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HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

daily floor report

Tuesday, April 29, 2025
89th Legislature, Number 52
The House convenes at 10 a.m.
Part Three

One bill is on the Major State Calendar, two resolutions are on the Constitutional Amendments Calendar, and 137 bills are on the General State Calendar for second reading consideration today. The list of bills in Part Three of the *Daily Floor Report* appears on the following page.



Gary VanDeaver
Chairman
89(R) - 52

HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Daily Floor Report

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

89th Legislature, Number 52

Part 3

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----|
| HB 1006 by Schoolcraft | Allowing amendments of restrictive covenants in certain subdivisions | 167 |
| HB 1136 by Gámez | Requiring a study on parking needs for individuals with disabilities | 169 |
| HB 1240 by Guillen | Amending definition of | 171 |
| HB 1266 by Guillen | Requiring certain PAs or APRNs to be treated as in-network for payment | 172 |
| HB 1275 by M. González | Specifying producer dairy farm permit prohibition for bovine dairy farms | 175 |
| HB 1437 by M. González | Establishing a task force on pollinator health | 177 |
| HB 1532 by Cunningham | Creating the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District | 180 |
| HB 1675 by Campos | Permitting certain human and animal remains to be interred together | 184 |
| HB 1842 by Guillen | Permitting certain wildlife conservation groups to sell raffle tickets | 186 |
| HB 1868 by Leo Wilson | Requiring a THECB study on effects of reducing semester credit hours | 188 |
| HB 1888 by Metcalf | Exempting certain boilers and autoclaves from registration and inspection | 190 |
| HB 1894 by Metcalf | Designating November as Veterans Month | 192 |
| HB 1943 by Landgraf | Exempting Winkler County Juvenile Board from compensation cap | 193 |
| HB 1990 by Guillen | Limiting liability of nonagricultural land owners, lessees, and occupants | 194 |
| HB 2029 by Noble | Amending vehicle safety inspections for certain travel trailers | 196 |
| HB 2061 by Holt | Designating the Lance Corporal Armando Hernandez Memorial Bridge | 197 |
| HB 2286 by Craddick | Extending the renewal of certificates for certain interior designers | 198 |
| HB 2523 by J. Lopez | Designating the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway | 199 |
| HB 2622 by Metcalf | Amending transport requirements for female patients in custody | 200 |
| HB 2626 by Buckley | Creating the Central Texas Water Alliance | 201 |
| HB 2652 by Ordaz | Establishing a certified caregiver pilot program | 204 |
| HB 2692 by Guillen | Recodifying enabling statute for the San Antonio River Authority | 207 |
| HB 2842 by Zwiener | Authorizing control by lethal means of white-tailed deer in certain areas | 209 |
| HB 2885 by Gerdes | Authorizing certain local elections for alcohol sales | 212 |
| HB 2914 by Alders | Designating Smith County U.S. 69 as the Veterans Memorial Highway | 214 |
| HB 3016 by Lujan | Expanding circumstances in which a damage waiver may be voided | 215 |
| HB 3096 by Cunningham | Designating March 17 as Profound Autism Awareness Day | 216 |
| HB 3129 by Orr | Authorizing a prompt to donate to the Operation Game Thief Fund | 217 |
| HB 3248 by Cortez | Authorizing defense base development authority to commission peace officers | 219 |
| HB 3251 by Vasut | Establishing jurisdiction, operations for the first Capitol site and replica | 220 |
| HB 3255 by Paul | Expanding projects under Gulf Coast Authority development corporation | 222 |
| HB 3479 by Morgan | Creating the Rio Grande vegetative management program | 224 |
| HB 3611 by Curry | Revising the civil penalty for unauthorized signs on public rights-of-way | 225 |
| HB 3623 by McQueeney | Revising authorized methods for soliciting bids in the open market | 227 |
| HB 3701 by Dyson | Amending TAMU system board of regents authority over utilities | 228 |
| HB 3724 by Villalobos | Regulating the placement of a cultivated oyster in certain bodies of water | 230 |
| HB 3803 by Lambert | Establishing certain confidentiality requirements for Department of Banking | 231 |
| HB 3804 by Lambert | Amending provisions related to the regulation of state banks | 233 |
| HB 3805 by Lambert | Authorizing banking commissioner to make certain prohibitions, removals | 235 |
| HB 3806 by Lambert | Prohibiting certain activities of state trust companies under supervision | 239 |
| HB 3810 by Alders | Providing for the dissolution of the Rose City Municipal Utility District | 240 |
| HB 3816 by Metcalf | Amending the offense of cruelty to livestock animals | 241 |
| HB 3832 by Curry | Requiring TxDMV to create additional animal-friendly license plates | 242 |

SUBJECT: Allowing amendments of restrictive covenants in certain subdivisions

COMMITTEE: Trade, Workforce & Economic Development — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Button, K. Bell, Bhojani, Harris Davila, Longoria, Lujan, Luther, Ordaz, Richardson

0 nays

2 absent — Talarico, Meza

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Current law requires amendments to a restrictive covenant of a subdivision to be approved by a certain share of the applicable property owners. Concerns have been raised about the difficulty of identifying and locating all property owners, particularly for certain multi-zoned subdivisions located in multiple counties and municipalities.

DIGEST: HB 1006 would allow restrictive covenants in certain large, multi-zoned subdivisions to be amended by a vote of lot owners. The bill would apply to subdivisions that were platted before 1965, contain more than 900 lots, and were located in two or more separately incorporated municipalities, where at least part of the plat is zoned for a use different from that permitted by existing restrictions. The bill would further limit applicability to subdivisions located in whole or in part in municipalities with a population of 30,000 or more, situated in at least three counties.

The bill would authorize the amendment of restrictions applying to all or part of a qualifying subdivision if the amendment were approved by the owners of at least 67 percent of the lots in the area designated in the ballot. Each lot would have one vote, regardless of the number of owners, and an owner could vote on behalf of multiple owners. The bill also would impose certain requirements for the ballot proposing an amendment.

If an amendment were approved, the bill would require recording a document certifying the approval in the real property records of each county in which the subdivision was located. This document would serve as prima facie evidence that the vote met the required threshold and that voting procedures were properly followed. The bill would prohibit property owners from challenging the enforceability of an approved amendment on the grounds that it did not apply to all properties in the subdivision.

HB 1006 would apply to restrictive covenants enacted before, on, or after the bill's effective date.

The bill would take immediate effect if it received the necessary two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Requiring a study on parking needs for individuals with disabilities

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — Craddick, M. Perez, Gámez, Harris Davila, Hefner, LaHood,
Little, C. Morales, E. Morales, Patterson, Paul

0 nays

2 absent — Canales, Curry

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Stephanie Mace, AARP Texas;
Alexa Aragonéz, City of Houston; Chase Bearden, Coalition of Texans
with Disabilities; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Annette Quintero, Texas
Department of Motor Vehicles)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that, given the state's rising population in the years
that have passed since the last study examining the laws concerning
parking for individuals and disabilities, a new study should be conducted
on the parking needs of individuals with disabilities, including disabled
veterans and people with mobility impairments.

DIGEST: CSHB 1136 would require the Governor's Committee on People with
Disabilities (GCPD), with the assistance of the Department of Public
Safety (DPS), the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), the
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TLDR), and the Texas
Demographic Center (TDC), to conduct a study on the current and future
parking needs of individuals with disabilities in Texas, including disabled
veterans and individuals with a mobility impairment. The bill would
require the GCPD to:

- compile data regarding the current and projected population of
individuals with disabilities in the state who may be statutorily

eligible for privileged parking, including disabled veterans and individuals with a mobility impairment;

- identify current laws and rules governing parking spaces or areas designated for individuals with disabilities, including the allocation of parking for those individuals; and
- to the extent possible, collect information from local law enforcement agencies regarding the number of citations each agency has issued for unlawfully standing a vehicle in a space designated for individuals with disabilities.

