



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 01/25/25 PHTA

GOVERNOR

Governor Abbott Congratulates President Trump – On January 20th, Governor Greg Abbott congratulated the 47th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, on his inauguration saying, “Today marks the beginning of a new era in our nation - one brimming with promise and hope. As President Trump takes the oath of office and assumes his responsibilities as America's chief executive, I am confident that his leadership will restore and strengthen the principles that have long defined our great nation: freedom, economic opportunity, prosperity, and the rule of law. Congratulations to President Trump, Vice President JD Vance, and their families on this momentous occasion. Texas looks forward to working with President Trump and his Administration to secure the border and build a brighter, more prosperous future for all Americans.”

Governor Abbott Asks Congressional Leaders to Fund Border Security – On January 23rd, Governor Greg Abbott sent letters to U.S. Congressional Leadership and the entire Texas Congressional Delegation requesting the federal government reimburse Texas for the more than \$11.1 billion in Texas taxpayer money spent to secure the border due to the Biden Administration’s refusal to do its job for the last four years. Governor Abbott said, “President Biden’s policies left Texas and the rest of America defenseless against an unprecedented infiltration of violent criminals, known terrorists, and other hostile foreign actors, like the dangerous Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. I launched Operation Lone Star (OLS) to combat these threats to all Americans. Over the past four years, OLS efforts successfully reduced illegal immigration into Texas by 87 percent, demonstrated the ongoing effectiveness of President Donald Trump’s border measures, and shone a spotlight on a national crisis. In total, Texas has spent over \$11.1 billion to protect the nation and secure the border. Accordingly, I am formally requesting that the federal government reimburse Texas for these costs in full.” These letters follow the Governor’s meeting with U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson at the U.S. Capitol last Friday, where they discussed the ongoing border crisis.

[Here](#) is a link to the governor’s letter.

SENATE

On Wednesday, Senator Bryan Hughes called the Senate to order. SB 1 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston), the General Appropriations bill, was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. SJR 36 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood), the “blocker” bill, was referred to the Senate Administration Committee. A motion in writing was submitted by Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), Dean of the Senate, to recess until 10:00 a.m. on Friday.

On Friday, Senator Bryan Hughes convened the Senate. The secretary read messages from the governor related to appointments and they were referred to the Nominations Committee. **SB 2** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) relating to education savings accounts was referred to the Education K-16 Committee. Senator Judith Zaffirini made a motion in writing that the Senate adjourn until next Tuesday.

Lt. Governor Patrick Names Senate Committees – On January 17th. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick announced Senate committee assignments. Lt. Governor Patrick said, “Texas has the population and economic strength of a separate nation. With the 8th largest economy in the world, we would be the 39th largest nation in geographic size, and the 50th largest in population if we were a country. When it comes to legislative bodies, the Texas Senate is clearly the best in the world. What the Texas Senate does matters. We impact public policy across the country and around the world. As Texas goes, so goes the nation. As the nation goes, so goes the world. I’m proud to serve as President of the Texas Senate and work with such talented and hard-working leaders, each in their own right. Throughout the interim, your senators have worked tirelessly to study the issues and prepare for this legislative session. With these committee appointments, the Texas Senate is hitting the

ground running, ready to do the work the voters sent us to do.” Senate committee chairs are:

- Administration Committee – Senator Bob Hall (R-Edgewood), Chair
- Border Security Committee – Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury), Chair
- Business & Commerce Committee – Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown), Chair
- Criminal Justice Committee – Senator Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton), Chair
- Economic Development Committee – Senator Phil King (R-Weatherford), Chair
- Education K-16 Committee – Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe), Chair
- Finance Committee – Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Chair
- Health & Human Services Committee – Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), Chair
- Jurisprudence Committee – Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), Chair
- Local Government Committee – Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), Chair
- Natural Resources Committee – Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury), Chair
- Nominations Committee – Senator Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels), Chair
- State Affairs Committee – Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), Chair
- Transportation Committee – Senator Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville), Chair
- Veteran Affairs Committee – Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills), Chair
- Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee – Senator Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), Chair

[Here](#) is a link to the list of Senate committee assignments.

Next Week: The Senate recessed until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

HOUSE

On Thursday, Representative Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) explained HR 4, the permanent House rules for the session. After an hour of discussion, Representative Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) moved the previous question. That motion had to be seconded by 25 members. Representative Patterson announced that 45 Republicans and 32 Democrats signed a letter seconding the motion.

The motion to call the question passed by a vote of 107 to 35 and the previous question was ordered. 34 Republicans and one Democrat (Ana-Maria Rodriguez Ramos) voted “nay.” HR 4 was adopted by a vote of 116 to 23. One Democrat (Harold Dutton) and 22 Republicans voted “nay.” The Republicans were Ben Bumgarner, Briscoe Cain, Mark Dorazio, Caroline Harris Davila, Brian Harrison, Richard Hayes, Andy Hopper, Carrie Isaac, Mitch Little, AJ Louderback, David Lowe, JM Lozano, Shelley Luther, Brent Money, Mike Olcott, Katrina Pierson, Keresa Richardson, Nate Schatzline, Alan Schoolcraft, Joanne Shofner, Tony Tinderholt, and Wes Virdell.

