



**88th Session**  
**Tarrant County Legislative Report**

## HB 1

General appropriations act.

Summary: The Fiscal Year 24-25 general appropriations act appropriates \$321.3 billion. This is an overall increase in funds of \$56.5 billion over the previous biennium.

The budget includes funding for broadband (\$1.5 billion), \$155 million for indigent defense (24% increase), and \$150 million to assist local government with FEMA match requirements. Law enforcement education funds that are distributed to each county was increased by 155% to \$24 million.

In the budget for the Secretary of State's office, the strategy for election administration was increased by 101% to \$29 million while election improvements (HAVA) grant funding was decreased by 65% to \$6.2 million.

The Veterans Commission received an increase of 28% to \$50.9 million for veterans' assistance grants for nonprofits and local governments. Housing for Texas Heroes and Veterans Treatment Court fund was decreased by 32% and 4%, respectively.

Article II mental health and behavioral health funding includes:

**Inpatient Capacity Expansion:** This new strategy would authorize \$91,669,232 over the biennium to contract for 150 competency restoration beds. Through a local partnership with MHMR, these funds will provide competency restoration to inmates in the County jail.

**Purchased Psychiatric Beds:** This strategy will be expanded by 193 additional state-purchased inpatient psychiatric beds for civil commitments (Tarrant County has twenty-nine (29) purchased beds through the current program). 123 additional state-purchased beds will be available in urban areas (70 in rural).

**Community Mental Health Grant Program:** Additional funding available for grant programs to reduce recidivism, arrest, and incarceration of individuals with mental illness (including SB 292 grant funds).

Article V saw a substantial increase of ninety-seven (97) percent for local community supervision and corrections departments (CSCD) to \$256.4 million. Also, state aid to juvenile probation

departments increased by 153% to \$185.1 million. The state also increased juvenile regional diversion alternative programs by 104%. Please note that the state has yet to finalize the required federal planning process to draw down funding to replace the IV-E funding for juvenile departments.

The Department of Motor Vehicles received an increase of sixty-four (64) percent for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to provide local jurisdictions with enforcement team grants.

## **HB 5**

Relating to agreements authorizing a limitation on taxable value of certain property to provide for the creation of jobs and the generation of state and local tax revenue; authorizing fees; authorizing penalties.

Summary: The bill amends Chapter 403, Gov't Code, to create subchapter T – the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act. The bill authorizes limitations on the taxable value of certain properties to create jobs and generate tax revenue. The bill establishes rules regarding which projects may be eligible for a property tax abatement with the school district in which the project is located. Additionally, the bill establishes a regulatory framework for these agreements.

The incentives apply to certain projects to construct or expand new or existing facilities. For Tarrant County's population bracket, an investment of at least \$200 million is needed, along with the creation and retention of at least 75 jobs. To be eligible for the incentive, a project must construct or expand a new or existing facility with one of the following purposes: manufacturing; providing utility services, including dispatchable electric generation; development of natural resources; researching, manufacturing, and developing high-tech equipment or technology; and constructing or expanding critical infrastructure. Projects ineligible for the incentive include projects to construct or expand a new or existing non-dispatchable electric generation facility (solar, wind, etc.) or an electric energy storage facility.

The taxable value for the school district's maintenance and operations (M&O) tax purposes is equal to fifty (50) percent of the market value of the property or twenty-five (25) percent of the market value if located in an opportunity zone (as determined by the U.S. Treasury). The taxable value of eligible

property for M&O taxes is zero for each year after the agreement is signed until the construction is completed.

