



## 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Report

During the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the Alamo Colleges District and our family of five colleges, eight education and training centers, and multiple high school programs, advocated on behalf of policies and programs that aim to strengthen the work we do for our learners and community.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, the Alamo Colleges District's priorities for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session focused on 4 key areas:

- Investing in Texas' Community Colleges
- Expanding Texas' Workforce Programs
- Strengthening Access to College and Career Pathways
- Providing Support for a Healthy & Safe Learning Environment

### 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Wins

Alamo Colleges' successes at the state legislature are wins for the entire region and will further our mission to end poverty through education and training. Working in close coordination and collaboration with the elected officials who serve our region along with stakeholders, and internal Alamo Colleges family, we achieved several key legislative victories:

- **Establishment of an updated and effective system for investing in community colleges**, focused on outcomes and resulting in **\$2.27 billion** in formula funding for Texas' community colleges for the FY 2024-2025 biennium.
- **Retention of nonformula funding** support for a new Veterans Assistance Center at Palo Alto College.
- **Creation of the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund** to provide grant support for programs aimed at training Texans with the skills needed to obtain a job and earn a family-sustaining wage.
- **Formation of the Opportunity High School Pilot Program** to help support adult learners concurrently earn a High School Diploma and post-secondary credential.
- **Increased supports for student parents** at colleges and universities including early registration for courses and designated liaisons at college campuses.

The 88th regular legislative session adjourned sine die May 29, 2023. During the session, **ACD tracked 1,151 bills**. Here are some other key legislative stats: **8,046 bills were filed** (5,413 (House) / 2,633 (Senate)); **1,246 bills were passed** (744 (House) / 502 (Senate)); **299 joint resolutions were filed**; **13 joint resolutions were passed**; and **76 bills were vetoed** by the Governor.

This report provides an overview of those bills passed by both chambers and sent to the Governor. Not included in this report are hundreds of bills monitored during the session that did not pass both chambers of the legislature. In this report you will find each bill's purpose, a short summary of the bill as passed, and the effective date of implementation. Please note that this report is only a summary and not meant to serve as legal advice. If you have any questions about a specific bill please email Priscilla Camacho, Chief Legislative, Industry & External Relations Officer at [pcamacho5@alamo.edu](mailto:pcamacho5@alamo.edu).



**Admissions**

HB 3993 Paul, Dennis(R)  
Middleton, Mayes (F)(R) Relating to the automatic admission of students with a nontraditional secondary education to certain public institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** Modifies the code to ensure that homeschool students in Texas continue to receive fair treatment in the college admissions process by establishing requirements for the automatic admission of such students to public IHEs under the top 10 percent rule.

**Effective Date:** 06-12-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 200 Eckhardt, Sarah(D)  
Howard, Donna(D) Relating to the period for which an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student to a public institution of higher education is entitled to an academic fresh start.

**Summary:** Would have authorized IHEs to disregard course credits or grades earned five years or more before to the applicable semester start date for a student.

**Effective Date:** 06-17-23 Vetoed by the Governor

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SB 2538 Creighton, Brandon(R)  
Longoria, Oscar(D) Relating to limitations on the automatic admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching institutions.

**Summary:** Repeals a statute relating to limitations on the automatic admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching institutions to allow UT Austin to maintain its current admissions system with the 75 percent enrollment cap.

**Effective Date:** 06-02-23 Earliest effective date

**Adult Ed  
Programs**



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HB 1602

Guillen, Ryan(R)  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to performance criteria for the award of adult education and literacy funds.

**Summary:** The Texas Workforce Commission must set annual performance requirements that must be met in order for an entity to receive money under this chapter, in addition to setting a prioritization process for awarding funds.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 2575

Button, Angie Chen(R)  
Hancock, Kelly(R)

Relating to the workforce diploma pilot program.

**Summary:** In 2019, a workforce diploma pilot program was established by the Texas Workforce Commission to address the workforce demands of our state and to improve access to a high school diploma. The bill reauthorizes eligibility criteria for providers to participate in the program and outline the specific services providers must provide to eligible students.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 2032

Creighton, Brandon(R)  
Buckley, Brad(R)

Relating to the authorization of certain adult high school charter school programs.

**Summary:** Provides for the eligibility of public school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and certain higher education institutions to be granted a charter to operate an adult education program and to authorize eligible entities to contract with a nonprofit to establish such a program.

**Effective Date:** 05-29-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 2139

Parker, Tan (F)(R)  
Longoria, Oscar(D)

Relating to the creation of the Opportunity High School Diploma pilot program.

**Summary:** Creates the new Opportunity High School and allow for a student to enroll in a workforce education program at a CC if they lack a HS Diploma to earn a HS Diploma through a Competency Based Education program. Allows the student to earn a HS



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Diploma and post-secondary credential at the same time. Pilot program with only 5 CCs to be approved statewide.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date

SB 2158 King, Phil (F)(R)  
Murr, Andrew(R)

Relating to the establishment of an adult education pilot program for certain inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**Summary:** Provide inmates greater access to educational opportunity by establishing a pilot program through which one or more nonprofit entities will operate an adult education program to enable eligible inmates to successfully complete a high school program that can lead to a diploma.

**Effective Date:** 05-23-23 Earliest effective date

**Annexation/Boundaries/Service Areas**

HB 1114 Kacal, Kyle(R)  
Kolkhorst, Lois(R)

Relating to the service area of the Blinn Junior College District.

**Effective Date:** 06-07-23 Earliest effective date

HB 3287 Anderson, Doc(R)  
LaMantia, Morgan (F)(D)

Relating to the locations of the campuses of the Texas State Technical College System.

**Summary:** Expands the current statutory jurisdiction for TSTC System (moved from city to county jurisdictions) and provides the ability for TSTC to expand and build campuses in Comal, Denton, Guadalupe, and East Williamson counties. The bill also preserves the annexation authority for those community colleges impacted by the newly expanded counties for TSTC campuses.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 4997 Kuempel, John(R)  
Campbell, Donna(R)

Relating to a campus of the Texas State Technical College System located in Comal County and Guadalupe County.



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**Summary:** Allows the TSTC System to build a campus or a collective unit of one of more locations in Comal and Guadalupe counties.

**Effective Date:** 06-11-23 Earliest effective date

HB 5330 Reynolds, Ron(D)  
Miles, Borris(D) Relating to the service area of the Houston Community College System District.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

**BUDGET**

HB 1 Bonnen, Greg(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R) General Appropriations Bill.

**See attached** summary from the Legislative Budget Board.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date

HB 8 VanDeaver, Gary(R)  
Creighton, Brandon(R) Relating to the administration, coordination, and support of public higher education, including the public junior college state finance program and an Advanced Career and Education (ACE).

**See attached** one-pager from the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 Earliest effective date for certain provisions with the remainder effective 09/01/2023

SB 30 Huffman, Joan(R)  
Bonnen, Greg(R) Relating to supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.

