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# HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

## daily floor report

Wednesday, August 27, 2025  
89th Legislature, Second Called Session, Number 8  
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

Six bills are on the General State Calendar for second reading consideration today. The list of bills included in today's *Daily Floor Report* appears on the following page. A Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar is also eligible for consideration.

Dynamic Floor Report: <https://hro-dfr.house.texas.gov/floor-reports>



Alma Allen  
Vice Chairman  
89(2) - 8

**HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION**  
Daily Floor Report  
Wednesday, August 27, 2025  
89th Legislature, Second Called Session, Number 8

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SUBJECT: Authorizing pharmacists to dispense ivermectin without a prescription

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — VanDeaver, Cunningham, Frank, Olcott, Pierson, Schofield,  
Shofner

4 nays — Campos, Johnson, J. Jones, Simmons

2 absent — Bucy, Collier

WITNESSES: For — Travis McCormick, Make Texans Healthy Again; Michelle Evans,  
Texans for Vaccine Choice; Cindi Castilla, Texas Eagle Forum; Teresa  
Thomas, Texas Moms for America; Lauren Pena, Travis County  
Republican Party; Duane Jones; Nina Miller (*Registered, but did not  
testify*: Gregg Knaupe, Texas Pharmacy Business Council; CJ Grisham;  
Perla Hopkins)

Against — Zeke Silva, Texas Medical Association (*Registered, but did  
not testify*: Stefanie Page, Texas Pediatric Society; and 9 individuals)

On — Cynthia Hernandez, Department of State Health Services

DIGEST: CSHB 25 would amend the Health and Safety Code to authorize a  
pharmacist to dispense ivermectin to a person without requiring a  
prescription order from a licensed health care practitioner. The pharmacist  
would have to act in accordance with any written standardized procedures  
or protocols issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, including, if  
required, providing the person with instructions on the proper use of  
ivermectin.

The bill would specify that a pharmacist acting in a reasonably prudent  
manner would not be criminally or civilly liable or subject to professional  
disciplinary action for dispensing ivermectin in accordance with the bill.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy would be authorized to adopt rules  
necessary to implement the bill.

The bill would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 25 would improve access to ivermectin, an FDA-approved antiparasitic drug that has long been used to treat conditions such as river blindness and other parasitic infections, by allowing pharmacists to dispense the drug without a prescription. Ivermectin has also been used as a treatment option for a variety of viral infections, such as the flu and COVID-19. CSHB 25 would help to reduce barriers to health care access and give Texans greater medical freedom to seek medication best suited for their personal care. This would be especially beneficial in rural communities, where gaining access to a physician who can write a prescription often requires hours of travel time. By making ivermectin available at local pharmacies, the bill would save patients time and money and ensure they could obtain treatment more quickly.

The bill also would allow pharmacists to provide the medication without fear of unfounded lawsuits or professional discipline. Some physicians have declined to prescribe ivermectin, and some pharmacists have refused to fill prescriptions out of concern for retaliation from pharmacy or medical boards. Protecting pharmacists who act prudently in their prescription of ivermectin would empower them to dispense the drug safely and expand treatment options for patients.

Allowing behind-the-counter access to ivermectin also could protect patients from the unnecessary risks that come with using unregulated or veterinary formulations. Since medical-grade ivermectin for human consumption is not currently available without a prescription, some patients have sought out unregulated products instead. Making the drug available at pharmacies would ensure a safe and regulated supply chain and provide patients with a reliable means of obtaining the drug.

Other medications, such as Tylenol and ibuprofen, can be purchased without a prescription, and patients are trusted to manage their use and seek follow-up care at their own discretion. These medications, like ivermectin, can pose risks if misused, but are widely available because patients are trusted to make informed decisions about when to seek

medical care. Allowing ivermectin to be accessed in the same way would recognize patients' ability to manage their own health care decisions and would reinforce their medical freedom and autonomy in choosing treatment.

Several other states have adopted comparable laws and have not experienced issues with FDA or federal enforcement. Texas should act similarly to increase medical freedom and expand treatment options for its residents.

CRITICS  
SAY:

While CSHB 25 is intended to expand access to ivermectin for patients seeking it as a possible treatment for certain illnesses, including COVID-19, the bill would undermine the physician-patient relationship by removing necessary safeguards in the prescription process. Prescribing medication is one of the most critical responsibilities of a physician, particularly for patients with complex medical conditions. Decisions about the use of ivermectin should be based on factors such as age, medical history, medication history, and patient follow-up, which a pharmacist may not be in a position to evaluate and tailor their instructions for.

The bill also could set a precedent for making prescription drugs available without physician oversight and could place the Legislature in conflict with the FDA's authority. Federal law requires a prescription for ivermectin, and by removing that requirement, the state would be acting against established federal standards. Additionally, creating a separate state rule for ivermectin could undermine the FDA's role in determining which medications should require physician supervision and could open the door for similar conflicts with other drugs.

