provisions relating to chemical dependency treatment facilities must be based on a consideration of the economic impact of a penalty assessed against such a person and the factors on which the penalty amount must be based.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2474 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2493
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Middleton
House Sponsor: Bryant

Senate Committee: Business & Commerce
House Committee: Business & Industry

Senate Bill 2493 amends the Property Code to revise provisions relating to repairs made to a rental unit under a residential tenancy and a manufactured home tenancy by requiring repairs made pursuant to a tenant's notice of intent to repair to be made by an independent company, contractor, or repairman that is licensed in accordance with the municipality's requirements in which the rental unit is located, if applicable. A tenant of a residential rental property or of a lot in a manufactured home community satisfies the requirement to provide to a landlord a written statement of the tenant's forwarding address for the purpose of refunding the security deposit by providing the statement in accordance with the lease or, regardless of the lease terms, by hand-delivering the statement to the landlord or landlord's property manager if rent has been paid in that manner or sending the statement to the landlord or landlord's property manager or to an address where the tenant has paid rent under the lease through certain delivery services. The bill establishes that a tenant who complies with the authorized methods of delivery has satisfied the requirement, even if the landlord fails to claim or refuses delivery of the written statement of the tenant's forwarding address. The bill includes a tenant's satisfaction of the forwarding address requirement among the conditions that must be met in order for a landlord to be presumed to have acted in bad faith if the landlord fails either to return a security deposit or to provide a written description and itemization of deductions on or before the 30th day after the date the tenant has met the applicable conditions.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While updating our laws about landlord-tenant relations is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2597
Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Creighton
House Sponsor: Bell, Cecil

Senate Committee: Local Government
House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2597 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 237.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2597 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2598

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Paxton

House Sponsor: Frazier

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 2598 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Honey Creek Improvement District No. 1 in Collin County.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2598 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2604

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Miles

House Sponsor: Thompson, Senfronia

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2604 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 589.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2604 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2605

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Flores

House Sponsor: Buckley

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2605 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Knob Creek Municipal Utility District of Bell County.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2605 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2613

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Parker

House Sponsor: Stucky

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 2613 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to create the Tabor Ranch Municipal Management District in Denton County.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2613 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Senate Bill 2616

Effective: Vetoed

Senate Author: Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Flores

Senate Committee: Local Government

House Committee: Land & Resource Management

Senate Bill 2616 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to provide for the creation of the Travis County Municipal Utility District No. 27.

Governor's Reason for Veto: "While Senate Bill No. 2616 is important, it is simply not as important as cutting property taxes. At this time, the legislature must concentrate on delivering property tax cuts to Texans. This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

INDEX TO ENACTED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS BY HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE

Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Agriculture & Livestock

House Bill 162	.14
House Bill 430	.19
House Bill 1750	.63
House Bill 1761	.64
House Bill 1772	.64
House Bill 2271	.81
House Bill 2308	.82
House Bill 2568	.89
House Bill 2947	.101
House Bill 3257	.110
House Bill 3323	.112
House Bill 3361	.113
House Bill 3419	.114
House Bill 4069	.133
House Bill 4538	.144
House Joint Resolution 126	.165
Senate Bill 1414	.235
Senate Bill 1424	.235
Senate Bill 1523	.242
Senate Bill 1850	.260

Appropriations

House Bill 1	.3, 295
House Bill 387	.18
House Bill 1794	.65
House Bill 2230	.80
House Bill 3345	.113
House Bill 3461	.116
House Bill 4041	.133
Senate Bill 30	.170
Senate Bill 1563	.243

Business & Industry

House Bill 4	.4
House Bill 207	.15
House Bill 471	.20
House Bill 614	.24
House Bill 679	.26
House Bill 697	.27
House Bill 886	.31
House Bill 1193	.39
House Bill 1558	.53

House Bill 1957	.69
House Bill 2063	.74
House Bill 2194	.79
House Bill 2314	.82
House Bill 2468	.86
House Bill 2545	.88
House Bill 3335	.113
House Bill 3485	.119
House Bill 3536	.120
House Bill 4246	.139
House Bill 4316	.139
Senate Bill 58	.172
Senate Bill 315	.179, 302
Senate Bill 768	.199
Senate Bill 801	.200
Senate Bill 820	.202
Senate Bill 1514	.240
Senate Bill 1568	.243, 308
Senate Bill 1639	.249
Senate Bill 1668	.252, 309
Senate Bill 1712	.254, 309
Senate Bill 2105	.270
Senate Bill 2269	.277, 313
Senate Bill 2314	.279
Senate Bill 2493	.283, 315

Community Safety, Select

House Bill 165	.14
House Bill 1760	.63
House Bill 2291	.82
House Bill 3137	.106
Senate Bill 599	.192
Senate Bill 728	.197

Corrections

House Bill 517	.21
House Bill 541	.22
House Bill 1227	.41
House Bill 1577	.54
House Bill 1710	.61
House Bill 1743	.62
House Bill 1914	.69
House Bill 2129	.77
House Bill 2201	.80
House Bill 2620	.90

House Bill 2708	92	Senate Bill 1794	258
House Bill 3075	105	Senate Bill 2370	280
House Bill 3603	123	Criminal Jurisprudence	
House Bill 4333	140	House Bill 6	6
House Bill 5183	155	House Bill 17	7
Senate Bill 374	182	House Bill 28	8
Senate Bill 1004	211	House Bill 55	10
Senate Bill 1146	218	House Bill 279	16, 296
Senate Bill 1179	219	House Bill 291	17
Senate Bill 1677	253	House Bill 393	18
Senate Bill 2158	273	House Bill 409	19
County Affairs		House Bill 467	20
House Bill 492	21	House Bill 598	23
House Bill 608	24	House Bill 611	24
House Bill 784	29	House Bill 842	30
House Bill 995	34	House Bill 844	31
House Bill 1195	39	House Bill 914	32
House Bill 1330	44	House Bill 1088	37
House Bill 1382	45	House Bill 1161	38
House Bill 1583	54	House Bill 1163	38
House Bill 1925	69	House Bill 1207	40
House Bill 2183	78	House Bill 1221	41
House Bill 2867	98	House Bill 1423	47
House Bill 2878	99	House Bill 1427	47
House Bill 3191	108	House Bill 1442	48
House Bill 3456	116	House Bill 1506	50
House Bill 4700	148	House Bill 1589	54
House Bill 4835	150	House Bill 1603	56
House Bill 4844	150	House Bill 1712	61
House Bill 4928	151	House Bill 1730	62
House Bill 5375	162	House Bill 1769	64
House Bill 5394	163	House Bill 1826	66
House Joint Resolution 134	166	House Bill 1833	66
Senate Bill 22	168	House Bill 1910	68
Senate Bill 62	173	House Bill 2019	72
Senate Bill 158	174	House Bill 2187	78
Senate Bill 322	180	House Bill 2306	82
Senate Bill 349	181	House Bill 2700	92
Senate Bill 577	191	House Bill 2897	99
Senate Bill 699	197	House Bill 2961	101
Senate Bill 849	203	House Bill 3025	102
Senate Bill 888	205	House Bill 3161	107
Senate Bill 1124	217	House Bill 3553	121
Senate Bill 1136	218	House Bill 3554	121
Senate Bill 1155	219	House Bill 3660	124
Senate Bill 1187	221	House Bill 3956	131
Senate Bill 1526	242	House Bill 4164	137
Senate Bill 1730	256	House Bill 4779	150, 301
Senate Bill 1766	257	House Bill 4906	151

Senate Bill 129	174	Senate Bill 2325	279
Senate Bill 338	180	Senate Joint Resolution 74	287
Senate Bill 347	180	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	
Senate Bill 386	183	House Bill 90	12
Senate Bill 402	183	House Bill 282	16
Senate Bill 409	183	House Bill 562	22
Senate Bill 467	185, 303	House Bill 587	23
Senate Bill 760	198	House Bill 659	26
Senate Bill 840	203	House Bill 671	26
Senate Bill 947	208	House Bill 1315	44
Senate Bill 1346	230	House Bill 1457	48
Senate Bill 1361	230	House Bill 1633	57
Senate Bill 1516	241	House Bill 2083	75
Senate Bill 1518	241	House Bill 2248	81
Senate Bill 1653	251	House Bill 2499	88
Senate Bill 1717	255	House Bill 2503	88
Senate Bill 1725	255	House Bill 2921	100
Senate Bill 2101	270	House Bill 2951	101
Senate Bill 2479	282	House Bill 3099	105
Culture, Recreation & Tourism		House Bill 3106	105
House Bill 630	25	House Bill 3108	106
House Bill 1333	44	House Bill 4421	142
House Bill 1740	62	House Bill 4615	146
House Bill 1809	65	Senate Bill 63	173
House Bill 2719	93	Senate Bill 280	178
House Bill 2755	95	Senate Bill 422	184
House Bill 2777	95	Senate Bill 423	184
House Bill 3065	104	Senate Bill 493	187
House Bill 3497	119	Senate Bill 538	190
House Bill 4018	132	Senate Bill 1376	232
House Bill 4051	133	Senate Bill 1859	261
House Bill 4539	145	Senate Bill 2150	273
Senate Bill 281	178	Elections	
Senate Bill 464	185	House Bill 87	11
Senate Bill 667	196	House Bill 246	15
Senate Bill 811	201	House Bill 315	17
Senate Bill 922	206	House Bill 357	18
Senate Bill 1032	213	House Bill 1217	40
Senate Bill 1158	219	House Bill 1243	41
Senate Bill 1236	223	House Bill 1299	43
Senate Bill 1332	228	House Bill 1631	57
Senate Bill 1333	228	House Bill 1632	57
Senate Bill 1372	231	House Bill 1848	66
Senate Bill 1520	242	House Bill 2626	90
Senate Bill 1648	250	House Bill 2629	90, 298
Senate Bill 1670	252	House Bill 2800	96
Senate Bill 1839	259	House Bill 3159	107, 298
Senate Bill 1985	265	House Bill 3372	113
Senate Bill 2057	269	House Bill 5180	155

