

# Weekly Legislative Report

## 5.6.21



### GOVERNOR:

#### **Costs Related to Border Crisis**

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott sent a letter to county judges across the state asking them to send to the governor's office a full and accurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the current border crisis on their respective counties. The state will use this information to formally request that the federal government pay in full for these costs borne by state and local governments. The governor also noted that the efforts of county judges can be bolstered if their commissioner courts adopt a resolution supporting the State of Texas' request for federal reimbursement. Governor Abbott said, "Securing the border is the federal government's responsibility, but the current crisis has placed a costly burden on the State of Texas and on our local governments. I have heard from many counties about the challenges they are facing from the surge in illegal border crossings. Several counties have declared local disasters. Other counties have been working around the clock in response to the federal government opening migrant facilities in their counties. I strongly believe that your county, our state, and our fellow Texans should not be forced to shoulder these costs, and that the federal government should reimburse us in full."

[Here](#) is a link to the governor's letter to county judges.

#### **Governor Responded to the President's Joint Address to Congress**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott issued a statement in response to President Biden's joint address to Congress saying, "During his joint address to Congress, President Biden listed plan after plan that would destroy jobs, grow the role of government in our lives, and threaten Texas' economic might. Texans can rest assured that the Lone Star State will continue to combat overreach by the Biden Administration to keep our state the best place to live, work, and raise a family. President Biden also refused to take responsibility for the surge in illegal crossings at the southern border and offered no solutions to address the humanitarian crisis created by his open border policies. In President Biden's absence, Texas is stepping up to address the surge at the border and crack down on human traffickers and dangerous cartels. No matter who is in the White House, Texas will always fight for freedom, economic opportunity, and security."

#### **Texas Facilities Commission**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Brian A. Bailey to the Texas Facilities Commission for the term set to expire on January 31, 2027. The commission controls state buildings, grounds, or and responsibility for maintenance, repair and construction of state buildings for the state.

**Brian A. Bailey** of Austin is currently serving as the Vice Chairman on the Texas Facilities Commission as a gubernatorial appointee. He is a member of the Austin Crime Commission and The University of Texas Chancellor's Council Executive Committee. Bailey received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston.

## SENATE

The Senate was in session Monday through Friday of last week.

**On Monday**, the Senate gave final approval to **SB 1675** and passed 15 other bills including:

- **SB 50** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would provide increase employment opportunities for **persons with disabilities** enrolled in Medicaid. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 30-1.*
- **SB 184** by Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas) would require the Department of State Health Services, in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission, to prepare a **report on the prevalence of eating disorders** and eating disorder-related deaths in the state. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 28-3.*
- **SB 609** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would establish the **Texas Music Incubator Rebate Program**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 22-9.*
- **SB 1146** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would require a **physician that performs an abortion** to complete and submit a **monthly report** to the Health and Human Services Commission regardless of where the abortion is performed. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*
- **SB 1534** by Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) would allow the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners the option of removing the public posting of a remedial plan issued against a **dentist or a dental hygienist**. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1692** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would apply existing end stage renal disease facility rules regarding the use of **dialysis technicians** to the nursing home dialysis setting. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1719** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would authorize an applicant for service from a county or **water supply or sewer service corporation** to appeal to the Public Utility Commission a decision relating to a fee. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1750** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would require electric and natural gas entities to submit **winter preparedness emergency operations**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1829** by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would require Medicaid managed care organizations to maintain an accurate **electronic directory** of contact information for **Medicaid recipients**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1856** by Beverly Powell (D-Burleson) would classify a student seeking a **licensed vocational nurse** license as “essential services” during a declared **disaster**. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 29-2.*
- **SB 2116** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would prohibit a business entity from entering into an **agreement relating to critical infrastructure** with a company that is owned or controlled by individuals who are citizens of a country designated as a threat to critical infrastructure as designated by the governor. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*

**Senator Kelly Hancock** commented on the passage of **SB 1750** saying, “SB 1750 requires emergency preparedness plans from facilities within the Texas electric and natural gas supply chain. Texas families and businesses deserve to rest assured that the top-to-bottom failures we saw along our electric supply chain during the February storm will never happen again. That

begins with better planning and increased oversight. SB 1750 directs the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Railroad Commission (RRC), working in coordination with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), to establish rules requiring the facilities in their respective jurisdictions to create a severe weather emergency preparedness plan. These plans must address severe cold weather, equipment weatherization needs and design limits, and staffing during severe weather events. Preparedness plans must also include an in-depth look at electric curtailment priorities and critical load identification, ensuring no facility that plays a role in the continuous production of electricity and natural gas is shut off during a directed emergency outage. Under the bill, the PUC and RRC will review the emergency preparedness plans and notify the facilities of any deficiencies that must be corrected. Failure to submit a plan or correct a deficiency is subject to a hefty penalty of up to \$25,000 per violation per day for PUC-regulated facilities and \$200,000 per violation per day for pipelines.”