**See attached** summary from the Legislative Budget Board.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 Earliest effective date

**Budget/Finance**



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HB 5

Hunter, Todd(R)  
Schwertner, Charles(R)

Relating to agreements to create jobs and to generate state and local tax revenue for this state.

**Summary:** A new property tax abatement program for specific industries to relocate to Texas with certain jobs and economic impact requirements.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 G Earliest effective date (Sec. 10);  
01/01/24 earliest effective date (Section 1-9)

HB 1595

Bonnen, Greg(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to the administration and investment of, and distribution and use of money from, certain constitutional and statutory funds to support general academic teaching institutions.

**Summary:** Redesignates the National Research University Fund as the Texas University Fund and modifying its structure to offer performance-based funding driven by research expenditures. Under this new structure, eligible institutions would receive a base funding amount dependent on the institution's research expenditures, as well as supplemental funding tied to the amount of federal and private research expenditures made and number of research doctoral degrees awarded.

**Effective Date:** 01-01-23 Earliest effective date upon voter approval of HJR3 on 11/7/23

HB 2230

Canales, Terry(D)  
Nichols, Robert(R)

Relating to the determination of the sufficient balance of the economic stabilization fund for the purpose of allocating certain constitutional transfers of money to that fund and the state highway fund.

**Summary:** Sunsets the expiration date of Proposition 1 fund transfers to the SHF and amends current law relating to the determination of the sufficient balance of the economic stabilization fund for the purpose of allocating general revenue to that fund and the state highway fund.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date



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HB 5174

Bonnen, Greg(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to the creation of the Texas semiconductor innovation consortium and fund

**Summary:** Creates the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium which will be comprised of university and community colleges and other appointees of the Governor. The bill also establishes the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund to be distributed as grants for innovations in building semiconductors in Texas.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 Earliest effective date

HJR 3

Bonnen, Greg(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment renaming the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund, providing for the appropriation of certain investment income.

**Summary:** Constitutional amendment that must be voted on to create the new Texas University Fund.

**Effective Date:** 11-07-23 Election date

**Campus Safety/Campus Police**

HB 3

Burrows, Dustin(R)  
Nichols, Robert(R)

Relating to the development and implementation of, and funding for public school safety and security requirements.

**Summary:** Increases school safety funding from \$9.72 per ADA to \$10 per ADA. Added additional safety funding of \$15,000 per campus. Includes requirement for all campuses to have at least one armed individual on site during regular school hours. Schools can obtain good cause exception. Allows TEA to install conservator for noncompliance. Allow state to limit use of bond proceeds if district is not compliant.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 1760

Hefner, Cole(R)  
Hughes, Bryan(R)

Relating to the prosecution of the offense of possessing a weapon in certain prohibited



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places associated with schools or postsecondary educational institutions.

**Summary:** State law makes it an offense for a person to carry certain weapons on any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or IHE is taking place. The bill provides that it is an offense to carry a weapon on the premises where an activity sponsored by a school or postsecondary institution is being conducted only if the premises are owned and operated by the school or institution. Campus Carry laws still apply as this only clarifies current law.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 3424 Frazier, Frederick (F)(R)  
Alvarado, Carol(D)

Relating to the training requirements for commissioned security officers and personal protection officers.

**Summary:** Requires classroom instruction on handgun proficiency included as part of a basic training course for commissioned security officers to also include instruction on self-defense tactics; and revises requirements for the administration of classroom instruction by requiring that the instruction be delivered exclusively on an in-person basis and by an on-site instructor approved by the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 4906 Hefner, Cole(R)  
West, Royce(D)

Relating to the authority to obtain certain search warrants of certain peace officers for school districts, state institutions of higher education, and public technical institutes.

**Summary:** Revises the definition of "authorized peace officer" for purposes of provisions relating to the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications to now include school and college officers. All provisions regarding applying for this type of warrant remain unchanged.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date





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SB 267	King, Phil (F)(R) Burrows, Dustin(R)	Relating to a law enforcement agency accreditation grant program.  <b>Summary:</b> Would have required hundreds of law enforcement agencies to get recognized professional accreditation.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 06-16-23 Vetoed by the Governor
SB 999	West, Royce(D) King, Tracy(D)	Relating to the requirement that providers of active shooter training at public schools and institutions of higher education obtain a certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.  <b>Summary:</b> Requires all individuals and legal entities providing active shooter response training under the section at a public school or public institution of higher education to possess a TCOLE certification.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 Earliest effective date
SB 1445	Paxton, Angela(R) Goldman, Craig(R)	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.  <b>Summary:</b> Sunset legislation for TCOLE includes multiple reforms fundamentally re-shaping the agency responsible for licensing and regulating peace officers and law enforcement agencies, including repealing problematic “discharge categories” in favor of a new officer misconduct reporting system and a new data infrastructure for officer personnel records and licensing actions  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 G Earliest effective date
SB 1852	Flores, Pete(R) Metcalf, Will(R)	Relating to active shooter training for peace officers.  <b>Summary:</b> Requires all peace officers to complete an initial training program and continuing education programs on responding to an active shooter.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 G Earliest effective date

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## Cosmetology/TDLR/Licensing

HB 2334	Burns, DeWayne(R) Paxton, Angela(R)	Relating to an exemption from the plumbing licensing law for plumbing work performed on certain private property.  <b>Summary:</b> Creates an exemption to the requirement for a person to obtain a plumbing license to perform certain work done within five feet of a qualifying building or structure.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 Earliest effective date
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## Curriculum

HB 1605	Buckley, Brad(R) Creighton, Brandon(R)	Relating to instructional material and technology, the adoption and revision of essential knowledge and skills of the public school foundation curriculum, and creating allotments for procurement of instructional materials.  <b>Summary:</b> Establishes curriculum vetting process for high quality instructional materials (HQIM). Requires access for parents to curriculum and tests; creates parent portal requirement for publishers. Creates an allotment for the procurement of HQIM (\$40 per student; \$20 printing of OER).  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 Earliest effective date
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SB 427	Kolkhorst, Lois(R) Gonzalez, Mary(D)	Relating to requiring certain institutions of higher education to enter into an agreement to offer undergraduate courses in Texas History.  <b>Summary:</b> Requires any college or university receiving state support or state aid from public funds to provide access to a Texas History course. If the college or university does not offer at least three semester credit hours or the equivalent in Texas History to their undergraduate students, they are required to enter into an agreement with another institution
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to provide their students access to such a Texas History course.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1429 Hinojosa, Chuy(D)  
Herrero, Abel(D)

Relating to the use of standardized examinations by a school of nursing or educational program.

**Summary:** Seeks to codify the recommended uses for exams outlined in Board Education Guideline 3.7.4.a by requiring the board to adopt rules to prohibit such uses of standardized examinations. Authorizes the Board of Nursing (BON) to adopt rules to prohibit the use of vendor-created standardized examinations as a graduation requirement or to deny students an affidavit of graduation.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

**Cybersecurity/Data/Broadband**

HB 4 Capriglione, Giovanni(R)  
Hughes, Bryan(R)

Relating to the regulation of the collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' personal data by certain business entities.