The speaker announced that House members will receive committee preference cards this afternoon and are due back by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Changes to House Rules Adopted in HR 4:

- The speaker is expressly authorized to designate in writing a member other than the speaker pro tempore to preside as temporary chair in the speaker's absence and to clarify that the temporary chair does not become speaker in the event of a vacancy, as is currently expressly provided for the speaker pro tempore. (Rule 1, § 10)
- House officers, their chief assistants, and supervisory administrative employees are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the speaker, who may delegate this authority to the Committee on House Administration as necessary.
- The speaker will directly appoint the Permanent Standing Subcommittee chair, vice-chair, and membership (seniority does not apply to appointment of PSCs); directly refer legislation to a PSC (committee chair may also refer legislation to PSC, but is not required to); and directly issue interim charges to a PSC. (Rule 1, §§ 4, 15; Rule 4, §§ 2, 8, 24, 43, 44, 48)
- The restriction on the speaker pro tempore serving on more than one substantive committee or serving as a committee chair is repealed. (Rule 4, § 2)
- The rule is amended to restrict the appointment of chairs of a standing committee to those members of the political party that constitutes a majority of the house membership and to provide that a majority party member may not be appointed as a vice chair of a standing committee. Committee chairs would directly consult with vice-chairs in scheduling committee business, and vice-chairs may designate measures to be considered and witnesses to be invited. Vice-chairs may request impact statements for legislation. (Rule 4, §§ 2(a)(7), 4A, 6, 6A)

The following Committees were Abolished:

- Business and Industry - the committee's former jurisdiction is generally combined with the jurisdiction of the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee, which is renamed as the Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development Committee.
- County Affairs - the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to a new Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.
- Defense and Veterans Affairs – the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to the former Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, to be renamed the Homeland Security, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee.
- Juvenile Justice and Family Issues – the committee's criminal law jurisdiction, including juvenile detention facilities, is transferred to the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, and the committee's family law jurisdiction is transferred to the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee.
- Resolutions Calendars – the committee's jurisdiction is transferred to the Local and Consent Calendars Committee.

- Urban Affairs – the committee’s jurisdiction is transferred to a new Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

The following new standing committees were created:

Delivery of Government Efficiency – the committee is given general jurisdiction over government efficiency and waste, fraud, and abuse; jurisdiction from the 85R Government Transparency and Operations Committee; jurisdiction over advances in science and technology, including 88R jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies.

Intergovernmental Affairs – the committee is given the combined jurisdictions of the former County Affairs and Urban Affairs Committees, in addition to the jurisdiction of the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee over state-federal relations.

The size of the Following Standing Committees was Increased:

- Criminal Jurisprudence;
- Homeland Security, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs;
- Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development;
- Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence;
- Licensing and Administrative Procedures;
- Natural Resources;
- Public Education;
- Public Health;
- State Affairs; and
- Ways and Means.

The Following Permanent Standing Subcommittees (PSCs) were established:

- Criminal Jurisprudence - PSC on Juvenile Justice (former criminal law jurisdiction of Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee)
- Homeland Security, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs - PSC on Defense and Veterans Affairs (generally jurisdiction of former Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee)
- Intergovernmental Affairs - PSC on County and Regional Government (jurisdiction of former County Affairs Committee); and PSC on State-Federal Relations (jurisdiction of former International Relations and Economic Development Committee over state-federal relations)
- Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence - PSC on Family and Fiduciary Relationships (jurisdiction over probate and guardianship matters and jurisdiction of former Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee over family law)
- Public Education - PSC on Academic and Career-Oriented Education (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)
- Public Health - PSC on Disease Prevention and Women’s and Children’s Health (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)
- State Affairs - PSC on Telecommunications and Broadband (jurisdiction over the telecommunications utilities/industry and provision of broadband services)

- Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development - PSC on Workforce (jurisdiction over workforce issues from the former Business and Industry Committee and the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee); and PSC on International Relations (jurisdiction over international relations and trade from the former International Relations and Economic Development Committee)
- Transportation - PSC on Transportation Funding (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)
- Ways and Means - PSC on Property Tax Appraisals (new specific jurisdiction over subject matter)

Next Week: The House adjourned until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025.

TRACKED LEGISLATION

[HB 1133](#)

Relating to the authority of a property owners' association to prohibit or regulate certain swim instruction provided in a pool on an owner's or resident's property.

Author: Carrie Isaac

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

[HB 1245](#)

Relating to a prohibition on the use of water on nonresidential property to irrigate nonfunctional turf during a drought.

Author: Vikki Goodwin

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

[SB 63](#)

Relating to the licensing and regulation of child swim instruction operators; requiring an occupational license; imposing penalties, including administrative penalties; authorizing fees.

Author: Judith Zaffirini

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

[SB 100](#)

Relating to the issuance of a license by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to certain out-of-state applicants; authorizing a fee.

Author: Bob Hall

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

Key Dates – 89th Legislative Session

- 89th Legislative Session Begins: January 14, 2025
- Inauguration of US President – January 20, 2025
- Bill Filing Deadline: March 14, 2025
- 89th Legislative Session Ends: June 2, 2025
- Governor’s Veto Deadline: June 22, 2025



Keep Track of the Texas Legislature

To keep track of bills or access legislative information for this or previous sessions, visit [Texas Legislature Online \(TLO\)](#).

To learn more about the Texas State Senate and its activities, visit the [Texas State Senate](#) website.

To learn more about the Texas House of Representatives and its activities, visit the [Texas House of Representatives](#) website.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Texas Legislative newsletter. We look forward to providing weekly news and information important to each of you while working to make the 89th Legislative Session a very successful one for PHTA!

Sincerely,

Jake Posey and Steve Koebele
Texas Pool & Spa Coalition (TPSC) Lobbyists