Also on Monday, the Senate passed one bill to Third Reading:

- **SB 1439** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require physician, intern, or resident training programs to have an “opt-in” option for **abortion training**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 21-10.*

**On Tuesday**, the Senate gave final approval to SB 439 and passed 18 additional bills including:

- **SB 275** by Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen) would allow a governmental unit to enjoin another person’s use of an entity name that might **falsely imply governmental affiliation** with the governmental unit. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 784** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would prohibit a municipality or **municipally owned utility** from establishing a rate applicable only to entities that qualify for a state sales tax or ad valorem tax exemption that is higher than a rate established for entities that receive **comparable utility services**. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 30-1.*
- **SB 912** by Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) would increase the penalty for **participation in a riot** (from a Class B misdemeanor to a state jail felony) if the actor knowingly committed or attempted to commit an offense against a first responder performing an official duty. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 997** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would prohibit the Public Utility Commission from reviewing a contractual rate charged for the furnishing of **raw or treated water or water or sewer service** unless the commission determines that the amount charged under the contract harms the public interest. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1138** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require the Legislative Budget Board to study streamlining public **safety net programs** to reduce costs and improve outcomes. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1259** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would provide that a payee does not have a common law cause of action against a payor for **withholding oil and gas payments** unless the contract requires payment otherwise. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1413** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would authorize **property tax communications** to be delivered electronically. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1815** by Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) would conform Texas statutes with federal standards regarding **size and weight limitations** when traveling on federal highways. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*

- **SB 1831** by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would be the **No Trafficking Zone Act** and would increase penalties for sex trafficking offenses, including using technology and social media to arrange pick-ups during school hours, occurring on and around school premises and premises in which school functions are taking place. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1879** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require **local governmental entities** to report expenditures made related to **lobbying activities** to the Texas Ethics Commission and require the entity to receive a majority vote of the governing body in an open meeting as a stand-alone item before lobbying expenditures could be made. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SJR 47** By Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment requiring **justices** of the supreme court, court of criminal appeals, and courts of appeals and **district judges** to have been a practicing **attorney** licensed in Texas **for at least ten years** and has not had a license revoked or suspended. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 30-1.*

Also on Tuesday, the Senate passed ten bills on Second Reading including:

- **SB 513** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would prohibit state tax revenue from being used to enforce future federal laws and **regulations related to gun rights** that are more stringent than state laws. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 18-13.*
- **SB 566** by Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) would allow the Public Utility Commission to review **Austin Energy's electricity rates**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 81-13.*
- **SB 1428** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would exclude **disasters caused by an epidemic** from provisions allowing a taxing unit to exceed the no new taxes rate without voter permission in areas subject to a disaster. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*
- **SB 1508** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require the attorney general's office to establish an **election integrity division** to safeguard the integrity of elections, ensure public confidence in the electoral process, and investigate and prosecute election fraud offenses. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 18-13.*
- **SB 1509** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require **early voting ballot applications** to include the applicant's driver's license or personal identification card or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*
- **SB 1589** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require the Secretary of State to appoint a **state election marshal** to investigate violations of the Elections Code. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 18-13.*
- **SB 1646** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would broaden the legal definition of child abuse to include providing puberty-blocking medication, hormone therapy or surgery to a **transgender child** under age 18. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 18-12.*
- **SB 2202** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would specify the elements that the State Board of Education must consider when adopting **essential knowledge and skills** that develop a student's **civic knowledge** in the social studies curriculum. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 18-13.*



**On Wednesday**, the Senate passed the ten Third Reading bills and passed an additional 22 bills including:

- **HB 1024** by Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth) and Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would authorize the holder of a mixed beverage permit to **deliver, or have delivered by a third party, an alcoholic beverage** to an ultimate consumer for off-premises consumption. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 30-1.*
- **HB 1585** by Stan Lambert (R-Abilene) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) is the sunset bill for the **Teacher Retirement System of Texas**. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 69** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would ban the use of **chokeholds** by peace officers. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 162** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) would make it a state jail felony for a person from knowingly make a material false statement on a form that is for the **purchase, sale or transfer of a firearm**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 24-7.*
- **SB 640** by Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio) would require the Health and Human Services Commission and the e-Health Advisory Committee to jointly conduct a study to **assess the interoperability needs and technology readiness of behavioral health service providers**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 29-2.*
- **SB 678** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would establish the **Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program** to provide financial assistance to small businesses affected by a disaster. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 24-7.*
- **SB 746** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) would require parents to provide the **student's address, phone number, and e-mail address** to the school district within two weeks of the beginning of the school year and within two weeks after the date the information changes. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1495** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would add a person who knowingly attends or assists in preparation of the event to the definition of "**reckless driving exhibition**." *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 24-7.*
- **SB 1580** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would authorize **electric cooperatives** to utilize **securitization** to address the extraordinary costs and expenses created by Winter Storm Uri. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1588** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would clarify **Homeowners' Association** powers regarding restrictive covenants. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 28-3.*
- **SB 1602** by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) would allow an insurer to cancel an automobile insurance policy if an insured fails to **cooperate in the investigation, settlement, and defense of an accident or claim**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 28-2.*
- **SB 1776** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require school districts and charters to offer a high school **elective course** for one-half credit on the **founding principles of the United States**. *It passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 1827** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would establish the **Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council** to fairly allocate money recovered by the state through an opioid settlement agreement. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*

