

TEXAS (Thanks to Bobbi Montford for sending me that great spreadsheet summary!!!)

Texas calendar:

- June 2. Was the last day of the legislative session.
- June 22. Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills. If not signed by the Gov, the bills become law.

Border/internal security bills that passed

- SB17, filed by Lois, passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor on 6/1. This bill prohibits certain foreign individuals and entities from purchasing real property in TX when the entities are connected to nations that the US DNI identified as national security threats.
- I didn't think SB36 would pass, but it did! It was sent to the Governor 6/1. SB36 seeks to establish a Homeland Security Division within Texas Department of Public Safety.
- I didn't have a lot of hope for SB8, but it was sent to the Governor 6/3. This bill mandates sheriffs in counties with > 100K residents enter into agreements with ICE to enforce immigration laws.

Border/internal security bills that didn't pass

- SB324. Requires use of e-verify by state contractors, political divisions of TX and private employers to make sure job applicant is not an illegal immigrant. Ken King, Chair of H. St. Affairs Cmte refused to hold a hearing. HB3210, the companion bill to SB324, died for the same reason.
- HB323, an e-verify bill that would require political subdivisions of TX to use e-verify. Missed ddl.
- HB354 would establish a border protection unit. Ken King, Chair of H. St. Affairs Cmte refused to hold a hearing.
- HB371 would restrict admission of illegal immigrants to public schools. No hearing held in the H. Pub. Ed. Cmte (Brad Buckley, (Republican) chair).
- SB1798 would end in-state tuition for illegal immigrants. However Pam Bondi sued TX & won so it's over!
- SB1067 would have prohibited public higher ed institutions from accepting gifts/investments from hostile foreign entities; this never made it out of the House Higher Ed Cmte. HB1743 was about land ownership **and** the establishment of an ag intelligence office. This died in the House State Affairs Cmte. SB1845 would have required the registration of foreign adversary lobbyists. This was reported favorably out of the Sen. State Affairs Cmte, but never made it to the Senate floor.

Bail reform – some passed and some didn't

- SJR1 (Jocelyn's law, named after Jocelyn Nungaray) would prohibit bail for illegal aliens charged with a wide array of violent or serious felonies. The JR did not get the 100 votes needed in the House.
- HOWEVER, I'm VERY surprised (and pleased) that SJR5 passed and was sent to the SOS for us to vote on in November. This constitutional amendment would require that bail be denied under certain circumstances, so it covers more cases than SJR1 would have.
- I did have hope for SB9, a bail reform bill, which adds strict limits on personal bonds, adds accountability on magistrates, regulates charitable bail organizations (like Kamala's charity that bailed out violent BLM & Antifa activists), and increases the authority for prosecutors to appeal overly-lenient bail decisions. This was sent to the Governor on 6/1.
- SJR 87 did not get the 2/3 needed in the House (it was 3 votes shy), so it's dead, but some reporters say that this could be a reason for a special session. This constitutional amendment would deny bail to violent offenders who are already out on bail.

Education/protecting children – bills & resolutions that passed

- SB2 creates Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). This has already been signed by the Governor and becomes law on 9/1/25. Eligible parents can get \$8K in public funding for educational expenses, including tuition to private schools. The total amount of ESAs that TX will provide is capped at \$1B. This bill is intended to help underprivileged students.
- SB24 requires that Texas students be educated on the horrors of communism. I'm surprised but happy this passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor 5/27.
- SB20 makes it a criminal offense to possess/distribute obscene virtual material of a child. This was sent to the Governor 5/28.
- SB12 strengthens parental rights, prohibits resources being used for DEI initiatives, and prohibits social transitioning (e.g. when a student tells others to use pronouns not consistent with the student's birth gender). This was sent to the Governor 6/3.
- SB13 effectively bans profane and indecent books in schools, and allows more parental oversight over what their children read. This was sent to the Governor 6/3.
- HB100 relates to the purchase, adoption, and use of instructional materials by public schools, essentially as related to profane and indecent material. Sent to the Governor 6/1.
- HB1106 says that it's not child abuse to oppose gender transitioning, so that parents don't have to worry about courts or others taking their kids when the kids suffer from gender dysphoria and the parents want to help them return to normal. This was sent to the governor 5/30.
- SB412 limits the affirmative defenses available to persons being prosecuted for child porn. The Governor signed this 5/19 and it's effective 9/1/25.
- HB4623 would eliminate qualified immunity for public school employees for sexual misconduct involving students. Sent to the Governor 6/2.
- SJR34 is a constitutional amendment that states the parents have an inherent right to raise their children, which means the interference with this right by state agents is limited. This passed and was sent to the SOS 5/21.