CSHB 1136 would require the GCPD, not later than December 1, 2026, to submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Legislature a written report that includes:

- a summary of the information compiled in the study, including an analysis of the efficiency and effectiveness of the current allocation of parking to individuals with disabilities; and
- a summary from GCPD, DPS, TxDMV, TDLR, and the TDC of recommendations for legislative or other action as well as recommendations regarding the amount of parking that should be allocated for individuals with disabilities to meet the current and future demands of individuals with disabilities in Texas who could be statutorily eligible for privileged parking, including disabled veterans and individuals with a mobility impairment.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Amending definition of “Texas-Mexico border region”
- COMMITTEE:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Button, K. Bell, Bhojani, Harris Davila, Longoria, Lujan, Luther, Ordaz, Richardson
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Talarico, Meza
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Buddy Garcia)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Katy Schmader, Texas Democratic Party)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Mark Neugebauer, Texas General Land Office)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that the definition of the “Texas-Mexico border region” is inconsistent in state law. Some have suggested that statutes affecting governmental operations, funding, program implementation, and resource allocation should be amended to refer to the same definition of the border region.
- DIGEST:** HB 1240 would amend the Government Code definition of the "Texas-Mexico border region" to include 10 additional counties: Bee, Karnes, Loving, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Upton, Ward, and Wilson.
- The bill would amend additional provisions regarding the border region in the Education Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Transportation Code, and Water Code to reference this definition of the "Texas-Mexico border region.”
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2026.

- SUBJECT:** Requiring certain PAs or APRNs to be treated as in-network for payment
- COMMITTEE:** Insurance — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Dean, Vo, J. González, Goodwin, Hopper, Morgan, Paul, Spiller, Wharton
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For - Adam Bruggeman, Texas Medical Association (*Registered, but did not testify*); Caitlin Flanders, Katherine Strandberg, Every Body Texas; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Christine Busse, NAMI Texas; Colette Vallot, Texas Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA); Carl Isett, Texas Association of Benefit Administrators; Desiree Ingram, Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition; Steven Deline)
- Against - None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that requiring certain health benefit plan issuers to treat, for payment purposes, physician assistants (PA) or advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) who were eligible for expedited credentialing as a network provider under certain circumstances would address the inability for medical groups to bill for their services while these credentials are pending review.
- DIGEST:** After an applicant met eligibility requirements, HB 1266 would require a managed care plan issuer to, for payment purposes only, treat the applicant as if they were a participating provider in the plan’s network when the applicant provided services to the plan’s enrollees as an employee of the applicant’s established medical group.
- The bill would apply only to a physician assistant (PA) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who joined an established medical group that had a contract with a managed care plan that already included contracted rates for physician assistants or advanced practice nurses employed by the medical group.

To qualify for expedited credentialing and payment under the bill, a PA or APRN would be required to:

- be licensed in the state by, and in good standing with, the Texas Physician Assistant Board or Texas Board of Nursing;
- submit all documentation and other information required by the managed care plan issuer to begin the credentialing process;
- agree to comply with the terms of the managed care plan's participating provider contract with the physician assistant's or advanced practice nurse's established medical group; and
- have received express written consent from the physician assistant's or advanced practice nurse's established medical group to apply for expedited credentialing.

If, on completion of the credentialing process, a managed care plan issuer determined that the applicant did not meet the issuer's credentialing requirements the issuer could recover from the applicant's medical group an amount equal to the difference between payments for in-network and out-of-network benefits, and the applicant's medical group could retain any copayments collected or in the process of being collected as of the date of the issuer's determination.

An enrollee would not be responsible and would have to be held harmless for the difference between:

- the payments for in-network and out-of-network benefits paid by the enrollee to the applicant's medical group for services provided by an ineligible applicant PA or APRN; and
- the enrollee's managed care plan's charges for out-of-network services.

The applicant's medical group could not charge the enrollee for any portion of the applicant's fee that would not be paid or reimbursed by the plan.

A managed care plan issuer that complied with the bill's requirements would not be subject to liability for damages arising out of or in connection with the payment by the issuer of a PA's or APRN's medical group for services provided that were treated as if the PA or APRN was a participating provider in the plan's network.

Nothing in the bill could be construed as requiring a managed care plan issuer to include an applicant in the plan's directory, website listing, or other listing of participating providers.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Specifying producer dairy farm permit prohibition for bovine dairy farms
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — VanDeaver, Campos, Bucy, Cunningham, Frank, Johnson, J. Jones, Olcott, Pierson, Schofield, Shofner, Simmons
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Collier
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Travis McCormick, Make Texans Healthy Again; Eve Margolis)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Tim Stevenson, Department of State Health Services)
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code Sec. 435.006 (d) prohibits the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) from issuing a permit to a person for a producer dairy located in an area infected with or at a high risk for bovine tuberculosis.
- Some have suggested that revising the permit prohibition on dairy farming in certain counties to exempt non-bovine dairy farms would help to restore economic opportunities lost after the establishment of a bovine tuberculosis movement restriction zone in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1275 would amend the Health and Safety Code to specify that DSHS was prohibited from issuing a producer dairy farm permit for a bovine producer dairy farm located in an area infected with or at a high risk for bovine tuberculosis.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Establishing a task force on pollinator health
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture & Livestock — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Guillen, Cain, Hopper, Kitzman, J. Lopez, McLaughlin, Money
0 nays
2 absent — Guerra, Muñoz
- WITNESSES:** For - Gary Barber, Texas Beekeepers Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Aaron Taliaferro, Tarrant County Administrator's Office; Joe Morris, Texas Beekeepers Association; Drew Fuller, Texas Farm Bureau; Sarah Berel-Harrop)

Against - None

On - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dan Hale, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that honey bee populations have been declining rapidly over the last few years. Some have suggested that a task force on pollinator health could promote measures to protect the state's honey bee population.
- DIGEST:** HB 1437 would require the governor to establish a task force on pollinator health to undertake activities to examine issues relevant to pollinator health. The task force would:
- identify ways the state could incentivize the development of new pollinator habitat in residential, commercial, and public areas;
 - study public education and outreach plans regarding pollinator health that have been successful in other states;
 - investigate the means used by other states to gather data on populations of bees or other pollinating insects; and
 - identify ways to prevent loss of pollinator habitat.

The task force would consist of members appointed by the governor and would include:

- one member who was a university faculty member specializing in the science of pollinator health;
- one member representing an advocacy group for nurseries and greenhouse producers;
- one member representing an advocacy group for agriculture in the state;
- one member representing an advocacy group dedicated to the protection of pollinators and invertebrates;
- one member representing an advocacy group for pesticide applicators;
- one member who was certified as a master gardener by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and who represented the public;
- one member who was a beekeeper and who represented the public; and
- one member who was an employee of the Parks and Wildlife Department who specialized in melittology.

The bill would require the governor to appoint members to the task force by October 1, 2025. The bill would authorize the governor to provide staff support to the task force.

The task force would be authorized to adopt bylaws necessary for its operations and take necessary and proper actions to carry out its work, including scheduling hearings and taking testimony on matters related to pollinator health. The task force would be required to establish a quorum as the presence of a majority of its members to transact business, and any official action by the task force would require approval from the majority of its members.

The bill would require the task force to elect one of its members to serve as its presiding officer and to meet at times and places specified by the call of that officer or of a majority of the members. Members could participate remotely in meetings through video conference calls or an online service.

The bill would require the task force to submit a report, which could include recommendations for legislation, to the standing committees of

the Senate and the House of Representatives with primary jurisdiction over agriculture by October 1, 2026. A task force would be authorized to provide progress reports before then.

HB 1437 would not entitle task force members to compensation but would authorize their reimbursement for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties in the manner and amounts provided for in the General Appropriations Act. Each state agency would be required to assist the task force in the performance of its duties and to furnish information and advice members considered necessary to perform their duties to the extent permitted by confidentiality laws.

The bill would expire December 31, 2026.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Creating the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Harris, Martinez, Ashby, Barry, C. Bell, Buckley, Fairly, Gámez, J. Garcia, Romero, Villalobos, Zwiener
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — M. González
- WITNESSES:** For — Frederick Flickinger, City of Houston; Tina Petersen, Harris County Flood Control District (*Registered, but did not testify*: Alexa Aragonéz, City of Houston; John Kroll, City of Humble; Taylor Landin, Greater Houston Partnership; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eddie Lucio, North Harris County Regional Water Authority)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Justin Taak, TCEQ)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that sediment buildup in Lake Houston has caused flooding and impacted water flow. Some have suggested that long-term planning and an ongoing maintenance program regarding dredging Lake Houston and its tributaries could help to address this issue, and that oversight is needed to preserve the health of this water supply.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1532 would create the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District as a conservation and reclamation district under applicable constitutional provisions. The bill would establish provisions related to the district’s power and duties, board of directors, and finances.
- Unless the district’s boundaries were modified under law, they would be coextensive with the boundaries of Harris County.
- Powers and duties.** The bill would establish the powers and duties of the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District, including those related

to dredging and maintenance operations and sand, gravel, marl, shell, and mudshell removal.

Dredging and maintenance operations. The district would be authorized to form voluntary interlocal agreements with certain entities to perform dredging and maintenance operations in service areas controlled or maintained by the party to the agreement. The district would not be permitted to require payment from the other party for dredging and maintenance operations, but could seek a grant of money or another resource from any source to assist with them.

