HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION • TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0752 • https://hro.house.texas.gov

Steering Committee:
Gary VanDeaver, Chairman
Alma Allen, Vice Chairman

Angie Chen Button, Liz Campos, Mary González, Donna Howard, Ann Johnson, Ken King, Oscar Longoria, J. M. Lozano, Toni Rose, John Smithee, David Spiller

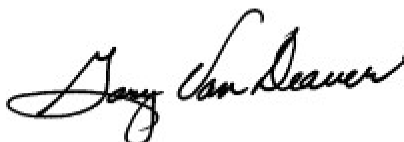
HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

daily floor report

Monday, May 12, 2025
89th Legislature, Number 63
The House convenes at 10 a.m.
Part One

One bill is on the Major State Calendar, three resolutions are on the Constitutional Amendments Calendar, and 126 bills are on the General State Calendar for Monday, May 12, for second reading consideration. The list of bills included in Part One of the *Daily Floor Report* appears on the following page.

HRO bill analyses for previous daily House calendars and the supplemental House calendar can be found on the Dynamic Floor Report: https://hro-dfr.house.texas.gov/floor-reports



Gary VanDeaver
Chairman
89(R) - 63

HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Daily Floor Report

Monday, May 12, 2025

89th Legislature, Number 63

Part 1

HB 46 by King	Amending provisions for the Texas Compassionate-Use Program	1
HJR 35 by Craddick	Establishing the Grow Texas Fund	7
HJR 47 by Landgraf	Establishing the Texas (STRONG) defense fund with oil and gas revenue	11
HJR 182 by Patterson	Modifying the cap for the Veterans' Land Board’s obligated bonds	15
HB 113 by Vasut	Restricting statutory construction and interpretation to plain meaning	17
HB 983 by Noble	Establishing confidentiality of educator personal information	21
HB 4847 by Hunter	Requiring database to include certain school district tax information	22
HB 1449 by Capriglione	Expanding mobile food unit permitting in certain counties	24
HB 3833 by Lambert	Amending regulations concerning money services business licensing	26
HB 5151 by Wilson	Prohibiting the issuance of certain aggregate facility air quality permits	29
HB 265 by Craddick	Transferring funds, establishing Grow Texas fund grant program	31
HB 1845 by Orr	Authorizing salary increases for paralegals under rural grant program	34
HB 782 by Thompson	Requiring the transfer of a protective order in subsequent family law suits	35
HB 108 by Plesa	Enhancing penalties for body armor use in certain felonies	37
HB 1960 by J. Lopez	Designating the Lieutenant Milton Resendez Memorial Highway	39
HB 158 by Raymond	Establishing a study on housing for veterans and low-income families	40
HB 1954 by Thompson	Revising certain provisions related to guardianship matters	42
HB 1955 by Thompson	Establishing home visiting grant program for childhood mental health	44
HB 2512 by Geren	Excluding certain areas from procedures for release from a city’s ETJ	47
HB 605 by J. Jones	Authorizing Harris County Hospital District to commission peace officers	49
HB 2581 by Hull	Requiring service documentation under Thriving Texas Families Program	51
HB 2803 by Hayes	Requiring election judges to provide watchers with reasons for removal	53
HB 627 by Cortez	Revising requirements for certain housing tax credit applications	54
HB 2667 by King	Excepting senior living referral agencies from patient solicitation offenses	56
HB 1738 by V. Jones	Repealing the offense of homosexual conduct	60
HB 636 by Walle	Creating a statewide homeless data sharing network	62
HB 3679 by Tepper	Authorizing the operation of certain vehicles during disasters	64
HB 2638 by Shofner	Designating the Deputy Sheriff Chris Dickerson Memorial Highway	67
HB 2655 by Oliverson	Allowing nonprofit organizations to operate regional health care programs	68
HB 871 by Reynolds	Updating municipal residential and commercial building codes	70

SUBJECT: Amending provisions for the Texas Compassionate-Use Program

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

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

0 nays

1 absent — Bucy

WITNESSES: For — Piper Lindeen, Americans for Safe Access; LaTonya Whittington, Cannabis Reform of Houston; Karen Reeves, CenTex Community Outreach; Nico Richardson, Texas Original Compassionate Cultivation; Kevin Hale, The Libertarian Party of Texas; Susan Hays, Village Farms; Matthew Brimberry; Marcus Ruark (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nick Hudson, American Civil Liberties Union of Texas; Denise Rose, BlissfulCannaCo; Chase Bearden, Cole Glosser, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Nishi Whiteley, CReDO Science; Andrew Graham, Goodblend; Mark Vane, HB Strategies; Jonathan Parker, I Love This Plant Co.; Esme Thoman, Lonestar Compassionate Care, LLC; Lyssette Galvan, NAMI Texas; Byron Olinick, Olinick Construction, Inc, President; Brian Hawthorne, Sheriffs' Association of Texas; Heather Fazio, Texas Cannabis Policy Center; Michael Clarke, The Arc of Texas; Mitch Fuller, VFW Dept of Texas; and 20 individuals)

Against — Ben Euhus (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cindi Castilla, Texas Eagle Forum)

On — Joao Mitchell, ATX Organics; Jesse Williams, DAV Chapter 219; Elizabeth Miller, Texans Helped by Cannabis; Lucas Williams (*Registered, but did not testify*: Manda Hall, Department of State Health Services; Wayne Mueller, Texas Department of Public Safety)

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code ch. 487, the Texas Compassionate-Use Act, establishes provisions for a compassionate-use program in which the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is required to maintain a secure online

compassionate-use registry and is authorized to issue licenses to qualified dispensing organizations to cultivate, process, and dispense low-THC cannabis to patients for whom low-THC cannabis is prescribed by a physician for compassionate use.

Some have suggested that the eligible medical conditions for which low-THC cannabis may be prescribed should be expanded to provide access to needed services for more individuals while ensuring proper safeguards.

DIGEST: CSHB 46 would revise provisions related to the licensing regulation and operation of dispensing organizations under the Texas Compassionate-Use Program.

Satellite locations. CSHB 46 would authorize a dispensing organization to operate one or more satellite locations in addition to the organization's primary location to securely store low-THC cannabis for distribution. In regards to satellite locations, the bill would:

- require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to approve the satellite locations before a licensed dispensing organization could operate the location;
- authorize a dispensing organization to apply for approval in the form and manner prescribed by DPS;
- require DPS to act on an application within 180 days after the date the application was submitted;
- require the public safety director of DPS to adopt rules regarding the design and security requirements for satellite locations; and
- prohibit a dispensing organization from operating more than one satellite location in a designated public health region unless the organization operated one satellite location in each public health region.

The bill would revise provisions related to the application requirements for a license to operate as a dispensing organization to require the name and address of each of the applicant's owners and members on the application and the address of any satellite location that would be used by the applicant for secure storage of low-THC cannabis.

The bill would establish that a licensed dispensing organization would not be required to apply for an additional license for the use of a satellite

location for secure storage of low-THC cannabis if the address of the satellite location was included in the application or the organization obtained approval from DPS.

Issuance and renewal of licensure. The bill would require DPS to issue 11 licenses to dispensing organizations in Texas provided that DPS received applications from a sufficient number of applicants meeting the requirements for eligibility to operate as a dispensing organization under applicable state law. The bill also would require DPS to issue and renew licenses in a manner that ensured adequate access to low-THC cannabis for patients registered in the compassionate-use registry in each designated public health region. The bill would:

- specify that an applicant who never held a license to operate as a dispensing organization would not be entitled to a hearing if DPS denied the issuance of the license; and
- require the director of DPS to adopt rules to establish a timeline for reviewing and taking action on an application for a license to operate as a dispensing organization.

Operation under a dispensing organization license. The bill would require an applicant issued a license to operate a dispensing organization to begin dispensing low-THC cannabis within 24 months after the date the license was issued and continue dispensing low-THC cannabis during the term of the issued license. The bill would require the director of DPS to adopt rules to:

- monitor whether a licensed dispensing organization was using the license to dispense low-THC cannabis; and
- revoke the license of a dispensing organization that did not dispense low-THC cannabis within the time required by the bill or that discontinued dispensing low-THC cannabis during the term of a license.

Cannabinoid content and product eligibility. CSHB 46 would prohibit a dispensing organization from dispensing to a person low-THC cannabis in a package or container that contained more than a total of 1.2 grams of THC. The bill also would prohibit a dispensing organization from dispensing a low-THC cannabis product that contained a cannabinoid that

was not a phytocannabinoid in a product, unless the dispensing organization obtained approval from DPS.