Senate Bill 477	186	House Bill 2002	71
Senate Bill 545	190	House Bill 3286	111
Senate Bill 825	202	House Bill 4990	152
Senate Bill 924	206	Senate Bill 2193	274
Senate Bill 975	208	Higher Education	
Senate Bill 994	209	House Bill 8	6
Senate Bill 1052	214	House Bill 400	18
Senate Bill 1070	215	House Bill 1114	37
Senate Bill 1089	216	House Bill 1211	40
Senate Bill 1599	245	House Bill 1361	44
Senate Bill 1661	251	House Bill 1590	54
Senate Bill 1750	257	House Bill 1595	55
Senate Bill 1933	263	House Bill 1912	68
Senate Bill 2258	276	House Bill 2026	74
Senate Bill 2620	286	House Bill 2100	75
Energy Resources		House Bill 2177	78
House Bill 33	9	House Bill 2804	96
House Bill 2263	81	House Bill 2920	100
House Bill 2847	98	House Bill 3287	111
House Bill 3837	128	House Bill 3993	132
Senate Bill 502	188	House Bill 4005	132
Senate Bill 604	193	House Bill 4363	140
Senate Bill 785	200	House Bill 4997	152
Senate Bill 786	200	House Bill 5330	158
Senate Bill 1186	221	House Joint Resolution 3	165
Senate Bill 1210	222	Senate Bill 15	167
Environmental Regulation		Senate Bill 17	168
House Bill 692	27	Senate Bill 18	168
House Bill 1598	55	Senate Bill 25	169
House Bill 3060	104	Senate Bill 37	171
House Bill 4087	134	Senate Bill 55	172
House Bill 4885	151	Senate Bill 200	175, 301
House Bill 4932	151	Senate Bill 336	180
Senate Bill 471	185	Senate Bill 371	181
Senate Bill 784	199	Senate Bill 412	184
Senate Bill 813	201, 305	Senate Bill 427	184
Senate Bill 1289	226	Senate Bill 459	185
Senate Bill 1290	226	Senate Bill 526	189, 304
Senate Bill 1397	233	Senate Bill 532	189
Senate Bill 1399	233, 306	Senate Bill 646	195
Senate Bill 2196	274	Senate Bill 999	210
Health Care Reform, Select		Senate Bill 1055	215
House Bill 12	7	Senate Bill 1429	236
House Bill 25	8	Senate Bill 1517	241
House Bill 617	24	Senate Bill 1565	243
House Bill 711	27	Senate Bill 1887	262
House Bill 999	34	Senate Bill 2123	272
House Bill 1283	42	Senate Bill 2139	272
House Bill 1575	53		

Senate Bill 2294	278	Senate Bill 1401	233
Senate Bill 2538	283	Senate Bill 1402	234
Homeland Security & Public Safety		Senate Bill 1445	237
House Bill 64	11	Senate Bill 1484	239
House Bill 198	14	Senate Bill 1527	242
House Bill 568	22	Senate Bill 1551	243
House Bill 767	29	Senate Bill 1598	244
House Bill 1133	37	Senate Bill 1852	260
House Bill 1184	39	Senate Bill 2085	270
House Bill 1275	42	Senate Bill 2429	281
House Bill 1486	48	Senate Bill 2612	286
House Bill 2154	77	House Administration	
House Bill 2660	91	Senate Bill 640	195
House Bill 2899	99	Senate Bill 2333	280
House Bill 3014	102	Human Services	
House Bill 3132	106	House Bill 54	10
House Bill 3222	109	House Bill 63	10
House Bill 3223	109	House Bill 113	13
House Bill 3290	111	House Bill 728	28
House Bill 3297	112	House Bill 729	28, 296
House Bill 3424	114	House Bill 793	30
House Bill 3506	119	House Bill 1009	35
House Bill 3556	121	House Bill 1287	43
House Bill 3643	123	House Bill 1290	43
House Bill 3645	123	House Bill 1357	44
House Bill 3646	123	House Bill 1673	59
House Bill 3647	123	House Bill 2802	96
House Bill 3798	127	House Bill 3265	110
House Bill 3858	129	House Bill 3462	117
House Bill 3981	131	House Bill 3466	117
House Bill 4123	135	House Bill 3550	120
House Bill 4372	141	House Bill 3765	127
House Bill 4528	144	House Bill 4169	137
House Bill 4628	146	House Bill 4170	137
House Bill 4879	150	House Bill 4233	139
House Bill 5142	154	House Bill 4696	148
House Bill 5202	155	House Bill 4888	151
Senate Bill 224	176	Senate Bill 24	168
Senate Bill 252	177	Senate Bill 135	174
Senate Bill 267	178, 302	Senate Bill 182	174
Senate Bill 435	185	Senate Bill 186	175
Senate Bill 496	187	Senate Bill 188	175
Senate Bill 533	189	Senate Bill 189	175
Senate Bill 602	193	Senate Bill 335	180, 303
Senate Bill 656	195	Senate Bill 576	191
Senate Bill 806	201	Senate Bill 593	192
Senate Bill 991	209	Senate Bill 614	193
Senate Bill 1237	223	Senate Bill 681	196
Senate Bill 1319	227	Senate Bill 745	198

Senate Bill 780	199	Senate Bill 796	200, 304
Senate Bill 956	208	Senate Bill 833	202
Senate Bill 1098	217	Senate Bill 861	204
Senate Bill 1192	222	Senate Bill 989	209
Senate Bill 1242	224	Senate Bill 1003	211
Senate Bill 1325	227	Senate Bill 1051	214, 305
Senate Bill 1327	228	Senate Bill 1286	226
Senate Bill 1342	229	Senate Bill 1393	232, 306
Senate Bill 1379	232	Senate Bill 2008	266
Senate Bill 1447	237	Senate Bill 2232	275
Senate Bill 1469	238	Senate Bill 2233	276
Senate Bill 1841	260	Senate Bill 2476	282
Senate Bill 1849	260		
Senate Bill 2260	276, 313	International Relations & Economic	
Senate Bill 2261	277	Development	
Insurance		House Bill 915	33
House Bill 109	13	House Bill 1515	50
House Bill 290	17	House Bill 1550	52
House Bill 755	29	House Bill 1602	56
House Bill 916	33	House Bill 1615	57
House Bill 998	34	House Bill 1703	60
House Bill 1040	35	House Bill 1755	63
House Bill 1074	36	House Bill 2459	85
House Bill 1337	44	House Bill 2575	89
House Bill 1466	48, 297	House Bill 2975	102
House Bill 1527	51	House Bill 4451	143
House Bill 1553	52	Senate Bill 2315	279
House Bill 1587	54	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	
House Bill 1592	55	House Bill 19	8
House Bill 1647	58	House Bill 73	11
House Bill 1649	58	House Bill 103	12
House Bill 1696	59	House Bill 242	15
House Bill 1706	60	House Bill 255	15
House Bill 1900	67	House Bill 266	16
House Bill 1901	68	House Bill 367	18
House Bill 1903	68	House Bill 446	19
House Bill 1996	71	House Bill 450	20
House Bill 2065	75	House Bill 527	21
House Bill 2188	78	House Bill 609	24
House Bill 2259	81	House Bill 616	24
House Bill 2839	98	House Bill 785	29
House Bill 3208	109	House Bill 841	30
House Bill 3310	112	House Bill 1181	38
House Bill 3311	112	House Bill 1182	38
House Bill 3359	113	House Bill 1255	42
House Bill 3414	114	House Bill 1745	62
House Bill 3673	124	House Bill 1989	70
House Bill 4500	143	House Bill 2007	72
Senate Bill 622	194	House Bill 2015	72
		House Bill 2022	72