Physicians already have the authority to prescribe ivermectin when medically appropriate, including for non-FDA-indicated uses and off-label purposes. Rather than bypassing this established process, the state should maintain the safeguards of physician involvement to ensure patient safety.

- SUBJECT:** Establishing a working group to study alert notification systems
- COMMITTEE:** Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — King, Martinez, Bonnen, Darby, Johnson, Louderback, Moody, Wilson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Virdell
- WITNESSES:** For — Dr. Laura Pressley, Texas Disaster Relief Transparency Group; Brock Davis; Braeden Davis; Keli Rabon (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tyler Robertson, Camping Association For Mutual Progress, Camp Longhorn; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Kenneth Flippin, Texas Chapter of US Green Building Council; and 7 individuals)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Valerie Rose; Shannon Rose)
- DIGEST:** HB 48 would create a nine-member working group to study the statewide alert notification systems used to notify state residents of certain events, including the following alert notification systems established by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):
- power outage alert;
  - statewide AMBER alert for abducted children and missing persons with intellectual disabilities;
  - Texas Active Shooter Alert;
  - statewide silver alert for missing senior citizens and people with Alzheimer’s;
  - statewide blue alert to aid in apprehending suspects who kill or harm an officer; and
  - statewide CLEAR alert for missing adults.

The bill would require the working group to hold hearings and evaluate state and federal regulations regarding alert notification systems used by

the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and DPS. The study would have to include legislative recommendations to address the effects of notification fatigue on the effective operation of those systems and streamline their operation.

HB 48 also would authorize the working group to consult with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and any other federal or state agency for the purpose of collecting information necessary to conduct the study.

The bill would require TDEM's chief to appoint members to the working group by December 31, 2025.

The working group would be required to submit a report on the findings of the study to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Legislature by December 1, 2026.

HB 48 would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session and would expire on January 1, 2027. The working group also would be abolished on that date.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 48 would strengthen state disaster preparedness and response in the future by creating a working group to study the regulatory framework of statewide alert systems and to evaluate the effects of notification fatigue on the public. Individual alerts deployed to signal emergencies are life-saving measures. However, the volume of alerts broadcast by overlapping authorities can overwhelm and desensitize the public to the severity of an emergency, creating a risk to public safety. Texas broadcasts many public safety alerts, and the frequency and inapplicability of the alerts can cause people to disregard the notifications or even disable or opt out of emergency notification alerts.

Residents in the Texas Hill Country received frequent flash flood alerts in the season prior to the tragic flooding on July 4, and studying the impact of alert fatigue would help the working group form and recommend policies to help guide local officials in more effectively preparing for and responding to weather emergencies.

By authorizing the working group to collaborate with FEMA and other state and federal weather management agencies to gather data, HB 48 would equip the Legislature with expertise to modernize existing alert operations and improve emergency communication systems and emergency preparedness in future disasters.

CRITICS  
SAY:

HB 48 should require the working group to include members with backgrounds in certain specializations, such as expertise in identifying geoengineering and weather modification, information technology, and installing flood alert equipment to improve the safety and education of the public in flood-prone areas, including alerts that could be understood by children.

Lawmakers also should consider broadening the working group's focus to include an investigation of geoengineering and weather modification, as well as water safety testing related to flooding.

- SUBJECT:** Requiring governor approval for purchase of radio communication systems
- COMMITTEE:** Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — King, Martinez, Bonnen, Darby, Johnson, Louderback, Moody, Virdell, Wilson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Joel Romo, Texas Ambulance Association; Kenneth Flippin, Texas chapter of US Green Building Council; Larry Linenschmidt; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Maya Grever, Harris County Commissioners Court)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised about the lack of interoperability among public safety radio communication systems used across different jurisdictions in Texas and its negative impact on the ability of first responders to communicate during disasters such as the recent July 4 floods in Central Texas. Some have suggested that an approval process would help prevent local governments from purchasing systems that can impair regional interoperability.
- DIGEST:** HB 149 would require the governor, by rule, to establish standards for determining whether the purchase and use of a public safety radio communication system by a political subdivision would materially impair interoperability among radio communication systems used by other governmental entities in the region of the political subdivision proposing the purchase.
- The bill would define “public safety radio communication system” as a radio communication system, including infrastructure, equipment, software, and other similar products as the governor determines necessary, that is used by a governmental entity in public safety operations, such as

law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and disaster response and recovery.

HB 149 would require that the standards established include minimum technical specifications that a system must meet and be based on the strategic plan designed and implemented by the governor's office for the interoperability of radio systems. The standards also would be required to contain limitations on the use of burdensome procedures to achieve interoperability among systems. The governor would have to adopt rules for such standards by August 1, 2026.