The bill would define "phytocannabinoid" as a chemical substance:

- created naturally by a plant of the species Cannabis sativa L. that is separated from the plant by a mechanical or chemical extraction process;
- created naturally by a plant of the species Cannabis sativa L. that binds to or interacted with the cannabinoid receptors of the endocannabinoid system; or
- produced by decarboxylation from a naturally occurring cannabinoid acid without the use of a chemical catalyst.

Storage of low-THC cannabis. The bill would prohibit a municipality, county, or other political subdivision from enacting, adopting, or enforcing a rule, ordinance, resolution, or other regulation that would prohibit the authorized storage of low-THC cannabis under state law.

Prescription eligibility and requirements. CSHB 46 would expand the medical conditions for which a physician would be authorized to prescribe low-THC cannabis for compassionate use to patients diagnosed with:

- a condition that caused chronic pain, for which a physician would otherwise prescribe an opioid;
- glaucoma;
- traumatic brain injury;
- spinal neuropathy;
- Crohn's disease or other inflammatory bowel disease;
- degenerative disc disease;
- a terminal illness or a condition for which a patient is receiving hospice or palliative care; or
- a medical condition designated by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) under the bill.

The bill also would authorize a physician to prescribe low-THC cannabis for compassionate use to a patient who was an honorably discharged veteran who would benefit from medical use to address a medical condition.

CSHB 46 would establish that each prescription issued by a physician to a patient for low-THC cannabis could:

- only provide for a 90-day supply of low-THC cannabis based on the dosage prescribed to the patient; and
- provide up to four refills of a 90-day supply of low-THC cannabis.

The bill would authorize DSHS to designate medical conditions for which a physician could prescribe low-THC cannabis and would require the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt rules for the approval of those medical conditions.

The bill would authorize a physician to submit to DSHS a request to designate a condition as a medical condition for which a physician could prescribe low-THC cannabis. The request would be required to include medical evidence such as peer-reviewed published research demonstrating that low-THC cannabis could be beneficial to treat that medical condition. The bill would require the executive commissioner of HHSC by rule to prescribe the manner in which a physician could submit such a request.

Administration of low-THC cannabis by pulmonary inflation. The bill would authorize a physician to prescribe pulmonary inhalation of an aerosol or vapor as a means of administration of low-THC cannabis if the physician determined that based on the patient's condition there was a medical necessity for that means of administration. The bill would require the HHSC executive commissioner to adopt rules:

- related to medical devices for pulmonary inhalation of low-THC cannabis; and
- establishing an amount of tetrahydrocannabinols when administered by pulmonary inhalation that was medically equivalent to other means of administering low-THC cannabis.

Patient confidentiality. The bill would establish that information within the compassionate use registry regarding patient identification, including the fact that a person is listed as a patient in the registry, was confidential and could only be accessed by DPS, registered physicians, and dispensing organizations for the purposes of provisions relating to the compassionate use of low-THC cannabis in Texas. The bill would prohibit such confidential information from being disclosed except as otherwise

authorized, and would establish that the information was not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act. The bill would authorize DPS, on request by a patient, to release patient information contained in the registry to the patient or a person designated by the patient.

Other provisions. CSHB 46 would revise the definition of "low-THC cannabis" to mean the plant Cannabis sativa L., and any part of that plant or any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, preparation, resin, or oil of that plant that contained less than:

- one percent by weight of THC in each dosage unit; or
- an amount of THC equivalent to one percent by weight of THC in each dosage unit for THC administered by pulmonary inhalation as prescribed by rule by the HHSC executive commissioner.

The bill would revise the definition of "medical use" low-THC cannabis by including absorption, inhalation, or insertion by a means of administration other than by smoking of a prescribed amount of low-THC cannabis by a person for whom low-THC cannabis was prescribed. The bill would exclude from the definition of "smoking" the inhalation of a medication or other substance that was otherwise aerosolized or vaporized for administration by pulmonary inhalation.

The DPS director and HHSC executive commissioner would be required to adopt the rules necessary to implement the bill by October 1, 2025.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a positive impact of $5.8 million to general revenue related funds through the biennium.

SUBJECT: Establishing the Grow Texas Fund

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 16 ayes — Bonnen, M. González, DeAyala, Fairly, Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra, Gervin-Hawkins, Kitzman, Lujan, Martinez, Oliverson, Orr, Simmons, Slawson, Tepper, Villalobos, Walle

2 nays — Goodwin, Harrison

9 absent — Barry, Collier, Howard, V. Jones, J. Lopez, Lozano, Manuel, Rose, Wu

WITNESSES: For — James Beauchamp, Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance; Ben Shepperd, Permian Basin Petroleum Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Albright, AGC of Texas; Lauren Spreen, Apache Corporation; Lisa Kaufman, Atmos Energy; Kari Gibson, ConocoPhillips; Jimmy Carlile, Fasken Oil and Ranch; Chris Hosek, Halliburton; Royce Poinsett, Kinder Morgan; Anne Billingsley, ONEOK, Inc.; Julie Moore, Oxy; Vincent DiCosimo, Targa Resources; Ryan Paylor, Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO); Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Dean Foreman, Texas Oil and Gas Association; Thure Cannon, Texas Pipeline Association; Jason Modglin, Western Midstream; Gabe Sepulveda, Williams Companies)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Cruz, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; Tetyana Melnyk, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that returning a portion of severance tax revenue to provide for infrastructure improvements in areas of the state affected by oil and gas production could help alleviate challenges facing these areas that could limit the potential growth of the energy sector in the state.

DIGEST:

HJR 35 would amend the Texas Constitution to establish the Grow Texas Fund. The fund would consist of:

- certain oil and gas production tax revenue transferred to the fund;
- money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature;
- money that the Legislature by statute dedicated for deposit to the credit of the fund;
- certain federal funds;
- gifts or grants contributed to the fund; and
- investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund.

The Legislature could appropriate money from the fund only for use in areas of the state from which oil and gas were produced and only to address infrastructure needs in the manner provided by general law in areas of the state determined by the Legislature to be significantly affected by oil and gas production.

General law enacted under HJR 35 also could provide for the appropriation of money from the fund to make grants to state agencies and political subdivisions of the state for an authorized purpose.

Fund transfers. Each time the comptroller determined the amount of severance taxes to be transferred from general revenue to the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), the resolution would require the comptroller to reduce the amount of that transfer by 12 percent and transfer an equivalent amount to the credit of the Grow Texas Fund. For purposes of determining the amount of the transfer to the fund, the comptroller could not consider certain increases in the amount transferred to the ESF as provided by existing constitutional provisions.

The total amount transferred to the fund could not exceed $250 million in a fiscal biennium. On the last day of each fiscal biennium, the comptroller would be required to transfer any unobligated and unappropriated money that remained in the fund on that date to the ESF.

The resolution would make conforming changes to certain constitutional provisions related to annual revenue transfers to the ESF and the State Highway Fund to reflect these changes.

Grow Texas Fund Commission. HJR 35 would establish the Grow Texas Fund Commission to administer money appropriated from the fund and advise the Legislature on making fund appropriations. The commission would consist of seven members who would each serve four-year terms beginning September 1 of each odd-numbered year. The members would include:

- two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker;
- two members of the Senate appointed by the lieutenant governor; and
- three members of the public appointed by the governor, who would also be required to designate the presiding officer of the commission.

A vacancy on the commission would have to be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired term. Members of the commission would not be entitled to compensation but would be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses.

Ballot proposal. The ballot proposal would be presented to voters at an election on November 4, 2025, and would read: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Grow Texas fund, dedicating the money in that fund to benefit areas of the state from which oil and gas are produced, and providing for the transfer of certain general revenues to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and the state highway fund."

The resolution would provide for a temporary provision establishing that the amendments to the constitution would take effect September 1, 2027.

NOTES: HB 265 by Craddick, the enabling legislation for HJR 35, is also on the daily House calendar for second reading consideration today.

According to the Legislative Budget Board, if the balance of the ESF were reduced below the fund’s constitutional cap, the resolution would result in a significant loss of revenue from the Economic Stabilization Fund and a corresponding gain to the Grow Texas Fund. The cost to the state for publication of the resolution would be $191,689.