House Bill 2024	73	Senate Bill 1602	245
House Bill 2196	79	Senate Bill 1603	245
House Bill 2251	81	Senate Bill 1606	246
House Bill 2333	82	Senate Bill 1612	246
House Bill 2384	84	Senate Bill 1624	247
House Bill 2559	89	Senate Bill 1650	250
House Bill 2636	90	Senate Bill 1768	258
House Bill 2741	94	Senate Bill 1780	258
House Bill 2879	99, 298	Senate Bill 2106	271
House Bill 2965	101	Senate Bill 2171	273
House Bill 3009	102	Senate Bill 2248	276, 312
House Bill 3058	104	Senate Bill 2275	277, 313
House Bill 3156	107	Senate Bill 2292	278, 314
House Bill 3474	118	Senate Bill 2310	279
House Bill 3698	125	Juvenile Justice & Family Issues	
House Bill 3860	129	House Bill 422	19
House Bill 3929	130	House Bill 461	20
House Bill 3949	131	House Bill 474	21
House Bill 4085	134	House Bill 660	26
House Bill 4128	135, 299	House Bill 730	28
House Bill 4142	136	House Bill 891	31
House Bill 4218	138	House Bill 907	32
House Bill 4381	141	House Bill 968	33
House Bill 4504	143	House Bill 969	33
House Bill 4595	146	House Bill 1087	37
House Bill 4611	146	House Bill 1432	47
House Bill 4635	146	House Bill 1547	52
House Bill 4714	149	House Bill 2070	75
House Bill 4765	149	House Bill 2658	91
House Bill 5010	152	House Bill 2671	91
House Bill 5232	155	House Bill 2715	93
House Joint Resolution 107	165	House Bill 2850	98
Senate Bill 48	171	House Bill 2969	101
Senate Bill 372	182	House Bill 4062	133
Senate Bill 380	183	House Bill 4183	137
Senate Bill 569	191	House Bill 5309	156
Senate Bill 658	195	House Bill 5370	161
Senate Bill 694	196	Senate Bill 49	171
Senate Bill 855	203	Senate Bill 578	192
Senate Bill 944	207	Senate Bill 718	197
Senate Bill 997	210	Senate Bill 869	204
Senate Bill 1045	213	Senate Bill 870	204
Senate Bill 1054	214	Senate Bill 1585	244
Senate Bill 1097	216	Senate Bill 1727	255
Senate Bill 1180	220	Senate Bill 1930	263
Senate Bill 1259	225	Senate Bill 2120	272
Senate Bill 1300	226	Senate Bill 2277	277, 313
Senate Bill 1373	231		
Senate Bill 1457	238		

Land & Resource Management

House Bill 147
 House Bill 58623
 House Bill 78329
 House Bill 138145
 House Bill 152650
 House Bill 170761
 House Bill 192269
 House Bill 273294
 House Bill 273894
 House Bill 2956 101, 298
 House Bill 3053103
 House Bill 3301112
 House Bill 3436 115, 299
 House Bill 3492119
 House Bill 3514120
 House Bill 3526120
 House Bill 3697124
 House Bill 3699125
 House Bill 4057133
 House Bill 4415141
 House Bill 5304156
 House Bill 5307156
 House Bill 5310156
 House Bill 5312157
 House Bill 5314157
 House Bill 5315157
 House Bill 5316157
 House Bill 5320157
 House Bill 5322157
 House Bill 5325158
 House Bill 5326158
 House Bill 5329158
 House Bill 5332 158, 301
 House Bill 5333158
 House Bill 5337159
 House Bill 5339159
 House Bill 5340159
 House Bill 5343159
 House Bill 5344159
 House Bill 5345159
 House Bill 5347160
 House Bill 5348160
 House Bill 5349160
 House Bill 5350160
 House Bill 5357160
 House Bill 5358 160, 301
 House Bill 5360 160, 301
 House Bill 5362161

House Bill 5365161
 House Bill 5366 161, 301
 House Bill 5367161
 House Bill 5369161
 House Bill 5374161
 House Bill 5377162
 House Bill 5379162
 House Bill 5384162
 House Bill 5385162
 House Bill 5386162
 House Bill 5389162
 House Bill 5390162
 House Bill 5391162
 House Bill 5392163
 House Bill 5393163
 House Bill 5396163
 House Bill 5407163
 House Bill 5411164
 House Bill 5412164
 House Bill 5413164
 House Bill 5414164
 House Bill 5415164
 Senate Bill 59172
 Senate Bill 565191
 Senate Bill 580192
 Senate Bill 887205
 Senate Bill 929207
 Senate Bill 1758257
 Senate Bill 1869261
 Senate Bill 2038268
 Senate Bill 2192 274, 312
 Senate Bill 2571283
 Senate Bill 2576284
 Senate Bill 2577284
 Senate Bill 2579284
 Senate Bill 2580284
 Senate Bill 2583284
 Senate Bill 2588284
 Senate Bill 2595284
 Senate Bill 2597 285, 315
 Senate Bill 2599285
 Senate Bill 2600285
 Senate Bill 2603285
 Senate Bill 2604 285, 316
 Senate Bill 2605 286, 316
 Senate Bill 2616 286, 316

Licensing & Administrative Procedures

House Bill 42019
 House Bill 63926

House Bill 1363	45	House Bill 1949	69
House Bill 1391	45	House Bill 1971	70
House Bill 1759	63	House Bill 2109	76
House Bill 1825	66	House Bill 2373	83
House Bill 1859	67	House Bill 2388	84
House Bill 1964	70	House Bill 2416	84, 297
House Bill 2016	72	House Bill 2442	85
House Bill 2138	77, 297	House Bill 2443	85
House Bill 2217	80	House Bill 2460	86
House Bill 2313	82	House Bill 2489	87
House Bill 2334	83	House Bill 2508	88
House Bill 2453	85	House Bill 2759	95
House Bill 3579	122	House Bill 2774	95
House Bill 3712	126	House Bill 2815	97
House Bill 3743	127	House Bill 2816	97
House Bill 4416	142	House Bill 2900	100
House Bill 4417	142	House Bill 3007	102
House Bill 4446	143	House Bill 3059	104
Senate Bill 60	172	House Bill 3232	110
Senate Bill 159	174	House Bill 3278	111
Senate Bill 246	177	House Bill 3437	115
Senate Bill 478	186	House Bill 3469	117
Senate Bill 483	186	House Bill 3507	120
Senate Bill 500	188	House Bill 3582	122
Senate Bill 643	195	House Bill 3731	126
Senate Bill 876	205	House Bill 3744	127
Senate Bill 926	207	House Bill 3810	128
Senate Bill 998	210	House Bill 4106	135, 299
Senate Bill 1001	210	House Bill 4217	138
Senate Bill 1213	223	House Bill 4256	139
Senate Bill 1222	223	House Bill 4385	141
Senate Bill 1322	227	House Bill 4704	148
Senate Bill 1375	231	House Bill 4742	149
Senate Bill 1577	243	House Bill 4856	150
Senate Bill 1615	247, 308	House Bill 5303	156
Senate Bill 1802	259	House Bill 5318	157
Senate Bill 1932	263	House Bill 5334	158
Senate Bill 1979	264, 310	House Bill 5373	161
Senate Bill 2016	267, 311	House Bill 5395	163
Senate Bill 2284	278	House Bill 5405	163
Senate Bill 2304	278	House Bill 5409	164
Natural Resources		Senate Bill 28	169
House Bill 1535	51	Senate Bill 317	179
House Bill 1540	52	Senate Bill 469	185
House Bill 1555	52	Senate Bill 594	192
House Bill 1565	53	Senate Bill 893	205
House Bill 1688	59	Senate Bill 1047	214
House Bill 1699	60	Senate Bill 1056	215
House Bill 1845	66	Senate Bill 1080	216, 305

Senate Bill 1088	216	Senate Bill 1831	259
Senate Bill 1188	221	Senate Bill 1854	261
Senate Bill 1226	223	Senate Bill 2035	268, 311
Senate Bill 1250	225	Senate Joint Resolution 32	287
Senate Bill 1305	226	Public Education	
Senate Bill 1745	257	House Bill 114	13
Senate Bill 1746	257	House Bill 621	25
Senate Bill 1778	258	House Bill 699	27
Senate Bill 1965	264	House Bill 900	32
Senate Bill 1991	265	House Bill 1002	34
Senate Bill 2052	269, 312	House Bill 1212	40
Senate Bill 2379	280, 314	House Bill 1225	41
Senate Bill 2406	281	House Bill 1263	42
Senate Bill 2440	281	House Bill 1297	43
Senate Bill 2566	283	House Bill 1416	46
Senate Bill 2592	284	House Bill 1605	56
Senate Joint Resolution 75	287	House Bill 1789	65
Pensions, Investments & Financial Services		House Bill 1883	67
House Bill 219	15	House Bill 1926	69
House Bill 1038	35	House Bill 1959	70
House Bill 1393	45	House Bill 2012	72
House Bill 1455	48	House Bill 2102	76
House Bill 1666	58	House Bill 2209	80
House Bill 1748	62	House Bill 2285	81
House Bill 1766	64	House Bill 2484	87
House Bill 2464	86	House Bill 2729	94
House Bill 2746	94	House Bill 2892	99
House Bill 2837	98	House Bill 2929	100
House Bill 3097	105	House Bill 3708	126
House Bill 3574	121	House Bill 3803	127
House Bill 3813	128	House Bill 3908	129
House Bill 4034	133	House Bill 3928	129
House Bill 4082	134	House Bill 3991	131
House Bill 4141	136	House Bill 4210	137
House Bill 4219	138, 300	House Bill 4375	141
House Joint Resolution 2	164	House Bill 4520	144
Senate Bill 10	166	Senate Bill 68	173
Senate Bill 729	197	Senate Bill 294	179
Senate Bill 761	198	Senate Bill 544	190
Senate Bill 895	206	Senate Bill 629	194
Senate Bill 938	207	Senate Bill 763	199
Senate Bill 1207	222	Senate Bill 798	200
Senate Bill 1245	224	Senate Bill 1008	212
Senate Bill 1246	225	Senate Bill 1131	218
Senate Bill 1371	230	Senate Bill 1471	239
Senate Bill 1444	237	Senate Bill 1506	240
Senate Bill 1509	240	Senate Bill 1647	249
Senate Bill 1645	249	Senate Bill 1720	255
Senate Bill 1646	249	Senate Bill 2032	268

