



**TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**04/20/25**  
**PHTA**

**GOVERNOR**

**Governor Issues Statement on Shooting at Wilmer-Hutchins High School**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott issued a statement following the shooting at Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas saying, “Our hearts go out to the victims of this senseless act of violence at Wilmer-Hutchins High School. I spoke with Dallas ISD Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde and Dallas ISD Chief Albert Martinez. I offered to support the school

district families, students, and staff and to provide law enforcement with the tools they need to arrest the criminals involved and bring them to justice. Since I've been Governor, Texas has provided over \$3 billion in school safety funding. This session, I am seeking an additional \$500 million to further safeguard schools across the state. Cecilia and I ask our fellow Texans to join us in praying for the victims' swift recovery and for the entire Wilmer-Hutchins High School community."

### **Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Tim Timmerman and reappointed Bobby Patton to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for terms set to expire on February 1, 2031. The Commission manages and conserves the natural and cultural resources of Texas and provides hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



## **SENATE**

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

- SB 326 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would provide that institutions of higher education when taking disciplinary action against a student for behavior that violates the institution's code of conduct that may reasonably be determined to have been motivated by antisemitism to consider the definition of antisemitism in Section 448.001 of the Government Code – "a certain perception of Jews that may be expressed as hatred toward Jews including rhetorical and physical acts of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property or toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."
- SB 605 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would prohibit the Commissioner of Education from approving a request for a charter expansion amendment if the charter holder or any campus operating under the charter is currently subject to an accountability intervention or sanction.
- SB 1320 by Kevin Sparks (R-Odessa) would establish the Organized Oilfield Theft Prevention Unit within the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- SB 1567 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would prohibit a home-rule municipality from adopting a zoning ordinance that limits the number of people who may occupy a dwelling unit based on age, familial status, relationship status, occupation, or whether the occupants are related to each other.
- SJR 27 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment changing the composition of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to include judges from the Court of Criminal Appeals, district courts and county courts at law.

The Senate also passed two bills to Third Reading:

- SB 762 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would specify the flags allowed to be displayed at a public school and prohibit flags not on the list from being displayed.
- SB 1596 by Brent Hagenbuch (R-Ponder) would remove short-barrel firearms from the list of prohibited weapons.

**On Tuesday**, the Senate passed 16 bills including:

- SB 34 by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) require the Texas A&M Forest Service to create and maintain a statewide database of firefighting equipment, which will be accessible to all fire departments; and would increase the funding cap for the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Fund from \$30 million to \$40 million.
- SB 310 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would prohibit a majority vote from being determined using a preferential voting system to reassign votes.
- SB 819 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would require a permit for a person to interconnect a renewable energy generation facility to a transmission facility.
- SB 1030 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would provide a sales tax exemption for aircraft maintenance parts and equipment.
- SB 1208 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would
- SB 1233 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would be the Perinatal Palliative Care Act and would require the Health & Human Services Commission to develop perinatal palliative care informational materials to ensure that a pregnant woman whose preborn child is diagnosed with a life-threatening disability is informed of the availability of perinatal palliative care.
- SB 1333 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would make it an offense for knowingly listing real property for sale or lease to which the offeror does not have legal title; and would allow an owner of residential real property to request the sheriff to immediately give a squatter notice to vacate the property.
- SB 1405 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would update the definition of broadband service; and would exempt Internet access services from the sales tax.
- SB 1541 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would give the Secretary of State's office authority to continually monitor elections following a randomized audit of a county elections office.
- SB 1750 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would provide instructional facilities funding for open-enrollment charter schools.
- SB 1758 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would limit the liability by a portland cement kiln operator for damages to a semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility if the cement facility began operating before the semiconductor wafer manufacturing facility began operation.
- SB 2365 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would prohibit students from using personal wireless communication devices during instructional time.
- SB 2411 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would update the Business Organizations Code related to business organizations to align with corresponding statutes.

The Senate also passed three bills to Third Reading:

- SB 33 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) would prohibit a governmental entity from providing logistical support to an abortion provider
- SB 37 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would require the general education review committee of institutions of higher education to review the institution's core curriculum; and would create the Office of Excellence in Higher Education to maintain transparency between institutions of higher education, legislators and taxpayers to uphold institutions' compliance with state law.
- SB 505 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would establish a civil complaint procedure for individuals involved in an election; would create a process for referring election irregularities to the Secretary of State, who would determine if an audit is necessary.