The bill would define "dredging and maintenance operations" to include the removal of floating debris and sediment and debris that accumulated under and above the water. A service area would be the area in which the district could perform such operations, composed of the following territory:

- Lake Houston;
- the East and West Forks of the San Jacinto River between the Harris County line and Lake Houston;
- Luce Bayou downstream from Trent Road; and
- Caney Creek between the Harris County line and Lake Houston.

Such operations could not negatively affect the quality of water in Lake Houston or degrade the quality of water to be treated by surface water treatment plants or transported by water conveyance systems.

The district would be required to obtain approval from the City of Houston Public Works before performing dredging and maintenance operations in Lake Houston and exercise due diligence when performing these operations. The City of Houston Public Works would be immune from liability for any damages resulting from direct or indirect dredging and maintenance operations performed in Lake Houston, regardless of whether the operations were performed by the district.

Sand, gravel, marl, shell, and mudshell. The district could take sand, gravel, marl, shell, and mudshell from the service areas to restore, maintain, or expand the capacity of the area to convey storm flows. The

district would not be required to obtain a permit, pay a fee, or purchase such materials. The district could sell these materials or deposit them on private land.

Limitation of powers. The bill would prohibit the district from financing, developing, or maintaining a recreational facility, exercising the power of eminent domain, or performing the same function as another conservation and reclamation district whose territory overlapped with the district's territory. The district could perform dredging operations if other conservation and reclamation districts were performing dredging operations in the district's territory.

Board of directors. The district would be governed by a board of five directors appointed as follows:

- one director appointed by the city council of the City of Houston;
- two directors appointed by the director of the City of Houston Public Works;
- one director appointed by the governing body of the Harris County Flood Control District; and
- one director appointed by the mayor of the City of Houston.

Directors would serve staggered four-year terms. The director appointed by the Houston City Council would serve as the board's presiding officer. Initial appointments to the board would have to be made by September 1, 2026.

Financial provisions. The bill would grant the district authority to issue bonds and prohibit it from imposing taxes or charging fees. The district would be required to study the methods of financing the services it provided and make the results of the study publicly available. The Legislature could appropriate up to \$25 million to the district to fund its activities, but could not appropriate money for a state fiscal year after September 1, 2027.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Permitting certain human and animal remains to be interred together

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — VanDeaver, Campos, Bucy, Cunningham, Frank, Johnson, J. Jones, Olcott, Pierson, Schofield, Shofner, Simmons

0 nays

1 absent — Collier

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michelle Wittenburg, Jack Jack's Pack Street Dog Rescue; Sarah Berel-harrop; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that current law prohibits the practice of burying a pet's cremated remains alongside its owner in a human cemetery.

DIGEST: CSHB 1675 would authorize a perpetual care cemetery, notwithstanding any other law, to allow the cremated remains of a deceased individual's pet to be buried in the individual's casket at the time of the individual's interment or be placed beside the individual's cremated remains in a columbarium. The perpetual care cemetery could also allow information about the pet to be included on the individual's memorial.

An individual would not be permitted to euthanize a pet for the purpose of interring the pet with a deceased individual.

A perpetual care cemetery could dedicate an area, separate from other areas of the cemetery, as a family cemetery in which a family's human and pet remains could be buried in separate graves.

The Finance Commission of Texas would be required to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Permitting certain wildlife conservation groups to sell raffle tickets
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Phelan, Thompson, Gerdes, Geren, Harless, Hernandez, Longoria, McQueeney, Patterson, M. Perez, Walle
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Harris, Romero
- WITNESSES:** For — Shane Bonnot, Coastal Conservation Association; Mike Wilson, Ducks Unlimited (*Registered, but did not testify*: Richard Hayes, Gun Owners of America; Bo Stallman, Sheriffs Association of Texas; Joe Morris, Texas Forestry Association; John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation; Mark Borskey, Texas State Rifle Association; Justin Dreibelbis, Texas Wildlife Association; Bryan Flatt, TMPA; Jason Magdalena)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kirby Brown, Ducks Unlimited)
- BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code sec. 2002.054 prohibits a qualified religious society, qualified volunteer fire department, qualified volunteer emergency medical service, or qualified nonprofit organization from selling or offering to sell tickets for a statewide raffle.
- Some have suggested that permitting wildlife conservation groups to sell raffle tickets would provide greater fundraising opportunities for these conservation groups.
- DIGEST:** HB 1842 would create an exemption under Occupations Code sec. 2002.054 permitting a nonprofit wildlife conservation association, including affiliated groups that were eligible as a qualified nonprofit organization, to use an organization’s website to sell or offer to sell tickets for a raffle to previously identified supporters of the organization. The website could not provide a graphic or dynamic animation of an entry to a

raffle or provide a graphic or dynamic animation of the drawing of raffle tickets.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Requiring a THECB study on effects of reducing semester credit hours
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Wilson, Howard, A. Davis, Lalani, Lambert, V. Perez, Shaheen, Shofner, Tinderholt, VanDeaver, Ward Johnson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For – None
- Against – None
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised regarding the disparity between the funding and accreditation for dual-credit classes in local independent school districts, which receive funding when students earn nine credit hours, and public junior colleges, which accredit these programs but do not receive state funding unless students earn 15 credit hours.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1868 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct a study assessing the feasibility and the fiscal and policy implications of decreasing the number of semester credit hours or the equivalent for a sequence of dual credit or dual enrollment courses for purposes of performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program from 15 semester credit hours to nine semester credit hours or the equivalent. In conducting the study, THECB would have to assess the potential benefit to students of decreasing the number of semester credit hours or dual credit equivalent, including:
- alignment with the public school accountability system;
 - any reduction in the time to graduate with or the cost for an undergraduate degree at a higher education institution; and
 - a comparison of matriculation and completion rates for students who completed a sequence of nine semester credit hours or the equivalent for dual credit equivalent versus a sequence of 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent.

In conducting the study, THECB also would have to assess the current and projected capacity of the state's workforce to teach dual credit or dual enrollment courses, including:

- an estimate of the number of instructors currently eligible to teach dual credit or dual enrollment courses and the geographic distribution of those instructors;
- an analysis of barriers to certification or credentialing in teaching dual credit or dual enrollment courses, and;
- certain strategies to increase the number of instructors eligible to teach dual credit or dual enrollment courses.

THECB would be authorized to consult with the Texas Education Agency and higher education institutions in conducting the study. By December 1, 2026, THECB would have to submit to the legislature a report on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

The provisions of the bill would expire September 1, 2027.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Exempting certain boilers and autoclaves from registration and inspection
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Phelan, Gerdes, Geren, Harless, Hernandez, Longoria, McQueeney, Patterson, M. Perez, Romero, Walle
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Thompson, Harris
- WITNESSES:** For — Madeleine Lamont, Steris
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steve Bruno, TDLR)
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code sec. 755.021 requires each boiler operated in the state to be registered with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and to have qualified for a current certificate of operation.
- Concerns have been raised that certain FDA-regulated medical devices that incorporate boilers are subject to both state and federal regulations. Some have suggested that exempting these medical devices from state regulations could remove unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on medical facilities, manufacturers, and operators.
- DIGEST:** HB 1888 would exempt from Health and Safety Code sec. 755.021 unfired pressure vessels in an autoclave and boilers that were a component of a medical device regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration and were a size that did not exceed:
- an inside shell diameter of 16 inches;
 - 20 square feet of heating surface, unless the boiler was electric;
 - five cubic feet of gross volume, excluding the casing and insulation; and

- an allowable working pressure of 100 pounds per square inch gauge.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of \$196,140 to general revenue related funds through the biennium.

SUBJECT: Designating November as Veterans Month

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Hefner, R. Lopez, Cortez, Dorazio, Hickland, Holt, Isaac, Louderback, McLaughlin, Pierson

0 nays

1 absent — Canales

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Josie Castro Garcia, Dallas County; Maya Grever, Harris County Commissioners Court; William West, The American Legion, Dept of Texas; Steven Price, The VOICES of Our Veterans; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Mitch Fuller, VFW Dept of Texas; Sarah Berel-Harrop)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that a time should be set aside to honor the sacrifices and contributions of veterans to the state and country.

DIGEST: HB 1894 would designate November as Veterans Month to celebrate, honor, and memorialize the achievements and sacrifices of military veterans. Veterans Month could be observed regularly through appropriate programs and activities to celebrate and honor members of the veteran community.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Exempting Winkler County Juvenile Board from compensation cap

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Smithee, Wu, Bowers, Cook, J. Jones, Little, Louderback, Money, Moody, Rodríguez Ramos, Virdell

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Under current law, the Winkler County Juvenile Board is exempt from certain general requirements for juvenile boards in the Human Resources Code. Some have suggested that the Legislature also should exempt the Winkler County Juvenile Board from a general cap on compensation for juvenile boards, as board member compensation has not been adjusted in over a decade.