**Summary:** Amends current law relating to the regulation of the collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' personal data by certain business entities and imposes a civil penalty.

**Effective Date:** 07-01-24 G Earliest effective date except Sec. 541.005(e) Bus. & Commerce Code with an Effective date of 01-01-25

HB 9 Ashby, Trent(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to the development and funding of broadband and telecommunications services.

**Summary:** Codifies in state law the new federal Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment Program and creates the broadband infrastructure fund. The Program and Fund will be administered by the Office of the Texas Comptroller.



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**Effective Date:** 01-01-24 Earliest effective date

HB 18 Slawson, Shelby(R)  
Hughes, Bryan(R)

Relating to the protection of minors from harmful, deceptive, or unfair trade practices in connection with the use of certain digital services.

**Summary:** The Securing Children Online through Parental Empowerment (SCOPE) Act, seeks to prohibit a digital service provider (DSP) from entering into an agreement with a known minor without the consent of the known minor's parent or guardian and require a DSP to provide in those agreements the ability for the parent or guardian to permanently enable certain settings. The SCOPE Act requires certain disclosures regarding advertising. It also amends current law regarding the use and transfer of electronic devices to students by a public school.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 584 Capriglione, Giovanni(R)  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to the development of a state information technology credential offered by public junior colleges to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

**Summary:** The DIR will annually assess entering into agreements with community colleges or a public technical institute to help the Department with staffing needs. Should they enter into an agreement, the program they create must develop a student's skills and knowledge that they'd need to work in an entry-level IT position at a state agency. The program must include a one-year apprenticeship at an approved organization, such as a state agency or regional network security center. The department will update their hiring requirements to allow an associate degree with the program's credential awarded to take the place of a BA.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 2060 Capriglione, Giovanni(R)

Relating to the creation of the artificial intelligence advisory council.



**Summary:** Starts an appointed Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council to study and monitor artificial intelligence systems developed, employed or procured by state agencies including IHEs.

**Effective Date:** 06-13-23 Earliest effective date

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HJR 125 Ashby, Trent(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of broadband and telecommunications services projects in the state.

**Summary:** Constitutional amendment to create the new broadband infrastructure fund.

**Effective Date:** 11-07-23 Election date

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SB 271 Johnson, Nathan(D)  
Shaheen, Matt(R)

Relating to state agency and local government security incident procedures.

**Summary:** Expands the types of cyberattacks required to be reported to Texas Department of Information Resources and requires local governments to also report these cyberattacks as state agencies currently do. Under this statute IHEs are considered state agencies.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 498 Johnson, Nathan(D)  
Smithee, John(R)

Relating to the operation of statewide technology centers.

**Summary:** Would have eliminated requirement that statewide technology centers managed by DIR only serve two or more governmental entities and allow DIR to provide services to any number of governmental entities through a statewide technology center. Moreover, the bill seeks to ensure that DIR can use its expertise in technology services to determine what services will be provided through a statewide technology center.

**Effective Date:** 06-17-23 Vetoed by the Governor



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SB 821

Nichols, Robert(R)  
Bell, Keith(R)

Related to the review by the Sunset Advisory Commission of the sale of personal data by state agencies.

**Summary:** Adds as part of the Sunset Advisory Commission reviews that they must evaluate if a state agency is selling personal data. The Commission will be required to make recommendations on prohibiting the sale of personal data to agencies that are not found to be justified to make those sales.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 983

Paxton, Angela(R)  
Holland, Justin(R)

Relating to disclosure under the public information law of information related to a competitive matter involving the provision of cable, Internet, or broadband services by a public power utility.

**Summary:** Will allow certain municipally owned utilities a means to discuss such matters in executive session to help ensure the best outcome in furthering the deployment of competitively priced cable, Internet, and broadband services.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1238

Nichols, Robert(R)  
Ashby, Trent(R)

Relating to broadband development.

**Summary:** Updates definitions of broadband, clarifies provisions regarding the state's broadband development map and permits the Broadband Development Office to award grants, financial incentives and low-interest loans for broadband infrastructure projects

**Effective Date:** 06-02-23 G Earliest effective date

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

SB 17

Creighton, Brandon(R)  
Kuempel, John(R)

Relating to public higher education reform.



## ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT

**Summary:** Prevents public colleges and universities in Texas from having diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) offices or perform certain activities that are defined as DEI. Prohibited activities include: hiring or assigning an employee of an IHE or contracting with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to perform DEI office duties; compel, require, include, or solicit any person to provide a DEI statement or give preferential treatment in hiring based on a DEI statement; give preference on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for employment or an employee; or require as a condition of enrolling at the IHE any person to participate in DEI training defined in reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation (except when required to comply with state or federal law or a court order).

The prohibition on a DEI office does not impact academic course instruction; scholarly research or creative work from students, faculty, or staff; activity organized by a recognized student organization; guest speakers or performers on short-term engagements; a policy, practice, procedure, program, or activity to enhance student academic achievement that is designed and implemented without regard to race, sex, color, or ethnicity; data collection; and student recruitment or admission.

In the interim between each regular session of the legislature, the governing board of each institution of higher education, or the board's designee, shall testify before the standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over higher education at a public hearing of the committee regarding the board's compliance with this legislation.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in coordination with IHEs, shall conduct a biennial study to look at the grade point averages, and rates of recruitment, acceptance, matriculation, retention and graduation of students. The data would be examined by race, sex, color, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation.

**Effective Date:** 01-01-24 Earliest effective date



## Early Childhood Ed

HB 1615	Button, Angie Chen(R) Birdwell, Brian(R)	Relating to strategies to increase the availability of child-care and prekindergarten programs.  <b>Summary:</b> Works to remove obstacles preventing the execution of public-private prekindergarten partnerships by authorizing the Texas Workforce Commission to establish and administer a prekindergarten partnership program to assist eligible providers in partnering with local public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide free prekindergarten classes. The bill also establishes a professional development scholarship program for current and prospective child-care workers  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 Earliest effective date
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HB 2729	Harris, Cody(R) Creighton, Brandon(R)	Relating to staff member requirements for high quality prekindergarten programs.  <b>Summary:</b> Encourage public-private partnerships to provide high quality prekindergarten programs by providing districts with more flexibility in finding and hiring personnel. The bill sets out requirements for entities that are contracted by districts to provide child care programs to students, including supervision by a qualified person and an additional qualification required of a prekindergarten teacher. The bill sunsets 09-01-29.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 Earliest effective date
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## Elections

HB 246	Swanson, Valoree(R) Bettencourt, Paul(R)	Relating to a pilot program for recording activity at a ballot counting station.
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**Summary:** Provides for pilot program to video record all areas containing voted ballots and ballot counting activity performed. Secretary of State shall select the 6 counties based on population size and shall adopt procedures to implement the program. The bill sunsets in 01-01-25.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 315 Cortez, Philip(D)  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to a statement by the secretary of state regarding the furnishing of certain personal information on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail.

