



**TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**04/6/25**  
**PHTA**

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**GOVERNOR**

**Governor Proclaims April Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month**

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation recognizing April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in Texas. This month is a time for

Texans to come together to raise awareness around the issue of sexual assault and to recognize the courage of survivors across Texas and throughout the nation.

Governor Abbott Said, "Every person is worthy of respect and protection, especially from acts of sexual violence. The State of Texas works tirelessly to defend Texans from these cruel offenses, making sure that each perpetrator is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Each April, we acknowledge the strength and courage of each survivor and recognize their resiliency and hope. As we work together to prevent sexual assault in our state, may we honor each survivor, raise awareness, and build a future where each Texan can live in safety."

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault CEO Rose Luna added, "We commend the State of Texas for prioritizing efforts to assist sexual assault survivors and for its commitment to funding and supporting rape crisis centers. Their impactful work provides critical resources and advocacy for survivors across the state."

[Here](#) is a link to the proclamation.

### **Governor Abbott Participates on Texas Law Federalist Society Event**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott participated in a fireside chat with the Texas Law Federalist Society where he touted the state's exceptional policies that have led to a booming economy, a world-class business climate, and a safer Texas at The University of Texas (UT) at Austin.

Governor Abbott said, "We must use the law as both a sword and shield. There is a need for speed to have policies enacted. That led to the creation of a new court of appeals that has expert judges swiftly deciding on matters that ensure government operates effectively, efficiently, and as swiftly as possible in business matters. These new business courts are now a magnet for business enterprises coming to Texas. Today's lawyers have a role to play that's more important than ever before. By getting involved, the next generation of lawyers will restore law and order in Texas and across the nation."

Moderated by UT Austin interim President Jim Davis and Texas Law Federalist Society President Jordan Lamb, Governor Abbott drew attention to Texas' Fifteenth Court of Appeals which provides swift resolutions for complex commercial disputes in Texas. The Governor also mentioned the success of Texas' border security mission, Operation Lone Star. The Governor noted that Texas deployed thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers, installed buoys and miles of razor wire, and built our own border wall - decreasing illegal crossings into the state by 85 percent.

## SENATE

The Senate was in session Monday through Thursday this week.

**On Monday**, the Senate passed 13 bills including:

**SB 379** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would prohibit **supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits** from being used to purchase an energy drink; a sweetened beverage; a carbonated beverage; candy; potato or corn chips; or cookies.

**SB 965** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would codify the **right** of a **school district** or charter employee to engage in **religious speech or prayer** while on duty may not be infringed on by the district or charter unless the infringement is necessary to further a compelling state interest and narrowly tailored using the least restrictive means to achieve that compelling state interest.

**SB 686** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would **allow students to transfer** from one school district to another district (not just adjoining districts) that offers the appropriate grade level and has capacity.

**SB 924** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would exempt **streaming content** from the definition of “cable service;” and would add streaming content to the definition of “video service.”

**SB 961** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would make it unlawful for a person to file a claim under a **state health program** without indicating the type of licensed held by the **health care provider** that provided the service.

**SB 988** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would increase the penalty for the offense of criminal mischief involving impairment or **disruption to a retail motor fuel pump**.

**SB 1024** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a local entity from authorizing **anticipation notes** to pay for a project **if the voters have rejected** a bond proposition to fund the **same project** within the past five years.

**SB 1038** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would update statutes related to **Medicaid fraud**.

**SB 1202** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would allow a person authorized to review a development document required by a regulatory authority to install a **home backup power installation** without having to submit the document to the authority for review.

**SB 1252** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would prohibit a municipality from adopting or enforcing an amendment to the National Electrical Code that would regulate the installation or inspection of a **residential energy backup system**.

**SB 1697** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require the Public Utility Commission to develop a guide to provide consumers with basic information and

guidelines to consider when determining whether to install a **solar energy device** at their residence.

**SJR 57** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the use of state funds to pay for the debts or other obligations of a **local public retirement system**.

They also passed three bills to Third Reading:

**SB 318** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establish the **Election Integrity Division** in the Office of the Attorney General to investigate reports of election fraud or that a person has committed an election offense.

**SB 707** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would authorize the **legislature** to determine that a **federal law**, rule, or other directive is **unconstitutional** and to prohibit a state or local government or employee from enforcing it.

**SB 875** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would make it a Class A misdemeanor for a **school superintendent** to use state or local funds including use of the district's e-mail, telephone, mailing list or meeting to **electioneer** for or against any candidate, measure, or political party.

**On Tuesday**, the Senate passed the three Third Reading bills and 23 additional bills including:

**SB 8** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would require the sheriff in counties with a population of 100,000 or more to enter into a written agreement with the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to authorize officers and employees of the **sheriff's department to enforce federal immigration law**.