Senate Bill 2069	269	Senate Bill 1588	244
Senate Bill 2124	272	Senate Bill 1592	244
Public Health		Senate Bill 2017	267
House Bill 44.	9	Senate Bill 2040	269
House Bill 49.	9	Senate Bill 2133	272
House Bill 59.	10	Senate Bill 2173	273
House Bill 181	14, 296	Senate Bill 2186	274
House Bill 299	17	Senate Bill 2474	282, 315
House Bill 624	25	Redistricting	
House Bill 852	31	House Bill 1000	34
House Bill 1106	37	Senate Bill 375	182
House Bill 1488	49	State Affairs	
House Bill 1890	67	House Bill 9.	6
House Bill 1998	71	House Bill 30.	9
House Bill 2059	74	House Bill 139	13
House Bill 2166	78	House Bill 558	22, 296
House Bill 2478	86	House Bill 567	22
House Bill 2495	87	House Bill 584	23
House Bill 2512	88	House Bill 1597	55
House Bill 2727	93	House Bill 1620	57
House Bill 3144	106	House Bill 1817	65
House Bill 3162	108	House Bill 1911	68
House Bill 3808	128	House Bill 2060	74
House Bill 3824	128	House Bill 2073	75
House Bill 4166	137	House Bill 2127	76
House Bill 4331	140	House Bill 2157	77
House Bill 4332	140	House Bill 2518	88
House Bill 4758	149	House Bill 2555	89
House Bill 4759	149, 300	House Bill 2664	91
Senate Bill 14	167	House Bill 3013	102
Senate Bill 26	169	House Bill 3033	103
Senate Bill 52	171	House Bill 3096	105
Senate Bill 240	176	House Bill 3130	106
Senate Bill 241	177	House Bill 3223	109
Senate Bill 401	183	House Bill 3372	113
Senate Bill 415	184	House Bill 3390	114
Senate Bill 485	187, 304	House Bill 3440	115
Senate Bill 490	187	House Bill 3447	115
Senate Bill 497	187	House Bill 3730	126
Senate Bill 664	196	House Bill 4012	132
Senate Bill 691	196	House Bill 4337	140
Senate Bill 739	198	House Bill 4510	144
Senate Bill 773	199	House Bill 4553	145
Senate Bill 812	201	House Bill 4559	145
Senate Bill 867	204	House Bill 4964	152
Senate Bill 1040	213	House Bill 5066	153
Senate Bill 1249	225	House Bill 5174	154
Senate Bill 1343	229	House Bill 5260	156
Senate Bill 1467	238, 307	House Joint Resolution 125.	165

Senate Bill 12	167	Senate Bill 2627	286
Senate Bill 29	170	Senate Joint Resolution 93	288
Senate Bill 60	172	Transportation	
Senate Bill 222	176	House Bill 53	9
Senate Bill 232	176	House Bill 108	13
Senate Bill 271	178	House Bill 433	19
Senate Bill 365	181	House Bill 627	25
Senate Bill 498	188, 304	House Bill 628	25
Senate Bill 510	189	House Bill 718	27
Senate Bill 617	193	House Bill 898	31
Senate Bill 621	194	House Bill 923	33
Senate Bill 821	202	House Bill 975	33
Senate Bill 943	207	House Bill 1198	39
Senate Bill 983	208	House Bill 1199	39
Senate Bill 987	209, 305	House Bill 1277	42
Senate Bill 1002	211	House Bill 1305	43
Senate Bill 1015	212	House Bill 1368	45
Senate Bill 1016	212	House Bill 1778	65
Senate Bill 1017	212	House Bill 1846	66
Senate Bill 1076	215	House Bill 1885	67
Senate Bill 1093	216	House Bill 1913	69
Senate Bill 1094	216	House Bill 1968	70
Senate Bill 1112	217	House Bill 2170	78
Senate Bill 1133	218	House Bill 2190	79
Senate Bill 1170	219	House Bill 2195	79
Senate Bill 1238	224	House Bill 2323	82
Senate Bill 1308	226	House Bill 2590	89
Senate Bill 1367	230, 306	House Bill 2616	89
Senate Bill 1403	234	House Bill 2754	95
Senate Bill 1404	234, 307	House Bill 2835	97
Senate Bill 1425	235	House Bill 2876	99
Senate Bill 1431	236, 307	House Bill 2901	100
Senate Bill 1525	242	House Bill 2921	100
Senate Bill 1659	251	House Bill 3045	103
Senate Bill 1699	253	House Bill 3125	106
Senate Bill 1710	254	House Bill 3126	106
Senate Bill 1860	261	House Bill 3224	109
Senate Bill 1866	261	House Bill 3288	111
Senate Bill 1893	262	House Bill 3313	112
Senate Bill 1900	262	House Bill 3444	115
Senate Bill 1929	263	House Bill 3558	121
Senate Bill 2010	266, 311	House Bill 3672	124
Senate Bill 2011	266	House Bill 3989	131
Senate Bill 2013	266	House Bill 4015	132
Senate Bill 2119	271	House Bill 4122	135
Senate Bill 2214	275	House Bill 4422	142
Senate Bill 2399	281, 314	House Bill 4797	150
Senate Bill 2453	281, 314	House Bill 5135	154
		House Bill 5336	158

Senate Bill 247	177, 302	House Bill 5398	163
Senate Bill 261	178, 302	House Bill 5399	163
Senate Bill 323	180	House Bill 5418	164
Senate Bill 414	184	Senate Bill 543	190
Senate Bill 505	188	Senate Bill 736	198
Senate Bill 507	188	Senate Bill 1916	262, 310
Senate Bill 508	188	Senate Bill 2598	285, 316
Senate Bill 540	190	Senate Bill 2613	286, 316
Senate Bill 702	197	Ways & Means	
Senate Bill 818	202	House Bill 5	5
Senate Bill 904	206	House Bill 260	16
Senate Bill 957	208	House Bill 456	20
Senate Bill 1021	212	House Bill 591	23
Senate Bill 1023	213	House Bill 796	30
Senate Bill 1115	217	House Bill 1034	35
Senate Bill 1260	225	House Bill 1058	36
Senate Bill 1364	230	House Bill 1228	41
Senate Bill 1413	234	House Bill 1285	42
Senate Bill 1495	239	House Bill 1689	59
Senate Bill 1499	239	House Bill 2121	76
Senate Bill 1500	240	House Bill 2353	83
Senate Bill 1524	242	House Bill 2354	83
Senate Bill 1716	254	House Bill 2488	87
Senate Bill 1732	256	House Bill 2497	87
Senate Bill 1741	256	House Bill 2674	91
Senate Bill 1914	262	House Bill 2691	92
Senate Bill 2102	270	House Bill 3207	109
Senate Bill 2144	273	House Bill 3235	110
Senate Bill 2200	275	House Bill 3273	110
Senate Bill 2221	275	House Bill 3453	116
Senate Bill 2376	280	House Bill 3599	122
Senate Bill 2601	285	House Bill 3651	124
Urban Affairs		House Bill 3727	126
House Bill 1434	47	House Bill 4077	134
House Bill 1440	47	House Bill 4101	135
House Bill 1472	48	House Bill 4158	136, 300
House Bill 1661	58	House Bill 4250	139
House Bill 2071	75	House Bill 4456	143
House Bill 2371	83	House Bill 4494	143
House Bill 2706	92	House Bill 4645	148
House Bill 3613	123	House Bill 4660	148
House Bill 3980	131	House Bill 5012	153
House Bill 4073	133	House Bill 5105	154
House Bill 4227	138	House Bill 5178	154
House Bill 4443	142	House Joint Resolution 132	166
House Bill 4550	145	Senate Bill 61	173
House Bill 5311	156	Senate Bill 65	173
House Bill 5355	160	Senate Bill 348	181, 303
House Bill 5372	161	Senate Bill 361	181, 303