**On Wednesday**, the Senate passed 28 bills including:

- SB 22 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) would increase funding for the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program.
- SB 30 by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) would establish a procedure for recovery of damages in civil actions related to a health care claim.
- SB 75 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would create the Texas Grid Security Commission under the direction of the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to evaluate all hazards to the ERCOT electric grid and vulnerabilities of essential service systems for municipalities.
- SB 626 by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would require mental health treatment facilities and hospitals providing rehabilitation services to provide at least eight hours of initial training for new employees on identifying abuse, neglect and illegal and unethical conduct and three hours for continuing employees.
- SB 926 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would authorize an HMO to provide incentives for enrollees to use certain physicians or providers through modified deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing provisions.
- SB 964 by Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) would require drivers' licenses and personal identification certificates issued to people who are not U.S. citizens to be clearly distinguishable from those issued to a citizen.
- SB 1080 by Royce West (D-Dallas) would provide a six-month provisional occupational license to previously incarcerated applicants beginning when the applicant is released from custody.
- SB 1099 by Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton) would increase the criminal penalty for offenses committed by a person who is not lawfully present in the United States.
- SB 1177 by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) would require training in conducting fire safety inspections in public schools for fire protection personnel or recruits.
- SB 1646 by Phil King (R-Weatherford) would clarify statutes prohibiting theft of copper or brass at a telecommunications facility also apply to cable television and Internet access services.
- SB 1806 by Kevin Sparks (R-Midland) would make it a criminal offense for a person to continue using a disposal well or begin drilling a disposal well without obtaining a permit.

- SB 1927 by Adam Hinojosa (R-Corpus Christi) would allow a property owner to remove Ashe juniper trees located on residential property without facing municipal prohibitions or tree mitigation fees.
- SB 1962 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would remove the grounds for filing a lawsuit to prevent A-F ratings from being released.
- SB 2122 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) would require a nonrefundable fee of \$200 to be filed with each application for a fluid injection well permit.
- SB 2226 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would lower the local match requirement for financial assistant to construct and repair local aviation facilities from 10 percent to 5 percent if the facilities are located in an economically disadvantaged county.
- SB 2361 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) would transfer the University of Houston-Victoria to the Texas A&M University System making it Texas A&M University-Victoria.
- SB 2420 by Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) would require the owner of an app store to use an age verification tool and if an individual is a minor, require parental permission before authorizing the account.
- SB 2425 by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) would regulate automated motor vehicles.
- SJR 39 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) would propose a constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to override a veto of the governor after the regular session.

The Senate passed one bill to Third Reading:

- SB 2023 by César Blanco (D-El Paso) would establish a grant program to help counties cover the costs of disposing of the bodies of deceased paupers.

The Senate also passed bills on the Local & Uncontested Calendar. Those bills are in the issue sections below.

<b>Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week:</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week:</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Total bills passed on Local &amp; Uncontested Calendar this week:</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session:</b>	<b>483</b>

**Next Week:** The Senate is in recess until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.



## HOUSE

**On Monday**, the House passed six bills to Third Reading including:

- HB 39 by Ray Lopez (D-San Antonio) would require the Texas Department of State Health Services to report veteran death statistics to the Texas Veterans Commission by manner of death if the death was by suicide or homicide, age, race, sex, and occupation.
- HB 102 by Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown) would allow early registration for students who are in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.
- HB 126 by Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock) would establish guidelines for use of a student athlete's name, image or likeness.
- HB 290 by Ray Lopez (D-San Antonio) would clarify the tuition and fee exemption for members of Texas military forces to apply to each "term" as well as each semester.
- HB 300 by Terry Wilson would double the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (increase from \$15,000 to \$30,000).

They also adopted two resolutions:

- HCR 64 by Pat Curry (R-Waco) would designate the first full week in April as Gifted and Talented Students Week.
- HCR 101 by Ken King (R-Canadian) would designate the tomahawk rib-eye steak as the official State Steak of Texas.

**On Tuesday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills and passed 13 bills to Third Reading including:

- HB 6 by Jeff Leach (R-Allen) would be the "Teachers' Bill of Rights."
- HB 20 by Gary Gates (R-Richmond) would establish an Applied Sciences Pathway Program to provide opportunities for students to concurrently earn high school diplomas and certificates from institutions of higher education.
- HB 100 by Terri Leo-Wilson (R-Galveston) would prohibit school districts from purchasing instructional materials included on the State Board of Education's rejected instructional materials list.
- HB 120 by Keith Bell (R-Forney) would enhance career and technology education programs by requiring Texas Education Agency (TEA) to establish the Military Pathway Grant Program and provide money to school districts to implement the program; requiring TEA to establish a High School Advising Program to provide college or career advising supports to students; and expanding the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program.
- HB 142 by Candy Noble (R-Lucas) would allow the Health & Human Services Inspector General to disclose information obtained in the course of conducting the office's administrative oversight activities to a federal, state, or local governmental entity authorized to receive the information.
- HB 150 by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake) would establish the Texas Cyber Command as a component institution of The University of Texas System.