SUBJECT: Establishing the Texas (STRONG) defense fund with oil and gas revenue

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 17 ayes — Bonnen, M. González, DeAyala, Fairly, Garcia Hernandez, Gervin-Hawkins, Goodwin, Kitzman, Lujan, Martinez, Oliverson, Orr, Simmons, Slawson, Tepper, Villalobos, Walle

1 nay — Harrison

9 absent — Barry, Collier, Howard, V. Jones, J. Lopez, Lozano, Manuel, Rose, Wu

WITNESSES: For — Cyrus Reex, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Ben Shepperd, Permian Basin Petroleum Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Albright, AGC of Texas; Lauren Spreen, Apache Corporation; Kari Gibson, ConocoPhillips; Chris Hosek, Halliburton; James Beauchamp, Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance; Julie Moore, Oxy; Vincent DiCosimo, Targa Resources; Robert Wood, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Ryan Paylor, Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Dean Foreman, Texas Oil and Gas Association; Jason Modglin, Western Midstream)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Susan Stewart)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Andrew LeRoy, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; David Cruz and Tetyana Melnyk, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Under the Texas Constitution, art. 3, sec. 49-g (c), the comptroller of public accounts is required to transfer surplus oil and gas production tax revenue from the general revenue fund to the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) and the State Highway Fund.

Art. 3, Sec. 49-g (c-1) requires the comptroller to allocate half of the sum of the surplus oil and gas production taxes required to be transferred from

the general revenue fund under subsection (c) to the ESF and the remainder to the State Highway Fund, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution.

Some have suggested preventing the ESF from surpassing its constitutional limit by investing money from oil and gas tax revenue into the health, education, and infrastructure of communities heavily involved with oil and gas activity.

DIGEST:

HJR 47 would amend the Texas Constitution to establish the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund as a fund in the state treasury. The fund could consist of money transferred to the fund under the Constitution, money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature or that the Legislature by law dedicated for deposit to the fund, gifts or grants contributed to the fund, and investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund.

The resolution would amend the Texas Constitution art. 3, sec. 49-g (c) to include among the funds to which the comptroller was required to annually transfer certain tax revenue from the general revenue fund:

- the oil and gas regulation and cleanup account or a successor account;
- the Texas emissions reduction plan fund or a successor fund; and
- the Texas STRONG defense fund.

The resolution also would amend art. 3, sec. 49-g (c-1) to require the comptroller to allocate the relevant oil and gas production taxes transferred from the general revenue fund as follows:

- 38 percent to the economic stabilization fund (ESF);
- 10 percent to the Texas STRONG defense fund, subject to provided adjustments;
- 1 percent to the oil and gas regulation and cleanup account or a successor account;
- 1 percent to the Texas emissions reduction plan fund or a successor fund; and

- the remainder to the State Highway Fund.

If the amount allocated for transfer to the Texas STRONG defense fund would cause the total transfer amount allocated in a state fiscal year to exceed $500 million, the comptroller would be required to:

- reduce the amount allocated to be transferred to the fund under applicable provisions by the amount that would exceed $500 million for the year; and
- transfer the amount by which the allocation was reduced to the Property Tax Relief Fund or a successor fund.

The Legislature could appropriate money from the Texas STRONG defense fund only for use in areas of the state that it determined were significantly affected by oil and gas production. Money appropriated from the fund could be used as provided by general law to fund grants to state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, public institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to address public health and safety concerns and workforce preparedness needs, and to supplement educational opportunities.

On the last day of each state fiscal biennium, the comptroller would be required to transfer any unobligated and unappropriated money that remained in the fund on that date to the general revenue fund.

The ballot proposal would be presented to voters at an election on November 4, 2025, and would read: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to benefit areas of the state significantly affected by oil and gas production, and providing for the transfer of certain general revenues to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain other funds and accounts used to construct roads, reduce the emission of air contaminants, regulate oil and gas development, and provide property tax relief."

The resolution would establish a temporary provision to provide that the amendments to the Constitution would take effect September 1, 2027.

NOTES: The enabling legislation for HJR 47 is HB 188 by Landgraf.

The Legislative Budget Board estimates that HJR 47 would have a negative impact of $708,835,689 to general revenue related funds through the biennium.

SUBJECT:	Modifying the cap for the Veterans' Land Board's obligated bonds
COMMITTEE:	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	5 ayes — Lambert, Plesa, Bumgarner, L. Garcia, Hayes 0 nays 4 absent — Bryant, Holt, Schoolcraft, Vo
WITNESSES:	For — None Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Deline) On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Barton and Tony Dale, Veterans Land Board)

BACKGROUND: Texas Constitution, art. 3, sec. 49-b(w) authorizes the Veterans' Land Board (VLB) to provide for, issue, and sell general obligation bonds of the state for the purpose of selling land or providing home or mortgage loans to veterans of the state in a principal amount of outstanding bonds that should, at all times, be equal to or less than the aggregate principal amount of state general obligation bonds previously authorized for those purposes.

Concerns have been raised that the current cap on bond issuance by the VLB has not kept pace with inflation, limiting the board's ability to provide long-term, low-interest loans to state veterans. Some have proposed raising the cap to better support veterans' access to affordable financing.

DIGEST: HJR 182 would amend Texas Constitution, art. 3, sec. 49-b(w) to modify the cap under which the Veterans' Land Board may provide for, issue, and sell general obligation bonds of the state to an amount equal to or less than $6 billion.

The ballot proposal would be presented to voters at an election on November 4, 2025, and would read: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans’ Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount that is greater than amounts previously authorized.”

SUBJECT: Restricting statutory construction and interpretation to plain meaning

COMMITTEE: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Leach, Dyson, Hayes, LaHood, Landgraf, Schofield

4 nays — Johnson, Flores, J. González, Moody

1 absent — Dutton

WITNESSES: None (*Committee substitute considered in a formal meeting on May 8*)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that current statutory interpretation standards permit courts to consider the legislative intent of a statute at the time it was passed, including by reference to legislative history. Some have suggested that prohibiting courts from doing so, and instead requiring an interpretation based solely on the common, ordinary meaning of the words, would ensure that statutes passed by the Legislature were interpreted as written.

DIGEST: CSHB 113 would amend certain provisions in the Code Construction Act (Government Code ch. 311) and the Construction of Laws (Government Code ch. 312) related to statutory construction, legislative intent, and the severability of statutes.

Statutory construction and legislative intent. CSHB 113 would prohibit a court, when interpreting a statute, from inquiring into what members of the Legislature intended to accomplish by enacting the statute. Courts would be required to enforce statutory text as written and in accordance with the meaning that the words would have to an ordinary speaker of the English language.

A court would be prohibited from considering, consulting, citing, relying on, or giving weight to any statement from an individual legislator, a committee report, a presiding officer, or the governor upon signing a bill.

The bill would remove a court's obligation to liberally construe a statute and its ability to consider the object of the statute, the circumstances under which it was enacted, legislative history, common law, former provisions, consequences of a particular construction, administrative construction, and the caption, preamble, and emergency provisions.

The bill would remove the presumption, in enacting a statute, that:

- compliance with the state and U.S. constitutions was intended;
- the entire statute was intended to be effective;
- a just and reasonable result was intended;
- a result feasible of execution was intended; and
- public interest was favored over any private interest.

The bill would amend certain statutory construction provisions to remove references to legislative intent or purpose and replace them with references to a statute's plain meaning.

Agency deference. A court would not be required to give deference to a statutory construction by a state agency responsible for administering, implementing, or enforcing a statute. The court could consider a state agency's construction of a statute if it was reasonable and did not conflict with the statute's plain language.

Grammatical or scrivener's errors. The bill would provide that a grammatical or scrivener's error would not invalidate a law. A court could interpret a statute with an apparent grammatical or scrivener's error that would be apparent to an ordinary reader of the English language in a way that was consistent with the understanding of the statute by an ordinary reader of the English language.

Shall and must. CSHB 113 would amend the construction of "shall" in statutes generally to establish that the use of "shall" would not indicate that an action was discretionary.

The bill also would amend the construction of "must" in statutes generally to establish that "must" would impose a requirement and either create a

duty or create or recognize a condition precedent, rather than solely create or recognize a condition precedent.

Severability. Unless a statute contained a provision expressly providing for nonseverability, CSHB 113 would make severable every provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and word of a statute as well as every discrete application of those statutory parts to any person, group of persons, or circumstance, rather than solely every provision and its application to any person or circumstance.

Saving discrete applications. The bill would preserve and keep in effect all valid applications of a statutory provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word to any other person, group of persons, or circumstance, even if a court held that another particular application was invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional. The bill would establish that it was the intent of the Legislature that every valid, non-preempted, and constitutional application of its statutory enactments be allowed to stand alone and remain enforceable.