DIGEST: HB 1943 would amend the Human Resources Code to specify that the juvenile board of Winkler County was not subject to a provision prohibiting the combined salary from all state and local sources of a district judge serving on a juvenile board from exceeding an amount that is \$5,000 less than the state salary of a justice of a court of appeals other than the chief justice.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Limiting liability of nonagricultural land owners, lessees, and occupants
- COMMITTEE:** Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Leach, Johnson, Dutton, Dyson, Flores, J. González, Hayes, LaHood, Landgraf, Moody, Schofield
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Charles Maley, South Texans’ Property Rights Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Frances Blake, Texas Association of Builders, General Counsel and VP of Regulatory Affairs; Blake Roach, Texas Farm Bureau; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA))
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Current law does not explicitly protect landowners for claims arising from certain incidents on their land, such as actions of law enforcement officers, firefighters, trespassers, and other third parties or events. Some have suggested that the law should be amended to ensure that, under certain circumstances, owners, lessees, and occupants of nonagricultural land would not be held liable for the actions outside of their control.
- DIGEST:** HB 1990 would provide that an owner, lessee, or occupant of nonagricultural land was not liable for any damage or injury to any person or property, regardless of whether the damage or injury occurred on the land, that arose from:
- the actions or omissions of a peace officer, federal law enforcement officer, or firefighter who entered or caused another person to enter the land with or without the permission of the owner, lessee, or occupant;
 - the actions or omissions of a trespasser who entered the land;
 - the actions or omissions of a third party who entered the land without the owner’s, lessee’s, or occupant’s express or implied permission and damaged a fence or gate on the land, including damage caused by a vehicle or other means; or

- wildlife or an act of God.

The owner, lessee, or occupant of nonagricultural land also would not be liable for any damage or injury to any person or property that arose from the actions of an individual who entered or caused another person to enter the land without permission because of the actions stated above.

The bill would not limit the liability of an owner, lessee, or occupant of nonagricultural land for any damage or injury that arose from a willful or wanton act of gross negligence by the owner, lessee, or occupant.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Amending vehicle safety inspections for certain travel trailers
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Hefner, R. Lopez, Cortez, Dorazio, Hickland, Holt, Isaac, Louderback, McLaughlin, Pierson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Canales
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that overlapping provisions were created in the Transportation Code by bills passed in the 88th Legislature, to eliminate the requirement for safety inspections for most vehicles, including travel trailers. Some have suggested removing duplicative language would ensure that travel trailer owners and other vehicle registrants were subject to consistent policies.
- DIGEST:** HB 2909 would reenact certain sections in the Transportation Code to specify that, in addition to other fees imposed at the time of registration, at the time of application for initial registration or renewal of registration of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or mobile home, the applicant would have to pay an annual fee of \$7.50.
- The bill would repeal provisions on the inspection of certain travel trailers by the owner.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Designating the Lance Corporal Armando Hernandez Memorial Bridge
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Hefner, R. Lopez, Canales, Cortez, Dorazio, Hickland, Holt, Isaac, Louderback, McLaughlin, Pierson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Ana Hernandez; Esmeralda Hernandez (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dakota Moyers; William West, The American Legion, Dept of Texas; Carlos Hernandez; Kimberly Moyers)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Timothy Mabry)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that designating a highway bridge in Montgomery County would honor the service, sacrifice, and legacy of Lance Corporal Armando Hernandez in this community.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2061 would designate the structure on State Highway 242 that passes over Interstate Highway 69 in Montgomery County as the Lance Corporal Armando Hernandez Memorial Bridge. The Texas Department of Transportation would be required, subject to a grant or donation of funds, to design and construct markers indicating the designation and to erect markers at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Extending the renewal of certificates for certain interior designers
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Phelan, Gerdes, Geren, Harless, Hernandez, Longoria, McQueeney, Patterson, M. Perez, Romero, Walle
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Thompson, Harris
- WITNESSES:** For — Karla Jackson, Texas Association for Interior Design
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code sec. 1051.351 states that a person who holds an interior design certificate of registration without examination may not renew the certificate on or after September 1, 2027, unless the person passes an examination adopted by the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners before September 1, 2027. The provision expires January 1, 2029.
- Some have suggested that the date should be extended for interior designers to register for a certificate without examination if they have been practicing since 1985 to ensure experienced professionals did not face an unnecessary barrier later in their careers.
- DIGEST:** HB 2286 would extend the certificate renewal date in Occupations Code sec. 1051.351 from September 1, 2027, to September 1, 2037, and the provision expiration date from January 1, 2029, to January 1, 2039.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Designating the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Craddick, M. Perez, Canales, Curry, Gámez, Harris Davila, Hefner, LaHood, Little, C. Morales, E. Morales, Patterson, Paul
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Norman Esquivel, Cameron County Constable Pct. 1 (*Registered, but did not testify*); Lianna Guerra, Cameron County; Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); Joe Morris, Game Warden Peace Officer Association; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA); Steven Deline)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that designating a section of State Highway 48 as the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway would honor Deputy Garcia, who lost his life in the line of duty.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2523 would designate the portion of State Highway 48 in Cameron County between its intersections with State Highway 550 and Fishermans Place Road as the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway, in addition to any other designation. The bill would require the Texas Department of Transportation to:
- design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information; and
 - erect a marker at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites along the highway.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Amending transport requirements for female patients in custody
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — VanDeaver, Campos, Bucy, Collier, Cunningham, Frank, Johnson, J. Jones, Olcott, Pierson, Schofield, Shofner, Simmons
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Caleb Reitzel, Precinct 1 Constable’s Office Montgomery County
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Christine Busse, NAMI Texas)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that current statute requiring a female patient to be accompanied by a female attendant when being transported to a mental health or residential care facility can be challenging to comply with and could delay patient care.
- DIGEST:** HB 2622 would establish an exception to the requirement for a female patient to be accompanied by a female attendant during transportation to a mental health facility or residential care facility if:
- the patient was transported by a male attendant wearing a body-worn camera that was activated for the duration of the transport; or
 - the vehicle used for transport was equipped with audio or video recording devices that actively record for the duration of the transport.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Creating the Central Texas Water Alliance
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Harris, Martinez, Ashby, Barry, C. Bell, Buckley, Fairly, Gámez, J. Garcia, Romero, Villalobos, Zwiener
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — M. González
- WITNESSES:** For — David Blackburn, Bell County; Ricky Garrett, Bell County Water Control & Improvement District #1 (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rob Robinson, BCWID1; Matt Phillips, Brazos River Authority; Emily Lindley, City of Temple; Dirk Aaron, Jody Williams, Clearwater UWCD; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Kenneth Flippin, Texas Chapter of US Green Building Council; Perry Fowler, Texas Water Infrastructure Network (TXWIN); Dale Treadway)
- Against — None
- On — Ted Boriack, Water Protection Association of Gonzales County
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that greater investment in water supply and infrastructure is needed to avoid water shortages in Central Texas and that small water producers could combine efforts to secure funding.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2626 would establish the Central Texas Water Alliance as a regional water authority created under and to accomplish the purposes of applicable provisions of the state Constitution. The alliance would be composed of the territory:
- of the sponsors, including territory within the municipal boundaries of a sponsor that was a municipality;
 - if applicable, located in the service areas of the sponsors;
 - added to and not excluded from the alliance in accordance with applicable law.

The initial sponsors of the alliance would be Bell County, Bell County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, and McLennan County. The bill would establish procedures for adding and removing sponsors.

Powers and duties. The alliance would be authorized to acquire, purchase, own, hold, lease, construct, improve, and maintain a reservoir, groundwater well, or other source of water supply, including groundwater, surface water, and wastewater reused directly or indirectly, and aquifer storage and recovery facilities. The bill also would allow the alliance to acquire, own, construct, operate, repair, improve, maintain, or extend, inside or outside the alliance's boundaries, water and wastewater works, improvements, facilities, plants, pipelines, equipment, and appliances for:

- the treatment and transportation of water and wastewater;
- the direct or indirect reuse of wastewater;
- aquifer storage and recovery projects; and
- the provision of wholesale water and wastewater services to alliance customers, municipalities, districts, water supply corporations, and other persons in this state.