- **SB 2158** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require the Texas Education Agency to provide in-home fingerprint and DNA **child identification kits** to school districts and charters for distribution to the parents of students in kindergarten, elementary and middle school. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 31-0.*
- **SB 2194** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would prohibit electric providers from providing **wholesale electric plans** to residential and small commercial customers; and would require large commercial and industrial customers who chose a wholesale electricity plan to sign a statement acknowledging the potential price fluctuation of the electric market. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the Senate by a vote of 29-2.*

**Senator Kelly Hancock** commented on Senate passage of **HB 1024** saying, "Texas restaurants took a serious hit during the pandemic. Something as simple as letting Texans safely pick up and transport a cocktail from their local restaurant allowed thousands of businesses to keep operating, employ staff, and serve their communities for years to come. I want to thank Chairman Geren and our colleagues for working together to help this bill move quickly. This bill makes permanent Governor Greg Abbott's March 2020 executive order letting customers directly take cocktails to-go when picking up a meal. HB 1024 contains key safety provisions, including a requirement that all alcoholic beverages are either sealed in their original manufacturer-sealed container or in a tamper-proof container labeled with the business' name. To ensure compliance with open container laws, a restaurant-sealed mixed beverage also can't be transported in the passenger area of a vehicle. Cheers, Texas! Please drink responsibly."

**Senator Cesar Blanco** commented on the passage of **SB 162** saying, "SB 162 will make it a crime in Texas to lie on a background check form in an attempt to illegally purchase a firearm. After the shooting in El Paso on August 3, 2019, Governor Abbott appointed the Texas Safety Commission to make recommendations on addressing mass violence & keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. After a series of stakeholder roundtables, Governor Abbott released the Texas Safety Action Report with several legislative recommendations. SB 162 codifies a recommendation from the Texas Safety action report to crack down on criminals who try to illegally buy or possess guns. It is estimated over 100,000 people lie on a firearm background check every year. Those caught lying on firearm background checks are more likely to be looking to harm others and have no business obtaining a dangerous weapon. The Texas Department of Public Safety has also recognized that Texas lacks a law which allows state or local law enforcement to charge someone with illegally attempting to purchase a firearm. This is for El Paso and the 23 lives we lost on August 3, 2019. While no bill can bring back the 23 lives we lost in El Paso on August 3, 2019, we look for solutions to help us heal. This is one small way to honor the lives we lost by keeping firearms out of dangerous hands to prevent future tragedies. This is a common-sense solution to ensure criminals who are prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot skirt the law, while protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens."

**Lt. Governor Dan Patrick** commented on the passage of **SB 2202** saying, "Texans reject critical race theory and other so-called 'woke' philosophies that maintain that one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex or that any individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist or oppressive. These divisive concepts have been inserted into curriculums around the state, but they have no place in Texas schools. SB 2202 will ensure that they cannot be taught. When Texas parents send their children to school, they expect their students to learn to think critically without being forced to consume misinformation about our country's founding and the biases of advocacy groups that seek to belittle our democracy and

divide us. I congratulate Senator Creighton and the Texas Senate for passing this critical legislation for our children and our schools."

**Senator Roland Gutierrez** commented on the passage of his "Ratepayers Bill of Rights" amendment to **SB 2194** saying, "This amendment guarantees essential protections to Texas electric utility ratepayers. It is meant to address the current lack of consumer confidence in their energy providers. We cannot let ratepayers be punished for circumstances that are out of their control. ERCOT's failure during this extreme winter storm exposed the cracks in Texas' system. We must do better if we are to restore faith in the system. Nobody should be told that have to pay a \$16,000 power bill for the month of February after they were left to freeze in the dark for nearly a week."

The Ratepayers Bill of Rights ensures that utility customers:

- May not be disconnected on a day that utility offices are not open to accept bill payment, such as holidays and weekends.
- Must be allowed an opportunity to make a payment plan for past due bills.
- Have the right to avoid being disconnected during extreme heat or freezing weather.
- Cannot be disconnected for owing money on a disputed utility bill.

Utility companies must:

- Provide a written explanation to customers that are refused services.
- Have an independent administrative process resolving complaints about services and bills.
- Give accurate and understandable information concerning price and terms of service.

Ratepayers got a big punch in the mouth this February. Nobody should ever have to go through this type of exploitation. There must be protections in place for the people that pay to keep the power going. There must be consequences for utility companies and organizations who fail to act in a humane manner. If the Public Utility Council will not make them do it, then we will. Texans will not be at the mercy of the utilities that serve them."