Severance does not rewrite statute. The bill would prohibit a court from declining to enforce the severability requirements stated above on the grounds that the severance would rewrite the statute or involve the court in legislative or lawmaking activity. A court that declined to enforce, or that enjoined a state official from enforcing, a statute wholly or partly would not be considered to be rewriting a statute or engaging in legislative or lawmaking activity, because the statute would continue to contain the same words as before the court's decision.

The bill would establish that a judicial injunction or declaration of unconstitutionality:

- was only an edict prohibiting enforcement of the disputed statute against the parties to that lawsuit and could subsequently be vacated by a higher court based on a different understanding of the law;
- was not a formal amendment of the language in a statute; and

- did not rewrite the statute any more than a decision by the executive not to enforce a duly enacted statute in a limited and defined set of circumstances.

Saving construction after an improper ruling. If a court, in violation of the bill, declared or found any statutory provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word to be facially or totally invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional, when there were discrete applications of those statutory parts that could be enforced against a person, group of persons, or circumstance without violating federal law or the federal or state constitutions, then that statutory part would be required to be interpreted, as a matter of state law, as if the Legislature had explicitly limited its application to the person, group of persons, or circumstance for which its application would not violate federal law or the federal or state constitutions.

Every court would be required to adopt and apply this saving construction until the court ruling declaring the statutory part facially or totally invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional was vacated or overturned.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

NOTES: An HRO bill analysis for CSHB 113 was originally published in Part One of the *Daily Floor Report* on May 5.

SUBJECT:	Establishing confidentiality of educator personal information
COMMITTEE:	Public Education — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	15 ayes — Buckley, Bernal, Allen, Ashby, Bryant, Cunningham, Dutton, Frank, Hinojosa, Hunter, Kerwin, Leach, Leo Wilson, Schoolcraft, Talarico 0 nays
WITNESSES:	For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Litzler, Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission; Sheri Blankenship, Texas Association Community Schools; Brandon Garcia, Texas Public Charter Schools Association; Steven Deline) Against — None On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, TEA)
BACKGROUND:	Concerns have been raised that certain personal information of educators who are not employed by the Texas Education Agency may be released if the agency receives an open records request. Some have suggested that such educator's personal information should be made confidential.
DIGEST:	HB 983 would establish that information maintained by the Texas Education Agency that related to the home address, home telephone number, personal cell phone number and email address, driver's license number, emergency contact information, date of birth, or social security number of an educator, or that revealed whether an educator had family members, was confidential and excepted from the public availability requirement under the Public Information Act. 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 database to include certain school district tax information

COMMITTEE: Ways & Means — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 13 ayes — Meyer, Martinez Fischer, Bernal, Button, Capriglione, Gervin-Hawkins, Hickland, Muñoz, Noble, V. Perez, Troxclair, Turner, Vasut

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Kristi Littleton, Port Aransas ISD; Missy Bender, Texas School Coalition (*Registered, but did not testify*: Patricia Shipton, City of Port Aransas; Jennifer Rodriguez, North Texas Commission; Amanda Brownson, Texas Association of School Business Officials; Kelly Rasti, Texas Association of School Boards)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Deline)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that, under current law, there is limited information available to the public regarding the amount of local tax revenue from school districts that is recaptured by the state.

DIGEST: CSHB 4847 would establish that, in addition to the information required to be included in the property tax database maintained by the chief appraiser of each appraisal district, the database would have to include, with respect to each property to which the bill applied that was listed on the appraisal roll for an applicable appraisal district, the following information for each district in which the property was located:

- the percentage of the taxes for maintenance and operations imposed by the district for the current tax year that the district was required to pay under the agreement for the school year beginning in the current tax year to purchase average daily attendance credits;
- the percentage of the taxes for maintenance and operations imposed by the district for the current tax year that the district was not required to pay under the agreement for the school year beginning in the current tax year to purchase average daily attendance credits; and

- a statement provided in the bill detailing the school district property tax revenue recapture process and how it affected the particular school district, including information on the percentages described above.

The bill would apply only to property that was located in one or more school districts that had a local revenue level in excess of entitlement and that, for the school year beginning in the current tax year, had taken measures to reduce the district's local revenue level.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2026.

SUBJECT: Expanding mobile food unit permitting in certain counties

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — C. Bell, Zwiener, Cole, Cortez, Garcia Hernandez, Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Rosenthal, Spiller, Tepper

0 nays

WITNESSES: For - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Paula Blackmon, City of Dallas; T. J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Santiago Franco, Harris County Commissioners Court; Sarah Horn, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB))

Against - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nadia Islam, City of San Antonio)

On - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Clifford Sparks, City of Dallas; Josie Castro Garcia, Dallas County; Anne Mazuca, Texas Association of City & County Health Officials)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that requiring mobile food service establishments to obtain permits from multiple municipalities within a single county can create unnecessary costs and administrative burdens.

DIGEST: HB 1449 would broaden the applicability of permitting and inspection requirements for mobile food service establishments by expanding such requirements to all counties with a population of more than one million.

The bill would prohibit applicable municipalities from requiring separate permits or similar authorizations for mobile food establishments beyond the permit issued by the county. A county would be allowed to delegate inspection responsibilities to municipalities within its boundaries.

The bill also would require that county permit fees be set based on the actual costs of issuing, renewing, amending, and inspecting permits,

including costs associated with delegated municipal inspections. The bill would repeal a provision that required mobile food units in municipalities with populations of 1.5 million or more to obtain a city-issued medallion after inspection.

The changes would apply to all relevant local ordinances and policies adopted before, on, or after the effective date. The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Amending regulations concerning money services business licensing

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 Assoc of Texas)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jessi Goostree, Texas Blockchain Council; Marcus Adams, Texas Department of Banking)

BACKGROUND: Finance Code sec. 152.105 establishes that, in addition to requirements related to money service license applications, an applicant is required to provide additional information to the banking commissioner if the applicant is an individual who is in control of a money services licensee or applicant, seeks to acquire control of a money service licensee, or is a key individual.

Additional information provided to the commissioner by an individual would have to include the individual's fingerprints, unless certain residence qualifications are met, and the individual's personal history and experience, as specified in statute.

Some have suggested that, following the repeal and replacement of Texas Finance Code Chapter 151 with Chapter 152, also known as the Money Services Modernization Act, certain statutory language should be updated and clarified.

DIGEST: CSHB 3833 would amend Finance Code sec. 152.105 to require any individual who controlled a money services licensee, was an applicant

who sought to acquire control of a money services licensee, or was a key individual of a money services licensee or applicant to provide to the banking commissioner the individual's fingerprints and certain personal and professional information. The bill would remove language that certain requirements related to money service license applications also must be met.

For provisions related to eligibility for a streamlined acquisition of control, the bill would remove the requirement that a person acquiring control be a money transmission licensee.

CSHB 3833 would specify that, for a currency exchange licensee, the audited and unaudited financial statements that a money services licensee would have to file with the commissioner would have to be prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

A currency exchange licensee also would be required to at all times maintain security that consisted of a surety bond in a form satisfactory to the commissioner. The currency exchange licensee also could maintain a deposit in lieu of a bond with the commissioner's approval. The bill would remove language establishing requirements if the security was an irrevocable letter of credit to reflect this change.

Under the bill, an applicant could deposit cash equivalents that equaled the total amount of the required security or the remaining part of the security only with prior approval of the commissioner.

The bill would amend provisions related to the types of permissible investments of a money transmission licensee to only allow cash demand and savings deposits that were held in a federally insured depository financial institution. CSHB 3833 would also clarify that, in order for stablecoin to be considered a permissible investment, it would have to be held, stored, or kept in custody of the licensee directly or by a third-party custodian that met the qualifications prescribed by the commissioner.

The bill also would replace certain references to a "principal" or "responsible person" throughout the Money Services Modernization Act with references to "a key individual."

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Prohibiting the issuance of certain aggregate facility air quality permits

COMMITTEE: Environmental Regulation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Landgraf, Ordaz, Anchía, K. Bell, Bumgarner, Morales Shaw, Oliverson, Reynolds, Toth

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Nan Manning, Camp Longhorn; Julia Kohlman and Randy Printz, SaveBurnet.com; Cliff Kaplan, Mark Friesenhahn, and Fermin Ortiz, Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining (TRAM); Sheila Hemphill, Texas Right To Know; and 13 individuals (*Registered, but did not testify*: Charlie Gagen, Ameeican Lung Association; Tracy Morehead, Camping Association for Mutual Progress (C.A.M.P.); Alexa Aragonez, City of Houston; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation; Thure Cannon)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Albright, AGC of Texas; Tara Snowden, Capitol Aggregates and Zachry Corporation; Craig Holzheauser, CEMEX; Aaron Kocian, Colorado Materials, Ltd.; David Parker, CRH Americas Materials; Lauren Fairbanks, GCC of America; Mark Vane, Heidleberg Materials; Buddy Garcia, Holcim US; David Parker, Lhoist North America; Michael Grimes, Texas Aggregate and Concrete Association; J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders; Patrick Tarlton, Texas Concrete Products Association; Steven Deline)

On — Samuel Short, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joel Anderson and Robert Sadlier, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that prohibiting aggregate production facilities from operating within certain areas could help protect natural parks, fisheries, and aquatic ecosystems from environmental harm while balancing the state's ongoing need for aggregate resources.