In addition, the alliance could:

- acquire, purchase, own, hold, lease, and maintain interests in sources of water supply, reservoirs, groundwater wells, water and wastewater systems, treatment works, improvements, facilities, plants, equipment, appliances, aquifer storage and recovery projects, and the direct or indirect reuse of wastewater;
- finance any purchase or acquisition through a bond, note, or other obligation under the bill, or through a lease-purchase agreement; and
- sell, lease, convey, or otherwise dispose of any right, interest, or property the alliance considered to be unnecessary for the efficient operation or maintenance of its facilities.

The bill would allow the alliance to contract with any person, including through an interlocal contract with a local government, to carry out these powers and would establish requirements and procedures for such

contracts. The bill also would require the alliance to establish rates and fees for its sponsors and customers.

The alliance could exercise the power of eminent domain, with restrictions, but only if the bill received a two-thirds vote of all members of each house.

Board of directors. Except for the initial board of directors, the alliance would be governed by a board consisting of between five and 18 members who were responsible for its management, operation, and control. The board would be required to establish the number of directors and apportion the directors for each sponsor based on the amount of water contracted to be supplied to the sponsor under the terms of the alliance's water supply contract.

The bill would establish provisions related to director eligibility, appointment, terms, removal, voting authority, and conflicts of interest. The bill also would establish procedures for board meetings and vacancies.

Financial provisions. The bill would prohibit the alliance from imposing a property tax and establish provisions related to its authority to issue bonds, notes, and other obligations.

Effective date. CSHB 2626 would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Establishing a certified caregiver pilot program
- COMMITTEE:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Button, Talarico, K. Bell, Bhojani, Harris Davila, Longoria, Lujan, Meza, Ordaz
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Luther, Richardson
- WITNESSES:** For — Odette Flores-Rivera, Workforce Solutions Borderplex (*Registered, but did not testify*: Mandi Kimball, Children at Risk; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Bryan Mares, National Association of Social Workers-Texas; David Feigen, Texans Care for Children; Stephanie Battaglia, Texas CASA)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised regarding child-care access and affordability for working families, particularly for parents working non-traditional hours, affecting their ability to maintain employment and seek further education.
- DIGEST:** HB 2652 would require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish and administer a certified caregiver pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area to address the need for after-hours child care for single-parent households and working parents who are pursuing a short-term workforce training program.
- Under the bill, the local workforce development board serving the Borderplex area would be required to select 30 eligible single-parent

families to receive supplemental subsidized child care for up to six months. Parents seeking subsidized child care under the pilot program would be required to, at the time of application:

- receive a child-care subsidy through the commission;
- live in a single-parent household;
- have completed a certain number of postsecondary education credits, as determined by the commission;
- be enrolled in or agree to enroll in a short-term workforce training program supported by the local workforce board; and
- demonstrate a need for child care outside regular working hours in order to complete the workforce training program.

HB 2652 also would require the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt a procedure to issue a license to a caregiver who met the requirements of the bill, which would allow that caregiver to operate as a listed family home for purposes of the pilot program. This procedure would have to require the caregiver to be a current employee of a licensed child-care facility with at least two years of experience, provide after-hours child care in the caregiver's home, list the caregiver's home with HHSC as a family home, and meet minimum statutory standards for family homes.

The pilot program would be required to assist employees of licensed child-care facilities with obtaining a license under the pilot program in order to provide child care to the children of eligible parents outside of working hours in the employee's home, and provide supplemental subsidized child care for eligible single-parent households.

TWC would be required to submit a report by December 1, 2028, evaluating the pilot program's efficacy, the completion rates of workforce training programs by parents receiving childcare under the program, the total costs of the program, and recommending whether to continue, expand, or terminate the program. This report would have to be submitted to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the standing committee of each chamber of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over economic development.

The bill would require the commission to adopt any necessary rules to implement the pilot program. The pilot program would expire on September 1, 2029.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Recodifying enabling statute for the San Antonio River Authority

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — Harris, Martinez, Ashby, Barry, C. Bell, Buckley, Fairly, M. González, Romero, Villalobos, Zwiener

0 nays

2 absent — Gámez, J. Garcia

WITNESSES: For - Derek Boese, Brian Sledge, San Antonio River Authority
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Javier Lopez, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance)

Against - None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the current statute governing the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) is fragmented and outdated, which has led to inefficiencies and confusion regarding the authority’s powers, governance, and operations. Some have suggested that SARA’s enabling legislation should be recodified to make it clearer, more consistent, and easier to navigate.

DIGEST: CSHB 2692 would recodify and establish provisions for the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) by repealing certain existing provisions related to SARA and establishing Chapter 8513 in the Special District Local Laws Code. The bill would establish provisions related to SARA’s powers and duties, administration, board of directors, finances, taxing authority, and creation of pollution control districts.

A review of SARA under the Sunset Act would have to be conducted as if the authority were a state agency scheduled to be abolished on September 1, 2035, and every 12th year thereafter.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing control by lethal means of white-tailed deer in certain areas
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Metcalf, Flores, Martinez Fischer, Orr, Vasut, Ward Johnson
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Cole, DeAyala, Kerwin
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation; Justin Dreibelbis, Texas Wildlife Association; Cicely Kay, Travis County Commissioners Court)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Blaise Korzekwa, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised about overabundant deer populations that impact public safety, habitat conservation, and endangered species. Some have suggested that allowing political subdivisions, state and federal agencies, public institutions of higher education, and property owners' associations to apply for depredation permits could offer a safe, controlled solution where recreational hunting is not feasible.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2842 would require a political subdivision, state agency, federal agency, institution of higher education, or property owners' association that desired to control by lethal means a white-tailed deer population to submit to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) written notice of evidence demonstrating:
- the use of lethal means was necessary to prevent the deer from damaging the habitat of one or more species listed by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) or an agency of this state as endangered or threatened; or

- the entity was experiencing an overpopulation of deer on property the entity owned or managed, and recreational hunting was not feasible for controlling the deer population.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission could adopt rules governing the means, methods, times, and locations of killing protected wildlife to implement these provisions.

On receiving notice from a specified entity desiring to control by lethal means a white-tailed deer population, TPWD could inspect the habitat or property referenced in the notice to:

- assess deer management plans in the habitat relating to one or more species listed by the DOI or an agency of this state as endangered or threatened; or
- determine whether the entity was experiencing an overpopulation of white-tailed deer on the property and whether recreational hunting for controlling the deer population was feasible.

An application from a specified entity desiring to control by lethal means a white-tailed deer population would be required to be in writing, be sworn to by the applicant, and contain a statement of facts relating to, as applicable, the damage or threat, the feasibility of recreational hunting, or the need to control overpopulation to prevent damage to the habitat of one or more species listed by the DOI or an agency of this state as endangered or threatened in addition to an agreement by the applicant to comply with current regulations.

CSHB would exempt the following from provisions relating to hunting for hire:

- a political subdivision, state agency, federal agency, institution of higher education, or property owners' association that employed a person for compensation or promise of compensation to control by lethal means white-tailed deer as authorized under a permit issued under applicable statutory provisions; and
- a person employed by such an entity.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing certain local elections for alcohol sales
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Phelan, Thompson, Geren, Harless, Harris, Hernandez, Longoria, McQueeney, Patterson, M. Perez, Romero, Walle
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Gerdes
- WITNESSES:** For — Commissioner Clara Beckett, Adena Lewis, Bastrop County
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Matt Creel, Opportunity Austin; Rick Donley, JP Urrabazo, The Beer Alliance of Texas)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Steven Deline)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Matthew Cherry, TABC; Thomas Parkinson)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that allowing Bastrop County to hold elections to legalize the sale of certain alcoholic beverages would address concerns that businesses in the county face unequal access to apply for mixed beverage permits and cannot petition for change.
- DIGEST:** HB 2885 would permit the commissioners court of a county to, on the commissioners court’s own motion, order a local option election in the county or a justice precinct in the county to determine whether to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages and contents in the county or the justice precinct. The bill also would authorize the governing body of a municipality to, by resolution, order a local option election to be held in the municipality to determine whether to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages and contents in the municipality.
- This provision would apply only to a county with a population of more than 70,000 and less than 100,000 that contained a portion of the Colorado