Education/protecting children – bills & resolutions that didn't pass

- HB54 No furs in school. Left pending in H Public Ed Cmte after testimony.
- SB18 No drag queens in school. Missed deadline
- HB3225 Restrict access to obscene materials in public libraries. Missed deadline.
- SB240. (The bathroom bill). Restrict private spaces based on biological sex. H St Affairs Char Ken King refused to hold hearing.
- HB1549 No obscene devices in front of children. Never got a hearing in H Trade/Workforce Cmte.
- SB1396 Prohibits adoption of national ex ed standards. Missed deadline.
- HB1375 Provides for civil liability from harm due to obscene actions and materials. Missed deadline.
- SB1224. Requires school misconduct be reported to local law enforcement. Missed deadline.


Property tax reform – some passed and some didn't

- SB4 would raise tax exemptions on homesteads to \$140K (currently \$100K). Sent to the Governor 6/1.
- SB23 would increase the homestead exemption for seniors to \$200K, which means the over-65 exemption is an additional \$60K. Yippee ki yay, this was sent to the governor 6/1!
- HB9. This bill increases the business **personal** property tax exemption from \$2500 to \$125,000. It provides a 20% inventory tax credit to reduce a business's franchise tax liability. Signed by the Gov 6/12.
- SB32 would provide major **real** property tax cuts for small businesses. The bill died in the House Ways & Means Committee.

Election integrity bills that passed

- SJR37 will require that voters are US citizens. This was sent to the SOS 5/15 and we'll vote on it in November. Believe it or not, the TX constitution does not explicitly state that only US citizens can vote in TX, although TX law did. Despite this constitutional amendment, we still really need to worry about whether not non-citizens can **register** to vote. NOTE: In my opinion, this doesn't help. We needed SB16 (see below).
- SB985 allows counties and parties to combine county election precincts when necessary to save money. This was sent to the Governor 5/13.
- SB510 requires the voter registrar to comply with law. Wow! Amazing. Sent to Gov 6/1.

Election integrity bills that didn't pass

- SB16 would require proof of citizenship to **register** to vote. The bill missed the deadline because it never made it out of Calendars Cmte.
- SB396 would require the voter registrar to verify the voter's address. This bill also never made it out of Calendars Cmte.
- SB2035 (coauthored by Lois) closes a loophole that allows foreign nationals to influence elections through campaign contributions. This was sent to the House, but it's stuck in the State Affairs Committee. Since it's a bill meant to strengthen election integrity, the speaker probably won't let this come to the floor. ← This was from last month's lege update and I was right!
- HB951 and SB2646 are both about having closed primaries, so that a voter must be affiliated with a political party to vote in that party's primary election. But RPT's SREC made a rule change to close GOP primaries.
- SB618 and SB505 both related to penalties for unlawfully altering election procedures. SB618 never made it out of the House Calendars Cmte, and SB505 never made it to the House floor in time.
- SB310 would have banned ranked choice voting (RCV) in Texas. The bill never made it to the House floor before the session deadline passed. RCV is known to suppress turnout, delay the ballot counting process, and can have perverse outcomes where the candidate that the majority would have chosen in a normal election would not win. As of June 2025, 17 states have banned RCV for all state elections. Why can't Texas join them? 
- SB964 would have required "Not Eligible to Vote" to be printed on non-citizen drivers' licenses. That makes WAY too much sense, so of course the House couldn't vote on it. The bill never made it out of House Calendars.
- SB2681 would have allowed a voter to challenge the registration of another voter. Sounds like a good idea but I can see it being abused in neighbor disagreements or divorces. This passed the Senate but never made it to the house floor.