DIGEST: CSHB 5151 would prohibit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from issuing a permit or permit amendment or authorizing the use of a standard permit for a facility used for the production or crushing of aggregates that was proposed to be located within:

- four miles of a lake that was owned or operated by a river authority and supported a national fish hatchery;
- four miles of an entrance to a state park that was owned or operated by the Parks and Wildlife Department and contained a cavern dedicated as a National Natural Landmark in 1971; and
- two miles of a youth camp founded in 1975 and licensed by the Department of State Health Services.

The bill would not apply to a facility operating under a permit issued or authorization to use a standard permit granted on or before January 1, 2025.

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: Transferring funds, establishing Grow Texas fund grant program

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 16 ayes — Bonnen, M. González, DeAyala, Fairly, Garcia Hernandez, Gervin-Hawkins, Kitzman, Lujan, Martinez, Oliverson, Orr, Simmons, Slawson, Tepper, Villalobos, Walle

2 nays — Goodwin, Harrison

9 absent — Barry, Collier, Howard, V. Jones, J. Lopez, Lozano, Manuel, Rose, Wu

WITNESSES: For — Ben Shepperd, Permian Basin Petroleum Association; Dean Foreman, Texas Oil and Gas Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Albright, AGC of Texas; Lauren Spreen, Apache Corporation; Lisa Kaufman, Atmos Energy; T. J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Kari Gibson, ConocoPhillips; Jimmy Carlile, Fasken Oil and Ranch; Chris Hosek, Halliburton; Royce Poinsett, Kinder Morgan; James Beauchamp, Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance; Anne Billingsley, ONEOK, Inc.; Julie Moore, Oxy; Vincent DiCosimo, Targa Resources; Ryan Paylor, Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO); Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Thure Cannon, Texas Pipeline Association; Jason Modglin, Western Midstream; Gabe Sepulveda, Williams Companies; Steven Villela)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Cruz and Tetyana Melnyk, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the regions of Texas responsible for the growth of the state’s oil and natural gas production are facing significant challenges that could limit the future growth of oil and gas production in the state.

DIGEST: HB 265 would reallocate certain constitutional transfers of money to the permissible uses of money deposited to the Grow Texas Fund and repeal provisions regarding constitutional transfers to the State Highway Fund.

Before making transfers for a state fiscal year, the comptroller would be required to also consider if any increase in the projected amount of the allocation to the fund, when added to the balance of the fund, would be less than the amount determined for the fund for that state fiscal biennium. If the sum that was to be deposited to the fund was less than the determined amount, the comptroller would have to reduce proportionately allocations to the State Highway Fund and the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) and transfer the applicable amount to the Grow Texas Fund. This provision would expire on December 31, 2042.

The comptroller and the Grow Texas Fund Commission would be required to jointly establish a program under which the commission could select applicants to receive grants provided by the comptroller to undergo certain infrastructure projects in areas of the state the commission deemed to be significantly affected by oil and gas production. The commission would be required to establish eligibility criteria for applicants, guidelines relating to grant amounts, and procedures to evaluate, approve, and deny applications. The comptroller would be required to establish a grant application procedure and adopt rules to implement and administer the bill.

The Legislature could appropriate money in the fund to the comptroller to fund grants for applicants selected under the program.

HB 265 would take effect September 1, 2027, but only if the proposed constitutional amendment, HJR 35, was approved by voters. If that amendment was not approved by voters, the bill would have no effect.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 265 would have a negative impact of $2,218,000 to general revenue related funds through the biennium.

HB 265 is the enabling legislation for HJR 35, which is on the Constitutional Amendments Calendar for second reading consideration today.

SUBJECT: Authorizing salary increases for paralegals under rural grant program

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — C. Bell, Zwiener, Cole, Cortez, Garcia Hernandez, Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Rosenthal, Spiller, Tepper

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Brandy Robinson, Austin County Criminal District Attorney; Jennifer Tharp, Comal County Criminal District Attorney (*Registered, but did not testify*: Philip Mack Furlow, 106th Judicial District Attorney; Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; James Deloach, Lamb County; John Sierega, TMPA)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Will Counihan, Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that, while critical to the operation of a prosecutor's office, paralegals are not currently included among the positions eligible to receive salary increases through the rural prosecutor's office salary assistance grant program.

DIGEST: HB 1845 would include a paralegal as a position eligible to receive a salary increase under the rural prosecutor's office salary assistance grant program.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Requiring the transfer of a protective order in subsequent family law suits

COMMITTEE: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Leach, Johnson, Dyson, Flores, J. González, Hayes, LaHood, Moody, Schofield

0 nays

2 absent — Dutton, Landgraf

WITNESSES: For — Lynn Kamin, Texas Family Law Foundation; Karl Hays (*Registered, but did not testify*: Amy Bresnen, Texas Family Law Foundation; Steven Deline)

Against — Damiane Curvey; Namelokai Sein Kina

On — Erin Mayes, Texas Council on Family Violence

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that failure of a court to transfer a protective order to a court exercising jurisdiction in a subsequent suit affecting the parent-child relationship can result in conflict between the protective order and proceedings in the subsequent court.

DIGEST: If a protective order was rendered before the filing of a suit for the dissolution of marriage or suit affecting the parent-child relationship or while the suit was pending, HB 782 would require, rather than allow, the court that rendered the order, on the motion of a party or on the court's own motion, to transfer the protective order to the court having jurisdiction of the suit.

If a protective order that affected a party's right to possession of or access to a child was rendered after the date a final order was rendered in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, HB 782 would require, rather than allow, the court, on the motion of a party or on the court's own motion, to transfer the protective order to the court of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

The bill would repeal a provision that allowed a court to transfer a protective order if the transfer was in the interest of justice or for the safety or convenience of a party or a witness.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Enhancing penalties for body armor use in certain felonies

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Smithee, Wu, Bowers, Cook, J. Jones, Louderback, Moody, Rodríguez Ramos

3 nays — Little, Money, Virdell

WITNESSES: For — Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jennifer Tharp, Comal County Criminal District Attorney; Joe Morris, Game Warden Peace Officers Association; Mike Lee, Harris County Sheriffs Office; Heidi Ruiz, Houston Police Department; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; Carlos Ortiz, San Antonio Police Officers Association; Brian Hawthorne, Sheriffs' Association of Texas; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association; Scott Rubin, Texas Police Chiefs Association; Steven Deline; Thomas Parkinson; Susan Stewart)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Marcus On)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that body armor can provide criminals with a tactical advantage, making it harder for law enforcement to employ effective strategies to apprehend suspects during the commission of a crime or when fleeing a scene.

DIGEST: CSHB 108 would require a court to enter an affirmative finding regarding the use of metal or body armor in the judgment in the trial of a third-degree or higher felony, other than a first-degree felony, if the judge or jury determined beyond a reasonable doubt, at the guilt or innocence phase of the trial, that the defendant used metal or body armor during the commission of the offense. The bill would increase the punishment for an offense if such an affirmative finding was made, enhancing the punishment to the next highest category of offense.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025, and apply only to offenses committed on or after that date.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the fiscal impact of the bill and its potential effects on state correctional populations and resource demand cannot be determined due to insufficient data on the prevalence of the conduct addressed by the bill.