River, and that was adjacent to a county with a population of one million or more.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Designating Smith County U.S. 69 as the Veterans Memorial Highway
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Hefner, R. Lopez, Canales, Cortez, Dorazio, Hickland, Holt, Isaac, Louderback, McLaughlin, Pierson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* James Cunningham, Texas Council of Chapters of MOAA and TCVO; William West, The American Legion, Dept. of Texas; Mitch Fuller, VFW Dept. of Texas)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that designating a portion of Highway 69 in Smith County as a Veterans Memorial Highway would demonstrate the community's commitment to and recognition of veterans.
- DIGEST:** HB 2914 would authorize the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to designate a portion of highway between the intersections of South State Loop 323 and the northern municipal limits of Bullard as the Veterans Memorial Highway. The designation would be in addition to any other designation.
- The bill would also authorize DPS to design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Veterans Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information. DPS also would be authorized to erect a marker at each end of the highway and at appropriate intermediate sites.
- HB 2914 would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Expanding circumstances in which a damage waiver may be voided
- COMMITTEE:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Button, Talarico, K. Bell, Bhojani, Harris Davila, Longoria, Luther, Meza, Ordaz, Richardson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Lujan
- WITNESSES:** For — Shelby Beene, Enterprise Mobility (Enterprise, National, Alamo brands) (*Registered, but did not testify*: Keith Strama, Avis; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Deline)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised regarding the exploitation by criminal networks of collision damage waivers, a contractual agreement that shifts the liability for damage or theft of a rental vehicle from the renter to the rental car company. Some have suggested that expanding the circumstances under which a waiver may be voided could help provide recourse for rental car companies when cars are stolen.
- DIGEST:** HB 3016 would authorize a rental company to void a damage waiver for a rental vehicle if the rental vehicle was stolen and the renter failed to return the vehicle's ignition key, file a report with law enforcement no later than 24 hours after discovering the theft, or fully cooperate with the rental company and law enforcement authorities investigating the theft in all matters related to the investigation.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Designating March 17 as Profound Autism Awareness Day

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Hull, Manuel, A. Davis, Noble, Richardson, Rose, Schatzline, Slawson, Swanson

0 nays

2 absent — Dorazio, C. Morales

WITNESSES: For - Jennifer Dantzer, Inspire ND, Inc. (*Registered, but did not testify*: Amber Hausenfluck, Action Behavior Centers; Larry Gonzales, Elevated Autism Services Team, LLC; Kelsey Bernstein, Texas Council of Community Centers; Ben Wright, Texas Medical Association; Michelle Evans; Thomas Parkinson)

Against - None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that increased public awareness is needed for individuals and caregivers affected by profound autism, noting that people with profound autism often require continuous care and are frequently excluded from research and outside support.

DIGEST: CSHB 3096 would designate March 17 as Profound Autism Awareness Day to raise awareness about profound autism. The bill would authorize Profound Autism Awareness Day to be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies and activities, including by showing support for those who experience profound autism and providing information regarding resources for people with profound autism and their caregivers.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing a prompt to donate to the Operation Game Thief Fund
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Metcalf, Flores, Kerwin, Martinez Fischer, Orr, Vasut, Ward Johnson
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Cole, DeAyala
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Joe Morris, Game Warden Peace Officers Association; John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that providing an option for individuals to voluntarily contribute to the Operation Game Thief Fund when applying for a hunting or fishing license is necessary to support the state's wildlife crime-stoppers program.
- DIGEST:** HB 3129 would authorize an applicant for a hunting or fishing license of any type under the Parks and Wildlife Code, including a combination hunting and fishing license, to make a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10, or \$20 to the Operation Game Thief Fund when applying for the license.
- The bill would require The Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to include space on the first page of each application for a hunting or fishing license that allowed an applicant to indicate that the applicant was donating \$1, \$5, \$10, or \$20 to the operation game thief fund and provide an opportunity for an applicant to donate to the operation game thief fund through TPWD's website. TPWD also would be required to deposit a donation made to the Operation Game Thief Fund not later than the 14th day of each month. Before depositing the money, TPWD could deduct money equal to the amount of reasonable expenses for developing and administering the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Authorizing defense base development authority to commission peace officers

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs — favorable,
without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Hefner, R. Lopez, Canales, Cortez, Dorazio, Hickland, Holt,
Isaac, Louderback, McLaughlin, Pierson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Abigail Ottmers, Port San Antonio (*Registered, but did not testify*:
Katie Ferrier, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce; Mitch Fuller,
VFW Dept of Texas; Dale Laine, VIA Transit)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that authorizing the board of directors of the Port
San Antonio defense base development authority to commission peace
officers could allow the authority to respond to emergent threats, maintain
a secure environment for its operations, and reduce the burden on
municipal and county law enforcement.

DIGEST: HB 3248 would authorize the board of directors of a defense base
development authority to employ and commission peace officers for the
authority to prevent or abate the commission of offenses relating to port
functions, facilities, and operations under state or local law. A peace
officer commissioned by the authority would have jurisdiction over the
property owned and controlled by the authority and could make an arrest
without a warrant. The bill also would amend the list of qualifying peace
officers in the Code of Criminal Procedure to include an officer
commissioned by the board of directors of a defense base development
authority.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Establishing jurisdiction, operations for the first Capitol site and replica
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Metcalf, Flores, DeAyala, Kerwin, Martinez Fischer, Orr, Vasut, Ward Johnson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Cole
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joey Park, Texas Wildlife Association; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — Joseph Bell, Texas Historical Commission (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chris Elliott, Texas Historical Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that transferring responsibility for the first Capitol site in West Columbia to the Texas Historical Commission could ensure the site’s preservation, improve visitor experiences, and maintain its historical integrity.
- DIGEST:** HB 3251 would establish that the first Capitol state historic site located in West Columbia, Texas, and the first Republic of Texas House of Representatives building housed on the first Capitol site were under the jurisdiction of the Texas Historic Commission. The bill would require the commission to be responsible for the preservation, maintenance, and operation of the site and replica. The commission would be required to develop, expand, and manage the first Capitol site and replica by:
- expanding, renovating, and managing the site and replica to enhance visitor experience and historical accuracy;
 - overseeing maintenance and operations of the site and replica to ensure long-term preservation and public accessibility; and

- providing financial support for ongoing operations and new projects, such as administration, personnel, and site improvements.

The bill also would establish specific provisions and requirements for the commission to:

- enhance the facilities and infrastructure;
- assume responsibility for the historic preservation and interpretation of the first Capitol site and replica;
- oversee the operations of and personnel;
- acquire resources and seek donations;
- strategically develop the site and replica;
- facilitate community engagement and partnerships; and
- ensure responsible stewardship of resources.

The bill would permit THC to accept a grant or donation for any program or purpose of the first capitol site and replica.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of \$3,025,100 to general revenue related funds through the biennium.

- SUBJECT:** Expanding projects under Gulf Coast Authority development corporation
- COMMITTEE:** Trade, Workforce & Economic Development — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Button, K. Bell, Bhojani, Harris Davila, Longoria, Lujan, Luther, Meza, Ordaz, Richardson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Talarico
- WITNESSES:** For — Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Gulf Coast Authority (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matt Abel, Texas Economic Development Council)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that expanding the Gulf Coast Authority’s ability to finance a broader range of projects could help support emerging industries and help the state strengthen its leadership in broadband access, water supply, and energy innovation.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3255 would expand the authority of a development corporation created by the Gulf Coast Authority to finance a broader range of projects, including certain projects located out of state.
- The bill would allow a development corporation created by the Gulf Coast Authority to finance projects that acquire, construct, renovate, equip, improve, or refinance certain educational and housing facilities, health facilities, facilities operated by certain charitable organizations, energy production and storage facilities, and telecommunications service facilities.
- The development corporation also could finance the periodic acquisition of natural gas or electricity for private or public entities. The bill would grant these corporations all the powers of a public facility corporation

under the Public Facility Corporation Act for purposes of acquiring natural gas or electricity.

CSHB 3255 also would allow a such development corporation to finance or support any facility, activity, or undertaking that a local government or its entities were authorized to finance, even if the project was not an authorized project of a development corporation. The legislative findings of the Development Corporation Act would apply to these provisions and to any facilities, activities, or undertakings authorized by these provisions.

For out-of-state projects financed through public securities, the bill would require the corporation to submit a resolution approving the public security and a detailed project description to the attorney general. If the attorney general did not request the submission of the record of proceedings related to the authorization of the public security within 12 business days, the public security or related contracts would not be subject to attorney general review and approval.