Also on Wednesday, the Senate gave preliminary approval to:

- **SB 247** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) would prohibit the State Bar of Texas from adopting rules and policies that limit an applicant's ability to obtain, maintain, or renew a **law license** based on the applicant's **sincerely held religious beliefs**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed to Third Reading the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*
- **SB 741** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would authorize **school marshals** to carry a concealed handgun on the premises of a school. *It passed to Third Reading in the Senate by a vote of 19-12.*

**On Thursday**, the Senate only convened for the Local & Uncontested Calendar and passed 124 bills on it.

*Note: many of the bills that passed the Senate on the Local & Uncontested calendar are in the issue categories below.*

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

**Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 584**

**This Week:** The Senate reconvened on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

## **HOUSE:**

The House was in session Monday through Friday last week.

**On Monday**, the House gave preliminary approval to 34 bills including:

- **HB 193** by Toni Rose (D-Dallas) would require a juvenile court to order the destruction of the court's records related to a **victim of sex trafficking**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 541** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) would create a presumption that all **public safety employees** who suffer from COVID-19 resulting in disability or death are presumed to have contracted the disease during the **course and scope of employment** as a public safety employee. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 136-9.*
- **HB 582** by Sheryl Cole (D-Austin) would require institutions of higher education to give a tuition and fee exemption for students enrolled in an **emergency medical services curriculum** who is employed as a paramedic by a political subdivision. *It passed the House by a vote of 112-34.*
- **HB 988** by Hugh Shine (R-Temple) would allow a property owner protesting before an **Appraisal Review Board (ARB)** to bring suit in district court against an appraisal district, chief appraiser, or the ARB to compel compliance with a procedural requirement. *The committee substitute and four floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 146-0.*
- **HB 1153** by Hubert Vo (D-Houston) would bring state law into conformity with the federal the **Fair Housing Act**. *It passed the House by a vote of 108-37.*
- **HB 1256** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would require the comptroller to deposit one percent of **mixed beverage gross receipts taxes** to fund specialty court programs. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 1281** by Terry Wilson (R-Granite Shoals) would allow the operation of **golf carts** in certain **master planned communities**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 144-0.*
- **HB 1647** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would prohibit a court clerk from allowing **access to eviction case information** unless it is to a party to the action. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 73-71.*
- **HB 1763** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would prohibit a health benefit plan or pharmacy benefit manager from directly or indirectly reducing the amount of a **claim payment to a pharmacist** or pharmacy after adjudication of the claim through the use of an aggregated effective rate. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 147-0.*
- **HB 1920** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would make it a crime to possess a **firearm** in the secured area of an **airport**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 134-12.*
- **HB 2093** by Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) would add licensed **physician assistants** to the definition of non-physician mental health professional. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 146-1.*



- **HB 2812** by Jim Murphy (R-Houston) would establish the **Disaster Response Loan Fund** to be used to provide short-term loans to political subdivisions affected by a disaster. *It passed the House by a vote of 122-24.*
- **HB 3023** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would make the **Professional Bull Riders World Finals** eligible for the Major Events Reimbursement Program. *Four floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 117-30.*
- **HB 3120** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would revise the qualification criteria for **lifetime income benefits** in workers' compensation cases. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-2.*
- **HB 3516** by Tracy O. King (D-Batesville) would require the Railroad Commission to adopt rules governing the treatment and **beneficial use of oil and gas waste**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 144-2.*
- **HB 3529** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would add "**effective consent**" to statutes preventing a person from obtaining, possessing, transferring, or using **personally identifying information** of another person with the person's consent. *It passed the House by a vote of 147-0.*
- **HB 3614** by Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park) would require the comptroller to submit an annual report to the legislature on all **lending** programs and **credit support programs** in the state. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 143-2.*
- **HB 3717** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would provide that a municipality is not required to hold an election to authorize the sale of a **municipal retail water or sewer utility system** if it has received a Notice of Violation and the municipality is financially or technically unable to restore the system. *It passed the House by a vote of 138-9.*
- **HB 3745** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would prohibit a person from selling, using, or causing to be used any method, technology, device, or software in the **sale or resale of a good** on a website. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 131-16.*
- **HB 3853** by Charles "Doc" Anderson (R-Waco) would authorize an electric utility to own, construct, maintain, and operate fiber optic cables and other facilities for providing **middle mile broadband service**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 147-0.*
- **HB 4548** by DeWayne Burns (R-Cleburne) would authorize the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a special oversize or overweight vehicle permit to **deliver agricultural commodities** during an emergency or disaster. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 146-0.*

**On Tuesday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills and gave preliminary approval to 33 additional bills including:

- **HB 15 and HJR 5** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing the **Brain Institute of Texas** research fund and authorizing it to issue bonds. *HB 15 - the committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 107-36; HJR 5 - the committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 114-33. (Note: HJR 5 was adopted Tuesday because constitutional amendments that receive over 100 votes do not have to go to Third Reading)*
- **HB 363** by Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston) would require operators that possess any **private student data** to use the unique identifier established by the Texas Student Data System. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 143-0.*