SUBJECT:	Designating the Lieutenant Milton Resendez Memorial Highway
COMMITTEE:	Transportation — committee substitute recommended
VOTE:	12 ayes — Craddick, M. Perez, Canales, Curry, Gámez, Harris Davila, Hefner, LaHood, Little, E. Morales, Patterson, Paul 0 nays 1 absent — C. Morales
WITNESSES:	For — Mario Perea, City of San Benito/San Benito Police Department (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michael Cortez, City of San Benito / San Benito Police Department; Carlos Andrade and Guadalupe Andrade, Lt. Milton Resendez Foundation; John Sierega, TMPA; Daniela Andrade; Steven Deline; Melissa Resendez) Against — None
BACKGROUND:	Some have suggested renaming part of State Highway 345 in San Benito in honor of Lieutenant Milton Resendez, who lost his life in the line of duty.
DIGEST:	CSHB 1960 would designate the portion of State Highway 345 in the municipal limits of San Benito as the Lieutenant Milton Resendez Memorial Highway. The bill would require the Texas Department of Transportation, subject to a grant or donation of funds, to design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Lieutenant Milton Resendez Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information, and to 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: Establishing a study on housing for veterans and low-income families

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — C. Bell, Zwiener, Cole, Cortez, C. Garcia Hernandez, Rosenthal

5 nays — Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Spiller, Tepper

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: T. J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Joshua Sanders, City of Houston; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Lyssette Galvan, NAMI Texas; Bryan Mares, National Association of Social Workers -Texas; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Lisa Kaufman, USAA)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that measures should be taken to evaluate and address the prevalence of homelessness and veteran homelessness in the state.

DIGEST: HB 158 would require the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to conduct a study on the feasibility of using surplus government property to provide housing to veterans and low-income families.

The study would need to evaluate the availability of surplus government property in the state and the feasibility of developing housing units on that property to provide housing to veterans and low-income families. The study also would have to identify potential funding sources to develop housing units on surplus government property, including:

- federal historic tax credits;
- federal housing tax credits;
- corporate and private donations;
- other existing state and federal funding sources; and
- proposed tenant rent payments.

The bill would authorize TDHCA to consult with local housing authorities, affordable housing developers, and organizations and persons with appropriate and relevant expertise on the housing needs of veterans or low-income families.

The bill would require TDHCA to prepare and submit to the Legislature a written report summarizing the results of the study by November 1, 2026,

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025, and would expire September 1, 2027.

SUBJECT: Revising certain provisions related to guardianship matters

COMMITTEE: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Leach, Johnson, Dyson, Flores, J. González, Hayes, LaHood, Moody, Schofield

0 nays

2 absent — Dutton, Landgraf

WITNESSES: For — Lauren Hunt, Texas Real Estate & Probate Institute (T-REP) (*Registered, but did not testify*: Andrea Earl, AARP TX; Kelsey Bernstein, Texas Council of Community Centers; Steven Deline)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that revising certain provisions related to guardianships would provide clarification and reduce unnecessary litigation.

DIGEST: CSHB 1954 would amend the definition of "guardian ad litem" and make conforming changes in statutes related to guardians ad litem to include a person appointed by a court to represent the best interests of a proposed ward, in addition to an incapacitated person, in a guardianship proceeding.

The bill would prohibit a person who had an interest that was adverse to a proposed ward or incapacitated person from filing an application for the appointment of a guardian for the proposed ward or incapacitated person. The bill also would prohibit a person with an adverse interest from filing a motion or complaint to request the removal of a guardian or contest the request for removal of a guardian.

If a court approved the annual account of the guardian of an estate, the bill would require the court to enter an order to that effect. If the court did not approve the annual account, the court would be required to enter an order to that effect and require the guardian of the estate to file another annual

account within a period prescribed by the order, which could not be later than the 30th day after the date the order was entered.

If a court did not approve the annual report of a guardian of a person, the bill would require the court to enter an order to that effect and require the guardian of the person to file another annual report within a period prescribed by the order, which could not be later than the 30th day after the date the order was entered.

The bill would apply to a guardianship proceeding that was pending or commenced on or after the effective date.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Establishing home visiting grant program for childhood mental health

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — VanDeaver, Campos, Collier, Frank, Johnson, J. Jones, Schofield, Simmons

4 nays — Cunningham, Olcott, Pierson, Shofner

1 absent — Bucy

WITNESSES: For - Tomika Sanchez, The Children's Shelter (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Stacy Wilson, Children's Hospital Association of Texas; Rick Ramirez, City of Austin; Christine Bryan, Clarity Child Guidance Center; Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Lynn Cowles, Every Texan; Santiago Franco, Harris County Commissioners Court; Heather Mckenzie, League of Women's Voters; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Christine Busse, NAMI Texas; Nicole Malone, National Association of Social Workers- Texas Chapter; Laurie Vanhoose, Nurse Family Partnership; Alec Mendoza, Texans Care for Children; Helen Kent Davis, Texas Academy of Family Physicians and Texas Primary Care Consortium; Stephanie Battaglia, Texas CASA; Veronikah Warms, Texas Civil Rights Project; Kelsey Bernstein, Texas Council of Community Centers; Will Holleman, Texas Hospital Association; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society; Mary Beth Kiser, Texas Psychological Association; Brianna Waldock, TexProtects; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Fred Cardenas)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sarah Abrahams, HHSC)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised about access to mental health professionals for families of young children. Some have suggested that Texas should

implement a program to pair families with licensed mental health clinicians and care coordinators, similar to those adopted in other states.

DIGEST:

HB 1955 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish and operate a grant program to implement, expand, and maintain early childhood mental health home visiting services in Texas to support families with a high level of need, including a history of trauma. To be eligible for a grant, an applicant would need to:

- demonstrate a commitment to a family-centered, system of care approach to providing comprehensive, coordinated services to children and families; and
- have experience providing successful early childhood mental health or prevention services for low-income, high-risk families, as the executive commissioner of HHSC would determine by rule.

The bill would require HHSC, in awarding a grant, to give preference to applicants with experience in providing home-based services to children and families. The bill would authorize HHSC to award a grant only in accordance with a contract between HHSC and the recipient, including provisions giving HHSC sufficient control to ensure the public purpose of providing early childhood mental health home visiting services.

HB 1955 would require the executive commissioner of HHSC by rule to adopt standards for grant recipients under the bill's provisions. The bill would specify that, in adopting such standards, the executive commissioner of HHSC would be required to take into consideration applicable evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery models. In addition to meeting such standards, grant recipients would need to:

- strictly adhere to an evidence-based early childhood service delivery model HHSC selects in accordance with criteria set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and
- require that a team consisting of a licensed mental health professional and a care coordinator supported families through home-based services to improve child and parent mental health, promote school readiness, decrease child abuse and neglect, and

improve the immediate and long-term health and well-being of families.

HB 1955 would authorize HHSC to solicit, contract for, receive, accept, or administer gifts, grants, and donations of money or property from any source to carry out the bill's provisions. The executive commissioner of HHSC would be authorized to adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill's provisions

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Excluding certain areas from procedures for release from a city's ETJ

COMMITTEE: Land & Resource Management — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Gates, Lalani, Alders, R. Lopez, Morgan, Virdell

0 nays

3 absent — Y. Davis, Hinojosa, Hunter

WITNESSES: For — Dana Burghdoff, City of Fort Worth (*Registered, but did not testify*: Craig Farmer, American Planning Association, Texas Chapter; Rick Ramirez, City of Austin; Martin Hubert, City of Fulshear; Keely Hovatter, City of McAllen; Aaron Taliaferro, Director, Tarrant County Government Relations; Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Rachel Hanes, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance; Angela Hale, McKinney Chamber of Commerce, City of McKinney; Blake Roach, Texas Farm Bureau; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Perry Fowler, Texas Water Infrastructure Network (TXWIN))

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kent Souriyasak, City of Leander)

On — William McLean, BMR Land LLC; J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised about the unintended consequences of allowing certain areas to be released from the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality.

DIGEST: CSHB 2512 would make provisions of the Local Government Code allowing for the release of certain areas from the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality by petition or election inapplicable:

- in an area subject to a development agreement entered into with a municipality with a population of more than 900,000, regardless of

the population of the municipality when the agreement was entered into;

- in a platted or unplatted lot of less than 12 acres, unless included with other land in a petition for release; or
- within a platted subdivision of 25 or more lots if the area was a single lot.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Authorizing Harris County Hospital District to commission peace officers

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — C. Bell, Cole, Cortez, Garcia Hernandez, Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Rosenthal, Spiller, Tepper

0 nays

1 absent — Zwiener

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Maya Grever, Harris County Commissioners Court; James Kershaw, Harris County Deputies' Organization #39; Ross Giesinger, Harris Health System; Jessica Schleifer, Teaching Hospitals of Texas; Will Holleman, Texas Hospital Association; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; Sarah Berel-Harrop)

Against — None

On — Jonathan Hallaway and Christopher Okezie, Harris Health

BACKGROUND: In order to improve safety and security in the Harris County Hospital District and the district's healthcare facilities, some have suggested that the hospital district be granted authority to commission district peace officers like other major hospital districts in Texas.

DIGEST: HB 605 would add the Harris County Hospital District to provisions in the Health and Safety Code authorizing hospital districts to commission and employ peace officers.