A political subdivision would be prohibited from purchasing a public safety radio communication system unless the governor reviewed and approved the proposed purchase. A political subdivision could request that the governor conduct a review of the proposed purchase in the form and manner prescribed by the governor. The bill would require the governor to conduct a review within 90 days of receiving the request and, in writing, either:

- approve the request;
- summarily deny the request; or
- conditionally deny the request, specify the deficient standards on which the denial was based, and provide corrective measures by which the subdivision could alter the proposal to obtain approval.

The bill would require that a purchase be approved only if it did not materially impair the interoperability among public safety radio communication systems used by other governmental entities in the region in accordance with the standards established under the bill, and deny the purchase if it would. After a summary denial, a political subdivision could request the governor to, and if requested, the governor would have to, specify in writing the deficient standards and provide corrective measures. The governor also would be required to establish a procedure for appealing denials.

Provisions under HB 149 would apply only to the purchase of a public safety radio communication system by a political subdivision on or after August 1, 2026. The bill would take effect 91 days after the last day of the legislative session.

NOTES: HB 3 by King, establishing the Texas Interoperability Council and grant program, includes provisions substantially similar to HB 149. The HRO bill analysis of HB 3 was included in the August 21 *Daily Floor Report*. HB 3 also was reported engrossed from the House on August 21.

- SUBJECT:** Revising Rural Infrastructure Disaster Recovery Program grant eligibility
- COMMITTEE:** Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — King, Martinez, Bonnen, Darby, Johnson, Louderback, Moody, Virdell, Wilson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association; Shane Saum, Lago Vista City Council; Kenneth Flippin, Texas Chapter of US Green Building Council; Larry Linenschmidt; Thomas Parkinson; Ronan Regalado)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** HB 3010, passed during the regular session of the 89th Legislature, establishes the Rural Infrastructure Disaster Recovery Program. Under the program, eligible counties and political subdivisions within these counties may apply to the Texas Department of Emergency Management for a grant to provide rural communities with financial aid to rebuild and repair critical infrastructure damaged by a disaster. The bill takes effect September 1, 2025.
- DIGEST:** HB 254 would revise the economic criteria for determining a county’s eligibility for the Rural Infrastructure Disaster Recovery Program. The bill would increase the county GDP threshold from less than \$2 billion to less than \$3 billion and decrease the county poverty rate threshold from greater than 15 percent to greater than 10 percent.
- 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 on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 254 would help more communities impacted by the devastating July 4th floods in the Texas Hill Country by expanding eligibility for state

assistance through the Rural Infrastructure Disaster Recovery Program. The current economic criteria for the program set to take effect would exclude some communities in areas such as Kerr County, which have struggled to recover following the floods and have expressed a need for additional aid. Raising the GDP cap and lowering the poverty rate threshold would make Kerr County and other counties in the area eligible for grants, which would help these communities recover from the extensive damage caused by the floods and repair critical infrastructure to help save lives in the future.

CRITICS  
SAY:

No concerns identified.

SUBJECT: Authorizing sheriffs and constables in local law enforcement contracts

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — C. Bell, Leo Wilson, Lowe, Luther, Rosenthal, Spiller, Tepper

2 nays — Cole, Garcia Hernandez

2 absent — Zwiener, Cortez

WITNESSES: For - Mark Herman, Harris County Constable Office Precinct 4; Tom Ramsey, Harris County Precinct 3; Alan Rosen, Harris County Precinct One (*Registered, but did not testify*: J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders; Kenneth Key; Thomas Parkinson)

Against - (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Rick Bailey, Johnson County and County Judge and Commissioners Association; Aaron Taliaferro, Tarrant County; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Valerie Rose; Shannon Rose; Rove Sharpe)

DIGEST: CSHB 26 would authorize a sheriff or constable of a county with a population of more than 3.3 million to enter into a contract with a local government, property owners' association, or landowner to provide law enforcement services in the county or precinct in and near the area managed, regulated, or owned by the relevant entity as well as to the persons residing in or visiting the area.

The bill would prohibit the commissioners court of that county from restricting a sheriff or constable from entering into a contract under the bill. The sheriff or constable could enter into the contract and determine the terms of the contract, regardless of whether the commissioners court approved of the contract or the terms.

The bill would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

SUPPORTERS  
SAY:

By allowing property owners and local governments in counties of over 3.3 million residents to contract with local law enforcement without interference from commissioners courts, CSHB 26 would help to ensure public safety in the unincorporated areas throughout Harris County. The bill would also encourage communities to partner with the law enforcement authorities most attuned to local needs and would uphold the independent role of sheriffs and constables in serving the people of Texas.