Senate Bill 379	182	House Bill 4611	146
Senate Bill 539	190	Senate Bill 281	178
Senate Bill 627	194	Senate Bill 464	185
Senate Bill 719	197	Senate Bill 485	187, 304
Senate Bill 1013	212	Senate Bill 739	198
Senate Bill 1057	215	Senate Bill 2333	280
Senate Bill 1122	217	Border Security	
Senate Bill 1145	218	House Bill 4337	140
Senate Bill 1191	221	House Bill 4422	142
Senate Bill 1243	224	House Bill 4635	146
Senate Bill 1340	229	Senate Bill 423	184
Senate Bill 1381	232	Senate Bill 602	193
Senate Bill 1420	235	Senate Bill 617	193
Senate Bill 1439	236, 307	Senate Bill 1133	218
Senate Bill 1614	247, 308	Senate Bill 1403	234
Senate Bill 1801	258	Senate Bill 1484	239
Senate Bill 1809	259	Senate Bill 1518	241
Senate Bill 1837	259	Senate Bill 1900	262
Senate Bill 1998	265, 310	Business & Commerce	
Senate Bill 1999	265	House Bill 5	5
Senate Bill 2091	270	House Bill 30	9
Senate Bill 2220	275	House Bill 139	13
Senate Bill 2289	278	House Bill 207	15
Senate Bill 2350	280	House Bill 219	15
Senate Bill 2355	280	House Bill 471	20
Senate Joint Resolution 64	287	House Bill 679	26
Senate Joint Resolution 87	288	House Bill 697	27
Youth Health & Safety, Select		House Bill 998	34
House Bill 3	4	House Bill 1040	35
House Bill 18	7	House Bill 1074	36
House Bill 473	21	House Bill 1363	45
House Bill 1819	65	House Bill 1391	45
House Bill 1905	68	House Bill 1466	48, 297
House Bill 3186	108	House Bill 1500	49
House Bill 3623	123	House Bill 1550	52
House Bill 3917	129	House Bill 1553	52
House Bill 5195	155	House Bill 1558	53
Senate Bill 133	174	House Bill 1587	54
Senate Bill 838	203	House Bill 1597	55
Senate Bill 850	203	House Bill 1620	57
SENATE COMMITTEE		House Bill 1666	58
Administration		House Bill 1706	60
House Bill 109	13	House Bill 1748	62
House Bill 450	20	House Bill 1859	67
House Bill 2166	78	House Bill 1900	67
House Bill 2664	91	House Bill 1901	68
House Bill 3574	121	House Bill 1903	68
House Bill 4504	143	House Bill 1911	68
House Bill 4595	146	House Bill 1957	69

House Bill 1996	71	House Bill 4316	139
House Bill 2016	72	House Bill 4416	142
House Bill 2022	72	House Bill 4417	142
House Bill 2024	73	House Bill 4553	145
House Bill 2060	74	House Bill 5066	153
House Bill 2065	75	House Bill 5260	156
House Bill 2073	75	Senate Bill 58	172
House Bill 2127	76	Senate Bill 159	174
House Bill 2157	77	Senate Bill 222	176
House Bill 2188	78	Senate Bill 246	177
House Bill 2194	79	Senate Bill 271	178
House Bill 2217	80	Senate Bill 315	179, 302
House Bill 2259	81	Senate Bill 335	180, 303
House Bill 2313	82	Senate Bill 365	181
House Bill 2314	82	Senate Bill 483	186
House Bill 2333	82	Senate Bill 498	188, 304
House Bill 2334	83	Senate Bill 510	189
House Bill 2453	85	Senate Bill 621	194
House Bill 2468	86	Senate Bill 640	195
House Bill 2495	87	Senate Bill 761	198
House Bill 2518	88	Senate Bill 768	199
House Bill 2545	88	Senate Bill 796	200, 304
House Bill 2555	89	Senate Bill 821	202
House Bill 2706	92	Senate Bill 833	202
House Bill 2746	94	Senate Bill 895	206
House Bill 2839	98	Senate Bill 943	207
House Bill 2965	101	Senate Bill 983	208
House Bill 3013	102	Senate Bill 1001	210
House Bill 3033	103	Senate Bill 1002	211
House Bill 3096	105	Senate Bill 1015	212
House Bill 3208	109	Senate Bill 1016	212
House Bill 3290	111	Senate Bill 1017	212
House Bill 3310	112	Senate Bill 1076	215
House Bill 3311	112	Senate Bill 1093	216
House Bill 3335	113	Senate Bill 1094	216
House Bill 3390	114	Senate Bill 1112	217
House Bill 3436	115, 299	Senate Bill 1122	217
House Bill 3440	115	Senate Bill 1170	219
House Bill 3485	119	Senate Bill 1213	223
House Bill 3536	120	Senate Bill 1222	223
House Bill 3579	122	Senate Bill 1238	224
House Bill 3673	124	Senate Bill 1371	230
House Bill 3730	126	Senate Bill 1393	232, 306
House Bill 3743	127	Senate Bill 1404	234, 307
House Bill 4012	132	Senate Bill 1425	235
House Bill 4123	135	Senate Bill 1431	236, 307
House Bill 4142	136	Senate Bill 1514	240
House Bill 4219	138, 300	Senate Bill 1525	242
House Bill 4246	139	Senate Bill 1568	243, 308

Senate Bill 1577	243	House Bill 844	31
Senate Bill 1615	247, 308	House Bill 914	32
Senate Bill 1639	249	House Bill 1088	37
Senate Bill 1645	249	House Bill 1133	37
Senate Bill 1646	249	House Bill 1161	38
Senate Bill 1659	251	House Bill 1163	38
Senate Bill 1699	253	House Bill 1182	38
Senate Bill 1710	254	House Bill 1184	39
Senate Bill 1712	254, 309	House Bill 1207	40
Senate Bill 1732	256	House Bill 1221	41
Senate Bill 1766	257	House Bill 1227	41
Senate Bill 1802	259	House Bill 1427	47
Senate Bill 1866	261	House Bill 1432	47
Senate Bill 1929	263	House Bill 1442	48
Senate Bill 2008	266	House Bill 1486	48
Senate Bill 2010	266, 311	House Bill 1506	50
Senate Bill 2011	266	House Bill 1577	54
Senate Bill 2013	266	House Bill 1589	54
Senate Bill 2016	267, 311	House Bill 1603	56
Senate Bill 2040	269	House Bill 1661	58
Senate Bill 2105	270	House Bill 1710	61
Senate Bill 2119	271	House Bill 1730	62
Senate Bill 2214	275	House Bill 1769	64
Senate Bill 2232	275	House Bill 1826	66
Senate Bill 2233	276	House Bill 1833	66
Senate Bill 2269	277, 313	House Bill 1910	68
Senate Bill 2314	279	House Bill 1914	69
Senate Bill 2399	281, 314	House Bill 2019	72
Senate Bill 2453	281, 314	House Bill 2154	77
Senate Bill 2493	283, 315	House Bill 2183	78
Senate Bill 2627	286	House Bill 2187	78
Senate Joint Resolution 93	288	House Bill 2201	80
Criminal Justice		House Bill 2251	81
House Bill 6	6	House Bill 2306	82
House Bill 28	8	House Bill 2620	90
House Bill 55	10	House Bill 2660	91
House Bill 64	11	House Bill 2700	92
House Bill 165	14	House Bill 2708	92
House Bill 279	16, 296	House Bill 2715	93
House Bill 393	18	House Bill 2741	94
House Bill 420	19	House Bill 2897	99
House Bill 422	19	House Bill 2899	99
House Bill 467	20	House Bill 3025	102
House Bill 517	21	House Bill 3075	105
House Bill 541	22	House Bill 3161	107
House Bill 568	22	House Bill 3186	108
House Bill 598	23	House Bill 3424	114
House Bill 611	24	House Bill 3553	121
House Bill 767	29	House Bill 3554	121