**Summary:** Currently, the application form for a ballot to be voted by mail allows an applicant to optionally provide their phone number on their application. The bill requires a statement to be attached to mail-in ballot applications regarding the benefits of an applicant providing their phone number on the application.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 1217 Swanson, Valoree(R)  
Kolkhorst, Lois(R)

Relating to the hours during which early voting by personal appearance is conducted.

**Summary:** The bill standardizes the hours for early voting across the state by making the hours for early voting more uniform across rural and urban counties. The bill also includes a statutory funding mechanism to ensure that counties can use Chapter 19 funds to assist in defraying the cost imposed by the law if they operated early voting times below the now required 12 consecutive hours.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

**Emergency Management**

SB 29 Birdwell, Brian(R)  
Lozano, Jose(R)

Relating to prohibited governmental entity implementation or enforcement of a vaccine mandate, mask requirement, or private



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business or school closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Summary:** Prohibits governmental entities including IHEs from requiring face masks or other face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19, except that a hospital or health care facility owned by or operated by an IHE if they have an order, guidance or other ordinance in place. Governmental entities including IHEs are prohibited from requiring vaccinations against COVID-19 but this is only to the extent it does not conflict with the final rule adopted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and published in federal register (86. Fed. Reg. 61555).

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

**Financial Aid**

HB 1211 Guillen, Ryan(R)  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to repayment of certain mental health professional education loans.

**Summary:** Licensed specialists in school psychology are currently not considered mental health professionals under the Education Code for purposes of eligibility for certain loan repayment assistance provided to mental health professionals. These professionals provide essential mental health services to students throughout Texas and hold licenses to practice psychology. H.B. 1211 seeks to provide for the inclusion of a licensed specialist in school psychology among the professionals eligible to receive repayment assistance for certain mental health professional education loans.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 1590 Burns, DeWayne(R)  
West, Royce(D)

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Leadership Scholars Program to serve as a merit-based scholarship and leadership opportunity for high-achieving, emerging leaders with financial need.



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**Summary:** Establishes the Texas Leadership Scholars Program in order to provide scholarships and leadership opportunities to low-income, high-achieving students. The THECB will enter into agreements with IHEs, and said institutions will provide participating students with academic and professional support and opportunities.

**Effective Date:** 06-12-23 Earliest effective date

HB 2100 Price, Four(R)  
Schwertner, Charles(R)

Relating to eligibility requirements for student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals.

**Summary:** Mental health professionals can be eligible to receive student loan repayment assistance if they apply to the board, provide mental health services to patients in a state hospital or individuals that receive community-based mental health services, and have completed 1-5 consecutive years of practice in Texas.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 4005 Raney, John(R)  
Parker, Tan (F)(R)

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Competency-Based Education (CBE) Grant Program for certain students enrolled in competency-based baccalaureate degree programs.

**Summary:** Create a financial aid program to fill the gap between federal funds and total tuition needs of learners in CBE degree programs.

**Effective Date:** 06-12-23 Earliest effective date

HB 4363 Kuempel, John(R)  
Hinojosa, Chuy(D)

Relating to the establishment of a scholarship program for aspiring classroom teachers.

**Summary:** Establishes a scholarship program to recruit, prepare, and retain a talented and diverse workforce of career teachers to be leaders in their field and to aid with costs of attendance at eligible institutions (public and private universities).

**Effective Date:** 06-13-23 Sent to the Governor



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SB 25	Kolkhorst, Lois(R) Klick, Stephanie(R)	Relating to support for nursing-related postsecondary education, including scholarships to nursing students, loan repayment assistance to nurses and nursing faculty, and grants to nursing education programs.  <b>Summary:</b> The bill makes impactful modifications to the Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program (NFLRP) and the Nursing Innovation Grant Program (NIGP). The changes will allow part-time nursing faculty to be eligible for loan repayment assistance. Among other provisions, the bill changes the cap on the repayment from \$7,000 annually to a figure to be determined by rule by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and extends the NIGP until 2027. The bill also creates the Clinical Site Nurse Preceptor Grant Program to support the use of nurse preceptors in providing clinical site training to nursing students.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 06-18-23 Earliest effective date
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SB 532	West, Royce(D) Kuempel, John(R)	Relating to repayment of certain mental health professional education loans.  <b>Summary:</b> The bill aims to meet the need for more mental health professional in the state by increasing the efficacy of the state's loan repayment assistance for mental health professionals. The bill modifies the repayment assistance of an eligible professional's loan to be disbursed over the course of a three-year period instead of a five-year period. The bill also extends the program to professionals working in local mental health authorities and state hospitals.  <b>Effective Date:</b> 09-01-23 Earliest effective date
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**High School Programs**

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HB 900	Patterson, Jared(R) Paxton, Angela(R)	Relating to the regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries.
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**Summary:** Requires the Texas State Library and Archives Commission with approval by the SBOE to develop standards for school library collection development. Specifically, the standards must deal with obscene and sexuality explicit material for both in house and online materials and prohibits the removal of materials based on the ideas in the book or background of the author. Places onus on vendors on providing rating for books that are sexually explicit or sexually relevant.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 68 Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Murr, Andrew(R)

Relating to excused absences from public school for certain students to visit a professional's workplace for a career investigation day.

**Summary:** Allows an ISD to adopt policies to provide an excused absence for a student who visits a professional's workplace for the purpose of determining their interest in pursuing a career in that field.

**Effective Date:** 05-24-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 1008 Flores, Pete(R)  
Buckley, Brad(R)

Relating to establishing residency for purposes of admission into public schools.

**Summary:** Extends the deadline for children of military families to establish residency for the purposes of admission into public schools.

**Effective Date:** 05-10-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 2124 Creighton, Brandon(R)  
Howard, Donna(D)

Relating to requiring an opt-out policy for accelerated mathematics courses for certain students.

**Summary:** Increases enrollment in high-level math courses by requiring districts to offer advanced math classes (including Algebra 1) for high-achieving middle school students, regardless of their background or geographic location.

**Effective Date:** 05-27-23 Earliest effective date



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SB 2294      Creighton, Brandon(R)  
                  Kuempel, John(R)

Relating to the establishment of certain programs to facilitate early high school graduation and enrollment at public institutions of higher education and to the repeal of the Early High School Graduation.

**Summary:** Extends the Early High School Completion program & Texas First Scholarship to include community colleges. Prior to this legislation, the program was limited to research or emerging research universities.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

**Legal**

HB 567      Bowers, Rhett(D)  
                  Miles, Borris(D)

Relating to discrimination on the basis of hair texture or protective hairstyle associated with race.