Currently, much of the unincorporated areas of Harris County operate under a Contract Deputy Program, which allows municipal utility districts and other entities to contract with local law enforcement agencies for the provision of services in exchange for partial funding of a deputy or constable's salary and other necessary costs. However, recent efforts by the commissioners court to create pay parity between Harris County law enforcement and the Houston Police Department are expected to raise the costs of maintaining such contracts, making it difficult or impossible for many communities to afford this police protection. CSHB 26 would address these concerns by preventing the commissioners court from unnecessarily raising the price of the contract or rejecting contract modifications that the county law enforcement could otherwise negotiate. The bill also would enable county law enforcement, who have more direct contact with the local citizenry, to negotiate contracts specific to each community's needs, and ensure that Harris County neighborhoods are not faced with the mass cancellation of patrol contracts.

Under CSHB 26, the Harris County Commissioners Court would retain the ability to set the overall budget for law enforcement, only authorizing county law enforcement to negotiate the pay given to them under contracts within the program.

CRITICS  
SAY:

CSHB 26 would shift budgetary authority from the Harris County Commissioners Court to the sheriff's and constable's offices, allowing them to expend these funds without oversight from the county auditor. This could undermine established checks and balances within local government and would risk creating a system vulnerable to financial misuse and lack of accountability. By removing a commissioners court's

ability to oversee and renegotiate contract terms under the program, the bill also would reduce local control.

SUBJECT: Amending provisions on law enforcement funding for certain counties

COMMITTEE: Intergovernmental Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — C. Bell, Leo Wilson, Luther, Rosenthal, Spiller, Tepper

3 nays — Cole, Garcia Hernandez, Lowe

2 absent — Zwiener, Cortez

WITNESSES: None (*considered in a formal meeting on August 25*)

BACKGROUND: Local Government Code sec. 120.002(a) requires a county with a population of more than 1.2 million to hold an election if the county adopts a budget for a fiscal year that, compared to the budget adopted for the preceding fiscal year, reduces the appropriation or funding to certain law enforcement agencies under certain circumstances or reallocates funding or resources to another law enforcement agency.

DIGEST: CSHB 192 would require a county with a population of more than 3.3 million to hold an election if the county adopted a budget or changed an adopted budget resulting in a budget for a fiscal year that, compared to the budget adopted by the county for the preceding fiscal year:

- had an effect already necessitating an election under Local Government Code sec. 120.002(a);
- reallocated unspent funding that was appropriated to a law enforcement agency; or
- reallocated funding previously appropriated for a specific law enforcement position to another agency.

The bill also would make conforming changes to apply certain provisions pertaining to elections required by sec. 120.002(a) to elections required by the bill.

CSHB 192 would prohibit a county with a population of more than 3.3 million from:

- transferring money appropriated to the sheriff's or constable's office to the county's general revenue fund or any other county account;
- prohibiting the sheriff's or constable's office from spending money appropriated to the office for any lawful purpose; or
- prohibiting or otherwise restricting the use of money appropriated to the sheriff or constable's office, for a lawful purpose, if the county auditor or treasurer determined that the money was available to the sheriff's or constable's office.

The bill would take effect on the 91<sup>st</sup> day after the last day of the legislative session.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 192 would support public safety by requiring large counties to hold an election and seek voter approval if the county adopted a budget, reduced the budget, or reallocated funds related to county law enforcement agencies. Harris County, the largest county in Texas, has allowed homeowner associations, municipal utility districts, and school districts to partner with law enforcement in unincorporated areas outside of Houston through the Contract Deputy Program to provide additional law enforcement resources to the community. The bill would add a layer of protection to funding the county receives through the program for partial funding of county law enforcement salaries and certain other requirements, and ensure a timely response to safety concerns. The bill also would prevent the county from reclaiming unspent rollover funds at the end of a budget year and ensure that the law enforcement budget is maintained for law enforcement use.

As elected officials, sheriffs and constables are answerable to their voters if costs are not kept reasonable and manageable, and HB 192 would ensure county law enforcement could continue to provide the services for which they were elected. The bill also would ensure accountability by requiring local law enforcement agencies to use the funds in accordance with the law. The actuarial process through the governor's office would continue to address any misuse of public funds.

HB 192 would continue to give Harris County Commissioners Court the ability to set the budget for law enforcement, as it currently has the authority to do, and would prevent the court from defunding law enforcement without voter approval.

CRITICS  
SAY:

By requiring voter approval for reallocation of funds for law enforcement, HB 192 would remove authority from the locally elected county commissioners court.

The bill would shift budgetary authority from the Harris County Commissioners Court to the sheriff's and constable's offices, allowing them to expend the funds without oversight from the county auditor. This would undermine established checks and balances and risk creating a budgetary system vulnerable to financial misuse and lack of accountability.

The bill should be revised to ensure that the authority of the county auditor or treasurer would not conflict with voter approval in an election.