- **HB 956** by Harold Dutton (D-Houston) would remove the prohibition on the **carrying of knives** with blades over five and one-half inches in bars, amusement parks, and places of worship. *It passed the House by a vote of 142-2.*
- **HB 962** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would increase the number of behind-the-wheel hours of instruction required in a **driver education** course from 30 to 50 hours. *It passed the House by a vote of 74-71.*
- **HB 1164** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would require the Department or State Health Services to designate one or more health care entities or programs as **centers of excellence** for the management and treatment of **placenta accrete spectrum disorder**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 137-5.*
- **HB 1434** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would prohibit medical professionals from performing **pelvic exams** without informed consent. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 1468** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would authorize school districts to develop procedures and curriculum to provide instruction through **virtual courses** or programs **for students in the district**. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 135-9.*
- **HB 1804** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would prohibit the use of public funds to settle **sexual harassment claims**. *Two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 141-2.*
- **HB 1903** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would adopt the **Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact** in Texas to provide for the mutual recognition of occupational therapy licenses of other member states. *It passed the House by a vote of 144-0.*
- **HB 1930** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would require justice courts to report **cases involving a dispute between a landlord and tenant** to the Office of Court Administration and require the office to establish and maintain a publicly-available electronic database on that case information. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 82-59.*
- **HB 2106** by Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston) would clarify the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation's authority to regulate **payment card skimmers** and **motor fuel metering devices**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 144-0.*
- **HB 2120** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would require the **complaints process of school districts** to include an initial administrative hearing and an opportunity to appeal the administrative decision following the initial hearing. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 143-0.*
- **HB 2268** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) would require utilities to mail and hand deliver in a separate written statement a disconnection **notice** to a customer before the utility **disconnects the customer's utility service**. *It passed the House by a vote of 137-7.*
- **HB 2414** by Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas) would remove the population bracket on the requirement that a county clerk must require a person presenting a document for filing in the **county's real property records** to present a photo identification. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 138-5.*
- **HB 3271** by Claudia Ordaz Perez (D-El Paso) would establish the **Micro-Business Capital Access Program** to provide capital access loans to micro-businesses that face barriers in accessing capital. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 97-43.*
- **HB 3938** by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would establish the **industry-based certification advisory council** to advise the Texas Workforce Commission regarding the alignment

of public high school career and technology education programs with current and future workforce needs. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*

- **HB 3961** by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would require a licensed nursing, assisted living facility, or long-term care facility to post information on the facility's website about the state's **Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 141-1.*
- **SB 538** by Cesar Blanco (D-El Paso) and Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) would expand customer eligibility related to the purchase of commodity items to include political subdivisions and entities in other states for purposes of the Department of Information Resources' (DIR) **information technology commodity purchasing** procedures. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 140-0.*

**Representative Claudia Ordaz Perez** commented on the passage of **HB 3271** saying, "This legislation creates two programs under the Office of the Governor that provide a path to capital to sustain and grow sole proprietorships and businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Small businesses are the heart of the Texas economy. Our smallest businesses were the hardest hit by the pandemic. This bill will provide our small businesses that are struggling to find capital to keep them afloat with much needed relief. I am grateful for the overwhelming support from my colleagues for this legislation. It establishes two programs that will provide access to capital to qualified businesses. The Micro Business Capital Access Program establishes a state revolving loan fund in partnership with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). CDFIs would issue low interest loans to micro-businesses within the state of Texas that face barriers to accessing capital. HB 3271 will help our small businesses who need it most."

**On Wednesday**, the House passed their Third Reading bills and passed 35 bills on Second Reading including:

- **HB 332** by James Talarico (D-Round Rock) would allow compensatory education allotment funding to be used to pay costs associated with implementing **social and emotional learning** programs. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 89-56.*
- **HB 548** by James Frank (R-Wichita Falls) would allow physicians licensed in another state and physicians leaving military service to receive a license to practice medicine in a health professional shortage area or a **medically underserved community**. *It passed the House by a vote of 146-0.*
- **HB 570** by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) would establish a CAPCO-like program in the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism allowing insurance premium tax credits for investment in a qualified **small business recovery fund**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 134-13.*
- **HB 781** by Scott Sanford (R-McKinney) would allow school public **junior college marshals** to carry a **concealed handgun** on school property. *It passed the House by a vote of 104-43.*
- **HB 1382** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would require the secretary of state to provide an online tool enabling a person who submitted an **application for a mail-in ballot** to track the status of the application. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 142-3.*
- **HB 1492** by Abel Herrero (D-Robstown) would give **navigation districts** the authority to prevent, detect, and fight fires and explosions. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 144-1.*