**Summary:** The CROWN Act provides protections for all persons against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 1817      Capriglione, Giovanni(R)  
                  Hancock, Kelly(R)

Relating to the validity of a contract for which a disclosure of interested parties is required.

**Summary:** Amends current law relating to the validity of a contract for which a disclosure of interested parties is required and allows for a cure period of 10 business days if a Form 1295 is found to not be on file.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 G Earliest effective date

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HB 2127      Burrows, Dustin(R)  
                  Creighton, Brandon(R)

Relating to state preemption of certain municipal and county regulation.

**Summary:** Expressly preempts certain city regulations in the Labor, Property, and Local Government Codes, while exempting specific city regulations from preemption in certain circumstances. Second, it prohibits a city from adopting or enforcing an ordinance in a field of



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regulation occupied by state law in eight specific codes. Lastly, it allows a person, or a trade association representing a person, after providing a city with at least three months' notice, to sue the city for adopting or enforcing an ordinance preempted under H.B. 2127.

**Effective Date:** 06-14-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 2965 Vasut, Cody(R)  
Creighton, Brandon(R)

Relating to certain construction liability claims concerning public buildings and public works.

**Summary:** Prevents governmental entities including CCs from requiring in contracts with contractors to waive state processes for right to repair prior to an entity filing a lawsuit.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 3033 Landgraf, Brooks(R)  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to attorney general decisions under the public information law.

**Summary:** Makes modifications to the Public Information Law to tighten timelines after an AG opinion has been received regarding a question on the release of certain documents. The bill also clarifies what days are considered business days under the act including providing clarity for entities to identify holidays and nonbusiness days.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 3440 Canales, Terry(D)  
Hinojosa, Chuy(D)

Relating to the governmental bodies required to post on the Internet agendas for meetings under the open meetings law.

**Summary:** Amends current law to add organizations and clarity on posting agendas for meetings for certain governmental entities.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 12 Hughes, Bryan(R)  
Shaheen, Matt(R)

Relating to restricting certain sexually oriented performances on public property, on the premises of a commercial enterprise, or in the presence of a child.



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**Summary:** Prohibits sexually oriented performances from being performed on public property or in the presence of an individual who is younger than 18 years of age. Defines “Sexual Conduct” and “Sexually Oriented Performance” as the same as found under Penal Code Sec. 43.28. The bill also outlines that a person commits an offense if they engage in a sexually oriented performance on public property in a manner that could reasonably be expected to be viewed by a child; or in the presence of an individual younger than 18 years of age.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 232 Hinojosa, Chuy(D)  
Geren, Charlie(R)

Relating to the removal from office of an officer of a political subdivision for commission of certain criminal offenses.

**Summary:** Provides for the automatic removal of a person holding an elected or appointed office of a political subdivision upon pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, receiving deferred adjudication for, or being convicted of, one of several qualifying offenses related to public corruption.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 336 Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Cole, Sheryl(D)

Relating to compliance programs at public institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** Extends confidentiality protections in statute for employees of IHEs during compliance reports for contractors and agents acting on the IHEs behalf.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 943 Kolkhorst, Lois(R)  
Hunter, Todd(R)

Relating to the publication of notices by a governmental entity on the Internet websites of a newspaper and Texas Press Association.

**Summary:** Provides for the publication of notices by a governmental entity on the websites of a newspaper and the website of the Texas Press Association.





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**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1017 Birdwell, Brian(R)  
Landgraf, Brooks(R)

Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate an energy source or engine.

**Summary:** Prevents political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing ordinances, orders, regulations, or similar measures which would limit access to specific fuel sources or prohibit the sale of engines based on their fuel source.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1401 Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Johnson, Ann(D)

Relating to the rights of victims of sexual assault and to certain procedures and reimbursements occurring with respect to a sexual assault or other sex offense.

**Summary:** Makes several changes under the law regarding rights and protections for sexual assault victims. Provides for victims of sexual assault who cooperate with law enforcement can access the Crime Victims Compensation Fund for expenses incurred in the 30 days after the assault.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1565 Hughes, Bryan(R)  
Paul, Dennis(R)

Relating to policy frameworks for research security established by public institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** The bill requires the governing body of each higher education institution to establish a policy framework that addresses research security.  
The policy framework must: 1. Address compliance with ethical, legal, regulatory, and contractual requirements. 2. Promote an organizational culture of compliance in relation to federal requirements and federal funding. 3. Designate a research security officer responsible for the handling of classified material.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date



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SB 1659

Schwertner, Charles(R)  
Holland, Justin(R)

Relating to the sunset review process and certain governmental entities subject to that process.

**Summary:** Sunset schedule bill for the next biennium.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 1766

Creighton, Brandon(R)  
Paul, Dennis(R)

Relating to indemnification and duties of real property appraisers under certain governmental contracts.

**Summary:** The bill changes current law by providing that appraisers cannot be held liable for the negligence or mistakes made by a governmental entity by making unenforceable provisions of contracts for appraisal services, or a promise in connection with the contract, if the provision requires a licensed appraiser to indemnify or hold harmless a governmental agency against liability for damage. This only applies to a contract for appraisal services for which a request for proposals or qualifications is first published or distributed on or after the effective date of this Act.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 1893

Birdwell, Brian(R)  
Anderson, Doc(R)

Relating to prohibiting the use of certain social media applications and services on devices owned or leased by governmental entities.

**Summary:** Prohibits the use of or installment of TikTok or other successor applications or services developed by ByteDance Limited or an entity owned by ByteDance Limited or a social media application outlined by proclamation of the Governor under Sec. 620.005 of the Govt. Code. Governmental entities including all IHEs shall adopt policies that prohibit the use or installment of the banned applications from owned or leased devices or accessed on internet networks of those entities. DIR will develop a model policy for other governmental entities to use. There is a limited law enforcement exception of this ban.



**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

## Operations & Fiscal

HB 679

Bell, Keith(R)  
Schwertner, Charles(R)

Relating to limitations on the use of workers' compensation insurance experience modifier values in soliciting and awarding public and private construction contracts.

**Summary:** Experience modifiers are a workers' compensation actuarial tool normally used when determining rates for employers seeking to purchase workers' compensation coverage. The bill outlines that experience modifiers are applied only where appropriate and restricts the use of experience modifiers in private and public construction contracts.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 2518

Bell, Keith(R)  
Nichols, Robert(R)

Relating to public work contracts, including contracts on public property leased to a nongovernmental entity.

**Summary:** Requires governmental entities to include certain terms in lease contracts for the public property.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 3461

Bonnen, Greg(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts, the dedication and rededication of revenue and allocation of accrued interest on dedicated revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated money.

**Summary:** Every legislature passes a funds consolidation bill to specify which general revenue-dedicated accounts are available to use for budget certification and which are exempt. The legislature has worked to reduce the state's reliance on dedicated accounts for the purpose of certification by appropriating those funds for allowable use and exempting others from certification in the fund



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consolidation bill. The bill seeks to enable the fund consolidation process for future sessions.