The bill would also add a peace officer commissioned by the Harris County Hospital District's board of managers to the list defining peace officers generally in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

HB 605 would take effect immediately if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote by all the members elected to each house. Otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Requiring service documentation under Thriving Texas Families Program

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — VanDeaver, Campos, Bucy, Collier, Frank, Johnson, J. Jones, Olcott, Pierson, Schofield, Shofner

0 nays

2 absent — Cunningham, Simmons

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Monica Perez, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops); Katherine Strandberg, Every Body Texas; David Reynolds, Texas Chapter American College of Physicians; Amanda Tollett, Texas Medical Association; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Steven Deline)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Crystal Starkey, HHSC; Emily Adhikari)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the state could better measure outcomes, allocate resources, and improve service delivery by requiring consistent documentation of services provided through the Thriving Texas Families Program.

DIGEST: HB 2581 would require a network contractor or service provider who requested payment for services provided through the Thriving Texas Families Program to submit the request on a form prescribed by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The bill would require HHSC, by November 1, 2025, to develop and make the required form publicly available on its website.

The bill would require the form to include:

- an anonymized assigned number corresponding with an unduplicated client;
- the client's anonymized signature verifying that the client was provided information and instruction on accessing the program's pregnancy-related resources and information web page on HHSC's website during each client interaction, including an in-person visit, continuous online interaction, and audio communication;
- the date, time, type, and location of each client interaction;
- the name of any employee who provided a service through the program; and
- an itemized list of each service, material item, or referral provided to an unduplicated client during each client interaction.

A network contractor or service provider would not be required to submit the form until December 1, 2025.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Requiring election judges to provide watchers with reasons for removal

COMMITTEE: Elections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Shaheen, Bucy, Isaac, Morales Shaw, Plesa, Raymond, Swanson, Toth, Wilson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Ed Johnson, Harris County Ballot Security; Kevin Hale, The Libertarian Party of Texas; Dr. Laura Pressley, True Texas Elections (*Registered, but did not testify*: Pat Fry; Kathy Haigler; Russell Hayter; Perla Hopkins; Ken Moore; Leslie Thomas)

Against — None

On — Jennifer Doinoff, Texas Association of County Election Officials (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ryan Jimenez, Secretary of State)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that requiring an election judge to provide a signed statement to a poll watcher when the judge removes a poll watcher from service after being accepted could improve accountability and transparency.

DIGEST: HB 2803 would require a presiding judge who had a poll watcher removed from the polling place after the watcher had been duly accepted for service to provide to the watcher a signed statement containing the reason for removal.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Revising requirements for certain housing tax credit applications

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — C. Bell, Zwiener, Cole, Cortez, Garcia Hernandez, Rosenthal

5 nays — Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Spiller, Tepper

WITNESSES: For — Kathryn Saar and Whitney Parra, Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers; Bobby Bowling, Tropicana Homes, Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers, Texas Association of Builders (*Registered, but did not testify*: T. J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Craig Chick, Dominium; Quinn Gormley and Roger Arriaga, Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers (TAAHP); Steven Deline; Robbye Meyer)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jake Anderson, City of Dallas)

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code sec. 2306.67071, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) board may not approve an application for housing tax credits for developments financed through the private activity bond program unless the application includes a copy of a resolution certifying that the governing body of each applicable municipality or county does not object to the proposed application.

Concerns have been raised that some local governments have used the requirement for a resolution of no objection to an application for non-competitive housing tax credits as a suspensive veto by leaving requests for a resolution unanswered, rendering projects ineligible for the credits, which can affect developer efforts to build affordable housing.

DIGEST: HB 627 would revise the requirement that a county or municipality hold a hearing at which public comment could be made on an application for a housing tax credit for developments financed through the private activity bond program to apply specifically to counties with a population of 1.2 million or more or municipalities with a population of 600,000 or more.

The bill would authorize the TDHCA board to approve such an application if, within 90 days after all applicable governing bodies received notice of the application, the governing body did not hold the required hearing and pass a resolution or otherwise object to the application through an official decree.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Excepting senior living referral agencies from patient solicitation offenses

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Hull, Dorazio, Noble, Richardson, Schatzline, Slawson, Swanson

2 nays — C. Morales, Rose

2 present not voting — Manuel, A. Davis

WITNESSES: For — Beverly Grossman, A Place for Mom (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lindsey Miller, Caring)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Deline)

On — Renee Ramsey, Mustang Creek Estates; Carmen Tilton, Texas Assisted Living Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Andrea Earl, AARP TX)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that establishing a framework for compensated client solicitation to licensed health care entities could be beneficial.

DIGEST: CSHB 2667 would amend the Occupations Code to include a senior living communities referral agency among the entities excepted from the applicability of provisions relating to the offense of soliciting patients and would establish regulations for such referrals in the Business and Commerce Code.

Required disclosures. The bill would require a referral agency, at the time of a referral, to provide a disclosure statement to the consumer that included a description of the agency's services, a statement on whether the consumer or the senior living community to which the consumer was referred was responsible for paying the referral fee, and a statement that the consumer could stop using the referral agency at any time without cause or penalty. A referral agency would have to provide the disclosure

statement to a consumer in the form of a written physical or electronic document.

A referral agency would be required to consider the consumer's preferences in selecting the senior living community to which the agency referred the consumer, and a referral agency could not use cost as the sole factor in that selection.

A senior living community could not be required to contract with or otherwise use a referral agency. If a consumer decided to stop using a referral agency, the referral agency would be required to communicate the consumer's decision to all senior living communities to which the referral agency had referred the consumer. A consumer's decision to stop using a referral agency would not affect a contractual agreement, if any, between the referral agency and a senior living community.

Prohibited conduct. The bill would prohibit a referral agency from:

- referring a consumer to a senior living community in which the referral agency had an ownership, management, or financial interest;
- holding a power of attorney for a consumer or holding a consumer's property in any capacity;
- knowingly referring a consumer to a senior living community that was unlicensed and was not exempt from licensing under applicable law;
- collecting a referral fee when a consumer transfers from one property of a senior living community to another property of the same senior living community, unless the consumer had engaged the referral agency to help facilitate the consumer's transfer to another property and the referral agency provided the consumer more than one referral; or
- collecting a referral fee after the expiration of the referral according to the contract between the referral agency and the senior living community.

Duties. The bill would require a referral agency to:

- use a nationally accredited service provider to obtain criminal history record information of a new employee of the referral agency who would have direct contact with a consumer and a referral agency employee who would have to physically enter a senior living community for the purpose of making a referral to a consumer;
- maintain liability insurance coverage for negligent acts or omissions by the referral agency or its employees;
- audit each senior living community with respect to which the referral agency provided referrals to ensure that any applicable license was in good standing and maintain a record of that audit;
- provide training to all referral agency employees whose job responsibilities required direct contact with a consumer, including training on the agency's code of conduct, before the employee began performing those responsibilities;
- if a referral agency referred a consumer to a senior living community, notify the senior living community of the referral by a written physical or electronic document that included the time and date of the referral, on or before the date the consumer was admitted to the senior living community; and
- if a referral agency entered into a contract with a senior living community, specify in the contract the period within which the senior living community would have to pay the referral agency, not to exceed three years after the date the referral agency provided a consumer a referral to the senior living community.

Compensation. The bill would authorize a written contract entered into between a referral agency and a senior living community to provide for the compensation of a referral agency for all referrals made with respect to a senior living community. The amount of compensation could be based on the volume or value of referrals made by the referral agency or business generated between the parties.

The bill would establish that compensation paid to a referral agency that was in compliance with the bill would not be grounds for disciplinary action against a senior living community.

Effect of law. The bill would not affect the application of any other law that regulated a senior living community or abrogate any other defense, remedy, immunity, or privilege available under the Constitution of the United States or this state or as provided by any statute, case, or common law or rule.

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: Repealing the offense of homosexual conduct

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Wu, Bowers, Cook, J. Jones, Moody, Rodríguez Ramos

5 nays — Smithee, Little, Louderback, Money, Virdell

WITNESSES: For — Clayton Colwell; Charles Gao (*Registered, but did not testify*: Andrew Hendrickson, Nick Hudson, ACLU of Texas; Carrie Rogers, City of Austin; Charles Reed, Dallas County Commissioners Court; M. Paige Williams, Dallas Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Miriam Laeky, Equality Texas; Kathy Mitchell, Equity Action; Bill Kelly, Office of Harris County District Attorney Sean Teare; Natasha Malik, Texas Appleseed; Alycia Castillo, Texas Civil Rights Project; DeeJay Johannessen, The HELP Center for LGBT Health; and 38 individuals)

Against — Jonathan Covey, Texas Values (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cindi Castilla, Texas Eagle Forum; Brady Gray, Texas Family Project; Mary Elizabeth Castle, Texas Values; James Brown Shelia Franklin, Charlene Reagan, Fran Rhodes, True Texas Project; Ashley Fordinal; Brita Treat and Mark Treat)

BACKGROUND: In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558, invalidated Penal Code sec. 21.06, which made it an offense for a person to engage in certain conduct with another individual of the same sex. Concerns have been raised that this outdated provision, though unenforceable, remains in Texas statute, which could create confusion and misuse.