High Speed Rail (HSR) – one passed and one didn't

- HB2003 requires transparency from any high-speed rail developers. The Governor signed this 5/29, and it is effective 9/1/25!
- HB1402 would have prohibited the use of public money to pay for the alteration of a roadway related to HSR construction. This never even made it out of the Transportation Committee, which of course has a Democratic vice-chair. Thank you Dustin Burroughs.

Lawsuit reform

- SB30 would protect individuals and businesses from huge damages in health care lawsuits. It passed the Senate and the House but the listed actions don't show it was sent to the Governor. So...? It looks like there was a conference committee between H & Sen that didn't meet before the end of session.
- HB3441 would allow individuals to sue vaccine manufacturers that advertised the vax in Texas if they were harmed by the vaccine. Sent to the Gov 5/30.

Energy/electric grid bills that passed

- SB6 focuses on managing the growth of the electric grid. This was a named lege priority for Dan Patrick, but during testimony, some witnesses raised concerns about government intervention in the energy market, and considered this bill overregulation. These critics thought a better solution to ensuring the electricity grid can accommodate growth of population and businesses by focusing mor on incentives for private sector solutions. (Side comment by me: state government private sector initiatives IS NOT the same this as a free market solution!). This did pass though and was sent to the Governor 6/1.
- SB231 will allow utilities to lease mobile power generating equipment and contains regulations for that equipment. This was sent to the governor 5/22.
- HB14 provides support for potential development of more nuclear energy production by establishing the TX Advanced Nuclear Energy Office that would manage grants and reports to the Governor. Some critics say this just expands the size of the government. This was sent to the Governor 6/2.
- HB3809 regulates the decommissioning and removal of battery energy storage facilities in TX. The Gov signed this bill 5/29 and it is effective 9/1.
- HB3228 provides standards for decommissioning and disposal of wind and solar power facilities. It also should protect landowners from being stuck with environmental remediation liabilities once the projects cease. This was sent to the Gov 5/26.
- SB1789 empowers the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to adopt rules about the maintenance of transmission and distribution poles and provides enforcement mechanisms. This was sent to the Gov 5/28.

Anti-ESG bills

- SB945 won't let publicly traded companies implement "ESG" (environmental, social, governance) shareholder proposals. ESG metrics measure performance by scoring ESG elements highly if they are really left-wing. Guess what? This died in a House Committee. Surprise, surprise, surprise, said Gomer Pyle.
- SB946 protects organizations applying for credit or a loan from being judged by stupid woke criteria like a "social credit score" or an "ESG score". Just like SB945, this died in a House Committee.

Covid/vaccine bills

- Several bills try to overcome potential federal overreach if we ever have another pandemic type situation. All were sent to the Gov in late May. HB4535 requires written informed consent by the patient before a vax is given. HB4076 says that a patient can't be denied an organ transplant based on vax status. HB allows people to print vax exemption certificates at their own homes.

Other bills

- SB5 passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor on 5/24/25. This bill will create & fund (\$3B) the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, but is subject to voter approval of the enabling legislation for the required constitutional amendment that we'll vote on in November. If passed it will take effect 12/1/25.
- SB38, a bill to stop squatters from taking residence in properties they do not own, was sent to the Gov on 6/1.
- SB456 will increase the penalties for purchasing or selling human organs, which apparently sometimes happens when someone leaves their body to science. This was sent to the Gov 6/1.
- HB142 DOGE bill for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). It will help the OIG combat fraud, waste, & abuse in Medicaid. It will also help the OIG recover improper Medicaid payments and is expected to generate \$77M by FY 2029. The Gov signed this 5/29 and it's effective 9/1/25.
- SB19 is about banning taxpayer funded lobbying. This died in the House State Affairs Cmte.
- SB3 bans all consumable hemp products, but the medical marijuana program was expanded a bit via HB46.