**Effective Date:** 06-13-23 Earliest effective date

HB 4082 Goldman, Craig(R)  
Bettencourt, Paul(R)

Relating to purposes for which certificates of obligation or tax anticipation notes may be authorized.

**Summary:** Defines “public work” for purposes of use of Certificates of Obligation and Tax Anticipation Notes under the Local Govt. Code.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 2035 Bettencourt, Paul(R)  
Capriglione, Giovanni(R)

Relating to the issuance of certain anticipation notes and certificates of obligation.

**Summary:** Would have limited the ability of cities and counties to use Tax Anticipation Notes and Certificates of Obligation for projects that were voted down by the voters on a bond election within 5 years of that election.

**Effective Date:** 06-14-23 Vetoed by the Governor

**Property Tax**

HB 4158 Schofield, Mike(R)  
Bettencourt, Paul(R)

Relating to the determination and reporting of the number of residence homesteads of elderly or disabled persons that are subject to the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed.

**Effective Date:** 06-14-23 Vetoed by the Governor

SB 1998 Bettencourt, Paul(R)  
Shine, Hugh(R)

Relating to the calculation of certain ad valorem tax rates.

Would have required all local governments including community colleges to outline each line-item entry on the tax rate calculation forms including a hyperlink to a document that provides evidence of the accuracy of the entry.

**Effective Date:** 06-14-23 Vetoed by the Governor



## State Mandates

HB 33 Landgraf, Brooks(R)  
Springer, Drew(R)

Relating to the enforcement of certain federal laws regulating oil and gas operations within the State of Texas.

**Summary:** The bill prohibits a state agency or person employed by a state agency from contracting with or in any other manner assisting a federal agency or official regarding the enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation purporting to regulate oil and gas operations if the decree, order, rule, or regulation imposed a prohibition, restriction, or other regulation that did not exist under state law.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 139 Klick, Stephanie(R)  
Hall, Bob(R)

Relating to the provision of notice of certain proposed rules by state agencies.

**Summary:** Requires a state agency to notify the primary author and primary sponsor of a piece of legislation when they post rules to the Texas Register regarding legislation that has passed in the last four years if the author or sponsor is a current member of the legislature.

**Effective Date:** 06-13-23 Earliest effective date

HB 915 Craddick, Tom(R)  
Parker, Tan (F)(R)

Relating to the creation of a workplace violence hotline and a requirement that employers post notice regarding the hotline.

**Summary:** Requires all employers to post information regarding a hotline for reporting workplace violence.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Sent to the Governor

HB 2012 Oliverson, Tom(R)  
Hughes, Bryan(R)

Relating to the display of the national motto in public school and institution of higher education classrooms.

**Summary:** A teacher in an ISD or professor at an IHE can't be prohibited from displaying the



national motto in their classroom so long as it meets the requirements of Section 1.004 of the Education Code.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 G Earliest effective date

SB 1517 King, Phil (F)(R)  
Paul, Dennis(R)

Relating to academic boycotts at institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** The bill provides that college campuses are prohibited from certain academic boycotts of foreign countries by public institutions of higher education. The bill would, however, allow for academic boycotts if the target of the boycott is included by the U.S. Department of State on a list of state sponsors of terrorism

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Sent to the Governor

**Students**

HB 2920 Paul, Dennis(R)  
Bettencourt, Paul(R)

Relating to the information maintained by the Texas Education Agency regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities.

**Summary:** The bill requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to prepare information comparing higher education institutes and programs and post it on the Texas Education Agency website. The information will include: Total cost of tuition; Median student loan debt; Typical dept to-income ratio for alumni; and Graduation rates, transfer rates, and withdrawal rates.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date

SB 15 Middleton, Mayes (F)(R)  
Swanson, Valoree(R)

Relating to requiring a student of a public institution of higher education who competes in intercollegiate athletic competitions to do so based on the student's biological sex.

**Summary:** Prohibits athletes from competing on the team opposite to their biological sex,



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except that an intercollegiate athletic team may allow a female to compete in an intercollegiate athletic competition that is designated for male students if a corresponding competition for females is not offered or available. The bill also prohibits a biological male from competing in a mixed-sex intercollegiate athletic competition in a position designated by rule or procedure for a biological female and to create a mechanism for people to seek injunctive relief against a public institution of higher education or intercollegiate athletic team if that entity violates the provisions of the bill.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 37 Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Gonzalez, Mary(D)

Relating to the criminal offense of hazing.

**Summary:** Clarifies that hazing reports, for purposes of immunity or avoiding a personal hazing offense for failure to report, may be made to a peace officer or a law enforcement agency and to clarify that persons who may receive immunity include entities that support certain student organizations.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 55 Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Gonzalez, Mary(D)

Relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding best practices for assisting students with autism spectrum disorder.

**Summary:** Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study and submit a report regarding best practices for assisting students with ASD. The data obtained would provide a clearer picture on the successes and failures of institutions of higher education in Texas in serving this population and could inform new programs, services, or specialized curricula that could greatly improve the academic and post-graduation prospects of students with ASD.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date



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SB 412

Paxton, Angela(R)  
Guillen, Ryan(R)

Relating to protections for pregnant and parenting students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** Prohibits IHEs from requiring student parents or pregnant students to take leave of absence or withdraw from the student's degree program, limit their studies, participate in an alternative program, change major, or refrain from joining or cease participating in any course or activity. Also adds requirements on IHEs to provide specific accommodations for student parents and pregnant students.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 459

Paxton, Angela(R)  
Harris, Caroline (F)(R)

Relating to early registration for parenting students at public institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** Requires IHEs to provide in the same manner early registration for parenting or pregnant students if they provide early registration for other groups of students.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Sent to the Governor

SB 526

West, Royce(D)  
Cook, David(R)

Relating to requiring prior approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a degree or certificate program to certain persons who are incarcerated or subject to involuntary civil commitment.

**Summary:** Would have required the THECB to review and approve degree and certificate programs offered in state prisons.

**Effective Date:** 06-17-23 Vetoed by the Governor

TRS and ERS

HB 916

Ordaz, Claudia (F)(D)  
Paxton, Angela(R)

Relating to health benefit plan coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs.

**Summary:** Requires health plans, including those offered to the Texas Employees Group Benefits





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Program, to cover a 12-month supply of contraceptive drugs when the participant refills the prescription.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 1393 Frank, James(R)  
Perry, Charles(R)

Relating to an optional service retirement annuity of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

**Summary:** Provides that certain eligible ERS members will now have the option to select an annuity that is reduced at the beginning of their retirement but gradually increases over time. This defers a portion of a member's annuity to help adjust for inflation throughout their retirement.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HJR 2 Bonnen, Greg(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide one-time or ongoing benefit enhancements to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

**Summary:** Constitutional amendment needed to provide the monies for the cost of living adjustment provided for in SB10.