DIGEST: HB 1738 would repeal Penal Code sec. 21.06. The bill also would make conforming changes to remove references to the repealed offense in provisions of the Health and Safety Code addressing education materials for persons younger than 18 years of age and course materials and instruction relating to sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases.

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 a statewide homeless data sharing network

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — C. Bell, Cole, Cortez, Garcia Hernandez, Rosenthal, Tepper

4 nays — Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Spiller

1 absent — Zwiener

WITNESSES: For — Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Joshua Houston, Caritas of Austin; Ricardo Ramirez, City of Austin; Ryan Skrobarczyk, City of Corpus Christi; Clifford Sparks, City of Dallas; T J Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Alexa Aragonez, City of Houston; Jon Weist, City of Irving; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Josie Castro Garcia, Dallas County; Rebekah Chenelle, Dallas Regional Chamber; Tanya Lavelle, Disability Rights Texas; Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Santiago Franco, Harris County Commissioners Court; Mindy Ellmer, Haven for Hope; Aaron Taliaferro, Tarrant County Administrator's Office; Chris Newton, Texas Apartment Association; Martin Martinez, Texas Appleseed; Lori Henning, Texas Association of Goodwills; Alycia Castillo, Texas Civil Rights Project; Kelsey Bernstein, Texas Council of Community Centers; Ben Martin, Texas Housers; James Quintero, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Sarah Berel-Harrop)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the growing rates of homelessness may present challenges for both government and nongovernmental agencies in acquiring and maintaining data on Texans experiencing homelessness.

DIGEST: HB 636 would require the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), in collaboration with the Texas Homeless Network, to implement a homeless data sharing network through which homeless

response systems and data warehouse vendors could share and assess real-time data on homelessness throughout the state.

In implementing the homeless data sharing network, TDHCA would be required to collaborate with health benefit plan issuers and managed care organizations to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and connect and refer those individuals to available services and resources, including housing navigation assistance, for the purpose of improving health outcomes.

The bill would require the TDHCA to ensure that information shared through the homeless data sharing network that was confidential under state or federal law was not disclosed.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of $487,020 on general revenue related funds through the biennium.

SUBJECT: Authorizing the operation of certain vehicles during disasters

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

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

1 nay — C. Morales

1 absent — Canales

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joshua Sanders, City of Houston; Molly Spratt, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Drew Fuller, Texas Farm Bureau)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ben Wright, Blet-txslb; Scott Rubin, Texas Police Chiefs Association; Dennis Kearns, Texas Railroad Association)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that during emergencies or disasters agricultural producers may need to use off-road, dyed diesel for their tractors and other equipment due to shortages of regular diesel fuel, but cannot currently use that fuel legally to power motor vehicles on a highway.

DIGEST: CSHB 3679 would authorize a person who purchased dyed diesel fuel and furnished a signed statement that included an end user number issued by the comptroller to a licensed dyed diesel fuel supplier or distributor to operate a motor vehicle on a public highway with that dyed diesel fuel in the fuel supply tank of the vehicle if the vehicle was being operated:

- during a period for which the Internal Revenue Service had specified that it would not impose a penalty when dyed diesel fuel was sold for use or used on a public highway; and
- in an area included in an emergency or major disaster as declared by the U.S. president or following a state of disaster declaration by the governor.

CSHB 3679 would authorize the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to issue a special permit to an oversize or overweight vehicle or load that could easily be dismantled or divided and would be used only to deliver agricultural commodities to or from a site that was located in an area included in an emergency or major disaster declaration by the U.S. president or following a state of disaster declaration by the governor and affected by the emergency or major disaster for which the declaration was issued. TxDMV could issue such a permit only during such an emergency or major disaster, and if the Department of Public Safety authorized the issuance of the permit.

If DPS authorized the issuance of the permit, DPS would have to notify TxDMV of that decision in the manner prescribed by TxDMV and include in the notice the counties in which a vehicle issued the permit could be operated.

A permit to deliver agricultural commodities under the bill would expire on:

- the date the emergency or major disaster declaration expired; or
- the earlier of the date the Internal Revenue Service had specified that it would resume imposing a penalty when dyed diesel fuel was sold for use or used on a public highway or the date the emergency or major disaster declaration expired.

CSHB 3679 would authorize the board of TxDMV to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill, including rules establishing the requirements for obtaining a permit. The bill would authorize TxDMV to impose conditions on a permit holder to ensure the safe operation of a permitted vehicle and minimize damage to roadways, including requirements related to vehicle routing, hours of operation, weight limits, lighting, and escort vehicles.

CSHB 3679 would specify that the permit would not authorize a vehicle with a size or weight greater than those permitted under applicable federal law to operate on the national system of interstate and defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system in Texas.

If the federal government authorized the operation of such a vehicle on such highway systems on September 1, 2025, the new limit would automatically take effect on those highways in Texas.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Designating the Deputy Sheriff Chris Dickerson Memorial Highway

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

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

0 nays

1 absent — C. Morales

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); Joe Morris and Larry Young, Game Warden Peace Officers Association; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA); Steven Deline)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested renaming Farm-to-Market Road 10 in Panola County in honor of Deputy Sheriff Chris Dickerson, who lost his life in the line of duty.

DIGEST: HB 2638 would designate Farm-to-Market Road 10 in Panola County as the Deputy Sheriff Chris Dickerson Memorial Highway, in addition to any other designation. The bill would require the Texas Department of Transportation, subject to a grant or donation of funds to design and construct markers indicating the designation as the Deputy Sheriff Chris Dickerson Memorial Highway and any other appropriate information, and to 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: Allowing nonprofit organizations to operate regional health care programs

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — C. Bell, Zwiener, Cole, Cortez, Garcia Hernandez, Leo Wilson, Luther, Rosenthal, Spiller

1 nay — Lowe

1 absent — Tepper

WITNESSES: For — James Rodriguez and Margo Wickersham, TexHealth (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jeff Burdett, NFIB)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that health care programs for small employers, known as three-share premium assistance programs, are not regulated as insurance companies by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). Some have suggested that TexHealth Central Texas premium assistance programs should be able to operate statewide, as they pose a lower risk than three-share programs and remain under TDI oversight through grant management.

DIGEST: HB 2655 would authorize a community-based nonprofit organization to establish or participate in a regional health care program without the participation of the commissioners court of a county if the program was a premium assistance program not offering health care services or benefits. A regional or local health care program could be operated by a joint council, a tax-exempt nonprofit entity, or a participating nonprofit organization. The bill would require a regional or local health care program to be developed, to the extent possible, to:

- reduce the number of individuals without health benefit plan coverage in a county in which a participating nonprofit organization operated; and

- address rising health care costs and reduce the cost of health care services or health benefit plan coverage for small employers and their employees in a county in which a participating nonprofit organization operated.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.

SUBJECT: Updating municipal residential and commercial building codes

COMMITTEE: Land & Resource Management — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Gates, Lalani, Hinojosa, Hunter, Morgan

2 nays — Alders, Virdell

2 absent — Y. Davis, R. Lopez

WITNESSES: For — Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Kenneth Flippin, Texas Chapter of US Green Building Council; David Walton (*Registered, but did not testify*: Clifford Sparks, City of Dallas; T. J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Spencer Gutierrez, City of Sugar Land; Luke Metzger, Environment Texas; Tsion Amare, Environmental Defense Fund; Tom Entsminger, National Wildlife Federation; Noah Oaks, South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource; Ben Martin, Texas Housers; Rebecca Edwards, Texas Impact)

Against — James Rodriguez, Greater Fort Worth Builders Association, Texas Association of Builders; J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jenn Saenz, Texas Apartment Association)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that Texas' current municipal building codes are outdated.

DIGEST: CSHB 871 would update the versions of the International Residential Code and the International Building Code established as the municipal residential and commercial building codes, respectively, in the state from the 2012 to the 2018 versions.

CSHB 871 would require municipalities to establish rules and take other necessary actions to implement its provisions by December 1, 2025.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.