**SB 16** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require a person to submit **proof of citizenship to register to vote.**

**SB 108** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would allow **alternate presiding election judges** to freely observe the area in which voters are being accepted for voting and to appoint election clerks to assist them.

**SB 207** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would allow an **excused absence** for students to attend a **mental health appointment.** *It passed by a vote of 31-0.*

**SB 371** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require written parental consent for a student to participate in **human sexuality instruction.**

**SB 396** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require voter registrars to deliver a voter a written confirmation notice requesting **confirmation of the voter's current address** if the voter's residence address is a commercial post office box or similar location that does not correspond to a residence.

**SB 472** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would allow the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board to bring a **counterclaim in an appeal.**

**SB 533** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would require an **election** for the **authorization** of the issuance **of bonds or a tax increase** to be held on the November uniform election date.

**SB 599** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would prohibit political subdivisions from adopting an ordinance requiring a **licensed child care home** or **registered family home** to comply with health and safety standards exceeding those adopted by the Texas Health & Human Services Commission.

**SB 621** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would prohibit a political subdivision from establishing, operating, or owning an organization or entity that is organized for the purpose of **engaging in banking**.

**SB 856** by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would authorize **Skills Development Fund** money to be awarded to projects that partner with Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station.

**SB 965** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would codify the **right** of a **school district** or charter employee to engage in **religious speech or prayer** while on duty may not be infringed on by the district or charter unless the infringement is necessary to further a compelling state interest and narrowly tailored using the least restrictive means to achieve that compelling state interest.

**SB 1207** by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would require the **parenting awareness program** of a school district to include information related to adoption.

**SB 1330** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would prohibit a nonparticipating supplier from charging an enrollee more than 115 percent of the **Medicare-approved amount** for **durable medical equipment**.

**SB 1497** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would **exempt skimmers** from the definition of **wireless communications device** for purposes of the prohibition on peace officers search a person's wireless communication device without a warrant.

**SB 1498** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would add **digital currency** to **asset forfeiture** statutes.

**SB 1535** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would establish an **Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce Commission** to address the workforce needs of the advanced nuclear energy industry.

**SB 1619** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would authorize the use of **epinephrine delivery devices** in schools.

**SJR 37** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would propose a constitutional amendment clarifying that a **voter must be a U.S. citizen**.

**On Wednesday**, the Senate passed 20 bills including:

**SB 7** by Charles Perry would establish the **Texas Water Fund Advisory Committee** to oversee the Water Fund structure and would increase responsibilities of the Texas Water Development Board over financing and reporting of water projects.

**SB 125** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would require a hospital to allow an individual on whom a medical procedure is to be performed to provide a **direct blood donation** for the procedure.

**SB 578** by Royce West (D-Dallas) would require a housing development that receives an allocation of low-income housing tax credits to install operable exterior **surveillance cameras**.

**SB 617** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would require municipalities to hold a public hearing before converting a property under the municipality's control to **housing for homeless individuals**.



**SB 763** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would require Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to conduct a protectiveness review of permits to operate **concrete batch plant** at least every six years.

**SB 878** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would prohibit **municipalities** from entering a **Chapter 380 agreement** that provides an **ad valorem tax exemption**; but grants or loans would be allowed.

**SB 906** by César Blanco (D-El Paso) would authorize the **Ysleta del Sur Pueblo** to commission peace officers.

**SB 920** by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would make open-enrollment charter and private school employees immune from liability for damages or injuries resulting from the **administration of medication** to a student if the school has received a written request to administer the medication.

**SB 985** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would allow the commissioners court of a county to **combine election precincts** if a redistricting plan results in a precinct with fewer than 500 registered voters.

**SB 1084** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would require information on a patient's breast density to be included in **mammography reports** provided to the patient.

**SB 1366** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would require information about construction or maintenance work zones to be added to the curriculum for **driver education and driving safety courses**.

**SB 1816** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would institute regulation and registration of **miniature vehicles**.

They passed 2 bills to Third Reading:

**SB 406** by Mayes Middleton (R-Wallisville) would require **birth certificates** to include a space for recording the **biological sex** at birth of the person as either male or female; and would prohibit a state or local registrar from changing the sex on a birth certificate.

**SB 689** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require governmental entities to ensure that each unit of the entity does not maintain a **diversity, equity, and inclusion** office or have an employee to perform duties of a diversity, equity and inclusion office.

**On Thursday**, the Senate passed the two Third Reading bills and 11 other bills including:

**SB 27** by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) is the **Teacher Bill of Rights** bill.

**SB 29** by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would allow the governing documents of a **domestic entity** to require that any **internal entity claims** shall be brought only in a **court in this state** and that one or more courts in this state having jurisdiction shall serve as the exclusive forum and venue for any internal entity claim.

**SB 875** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would make it a Class A misdemeanor for a **school superintendent** to use state or local funds including use of the district's e-mail, telephone, mailing list or meeting to **electioneer** for or against any candidate, measure, or political party.