**Effective Date:** 11-07-23 Election date

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SB 10 Huffman, Joan(R)  
Bonnen, Greg(R)

Relating to benefits paid by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

**Summary:** Provides for a cost of living adjustment for certain retirees under TRS system via a tiered system depending on when the individual retired. The bill also provides for a one-time payment of a 13<sup>th</sup> check for certain retirees based on their age.

**Effective Date:** 06-14-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 222 Nichols, Robert(R)  
Metcalf, Will(R)

Relating to paid leave by certain state employees for the birth or adoption of a child.



**Summary:** Establishes parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child by certain eligible state agency employees.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1509 Huffman, Joan(R)  
Bonnen, Greg(R)

Relating to the service retirement eligibility and benefits of certain members of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

**Summary:** Eliminate ability for certain ERS retirees to collect their annuity while still working or serving in their elected office.

**Effective Date:** 05-19-23 Earliest effective date

SB 1831 Hinojosa, Chuy(D)  
Lambert, Stan(R)

Relating to the purchase of goods and services by the Employees Retirement Systems of Texas to operate its home office.

**Summary:** Clarifies that ERS has the exclusive authority over all aspects of the purchase of goods and services related to the operations of its home office facilities used to administer the retirement system including leasing office space in that building.

**Effective Date:** 05-19-23 Earliest effective date

**Teacher Training/Certification**

HB 621 Shaheen, Matt(R)  
Hughes, Bryan(R)

Relating to creating a temporary educator certification for certain military service members.

**Summary:** Creates a temporary one-time issuance of an educator certification valid for three years for those who have served in the Armed Forces or as a first responder and meet certain criteria. The bill also requires that once the certification is issued, the new educator would be assigned a mentor for the two years as a teacher and be required to achieve their teaching certificate by the end of the three-year issuance.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date



HB 2929 Lozano, Jose(R)  
West, Royce(D)

Relating to continuing education and training requirements for classroom teachers and public school counselors.

**Summary:** The bill amends the code providing that "training in a topic of instruction described by Subsection (d) attended by a classroom teacher in excess of an amount of hours equal to 25 percent of the training required of the teacher every five years shall be counted toward the teacher's overall training requirements. This change will ensure that classroom teachers who choose to do so may count more than 25 percent of the hours of professional learning they receive in the mandatory CPE topics toward their total CPE hours if they so desire. The bill also amends the code to provide that "at least" 25 percent of the total number of CPE hours required for counselors must include certain listed topics (those listed in current law). This removes the limit on how many hours in the required topics can count toward counselors' overall training requirements.

**Effective Date:** 06-10-23 Earliest effective date

SB 544 Blanco, Cesar(D)  
Moody, Joe(D)

Relating to the issuance of a teaching certificate to certain applicants with experience as instructors for the Community College of the Air Force.

**Summary:** Facilitates the ability of military members who have experience as instructors for the Community College of the Air Force to teach in K-12 classrooms by providing for the issuance of a one-year, temporary teaching certificate to such an individual while they work on completing requirements in an educator preparation program. The bill sets out certain requirements for a person to qualify for such a certificate and provides for certain experience at the Community College of the Air Force to apply to requirements of the educator preparation program.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date



## Tenure

- SB 18      Creighton, Brandon(R)  
              Kuempel, John(R)
- Relating to tenure and employment status at public institutions of higher education in this state.
- Summary:** Amends statute to define tenure, how and by whom tenure can be awarded at Texas IHEs, and policies and procedures that must be in place by a governing board for the removal of a tenured faculty member.
- Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

## Textbooks and Online Resources

- HB 2177      Stucky, Lynn(R)  
              LaMantia, Morgan (F)(D)
- Relating to establishing a digital textbook and learning materials subscription pilot program.
- Summary:** Establishes a pilot program in which grants are given to community and junior colleges to provide financial aid to low-income students to pay for subscriptions to textbook and learning materials programs. Prioritizes both rural and urban schools and schools with large low-income student populations.
- Effective Date:** 05-25-23 Sent to the Governor

## Transcripts & Student Records

- SB 65      Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
              Noble, Candy(R)
- Relating to excluding the furnishing of an academic transcript from the definition of "information service" for purposes of sales and use taxes.
- Summary:** Exempts the furnishing of academic transcripts from sales and use taxes.
- Effective Date:** 10-01-23 Earliest effective date

## Transfer



SB 1887

West, Royce(D)  
Turner, Chris(D)

Relating to the requirements for the early college education program and the transfer of course credit among public institutions of higher education.

**Summary:** Building off of SB25 passed in the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, this bill revises provisions relating to fields of study curricula and the transferability of credits earned by students in early college education programs and by revising certain dispute resolution procedures relating to the transfer of credit, among other provisions.

**Effective Date:** 05-23-23 Earliest effective date

## Veterans

HB 90

Patterson, Jared(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to benefits for certain members of the Texas military forces and survivors of members of the Texas military forces.

**Summary:** The bill makes death benefits retroactive for certain eligible families who had service members die in the line-of-duty. Additionally, the bill adds death benefits for certain Texas military forces troops who died while attending training events and service-related traveling

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 671

Gonzalez, Mary(D)  
Eckhardt, Sarah(D)

Relating to a veteran's suicide prevention campaign.

**Summary:** The Texas Veterans Commission shall conduct a suicide prevention campaign to provide veterans with information regarding suicide prevention.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 252

Alvarado, Carol(D)  
Guillen, Ryan(R)

Relating to hiring and licensing certain veterans as peace officers.



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**Summary:** The bill will allow for a greater number of military veterans to be hired as law enforcement officers in Texas by authorizing legal permanent residents who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces after at least two years of service to be hired to hold any position that requires a license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 371 Eckhardt, Sarah(D)  
Turner, Chris(D)

Relating to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.

**Summary:** Amends the scholarship requirements to prevent exclusion of students who are eligible to graduate in less than four years by providing for a student's completion of one year of ROTC training for every year they receive the scholarship. The bill also requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to post online and provide to students information on ROTC service requirements for branches of the U.S. military forces.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 422 Paxton, Angela(R)  
Wilson, Terry(R)

Relating to the authority of certain military service members to engage in a business or occupation in this state.

**Summary:** Extends occupational licensing reciprocity to military service members, who often must station in states outside of the state where they originally obtained their license but who may still wish to provide valuable services, including in fields for which the state is experiencing workforce shortages, such as nursing.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 1376 Parker, Tan (F)(R)  
Wilson, Terry(R)

Relating to a state employment preference for certain spouses of veterans with a disability.

**Summary:** Expands the Military Veterans Full Employment Act to include the spouses of active



duty service members. The Act originally expanded application of the veteran's employment preference and established a goal for state agencies (including IHEs) to have 20 percent of their workforces composed of veterans.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

**Workforce**

HB 113 Ortega, Lina(D)  
Blanco, Cesar(D)

Relating to the use of community health workers in Medicaid managed care.