- **HB 1535** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) would expand authorize the use of **low-THC cannabis** for the treatment of medical conditions. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 134-12.*
- **HB 1693** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) would authorize a justice or municipal court to access the **financial responsibility verification program**. *It passed the House by a vote of 142-0.*
- **HB 1752** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) would allow **benefit review conferences** to be conducted by videoconference and only in-person hearings would need to be held within 75 miles of an injured worker's residence. *It passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 1757** by Matt Krause (R-Fort Worth) would create a defense to prosecution of interfering with a peace officer performing a duty that the conduct of the defendant consisted only of filming, recording or **documenting a peace officer**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 1919** by Cody Harris (R-Palestine) would prohibit a pharmacy benefit manager from transferring to or receiving from an affiliated pharmacy a record containing **patient- or prescriber-identifiable prescription information** for a commercial purpose. *The committee substitute and two floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 128-16.*
- **HB 1938** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would authorize law enforcement agencies that provide body cameras to its peace officers to apply to the governor's office for a grant to defray the cost of **data storage for recordings created by body worn cameras**. *It passed the House by a vote of 145-2.*
- **HB 2030** by Chris Turner (R-Grand Prairie) would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to administer a competitive grant program to eligible **regional postsecondary education collaboratives** to improve postsecondary educational outcomes for low-income students. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 99-48.*
- **HB 2112** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would remove the specification that a **holster** for an openly carried **handgun** be a shoulder or belt holster. *It passed the House by a vote of 135-11.*
- **HB 2201** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would require the Railroad Commission to establish standards governing permissible locations for **commercial oil and gas disposal facilities**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 147-0.*
- **HB 2499** by Lynn Stucky (R-Sanger) would require a person **towed behind a motorboat** to wear a personal flotation device. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 78-66.*
- **HB 3039** by Jake Ellzey (R-Midlothian) would allow the Railroad Commission to provide the notice required to be provided at least 30 days before the commission enters into a contract to **plug a delinquent inactive well** to be provided via e-mail. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 141-3.*
- **HB 3111** by Morgan Meyer (D-Dallas) would make it a criminal offense for a person, over electronic means to knowingly **solicit** a person with the intent to cause a **minor** to meet another person, including the actor, **to engage in sexual contact**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 146-0.*
- **HB 3476** by Mike Schofield (R-Katy) would prohibit a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more from requiring **water and sewer facilities** for a service area located outside the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction be designed and constructed to the municipality's facility standards. *It passed the House by a vote of 142-4.*



- **HB 3643** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would establish the **Texas Commission on Virtual Education**. *It passed the House by a vote of 103-41.*
- **HB 3746** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would require **breach notifications** that are required to be provided to the attorney general to include the number of affected residents that have been sent a disclosure of the breach. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 145-0.*
- **HB 3973** by Armando Walle (D-Houston) would allow money in the **Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund** to be used for regulation of geologic storage facilities and associated anthropogenic carbon dioxide injection wells. *It passed the House by a vote of 108-37.*
- **HB 4436** by John Cyrier (R-Lockhart) would allow a person to operate an **aircraft** in or on a **protected freshwater area** if the person makes a reasonable attempt to avoid harming or disturbing vegetation, wildlife, or wildlife habitat. *It passed the House by a vote of 143-0.*
- **SB 1438** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) allow a taxing unit, other than a special taxing unit, to calculate the **voter-approval tax rate** in the same manner as a special taxing unit if it was located in a declared disaster area during the tax year and the disaster caused physical damage to property. *Three floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 103-43.*

**On Thursday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills and passed 48 bills on Second Reading including:

- **HB 19** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would reform **trucking litigation**. *The committee substitute and three floor amendments were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 81-49.*
- **HB 21** by Victoria Neave (D-Dallas) would increase the statute of limitations for **workplace sexual harassment allegations**. *It passed the House by a vote of 130-1.*
- **HB 323** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would establish a grant program to provide financial assistance to **law enforcement agencies** to become accredited. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 127-2.*
- **HB 441** by Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood) would **reduce the penalty for marijuana possession**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 88-40.*
- **HB 769** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would make several changes to administration of the **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment were adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 120-9.*
- **HB 829** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require a Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission to implement a **disciplinary matrix** for infractions committed by **police officers**. *It passed the House by a vote of 100-28.*
- **HB 830** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require Texas Southern University to publish a written model policy regarding the issuance of **citations for misdemeanor offenses**; would require law enforcement agencies to adopt a written cite-and-release policy for fine-only misdemeanors, and would prohibit a peace officer from arresting without a warrant a person only committing fine-only misdemeanor traffic offenses. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 113-18.*
- **HB 834** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would require corroborating evidence for **Texas Controlled Substance Act convictions** made on the testimony of peace officers acting covertly on behalf of a law enforcement agency. *It passed the House by a vote of 98-33.*