The bill also would require that, for out-of-state projects, the development corporation determine whether the project met certain public purpose requirements and project approval standards.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Creating the Rio Grande vegetative management program
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture & Livestock — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Guillen, Cain, Hopper, Kitzman, J. Lopez, McLaughlin, Money
0 nays
2 absent — Guerra, Muñoz
- WITNESSES:** For — Charles Maley, South Texans’ Property Rights Association
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Buddy Garcia, Brownsville Public Utilities Board; Todd Kercheval, Texas Conservation Association for Water and Soil)

Against — None

On — Cy Tongate, Pecan Bayou Soil and Water Conservation District; Heather Bounds, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that an existing program to eradicate Carrizo cane along the Texas-Mexico border should be expanded to include the eradication of additional noxious vegetation along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations.
- DIGEST:** HB 3479 would replace the requirement for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWC) to develop and implement a program to eradicate Carrizo cane along the Rio Grande River with the requirement for TSSWC to implement the Rio Grande vegetative management program to manage Carrizo cane and other noxious vegetation that impedes border security along the river.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Revising the civil penalty for unauthorized signs on public rights-of-way
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Craddick, M. Perez, Curry, Gámez, Harris Davila, Hefner, LaHood, Little, C. Morales, E. Morales, Patterson, Paul
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Canales
- WITNESSES:** For — Delvon Dee Harris, Sheri Strong, City of Houston (*Registered, but did not testify*); T. J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Joshua Sanders, City of Houston; Nadia Islam, City of San Antonio; Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Santiago Franco, Harris County Commissioners Court; Thomas Parkinson; Jason Wills)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*): Steven Deline)
- On — Terri Hall, TURF, Texans for Tollfree Highways, We the People - Liberty in Action
- BACKGROUND:** Current law restricts unauthorized signs on the right-of-way of a public road, but concerns have been raised that some local governments may face challenges when enforcing sign regulations due to unclear authority and limited resources.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3611 would make a person whose commercial advertisement was placed on an unauthorized sign on the right-of-way of a public road liable for the same civil penalty applicable to the person who placed or commissioned the placement of the sign. For either person, the bill would amend the law to condition liability for a first violation on:
- whether the person failed to remove the sign after being notified by the applicable political subdivision that the person could be liable for a civil penalty if the person failed to remove the sign within a specified period of time; and

- the person failed to remove the sign within the specified period of time.

The bill would change the amount of the civil penalty from a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1,000 for each violation, depending on certain factors, to:

- \$1,000 for a first violation;
- \$2,500 for a second violation; and
- \$5,000 for a third or subsequent violation.

CSHB 3611 also would remove the authorization to collect a separate penalty for each day a continuing violation occurred.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Revising authorized methods for soliciting bids in the open market

COMMITTEE: Delivery of Government Efficiency — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Capriglione, Alders, Bowers, Cain, Campos, Cook, Curry, L. Garcia, Olcott, Tinderholt, Troxclair

0 nays

2 absent — Bhojani, Rodríguez Ramos

WITNESSES: For - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Deline)

Against - None

On - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Gerard MacCrossan, Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the telegraph is no longer an available or practical means for state entities to use in soliciting bids for purchasing purposes.

DIGEST: HB 3623 would remove telegraph from the list of authorized methods for the comptroller and state agencies to solicit bids under open market purchase procedures.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Amending TAMU system board of regents authority over utilities
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Wilson, Howard, A. Davis, Lalani, Lambert, V. Perez, Shaheen, Shofner, Tinderholt, VanDeaver, Ward Johnson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Steven Deline)
- Against — None
- On — David Staack, Texas A&M University System
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 85.24 authorizes the TAMU System board of regents to improve and equip, from time to time, existing central power plants and to construct, acquire, improve, and equip steam plants and additions to them. The board also may acquire land for these purposes when the total cost, type of construction, capacity, and plans and specifications have been approved by the board.
- The board is authorized to furnish water, sewer, steam, power, electricity, or any or all of those services from the power or steam plant located at each TAMU System institution to various buildings, such as dormitories and hospitals, that may have been or may be constructed at each institution.
- Concerns have been raised that current law regarding the acquisition or construction of electrical generation power facilities by the Texas A&M University (TAMU) System has not been updated in 60 years, and that the TAMU System cannot own or acquire an electrical generating facility or acquire a water or sewer system depending on contractual terms.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3701 would amend Education Code sec. 85.24 to alter the authority of the Texas A&M University System board of regents regarding utility systems. The bill would revise this provision to specify that the board

could improve and equip existing power plants, rather than central power plants, and could construct, acquire, improve, and equip steam plants and additions to steam plants. The bill also would specify that the board could acquire property, rather than land, for these purposes.

The bill would authorize the board to provide, rather than furnish, certain utilities or any combination of, rather than any or all of, those services from the plants and other facilities located at each institution to all buildings and facilities that had been or could be constructed at each institution. The board could allocate the cost of providing, rather than furnishing, the service to revenue-producing buildings and facilities and to other buildings and facilities at the institutions.

The board could construct and acquire power plants and additions to power plants and could acquire water systems and sewer systems located on TAMU System property in Brazos County.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Regulating the placement of a cultivated oyster in certain bodies of water
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation & Tourism — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Metcalf, Flores, DeAyala, Kerwin, Martinez Fischer, Orr, Vasut, Ward Johnson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Cole
- WITNESSES:** For — Marie Camino, The Nature Conservancy in Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*); Fred Shannon, Copano Oyster Company; Jeff Miller, Gulf Trust; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Joel Romo, Nueces County; John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation; Joey Park, Texas Oyster Mariculture Association; Ryan Skrobarczyk, The City of Corpus Christi)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*): Robin Riechers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that without proper regulation, the introduction of cultivated oysters into natural or private beds or coastal waters could spread disease, cause genetic disruption, and harm marine environments. It has been suggested that requiring written authorization from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the development of best management practices could help mitigate these risks.
- DIGEST:** HB 3724 would permit a person to place a cultivated oyster in a natural oyster bed, a private oyster bed, or coastal waters if TPWD authorized the placement in writing. The bill also would require TPWD to adopt best management practices for authorizing the placement of these cultivated oysters.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Establishing certain confidentiality requirements for Department of Banking

COMMITTEE: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Lambert, Plesa, Bryant, Bumgarner, L. Garcia, Hayes, Holt, Vo

0 nays

1 absent — Schoolcraft

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Marcus Adams, Texas Department of Banking

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that current Health and Safety Code provisions governing the Texas Department of Banking (TDB) regulation of perpetual care cemeteries do not contain a confidentiality provision specific to perpetual care cemetery financial information, while Finance Code provisions require TDB to make certain financial information related to a prepaid funeral contract seller confidential. Some have suggested that statute should be updated to add confidentiality provisions to the relevant sections of the Health and Safety Code to avoid conflicting applications.

DIGEST: CSHB 3803 would amend the Health and Safety Code to establish that information relating to the financial condition of a perpetual care cemetery or a perpetual care trust fund that the Texas Department of Banking obtained directly or indirectly, through examination or otherwise, was confidential. A department file or record relating to the financial condition of a perpetual care cemetery or perpetual care trust fund also would be confidential.

CSHB 3803 would establish that the banking commissioner could disclose information to an agency, department, or instrumentality of Texas or

another U.S. state if the commissioner determined that it was in the best interest of the public and necessary or proper to enforce the laws of this state or another U.S. state.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Amending provisions related to the regulation of state banks
- COMMITTEE:** Pensions, Investments & Financial Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Lambert, Plesa, Bryant, Bumgarner, L. Garcia, Hayes, Holt, Vo
0 nays
1 absent — Schoolcraft
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Wendy Foster, Independent Bankers Association of TX; Billy Phenix, Texas Bankers Association)
Against — None
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Marcus Adams, Texas Department of Banking)
- BACKGROUND:** Finance Code sec. 33.001 prohibits an individual from directly or indirectly acquiring a legal or beneficial interest in the voting securities of a state bank or in a corporation or other entity that owns voting securities of a state bank if the acquisition would result in the individual obtaining a controlling interest in the bank. This restriction applies unless the individual has received prior written approval from the commissioner of the Texas Department of Banking or is otherwise expressly permitted by law.
Some have suggested that revisions to the Finance Code relating to the regulation of state banks are needed to correct errors enacted under laws aimed at modernizing statute governing banks during the 88th legislative session.
- DIGEST:** HB 3804 would revise the exemption under Finance Code sec. 33.001 concerning a controlling person's acquisition of voting securities in any class or series. The bill would provide that, unless otherwise provided in writing by the banking commissioner, the state bank to which the

controlling person's exemption applied was the state bank for which the applicable controlling person had been identified previously as a controlling person in a prior application filed with and approved by the banking commissioner, provided that the person:

- had held continuously from the date of receipt of approval the power to vote twenty-five percent or more of any class of voting securities of the state bank; or
- was considered to have, from the date of receipt of approval, continuous control of the state bank.

HB 3804 would specify that payment of any kind of dividend from a bank to its shareholders during a period of supervision was prohibited without the prior approval of the banking commissioner or supervisor, or as otherwise permitted or restricted by the order of supervision.