House Bill 3556	121	Senate Bill 1516	241
House Bill 3603	123	Senate Bill 1527	242
House Bill 3660	124	Senate Bill 1551	243
House Bill 3858	129	Senate Bill 1585	244
House Bill 3917	129	Senate Bill 1653	251
House Bill 3981	131	Senate Bill 1717	255
House Bill 4164	137	Senate Bill 1727	255
House Bill 4528	144	Senate Bill 1841	260
House Bill 4628	146	Senate Bill 1852	260
House Bill 4759	149, 300	Senate Bill 2085	270
House Bill 4779	150, 301	Senate Bill 2101	270
House Bill 4879	150	Senate Bill 2429	281
House Bill 4906	151	Senate Bill 2479	282
House Bill 5183	155	Senate Bill 2612	286
House Bill 5195	155	Education	
House Bill 5202	155	House Bill 3	4
House Bill 5309	156	House Bill 8	6
House Bill 5370	161	House Bill 114	13
Senate Bill 37	171	House Bill 473	21
Senate Bill 49	171	House Bill 584	23
Senate Bill 129	174	House Bill 621	25
Senate Bill 224	176	House Bill 699	27
Senate Bill 338	180	House Bill 900	32
Senate Bill 374	182	House Bill 1002	34
Senate Bill 386	183	House Bill 1114	37
Senate Bill 402	183	House Bill 1211	40
Senate Bill 409	183	House Bill 1212	40
Senate Bill 435	185	House Bill 1225	41
Senate Bill 467	185, 303	House Bill 1297	43
Senate Bill 496	187	House Bill 1361	44
Senate Bill 533	189	House Bill 1416	46
Senate Bill 760	198	House Bill 1590	54
Senate Bill 806	201	House Bill 1605	56
Senate Bill 840	203	House Bill 1707	61
Senate Bill 855	203	House Bill 1789	65
Senate Bill 876	205	House Bill 1794	65
Senate Bill 947	208	House Bill 1883	67
Senate Bill 991	209	House Bill 1905	68
Senate Bill 1004	211	House Bill 1912	68
Senate Bill 1146	218	House Bill 1926	69
Senate Bill 1179	219	House Bill 1959	70
Senate Bill 1180	220	House Bill 2012	72
Senate Bill 1319	227	House Bill 2026	74
Senate Bill 1325	227	House Bill 2100	75
Senate Bill 1346	230	House Bill 2102	76
Senate Bill 1361	230	House Bill 2177	78
Senate Bill 1401	233	House Bill 2209	80
Senate Bill 1402	234	House Bill 2285	81
Senate Bill 1445	237	House Bill 2484	87

House Bill 2729	94	Senate Bill 1758	257
House Bill 2804	96	Senate Bill 1887	262
House Bill 2892	99	Senate Bill 2032	268
House Bill 2920	100	Senate Bill 2069	269
House Bill 2929	100	Senate Bill 2123	272
House Bill 3287	111	Senate Bill 2124	272
House Bill 3623	123	Senate Bill 2139	272
House Bill 3708	126	Senate Bill 2158	273
House Bill 3803	127	Senate Bill 2294	278
House Bill 3908	129	Senate Bill 2304	278
House Bill 3928	129	Senate Bill 2538	283
House Bill 3991	131	Finance	
House Bill 3993	132	House Bill 1	3, 295
House Bill 4005	132	House Bill 9	6
House Bill 4210	137	House Bill 90	12
House Bill 4363	140	House Bill 591	23
House Bill 4372	141	House Bill 630	25
House Bill 4375	141	House Bill 1038	35
House Bill 4997	152	House Bill 1058	36
House Bill 5330	158	House Bill 1393	45
Senate Bill 17	168	House Bill 1595	55
Senate Bill 18	168	House Bill 2230	80
Senate Bill 55	172	House Bill 2464	86
Senate Bill 68	173	House Bill 2674	91
Senate Bill 133	174	House Bill 2691	92
Senate Bill 200	175, 301	House Bill 3345	113
Senate Bill 294	179	House Bill 3447	115
Senate Bill 336	180	House Bill 3461	116
Senate Bill 412	184	House Bill 3599	122
Senate Bill 427	184	House Bill 3651	124
Senate Bill 459	185	House Bill 3765	127
Senate Bill 526	189, 304	House Bill 3813	128
Senate Bill 532	189	House Bill 4015	132
Senate Bill 544	190	House Bill 4034	133
Senate Bill 629	194	House Bill 4041	133
Senate Bill 646	195	House Bill 4051	133
Senate Bill 763	199	House Bill 4141	136
Senate Bill 798	200	House Bill 4256	139
Senate Bill 838	203	House Bill 4381	141
Senate Bill 999	210	House Bill 4510	144
Senate Bill 1008	212	House Bill 4520	144
Senate Bill 1055	215	House Bill 4539	145
Senate Bill 1471	239	House Bill 5174	154
Senate Bill 1506	240	House Bill 5409	164
Senate Bill 1517	241	House Joint Resolution 2	164
Senate Bill 1563	243	House Joint Resolution 3	165
Senate Bill 1565	243	House Joint Resolution 125	165
Senate Bill 1647	249	House Joint Resolution 132	166
Senate Bill 1720	255	Senate Bill 10	166

Senate Bill 22	168	House Bill 916	33
Senate Bill 30	170	House Bill 968	33
Senate Bill 61	173	House Bill 999	34
Senate Bill 65	173	House Bill 1009	35
Senate Bill 267	178, 302	House Bill 1106	37
Senate Bill 379	182	House Bill 1283	42
Senate Bill 729	197	House Bill 1287	43
Senate Bill 987	209, 305	House Bill 1290	43
Senate Bill 1013	212	House Bill 1337	44
Senate Bill 1207	222	House Bill 1357	44
Senate Bill 1237	223	House Bill 1488	49
Senate Bill 1243	224	House Bill 1527	51
Senate Bill 1245	224	House Bill 1575	53
Senate Bill 1246	225	House Bill 1592	55
Senate Bill 1332	228	House Bill 1647	58
Senate Bill 1333	228	House Bill 1649	58
Senate Bill 1444	237	House Bill 1673	59
Senate Bill 1509	240	House Bill 1743	62
Senate Bill 1614	247, 308	House Bill 1890	67
Senate Bill 1831	259	House Bill 1998	71
Senate Bill 1854	261	House Bill 2002	71
Senate Bill 2289	278	House Bill 2059	74
Senate Bill 2310	279	House Bill 2478	86
Senate Bill 2315	279	House Bill 2512	88
Senate Joint Resolution 87	288	House Bill 2658	91
Health & Human Services		House Bill 2727	93
House Bill 12	7	House Bill 2802	96
House Bill 25	8	House Bill 2969	101
House Bill 44	9	House Bill 3130	106
House Bill 49	9	House Bill 3144	106
House Bill 54	10	House Bill 3162	108
House Bill 63	10	House Bill 3265	110
House Bill 113	13	House Bill 3286	111
House Bill 181	14, 296	House Bill 3359	113
House Bill 290	17	House Bill 3414	114
House Bill 299	17	House Bill 3456	116
House Bill 400	18	House Bill 3462	117
House Bill 446	19	House Bill 3466	117
House Bill 474	21	House Bill 3550	120
House Bill 492	21	House Bill 3808	128
House Bill 617	24	House Bill 3824	128
House Bill 624	25	House Bill 4166	137
House Bill 711	27	House Bill 4169	137
House Bill 728	28	House Bill 4170	137
House Bill 729	28, 296	House Bill 4233	139
House Bill 730	28	House Bill 4331	140
House Bill 755	29	House Bill 4332	140
House Bill 793	30	House Bill 4415	141
House Bill 852	31	House Bill 4500	143

House Bill 4696	148	Senate Bill 1343	229
House Bill 4758	149	Senate Bill 1379	232
House Bill 4888	151	Senate Bill 1429	236
House Bill 4990	152	Senate Bill 1447	237
Senate Bill 24	168	Senate Bill 1467	238, 307
Senate Bill 25	169	Senate Bill 1469	238
Senate Bill 26	169	Senate Bill 1588	244
Senate Bill 52	171	Senate Bill 1592	244
Senate Bill 135	174	Senate Bill 1677	253
Senate Bill 182	174	Senate Bill 1849	260
Senate Bill 186	175	Senate Bill 1930	263
Senate Bill 188	175	Senate Bill 2017	267
Senate Bill 189	175	Senate Bill 2133	272
Senate Bill 240	176	Senate Bill 2173	273
Senate Bill 241	177	Senate Bill 2193	274
Senate Bill 401	183	Senate Bill 2260	276, 313
Senate Bill 415	184	Senate Bill 2261	277
Senate Bill 490	187	Senate Bill 2474	282, 315
Senate Bill 497	187	Senate Bill 2476	282
Senate Bill 545	190	Jurisprudence	
Senate Bill 565	191	House Bill 19	8
Senate Bill 576	191	House Bill 266	16
Senate Bill 577	191	House Bill 616	24
Senate Bill 593	192	House Bill 660	26
Senate Bill 614	193	House Bill 785	29
Senate Bill 622	194	House Bill 841	30
Senate Bill 664	196	House Bill 1455	48
Senate Bill 681	196	House Bill 1547	52
Senate Bill 745	198	House Bill 1819	65
Senate Bill 773	199	House Bill 2070	75
Senate Bill 780	199	House Bill 2129	77
Senate Bill 812	201	House Bill 2559	89
Senate Bill 820	202	House Bill 2671	91
Senate Bill 850	203	House Bill 2879	99, 298
Senate Bill 861	204	House Bill 3009	102
Senate Bill 867	204	House Bill 3474	118
Senate Bill 944	207	House Bill 3698	125
Senate Bill 956	208	House Bill 3929	130
Senate Bill 989	209	House Bill 4128	135, 299
Senate Bill 1003	211	House Bill 4183	137
Senate Bill 1040	213	House Bill 4714	149
Senate Bill 1051	214, 305	House Bill 4765	149
Senate Bill 1098	217	House Joint Resolution 107	165
Senate Bill 1192	222	Senate Bill 48	171
Senate Bill 1242	224	Senate Bill 658	195
Senate Bill 1249	225	Senate Bill 869	204
Senate Bill 1286	226	Senate Bill 870	204
Senate Bill 1327	228	Senate Bill 1045	213
Senate Bill 1342	229	Senate Bill 1259	225