- **HB 1002** by Eddie Lucio, III (D-Brownsville) would prohibit the use of **hypnotically induced testimony** in a criminal trial. *It passed the House by a vote of 130-0.*
- **HB 1068** by Alma Allen (D-Houston) would entitle school district employees that have available **personal leave** to use the leave for compensation for a day designated as a school holiday for which the employee would not otherwise receive compensation. *It passed the House by a vote of 118-11.*
- **HB 1097** by J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) would prohibit the sale of a **kratom product** to someone who is younger than 18 years of age. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 118-11.*
- **HB 1110** by Julie Johnson (D-Carrollton) would require residential property insurance policies that include **replacement cost coverage** to provide that in a valid claim for **damage to insured property**, the insurer must pay the full replacement cost without regard to whether the insured has completed repair or replacement of the property. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 87-40.*
- **HB 1202** by Jacey Jetton (R-Sugar Land) would authorize the governing body of a property owners' association to amend a **dedicatory instrument** to remove a **discriminatory provision**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 130-0.*
- **HB 1545** by John Cyrier (R-Lockhart) is the sunset bill for the **Commission on Jail Standards**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 130-0.*
- **HB 1554** by Glenn Rogers (R-Graford) would authorize **project funds of a municipal development district** to be used for a project outside the district if the board determines that the development project will provide an economic benefit to the district. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 110-20.*
- **HB 1560** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) is the sunset bill for the **Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**. *The committee substitute and one floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 130-0.*
- **HB 1588** by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would require health benefit plans to provide **coverage for scalp cooling** for enrollees undergoing or had undergone medical **treatment for cancer**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 104-27.*
- **HB 1607** by Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) would require the Public Utility Commission, as part of its decision to grant or deny a **certificate of public convenience and necessity for construction of a transmission line** a comparison of the levelized estimated cost of the transmission project and the estimated cost savings and economic benefits that may result from the project. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 106-23.*
- **HB 1758** by Matt Krause (R-Fort Worth) would make it an offense for a person to operate an **unmanned aircraft** that is equipped with a chemical dispensing device, an explosive weapon, and improvised explosive device, or a firearm. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 125-1.*
- **HB 2366** by Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) would make it a criminal offense for a person to explode or **ignite fireworks** with the intent **to interfere** with the lawful performance of an official duty by a **law enforcement officer**. *It passed the House by a vote of 119-12.*
- **HB 2622** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall) would be the **Second Amendment Sanctuary State Act** and would prohibit a county from assisting in the enforcement of new federal firearms laws or regulations. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 83-45.*

- **HB 2626** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would clarify that use tax is due on tangible personal property that is shipped or brought into the state by an **affiliate of the purchaser**. *It passed the House by a vote of 106-24.*
- **HB 2929** by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would expand the retaliatory actions an insurer can not take against a physician or provider including arbitrarily reducing the physician's or provider's fees on the **insurer's fee schedule**. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 120-11.*
- **HB 3158** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) would allow the parents of a deceased worker to bring an action based on the intentional act or omission of the employer or because of the **employer's gross negligence**. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 130-0.*
- **HB 3338** by Rhetta Andrews Bowers (R-Rowlett) would establish that a person who maintains a **place** to which persons habitually go to **engage in the burglary of vehicles** and who knowingly fails to make reasonable attempts to abate the activity would be classified as a **common nuisance**. *It passed the House by a vote of 103-26.*
- **HB 3373** by Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) would expand the duties of the **Texas Music Office**. *It passed the House by a vote of 117-12.*
- **HB 3557** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would authorize a **parent** or guardian to **elect for a student to repeat** or delay prekindergarten and kindergarten, to repeat grades one through eight, or to repeat a high school course. *It passed the House by a vote of 131-0.*
- **HB 4383** by Jim Murphy (R-Houston) would require institutions of higher education that offer a **fixed tuition rate program** to provide information explaining the effect of the program on the calculation of a student's cost per credit hour. *The committee substitute was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 128-0.*

**Texas AFL-CIO** President Rick Levy commented on House passage of **HB 829**, **HB 830** and **HB 834** saying, "We endorsed the three measures by Representative Senfronia Thompson that moved forward today: HB 829 (progressive disciplinary matrix in certain municipalities); HB 830 (practices regarding fine-only misdemeanors); and HB 834 (corroboration requirements in undercover drug cases). The House's bipartisan support for first steps in police reform couples with the Senate's bipartisan support for three bills that address key duties of police and limits on use of chokeholds. We commend the legislature on these votes and salute Representative Thompson, along with Senators Royce West and Borris Miles, for leading on long-overdue measures to protect all Texans, but particularly Black Texans and other persons of color, when they encounter law enforcement. The House and Senate should come together to move all these bills to Governor Greg Abbott's desk. No Texan should ever face the prospect of dying at the hands of police when deadly force is unnecessary."

Also on Thursday, the House adopted **HR 333** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress), which **removed the requirement** for House members (and others) on the floor of the House and in committee hearings **to wear masks**. It was adopted by a vote of 99-46.

**On Friday**, the House passed 47 Third Reading bills and 92 bills on the Local & Consent Calendar. And, they passed one bill on Second Reading:

- **HB 1433** by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) would prohibit an insurer from waiving a deductible owed by a policyholder under a **property insurance policy** in exchange for the policyholder's use of the insurer's preferred or recommended contractor for the claim subject to the deductible. *One floor amendment was adopted and it passed the House by a vote of 67-63.*

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

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

**This Week:** The House reconvened on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The House will be in session Monday through Saturday this week. The next Local & Consent Calendar has been scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2021.