- HB 210 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City) would prohibit a vendor that bids on or receives a contract from a school district if any individual serving on the school board has a substantial interest in the vendor or is related in the second degree by consanguinity or affinity to an individual who has a substantial interest in the vendor; a first violation is a Class C misdemeanor; a second violation a Class B misdemeanor; third offense is a Class A misdemeanor; and a fourth or subsequent offense is a state jail felony.
- HB 1268 by Angie Chen Button (R-Garland) would establish the Texas Technology and Innovation Program to foster job creation and economic development by matching or supplementing money received by a business entity through the federal small business innovation research and small business technology transfer programs.
- HB 1393 by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would require the state observe daylight saving time year-round.

**House Considers First Emergency Calendar of the Session** – Speaker Dustin Burrows released statement after the Texas House considered its first emergency calendar of the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and passed three of Governor Greg Abbott’s emergency items saying, “The Texas House continues to gain momentum with the overwhelming passage today of three of Governor Abbott’s emergency items for the session, including measures to strengthen the Texas workforce by expanding career and technology education programs in public schools so students are better prepared to earn certificates and enter high-demand jobs. The House also voted to create the Texas Cyber Command so our state has the tools to better secure critical infrastructure and governmental entities against cybersecurity threats from hostile criminals and foreign actors. I want to thank House members for working to ensure our state remains resilient in the face of outside threats and full of opportunities for our next generation of Texans.

- HB 20 establishes the Applied Sciences Pathway program to help high school juniors and seniors simultaneously earn both a diploma and certificate from institutions of higher education in high-demand trades like welding, cybersecurity, aviation maintenance, and automotive tech.
- HB 120 expands and strengthens career and technology education (CTE) programs in Texas public schools to help students better prepare for high-demand fields. It provides free dual credit courses for eligible students, recognizes Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps as an official CTE program and funds military career programs through it, increases funding for high school college and career advisors, and enhances funding formulas to support rural and small districts participating in workforce-focused education partnerships.
- HB 150 creates the Texas Cyber Command, a new state agency within the University of Texas System focused solely on cybersecurity. The command would take over duties from the Texas Department of Information Resources to better protect state agencies, local governments, and critical infrastructure from cyberthreats and oversee incident response, digital forensics, cybersecurity training, and statewide threat monitoring.”



**On Wednesday**, the House gave final approval to the Third Reading bills and passed 15 bills to Third Reading including:

- HB 2 by Brad Buckley (R-Salado), the omnibus school finance bill.
- HB 117 by Alan Schoolcraft (R-Universal City) would establish the Governor’s Task Force on Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care to address the governance and operational challenges of the early childhood education system.
- HB 141 by Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur) would repeal the existing interstate Compact for the Placement of Children and adopt a revised version in its place to establish a uniform process and procedures for applicable placements of children across state lines to ensure they are placed in safe and suitable homes in a timely manner.
- HB 213 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would qualify chronically absent students to receive at-risk support services.
- HB 222 by James Talarico (D-Austin) would allow the school safety allotment to be used for providing professional development for educators that includes training in classroom behavioral management
- HB 643 by Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) would raise the payment bond threshold for public work contracts from \$25,000 to \$200,000.
- HB 645 by Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint) would require the Health & Human Services Commission to ensure that quality co-navigation services are provided to individuals who are deaf-blind.
- HB 1022 by Eddie Morales (D-Eagle Pass) would authorize Sul Ross State University to offer all levels of college courses, instead of only upper-level courses.
- HB 1458 by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) would allow reserve deputy sheriffs and honorably retired police peace officers to serve as school security officers.
- HB 1700 by Caroline Fairly (R-Amarillo) would require regulatory authorities over a health professional providing a telemedicine, teledentistry, or telehealth service to adopt rules necessary to standardize formats for retention of records relating to a patient’s consent for treatment.
- HB 2000 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) would expand the sex offender registry to include child grooming.
- HB 3093 by Denise Villalobos (R-Corpus Christi) would prescribe the procedures for calculating ad valorem tax rates when there is a notice of appeal of an order of an
- SB 2 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and Brad Buckley (R-Salado) would be the Texas Education Freedom Act and would institute education savings accounts.
- SB 260 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) would double the “per student” and “per campus” school safety allotments with an estimated cost of around \$400 million.
- SB 569 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Keith Bell (R-Forney) would expand statutes applying to virtual courses to include hybrid courses; and would add statutory authorization for full-time hybrid campuses and programs.



**On Thursday**, the House passed the Third Reading bills. The House adopted a Congratulatory Resolutions calendar. There was objection to the Memorial Resolutions calendar and it was withdrawn. There were objections to all bills on the Local Calendar, so they were all returned to the House Local & Consent Calendars Committee.

**Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week: 248**  
**Total number of bills passed by the House this week: 33**  
**Total bills passed on Local & Consent Calendar this week: 0**  
**Total number of bills passed by the House this session: 58**

**Next Week:** The House adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 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: (4/16/2025) - Committee report printed and distributed

### [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: (4/15/2025) - Left Pending

### **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: (4/17/2025) - Referred to Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

### **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: (4/15/2025) - Committee report printed and distributed

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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