HB 3804 also would provide that obligations that could not be considered as a deposit establishing a debtor-creditor relationship were obligations that arose under Finance Code ch. 152, rather than under ch. 151.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Authorizing banking commissioner to make certain prohibitions, removals

COMMITTEE: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Lambert, Plesa, Bryant, Bumgarner, L. Garcia, Hayes, Holt, Schoolcraft, Vo

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Wendy Foster, Independent Bankers Association of Texas)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Marcus Adams, Texas Department of Banking)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised regarding the Texas Department of Banking (TDB) commissioner's lack of authority to remove or prohibit an individual from participating in money services businesses in cases where the individual has engaged in malfeasant activity.

DIGEST: CSHB 3805 would allow the banking commissioner to prohibit persons from participating in the affairs of a money services licensee based on certain conduct.

Removal or prohibition. The bill would authorize the banking commissioner to remove or prohibit a current or former key individual or employee of a money services licensee from office or employment in that licensee or in any other entity chartered, registered, permitted, or licensed by the commissioner under certain conditions. The commissioner also could prohibit a control person or any other individual participating in the affairs of a money services licensee from further participation in that licensee or in any other entity chartered, registered, permitted, or licensed by the commissioner under certain conditions.

To remove or prohibit such persons from office, employment, or participation, the commissioner would have to determine, based on an examination or other credible evidence, that the person:

- intentionally made a false statement, misrepresentation, or certification in a record or application filed with TDB or required to be maintained under statute or a rule adopted or order issued under statute, or intentionally made a false entry or omitted a material entry in the record or application;
- intentionally committed, participated in the commission of, or caused a money services licensee to commit certain acts that would result in the revocation of a money services license;
- violated a final cease and desist order issued by a state or federal regulatory agency against the person or an entity in which the person is or was a key individual, employee, or control person; or
- made, or caused to be made, false entries in the records of a money services licensee.

The prohibition also would be permitted if, because of an action by this person:

- the money services licensee suffered or would probably suffer financial loss or expense or other damage;
- the interests of the licensee's customers, creditors, or shareholders had been or could have been prejudiced;
- the person received financial gain or other benefit by reason of the action, or likely would have if the action had not been discovered;

CSHB 3805 also would permit the commissioner to remove or prohibit the aforementioned persons from employment, office, or participation in a money services business if the individual's actions involved personal dishonesty or demonstrated a willful or continuing disregard for the safety or soundness of the money services licensee.

CSHB 3805 would authorize the commissioner to serve a proposed removal or prohibition order on a person alleged to have committed or participated in the action if the commissioner had grounds for action

under the bill, and found that such action appeared necessary and in the best interest of the public.

CSHB 3805 would authorize the commissioner to make a removal or prohibition order perpetual or effective for a specified period of time, to probate the order, or to impose other conditions on the order.

The order would take effect if the individual against whom the proposed order was directed did not request a hearing in writing before the effective date. If the person did not request a hearing before the effective date, the order would be final and not appealable as to that person.

Removal or prohibition as a result of criminal offenses. The commissioner could make a prohibition or removal under the bill if the person had been finally convicted of a felony involving a business engaged in money services, dishonesty, or breach of trust. CSHB 3085 would consider an individual to have been finally convicted if the individual's case was not subject to further appellate review and:

- a sentence was imposed;
- the individual received probation or community supervision; or
- the court deferred final disposition of the person's case.

If the commissioner had grounds for action based on this criteria, the commissioner could serve a removal or prohibition order, as appropriate, on the person who had been finally convicted. The commissioner also would be required to serve a copy of the order on any money services licensee that the individual was affiliated at the time the order was served. Such an order would become effective immediately unless the order was stayed or terminated by the commissioner, set aside by the commissioner after a hearing, or stayed or vacated on appeal.

By the 30th day after an order was served, the person against whom an order was issued could submit a written request for a hearing before the commissioner, to show that their continued service to or participation in the affairs of a money services licensee did not, or was unlikely to, threaten the interests of the licensee, its customers, or public confidence in the licensee. The commissioner would be required to hold a hearing no

later than thirty days after the date the request was received, unless the requesting party requested a later date. At the hearing, the requesting party would have the burden of proof.

After the hearing, the commissioner could affirm, modify, or set aside the order in whole or in part. Additionally, an order affirming or modifying the order would become immediately final for purposes of enforcement and appeal. The order also could be appealed as provided for by relevant statute.

Application for release from final removal or prohibition order.

Regardless of the order's stated duration or date of issuance, a person subject to a removal or prohibition order issued under the bill could apply to the commissioner to be released from the order after the expiration of ten years from the issuance date.

The application would have to be made under oath in the form required by the commissioner and accompanied by any required fees. The commissioner, in the exercise of discretion, could approve or deny an application for release. The commissioner's decision would be final and not appealable.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Prohibiting certain activities of state trust companies under supervision

COMMITTEE: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Lambert, Plesa, Bryant, Bumgarner, L. Garcia, Hayes, Holt, Vo

0 nays

1 absent — Schoolcraft

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Billy Phenix, Texas Bankers Association)

Against — None

On — Marcus Adams, Texas Department of Banking

BACKGROUND: Current law authorizes the commissioner of the Texas Department of Banking to appoint a supervisor over a state trust company that is in hazardous condition. While under supervision, the state trust company may not engage in certain activities without prior approval from the banking commissioner or supervisor. Some have suggested that these restrictions should be made consistent with statutes applicable to other entities under the department's jurisdiction.

DIGEST: HB 3806 would specify that the payment of any dividend, rather than a cash dividend, from a state trust company to its shareholders or participants during a period of supervision was prohibited without the prior approval of the banking commissioner or supervisor or as otherwise permitted or restricted by the order of supervision. The bill also would prohibit the state trust company from engaging in any other activity that the banking commissioner determined would threaten the company's safety and soundness.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Providing for the dissolution of the Rose City Municipal Utility District

COMMITTEE: Land & Resource Management — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Gates, Alders, Hinojosa, Hunter, R. Lopez, Morgan, Virdell
0 nays
2 absent — Lalani, Y. Davis

WITNESSES: For - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jay Propes, Liberty Utilities, Inc)
Against - None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that because the Rose City Municipal Utility District was never finalized by a confirmation election and there is no longer a need for the district, the district should be dissolved.

DIGEST: HB 3810 would require the directors of the Rose City Municipal Utility District to wind up the district’s affairs, including by filing any required dissolution documents with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and establish that the district would be dissolved 60 days after the bill went into effect.

On the 61st day after the bill’s effective date, the chapter of the Special District Local Laws Code that established the district would be repealed.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

- SUBJECT:** Amending the offense of cruelty to livestock animals
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing & Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Phelan, Thompson, Geren, Harless, Harris, Hernandez, Longoria, McQueeney, Patterson, M. Perez, Romero, Walle
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Gerdes
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers’ Union; Anthony Kivela, HPROA; John Sierega, TMPA; Steven Deline)
- Against — None
- On — Connie McNabb, Texas Racing Commission (*Registered, but did not testify:* Amy Cook, Texas Racing Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that amending the criminal offense of cruelty to livestock animals to include unauthorized administration of certain controlled substances could address concerns regarding the dangerous and cruel use of controlled substances in competitive horse racing.
- DIGEST:** For purposes of the criminal offense of cruelty to livestock animals through an act of torture, CSHB 3816 would expand the definition of “torture” to include administering a controlled substance listed under Penalty Group 1 in the Health and Safety Code, unless the administration complied with a valid prescription or order of a health care practitioner in the course of professional practice.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Requiring TxDMV to create additional animal-friendly license plates

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Craddick, M. Perez, Curry, Gámez, Harris Davila, Hefner, LaHood, Little, C. Morales, E. Morales, Patterson, Paul

0 nays

1 absent — Canales

WITNESSES: For — Ashley Morgan, Texas Humane Legislation Network (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joshua Sanders, City of Houston; Francesca Chillino, Texas Humane Legislation Network)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Susan Rollo, Department of State Health Services; Annette Quintero, TxDMV)

BACKGROUND: The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is responsible for administering funds for the “Animal Friendly” specialty license plate program, the fees from which support community-based spay and neuter programs. Some have suggested that DSHS should have clear statutory authority to engage with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to allow for a greater variety of license plate designs that support spay and neuter programs.

DIGEST: CSHB 3832 would require TxDMV to issue other specialty license plates to benefit spay and neuter programs in Texas, in addition to specialty license plates that include the words "Animal Friendly." The bill would require TxDMV to consult with the Texas Humane Legislation Network to design the plates.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.