## **BUDGET:**

### **House Appropriations Committee**

On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Committee took up:

- **HJR 82** by Tom Craddick (R-Midland) would propose a constitutional amendment creating the **Grow Texas Fund** composed of 12 percent of the amount of funds scheduled for transfer to the Economic Stabilization Fund up to \$250 million. The Legislature could appropriate Grow Texas Fund money only for use in areas of the state from which oil and gas are produced and only to address infrastructure needs. *It was left pending.*
- **SB 1336** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would limit the **growth in general revenue** to population growth plus inflation. *It was left pending.*
- **SB 1605** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) is the miscellaneous **claims and judgements** against the state bill. *It was left pending.*

### **Budget Conference Committee**

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick appointed Senate Conferees for **SB 1**, the general **appropriations bill**. They are Senators Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Lois Kolkhorst, (R-Brenham), Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville), and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood). Lt. Governor Patrick said, "I know that these senators will make sure our state budget reflects our commitment to conservative principles including keeping the budget within population growth times inflation. Their continued hard work will ensure that the Texas economy remains one of the strongest in the United States and a force in the rest of the world." On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Speaker Dade Phelan appointed House conferees. They are Representatives Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood), Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller), Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint), Armando Walle (D-Houston), and Terry Wilson (R-Granite Shoals).

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

- **General Revenue Funds** – Senate-\$117,941.6; House-\$118,052.9 (in millions) – Difference is \$111.3 million
- **General Revenue-Dedicated Funds** – Senate-\$6,327.7; House \$6,175.1 (in millions) – Difference is \$152.5 million
- **Federal Funds** – Senate-\$86,665.0; House \$83,389.1 – Difference is \$3,275.8 (in millions)

- **Other Funds** – Senate-\$39,769.7; House \$38,283.2 (in millions) – Difference is \$486.4 million
- **All Funds** – Senate-\$250,703.9; House-\$246,900.4 (in millions) – Difference is \$3,803.5 (in millions)

**General Government:**

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

**Health & Human Services:**

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

**Public Education:**

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

**Higher Education:**

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

**Public Safety & Criminal Justice:**

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

***This Week:***

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

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

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

**7:30 a.m. House Appropriations Committee** met in E1.030 of the capitol extension to take up **HB 4284** by Justin Holland (R-Rockwall), which would establish the **Texas Opioid Abatement**

**Fund Council** to fairly allocate money recovered by the state through an opioid settlement agreement.

## **STATEWIDE – COVID-19 RESPONSE:**

### **DSHS Weekly Vaccine Distribution Update**

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

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

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

### **Texas Resumes Use of the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine**

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Texas Department of State Health Services notified vaccine providers in the state that they should resume using the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. The announcement came after a thorough safety review and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory committee’s determination that the vaccine’s benefits outweigh its risks.

DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt said, “The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is an important tool in our fight against COVID-19, and the scientific review over the last 11 days has affirmed its safety and effectiveness. We know some Texans prefer the simplicity of a single-dose vaccine, and the ease of storing and handling this vaccine gives providers more flexibility. Resuming the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will prevent hospitalizations and save lives in Texas.” The CDC estimates that using the vaccine in the United States will prevent more than 2,200 intensive care admissions and 1,400 deaths over the next six months. The vaccine was paused April 13<sup>th</sup> after the vaccine safety system identified six rare but serious cases of blood clots in combination with low blood platelet counts, known as thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS. A total of fifteen cases of TTS have been identified in the U.S. out of the more than seven million people who have received the Johnson & Johnson



vaccine. Most were in women between the ages of 18 and 49 who experienced the first symptoms one to two weeks after vaccination. DSHS has shared information on how to treat TTS with health care professionals across the state. Vaccine providers should share information with everyone who receives the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. While TTS is extremely rare, people should seek medical attention if they experience any of these symptoms within three weeks of receiving the vaccine:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Leg swelling
- Persistent abdominal pain
- Severe or persistent headaches or blurred vision
- Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection

#### KEY LEGISLATION:

**HB 2205** - Relating to applicability of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code to certain pools, spas, and other swimming areas.

H	<a href="#">Reported engrossed</a>		04/29/2021	02:03 PM	1960
H	<a href="#">Record vote</a>	RV#542	04/29/2021		1784
H	<a href="#">Passed</a>		04/29/2021		1784
H	<a href="#">Read 3rd time</a>		04/29/2021		1784
H	<a href="#">Passed to engrossment</a>		04/28/2021		1745
H	<a href="#">Read 2nd time</a>		04/28/2021		1745
H	Placed on General State Calendar		04/28/2021		
H	Considered in Calendars		04/26/2021		
H	Committee report sent to Calendars		04/12/2021		
H	Committee report distributed		04/09/2021	04:00 PM	
H	<a href="#">Comte report filed with Committee Coordinator</a>		04/09/2021		978
H	Reported favorably as substituted		03/31/2021		
H	Committee substitute considered in committee		03/31/2021		
H	Considered in public hearing		03/31/2021		
H	Left pending in committee		03/24/2021		
H	Testimony taken/registration(s) recorded in committee		03/24/2021		
H	Committee substitute considered in committee		03/24/2021		
H	Considered in public hearing		03/24/2021		
H	Scheduled for public hearing on . . .		03/24/2021		
H	<a href="#">Referred to Urban Affairs</a>		03/15/2021	04:50 PM	484
H	<a href="#">Read first time</a>		03/15/2021		484

H	Filed		02/24/2021		
---	-------	--	------------	--	--