**Summary:** Allows managed care organizations that contract with the state through the STAR Medicaid managed care program to report expenses incurred through the provision of community health worker services as a quality improvement cost rather than an administrative expense.

**Effective Date:** 06-13-23 Earliest effective date

HB 291 Murr, Andrew(R)  
Hughes, Bryan(R)

Relating to occupational driver's licenses and to the renewal of driver's licenses.

**Summary:** Amends current law relating to occupational driver's licenses and to the renewal of driver's licenses.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 400 Klick, Stephanie(R)  
Kolkhorst, Lois(R)

Relating to innovation grant programs to support residency training programs in psychiatric specialty fields and recruitment, training, and retention programs in behavioral health fields.

**Summary:** Provides for the establishment of a psychiatric specialty innovation grant program to award incentive payments for the purposes of increasing the number of physicians who specialize in adult or pediatric psychiatric care. The bill also provides for the establishment of a behavioral health innovation grant program to award incentive payments to institutions of



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higher education that administer innovative recruitment, training, and retention programs designed to increase the number of mental health professionals or professionals in related fields.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 584      Capriglione, Giovanni(R)  
                 Zaffirini, Judith(D)      Relating to the development of a state information technology credential offered by public junior colleges to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

**Summary:** Authorizes DIR to enter into agreements with public junior college districts and public technical institutes to develop a state information technology credential that is tailored to address shortages in the state's IT workforce and by providing for a review of the state's position classification plan and a revision of relevant job descriptions to allow an associate degree together with this credential to substitute for a four-year baccalaureate degree.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 1391      Schaefer, Matt(R)  
                 Perry, Charles(R)      Relating to the regulation of electricians, including the requirements to obtain a residential wireman license.

**Summary:** Amends statutory requirements for obtaining a residential wireman license by expanding eligibility of use of Career and Technical Education program hours to count towards obtaining such license.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 1703      Ordaz, Claudia (F)(D)  
                 Blanco, Cesar(D)      Relating to the workforce development evaluation system administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

**Summary:** Provides the state with data needed to ensure taxpayer-funded workforce development programs, including those that serve our veterans, are delivering a return-on-investment to Texans.





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**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 1755 Button, Angie Chen(R)  
Alvarado, Carol(D)

Relating to the creation of the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund.

**Summary:** Creates the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund with \$5 million to provide Texans with the skills needed to earn a job with a family-sustaining wage.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 1859 Schaefer, Matt(R)  
Perry, Charles(R)

Relating to the regulation of air conditioning and refrigeration contracting, including eligibility for an air conditioning and refrigeration technician registration or certification.

**Summary:** The bill expands utilization of career and technical education creating an opportunity for high school students or community college students to receive HVAC certification.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 2217 Button, Angie Chen(R)  
Perry, Charles(R)

Relating to the regulation of the practice of public accountancy.

**Summary:** Updates the language in the Public Accountancy Act to reflect current practices and provide needed clarifications for certification.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 Earliest effective date

HB 2975 Guillen, Ryan(R)  
Hancock, Kelly(R)

Relating to powers and duties of the Texas Workforce Commission with respect to work and family policies.

**Summary:** Disbands the Work and Family Policies Clearinghouse and requires the Texas Workforce Commission instead to maintain work and family policies resources on its website to help small businesses as they strive to provide the best possible benefits for their employees.



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**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 4451      Bhojani, Salman (F)(D)  
                 Flores, Pete(R)

Relating to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding apprenticeship opportunities in this state for emerging and high-demand industries.

**Summary:** Establishes data and analysis needed to expand apprenticeships in emerging and high-demand industries.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 5174      Bonnen, Greg(R)  
                 Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to the creation of the Texas semiconductor innovation consortium and fund

**Summary:** Creates Texas Semiconductor Consortium which will include experts to make a strategic long-term plan for research, design, and manufacturing of semiconductors and creating the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund, to which future legislatures can appropriate state revenues to further the goals established by the consortium. This will provide state entities and public institutions of higher education with matching funds to bring additional opportunities, including those under the federal CHIPS and Science Act. It will also provide funding to attract further economic development in semiconductor design and manufacturing.

**Effective Date:** 06-09-23 Earliest effective date

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SB 2315      Hughes, Bryan(R)  
                 Clardy, Travis(R)

Relating to the creation of a task force to develop a plan for the consolidation of the functions of workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services.

**Summary:** Creates a task force to develop a consolidation plan for applicable state and local agencies and services to be ready when the federal law or guidance allows the consolidation of safety net programs in Texas.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date



**Wraparound Services**

HB 12      Rose, Toni(D)  
              Kolkhorst, Lois(R)

Relating to the duration of services provided under Medicaid to women following a pregnancy.

**Summary:** Extends Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women from two months to 12 months postpartum.

**Effective Date:** 06-18-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 617      Darby, Drew(R)  
              Alvarado, Carol(D)

Relating to a pilot project to provide emergency telemedicine medical services and telehealth services in rural areas.

**Summary:** Reestablishes the next generation 9-1-1 telemedicine medical services pilot project, which expired January 1, 2021, as the next generation 9-1-1 telemedicine medical services and telehealth services pilot project.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 1287      Guillen, Ryan(R)  
              Blanco, Cesar(D)

Relating to annually adjusting for inflation the maximum amount of a motor vehicle excluded in determining eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

**Summary:** Amends the SNAP eligibility criteria in Texas by making a one-time adjustment to the SNAP vehicle asset test limit by updating the value for the first vehicle to \$22,500 and \$8,700 for any subsequent vehicle for an applicant or their household.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

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HB 1361      Morales Shaw, Penny(D)  
              Eckhardt, Sarah(D)

Relating to the designation of liaison officers to assist certain students at public institutions of higher education who are parents.

**Summary:** Requires all IHEs to designate a student parent liaison and collect certain data regarding student parents. Each IHE shall



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submit by May 1 to the THECB a report on the data collected regarding student parents.

**Effective Date:** 06-12-23 Earliest effective date

HB 1743 Leach, Jeff(R)  
West, Royce(D)

Relating to allowing certain inmates to apply for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be provided at the time of discharge or release.

**Summary:** The bill requires HHSC to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to assess the eligibility of certain inmates for SNAP benefits on discharge or release from confinement.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

HB 2059 Price, Four(R)  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to mental health first aid training provided by local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities.

**Summary:** Mental health first aid (MHFA) is an interactive, skills-based training course that helps individuals identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Local mental health authorities (LMHAs) and local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs) provide this training with funds from the DHHS. The program will now be expanded to include available training for employees of IHEs.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date

SB 850 Blanco, Cesar(D)  
Price, Four(R)

Relating to the composition of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium.

**Summary:** Removes the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center from the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium's composition and instead adding rural regional education service centers (ESCs) to the consortium's composition. The bill also provides for the inclusion of rural ESCs on the consortium's executive committee.

**Effective Date:** 09-01-23 Earliest effective date