**SB 879** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would exempt drillers or operators of **closed-loop geothermal injection wells** from permitting requirements.

**SB 922** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would prohibit **sensitive test results** from being disclosed to a patient by electronic means.

**SB 1098** by César Blanco (D-El Paso) would require a **pharmacist** to disclose to a customer the **lowest cash price** at that pharmacy for the drug or biological product prescribed to the consumer.

**SB 1453** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would require recalculation of the **voter-approved tax rate** based on the debt rate of the taxing unit.

**SB 1536** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require persons appointed a **guardian** to complete three hours of **training on dementia** and Alzheimer's disease annually.

**SB 1741** by Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound) would require institutions of higher education to annually report to the coordinating board on **funding received** by the institution from a **foreign entity** during the preceding year; would prohibit a gift, grant, or donation from the government of China or a company or entity directly or indirectly controlled by the government of China; and would require researchers at institutions of higher education to complete training on the prevention of **espionage and intellectual property theft**.

**SB 2188** by Adam Hinojosa (R-Corpus Christi) would allow the City of Brownsville to restrict beach access on weekdays for **spaceflight activities**.

**SB 2230** by Adam Hinojosa (R-Corpus Christi) would mandate evacuations when deemed necessary by the Federal Aviation Administration at the time of a **spaceflight launch**.

They also passed one bill to Third Reading:

**SJR 12** by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would propose a constitutional amendment establishing a **parent's right to direct a child's education** including choosing an alternative to public education.

**Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week: 128**

**Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 62**

**Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 189**

**Next Week:** The Senate adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025.



## HOUSE

The House was in session Monday through Thursday this week.

**On Monday**, the House conducted routine business.

**On Tuesday**, the House passed its first bill of the session:

**HJR 4** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the enactment of a law imposing an occupation tax on **entities involved in securities transactions**.

They also gave preliminary approval to four bills:

**HB 13** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would establish the **Texas Interoperability Council** to develop and implement a statewide strategic plan for governing the interoperability of emergency communication equipment and infrastructure.

**HB 135** by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would exempt **game and exotic animals** from the **sales tax**.

**HB 143** by Ken King (R-Canadian) would require the Railroad Commission to notify the Public Utility Commission and other utilities if during an **inspection of a well site** or surface facility, it discovers a condition involving an **electric power line** that does not meet National Electrical Code standards; and would require the utility to investigate the site.

**HB 195** by Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas) would require property tax information for school districts subject to recapture to be added to the appraisal district database including information on the **percentage of taxes subject to recapture**.

**On Wednesday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills and one constitutional amendment:

**HJR 1** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would propose a constitutional amendment increasing the **personal property tax exemption** for businesses from the current \$2,500 to \$250,000. (the enabling bill is HB 9)

They gave preliminary approval to:

**HB 9** by Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas) would increase the **personal property tax exemption** for businesses from the current \$2,500 to \$250,000. (this is the enabling bill for HJR 1)

**HB 22** by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would exempt **intangible personal property** from ad valorem taxes.

**HB 908** by David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) would require law enforcement agencies to **report missing children** to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

**HB 1392** by John Bucy (D-Austin) would postpone the **delinquency date for payment of ad valorem taxes** if the office of the tax collector is closed on the delinquency date.

On **Thursday**, the House passed its Third Reading bills.

**Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week: 90**

**Total number of bills passed by the House this week: 10**

**Total number of bills passed by the House this session: 10**

**Next Week:** The House is standing at ease until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025 for reading and referral of bills. It will then adjourn until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 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: (3/7/2025) - Referred to Trade, Workforce and Economic Development

[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: (3/10/2025) - Referred to Natural Resources

[HB 2613](#)

**Relating to liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities.**

Author: Caroline Harris Davila

Last Action: (4/2/2025) - Left pending in committee

[HB 5559](#)

**Relating to the enforcement of drought contingency plans by water and sewer utilities and the Public Utility Commission of Texas.**

Author: Cody Harris

Last Action: (3/14/2025) - 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: (2/3/2025) - Referred to Business & Commerce

[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: (2/3/2025) - Referred to Business & Commerce

[SB 1119](#)

**Relating to liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities.**

Author: Bryan Hughes

Last Action: (3/13/2025) - Vote taken in committee

[SB 2662](#)

**Relating to the enforcement of drought contingency plans by water and sewer utilities and the Public Utility Commission of Texas.**

Author: Charles Perry

Last Action: (4/3/2025) - Referred to Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

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### **Key Dates – 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

- 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Begins: January 14, 2025
  - Inauguration of US President – January 20, 2025
  - Bill Filing Deadline: March 14, 2025
  - 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Ends: June 2, 2025
  - Governor's Veto Deadline: June 22, 2025
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## **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  
TPSC Lobbyists