Senate Bill 1457	238	House Bill 2956	101, 298
Senate Bill 1603	245	House Bill 3053	103
Senate Bill 1612	246	House Bill 3097	105
Senate Bill 1650	250	House Bill 3191	108
Senate Bill 1668	252, 309	House Bill 3207	109
Senate Bill 2106	271	House Bill 3273	110
Senate Bill 2248	276, 312	House Bill 3301	112
Senate Bill 2277	277, 313	House Bill 3469	117
Senate Bill 2292	278, 314	House Bill 3492	119
Local Government		House Bill 3514	120
House Bill 14	7	House Bill 3526	120
House Bill 260	16	House Bill 3613	123
House Bill 430	19	House Bill 3697	124
House Bill 456	20	House Bill 3699	125
House Bill 586	23	House Bill 3860	129
House Bill 608	24	House Bill 3980	131
House Bill 614	24	House Bill 4057	133
House Bill 783	29	House Bill 4073	133
House Bill 784	29	House Bill 4077	134
House Bill 796	30	House Bill 4082	134
House Bill 886	31	House Bill 4101	135
House Bill 995	34	House Bill 4158	136, 300
House Bill 1193	39	House Bill 4217	138
House Bill 1195	39	House Bill 4227	138
House Bill 1228	41	House Bill 4250	139
House Bill 1285	42	House Bill 4443	142
House Bill 1330	44	House Bill 4446	143
House Bill 1381	45	House Bill 4456	143
House Bill 1382	45	House Bill 4550	145
House Bill 1434	47	House Bill 4645	148
House Bill 1440	47	House Bill 4700	148
House Bill 1472	48	House Bill 4704	148
House Bill 1583	54	House Bill 4835	150
House Bill 1699	60	House Bill 4844	150
House Bill 1766	64	House Bill 4928	151
House Bill 1922	69	House Bill 5303	156
House Bill 1925	69	House Bill 5304	156
House Bill 1989	70	House Bill 5307	156
House Bill 2071	75	House Bill 5310	156
House Bill 2121	76	House Bill 5312	157
House Bill 2354	83	House Bill 5314	157
House Bill 2371	83	House Bill 5315	157
House Bill 2488	87	House Bill 5316	157
House Bill 2732	94	House Bill 5318	157
House Bill 2738	94	House Bill 5320	157
House Bill 2815	97	House Bill 5322	157
House Bill 2816	97	House Bill 5325	158
House Bill 2867	98	House Bill 5326	158
House Bill 2878	99	House Bill 5329	158

House Bill 5332	158, 301	House Joint Resolution 134	166
House Bill 5333	158	Senate Bill 59	172
House Bill 5334	158	Senate Bill 62	173
House Bill 5337	159	Senate Bill 158	174
House Bill 5339	159	Senate Bill 322	180
House Bill 5340	159	Senate Bill 348	181, 303
House Bill 5343	159	Senate Bill 349	181
House Bill 5344	159	Senate Bill 361	181, 303
House Bill 5345	159	Senate Bill 539	190
House Bill 5347	160	Senate Bill 580	192
House Bill 5348	160	Senate Bill 699	197
House Bill 5349	160	Senate Bill 719	197
House Bill 5350	160	Senate Bill 736	198
House Bill 5355	160	Senate Bill 849	203
House Bill 5357	160	Senate Bill 887	205
House Bill 5358	160, 301	Senate Bill 888	205
House Bill 5360	160, 301	Senate Bill 929	207
House Bill 5362	161	Senate Bill 1056	215
House Bill 5365	161	Senate Bill 1088	216
House Bill 5366	161, 301	Senate Bill 1124	217
House Bill 5367	161	Senate Bill 1145	218
House Bill 5369	161	Senate Bill 1155	219
House Bill 5372	161	Senate Bill 1187	221
House Bill 5373	161	Senate Bill 1188	221
House Bill 5374	161	Senate Bill 1191	221
House Bill 5375	162	Senate Bill 1226	223
House Bill 5377	162	Senate Bill 1250	225
House Bill 5379	162	Senate Bill 1305	226
House Bill 5384	162	Senate Bill 1381	232
House Bill 5385	162	Senate Bill 1439	236, 307
House Bill 5386	162	Senate Bill 1526	242
House Bill 5389	162	Senate Bill 1730	256
House Bill 5390	162	Senate Bill 1794	258
House Bill 5391	162	Senate Bill 1801	258
House Bill 5392	163	Senate Bill 1916	262, 310
House Bill 5393	163	Senate Bill 1991	265
House Bill 5394	163	Senate Bill 1998	265, 310
House Bill 5395	163	Senate Bill 1999	265
House Bill 5396	163	Senate Bill 2035	268, 311
House Bill 5398	163	Senate Bill 2038	268
House Bill 5399	163	Senate Bill 2091	270
House Bill 5405	163	Senate Bill 2192	274, 312
House Bill 5407	163	Senate Bill 2350	280
House Bill 5411	164	Senate Bill 2355	280
House Bill 5412	164	Senate Bill 2370	280
House Bill 5413	164	Senate Bill 2566	283
House Bill 5414	164	Senate Bill 2571	283
House Bill 5415	164	Senate Bill 2576	284
House Bill 5418	164	Senate Bill 2577	284

Senate Bill 2579	284	House Bill 5105	154
Senate Bill 2580	284	House Bill 5178	154
Senate Bill 2583	284	House Bill 5311	156
Senate Bill 2588	284	Senate Bill 502	188
Senate Bill 2595	284	Senate Bill 543	190
Senate Bill 2597	285, 315	Senate Bill 604	193
Senate Bill 2598	285, 316	Senate Bill 627	194
Senate Bill 2599	285	Senate Bill 667	196
Senate Bill 2600	285	Senate Bill 784	199
Senate Bill 2603	285	Senate Bill 785	200
Senate Bill 2604	285, 316	Senate Bill 786	200
Senate Bill 2605	286, 316	Senate Bill 813	201, 305
Senate Bill 2613	286, 316	Senate Bill 1057	215
Senate Bill 2616	286, 316	Senate Bill 1158	219
Senate Joint Resolution 64	287	Senate Bill 1186	221
Natural Resources & Economic Development		Senate Bill 1210	222
House Bill 33	9	Senate Bill 1340	229
House Bill 915	33	Senate Bill 1397	233
House Bill 1034	35	Senate Bill 1399	233, 306
House Bill 1515	50	Senate Bill 1420	235
House Bill 1526	50	Senate Bill 1520	242
House Bill 1602	56	Senate Bill 1809	259
House Bill 1615	57	Senate Bill 1837	259
House Bill 1689	59	Senate Bill 1860	261
House Bill 1703	60	Senate Bill 1985	265
House Bill 1755	63	Senate Bill 2057	269
House Bill 1949	69	Senate Bill 2196	274
House Bill 2263	81	Senate Bill 2220	275
House Bill 2353	83	Senate Bill 2325	279
House Bill 2416	84, 297	Redistricting, Special	
House Bill 2459	85	House Bill 1000	34
House Bill 2489	87	House Bill 4559	145
House Bill 2497	87	Senate Bill 375	182
House Bill 2575	89	State Affairs	
House Bill 2719	93	House Bill 4	4
House Bill 2847	98	House Bill 17	7
House Bill 2975	102	House Bill 18	7
House Bill 3060	104	House Bill 73	11
House Bill 3235	110	House Bill 87	11
House Bill 3453	116	House Bill 103	12
House Bill 3727	126	House Bill 242	15
House Bill 3837	128	House Bill 246	15
House Bill 4451	143	House Bill 255	15
House Bill 4494	143	House Bill 315	17
House Bill 4660	148	House Bill 357	18
House Bill 4885	151	House Bill 367	18
House Bill 4932	151	House Bill 409	19
House Bill 4964	152	House Bill 461	20
House Bill 5012	153	House Bill 527	21

House Bill 558	22, 296	House Bill 4218	138
House Bill 567	22	House Bill 4333	140
House Bill 609	24	House Bill 5010	152
House Bill 639	26	House Bill 5180	155
House Bill 891	31	House Bill 5232	155
House Bill 907	32	Senate Bill 12	167
House Bill 969	33	Senate Bill 14	167
House Bill 1087	37	Senate Bill 15	167
House Bill 1181	38	Senate Bill 29	170
House Bill 1217	40	Senate Bill 232	176
House Bill 1243	41	Senate Bill 252	177
House Bill 1255	42	Senate Bill 372	182
House Bill 1299	43	Senate Bill 380	183
House Bill 1423	47	Senate Bill 477	186
House Bill 1500	49	Senate Bill 500	188
House Bill 1631	57	Senate Bill 569	191
House Bill 1632	57	Senate Bill 578	192
House Bill 1696	59	Senate Bill 599	192
House Bill 1712	61	Senate Bill 643	195
House Bill 1745	62	Senate Bill 694	196
House Bill 1759	63	Senate Bill 718	197
House Bill 1760	63	Senate Bill 728	197
House Bill 1817	65	Senate Bill 801	200
House Bill 1825	66	Senate Bill 825	202
House Bill 1848	66	Senate Bill 922	206
House Bill 2007	72	Senate Bill 924	206
House Bill 2015	72	Senate Bill 926	207
House Bill 2138	77, 297	Senate Bill 975	208
House Bill 2196	79	Senate Bill 994	209
House Bill 2291	82	Senate Bill 997	210
House Bill 2384	84	Senate Bill 998	210
House Bill 2626	90	Senate Bill 1052	214
House Bill 2629	90, 298	Senate Bill 1054	214
House Bill 2636	90	Senate Bill 1070	215
House Bill 2800	96	Senate Bill 1089	216
House Bill 2837	98	Senate Bill 1097	216
House Bill 2850	98	Senate Bill 1131	218
House Bill 2961	101	Senate Bill 1300	226
House Bill 3058	104	Senate Bill 1322	227
House Bill 3137	106	Senate Bill 1367	230, 306
House Bill 3159	107, 298	Senate Bill 1373	231
House Bill 3297	112	Senate Bill 1375	231
House Bill 3506	119	Senate Bill 1599	245
House Bill 3647	123	Senate Bill 1602	245
House Bill 3712	126	Senate Bill 1606	246
House Bill 3949	131	Senate Bill 1624	247
House Bill 3956	131	Senate Bill 1661	251
House Bill 4062	133	Senate Bill 1725	255
House Bill 4085	134	Senate Bill 1750	257

Senate Bill 1768	258	House Bill 2754	95
Senate Bill 1780	258	House Bill 2835	97
Senate Bill 1893	262	House Bill 2876	99
Senate Bill 1932	263	House Bill 2901	100
Senate Bill 1933	263	House Bill 3014	102
Senate Bill 1979	264, 310	House Bill 3045	103
Senate Bill 2120	272	House Bill 3099	105
Senate Bill 2171	273	House Bill 3106	105
Senate Bill 2186	274	House Bill 3108	106
Senate Bill 2258	276	House Bill 3125	106
Senate Bill 2275	277, 313	House Bill 3126	106
Senate Bill 2284	278	House Bill 3132	106
Senate Bill 2620	286	House Bill 3156	107
Transportation		House Bill 3224	109
House Bill 53	9	House Bill 3288	111
House Bill 108	13	House Bill 3313	112
House Bill 198	14	House Bill 3444	115
House Bill 282	16	House Bill 3558	121
House Bill 291	17	House Bill 3643	123
House Bill 433	19	House Bill 3645	123
House Bill 627	25	House Bill 3646	123
House Bill 628	25	House Bill 3672	124
House Bill 659	26	House Bill 3798	127
House Bill 718	27	House Bill 3989	131
House Bill 842	30	House Bill 4122	135
House Bill 898	31	House Bill 4797	150
House Bill 923	33	House Bill 5135	154
House Bill 975	33	House Bill 5142	154
House Bill 1198	39	House Bill 5336	158
House Bill 1199	39	Senate Bill 247	177, 302
House Bill 1263	42	Senate Bill 261	178, 302
House Bill 1275	42	Senate Bill 280	178
House Bill 1277	42	Senate Bill 323	180
House Bill 1305	43	Senate Bill 347	180
House Bill 1315	44	Senate Bill 414	184
House Bill 1368	45	Senate Bill 478	186
House Bill 1778	65	Senate Bill 505	188
House Bill 1846	66	Senate Bill 507	188
House Bill 1885	67	Senate Bill 508	188
House Bill 1913	69	Senate Bill 540	190
House Bill 1964	70	Senate Bill 656	195
House Bill 1968	70	Senate Bill 702	197
House Bill 2083	75	Senate Bill 818	202
House Bill 2190	79	Senate Bill 904	206
House Bill 2195	79	Senate Bill 957	208
House Bill 2323	82	Senate Bill 1021	212
House Bill 2503	88	Senate Bill 1023	213
House Bill 2590	89	Senate Bill 1115	217
House Bill 2616	89	Senate Bill 1136	218

Senate Bill 1260	225	House Bill 1598	55
Senate Bill 1364	230	House Bill 1688	59
Senate Bill 1413	234	House Bill 1750	63
Senate Bill 1495	239	House Bill 1761	64
Senate Bill 1499	239	House Bill 1772	64
Senate Bill 1500	240	House Bill 1809	65
Senate Bill 1524	242	House Bill 1845	66
Senate Bill 1716	254	House Bill 1971	70
Senate Bill 1741	256	House Bill 2063	74
Senate Bill 1869	261	House Bill 2109	76
Senate Bill 1914	262	House Bill 2271	81
Senate Bill 2102	270	House Bill 2308	82
Senate Bill 2144	273	House Bill 2373	83
Senate Bill 2150	273	House Bill 2388	84
Senate Bill 2200	275	House Bill 2442	85
Senate Bill 2221	275	House Bill 2443	85
Senate Bill 2376	280	House Bill 2460	86
Senate Bill 2601	285	House Bill 2508	88
Veteran Affairs		House Bill 2568	89
House Bill 387	18	House Bill 2755	95
House Bill 562	22	House Bill 2759	95
House Bill 587	23	House Bill 2774	95
House Bill 671	26	House Bill 2777	95
House Bill 1457	48	House Bill 2900	100
House Bill 1633	57	House Bill 2947	101
House Bill 1740	62	House Bill 3007	102
House Bill 2248	81	House Bill 3059	104
House Bill 2499	88	House Bill 3065	104
House Bill 2951	101	House Bill 3222	109
House Bill 4421	142	House Bill 3232	110
House Bill 4615	146	House Bill 3257	110
Senate Bill 63	173	House Bill 3278	111
Senate Bill 371	181	House Bill 3323	112
Senate Bill 422	184	House Bill 3361	113
Senate Bill 493	187	House Bill 3419	114
Senate Bill 538	190	House Bill 3437	115
Senate Bill 1308	226	House Bill 3497	119
Senate Bill 1376	232	House Bill 3507	120
Senate Bill 1598	244	House Bill 3582	122
Senate Bill 1859	261	House Bill 3731	126
Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs		House Bill 3744	127
House Bill 59	10	House Bill 3810	128
House Bill 162	14	House Bill 4018	132
House Bill 692	27	House Bill 4069	133
House Bill 1333	44	House Bill 4087	134
House Bill 1535	51	House Bill 4106	135, 299
House Bill 1540	52	House Bill 4385	141
House Bill 1555	52	House Bill 4538	144
House Bill 1565	53	House Bill 4742	149

House Bill 4856	150
House Joint Resolution 126	165
Senate Bill 28	169
Senate Bill 317	179
Senate Bill 469	185
Senate Bill 471	185
Senate Bill 594	192
Senate Bill 691	196
Senate Bill 811	201
Senate Bill 893	205
Senate Bill 938	207
Senate Bill 1032	213
Senate Bill 1047	214
Senate Bill 1080	216, 305
Senate Bill 1236	223
Senate Bill 1289	226
Senate Bill 1290	226
Senate Bill 1372	231
Senate Bill 1414	235
Senate Bill 1424	235
Senate Bill 1523	242
Senate Bill 1648	250
Senate Bill 1670	252
Senate Bill 1745	257
Senate Bill 1746	257
Senate Bill 1778	258
Senate Bill 1839	259
Senate Bill 1850	260
Senate Bill 1965	264
Senate Bill 2052	269, 312
Senate Bill 2379	280, 314
Senate Bill 2406	281
Senate Bill 2440	281
Senate Bill 2592	284
Senate Joint Resolution 32	287
Senate Joint Resolution 74	287
Senate Joint Resolution 75	287

2nd Called Session, 2023

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ways & Means

House Joint Resolution 2	289
Senate Bill 2	289
Senate Bill 3	290

SENATE COMMITTEE

Finance

Senate Bill 2	289
Senate Bill 3	290

3rd Called Session, 2023

HOUSE COMMITTEE

State Affairs

Senate Bill 4	291
Senate Bill 7	291

SENATE COMMITTEE

Border Security

Senate Bill 4	291
---------------	-----

Health & Human Services

Senate Bill 7	291
---------------	-----

4th Called Session, 2023

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Appropriations

Senate Bill 3	293
---------------	-----

State Affairs

Senate Bill 4	293
---------------	-----

SENATE COMMITTEE

Finance

Senate Bill 3	293
---------------	-----

State Affairs

Senate Bill 4	293
---------------	-----