The application process includes a required analysis from the Comptroller and the Governor regarding approval. The governing body of the school district will determine whether the agreement is executed. The agreement must prohibit the applicant from making a direct payment to the school district related to the agreement. The period of the abatement may be up to ten (10) consecutive tax years.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Hunter/Schwertner

## **HB 6**

Relating to the criminal penalties for certain controlled substance offenses.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 193, Health and Safety Code, to require the term "Fentanyl Poisoning" or "Fentanyl Toxicity" on a death certificate if a toxicology report reveals a Penalty Group 1-B substance present in the body and the autopsy results are consistent with an opioid overdose as the cause of death. The bill also clarifies offenses.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Medical Examiner, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Goldman/Huffman

## **HB 9**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 403, Gov't Code, to create the Broadband Infrastructure Fund. The fund consists of monies provided by the legislature, investment earnings, gifts, grants, and donations. The fund may be used for projects developed by the Broadband Development Office, Next Generation 911 services, Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program, matching funds for federal monies, and expanding access to economically distressed areas.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Economic Development

Effective Date: 1/1/24, dependent on passage of constitutional amendment

Author(s): Ashby/Huffman

## **HB 12**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, to authorize the Health and Human Services Commission to extend a woman's postpartum eligibility for Medicaid coverage from six (6) months to (12) months.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Rose/Kolkhorst

## **HB 14**

Relating to certain approval procedures for property development review by a political subdivision.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 247, Local Gov't Code. The bill creates a mechanism for third-party review of plats, plans, and development permits as well as certain inspections. If a county or city does not approve a plat or perform certain inspections within fifteen (15) days after the required thirty (30) day review period, the developer may request a review by a third-party entity. A county may not require an additional fee for this review. A developer may appeal the third-party decision to the governing body.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services, Fire Marshal

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Harris/Bettencourt

## **HB 17**

Relating to the official misconduct and removal of district attorneys and county attorneys.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 87, Local Gov't Code, to expand the definition of "official misconduct" for prosecuting attorneys. Official misconduct includes the following: a prosecuting attorney's adoption of or enforcement of a policy that would not prosecute a class or type of criminal offense under state law. The misconduct also includes instructing law enforcement to refuse to arrest individuals suspected of committing a class or type of offense. "Official misconduct" includes a district attorney from permitting an attorney to refuse to prosecute a class or type of criminal offense under state law or instruct law enforcement to refuse to arrest individuals suspected of committing a class or type of offense.

A petition for removal of a district attorney may be filed by any resident of this state that has lived for six months in the county in which the alleged cause of removal is located and is not currently charged with a criminal offense in that county.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Cook/Huffman

## **HB 19**

Relating to the creation of a specialty trial court to hear certain cases.

Summary: The bill creates Chapter 25A, Gov't Code, that will authorize specialty trial courts to hear certain business-related cases. The bill authorizes eleven (11) business courts coterminous with the administrative judicial regions of the state. If a business court establishes jurisdiction and venue over an action or case, the judge must order what county a jury trial would take place. The Fifteenth Court of Appeals has sole appellate jurisdiction over the business courts. Judges shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to the various divisions for two-year terms. Jury-related practices will be determined by the practices and procedures of a district court in the county in which the trial is held. Each business court judge will maintain chambers in the court that

the judge selects, and the Office of Court Administration may contract for the use of facilities with a county. "To the extent practicable" a county shall accommodate the business court within its existing facilities. The Sheriff or deputy is required to attend the business court as required by the court, and the Sheriff or the deputy is entitled to reimbursement by the state.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Civil Courts, Jury Services

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Murr/Hughes

## **HB 53**

Relating to the exemption from registration fees of certain vehicles used by nonprofit disaster relief organizations.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 502, Transportation Code, to exempt nonprofit agency vehicles used exclusively for disaster relief activities from registration fees.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Thompson/Eckhardt

## **HB 63**

Relating to reports of child abuse or neglect and certain preliminary investigations of those reports.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 261, Family Code, to require an individual making a child abuse or neglect report to include in the report the individual's name, telephone number, home address, business address and profession. The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) may not accept an anonymous report of abuse or neglect. The reporting individual's information is confidential unless it is provided to law enforcement to conduct a criminal investigation. An anonymous report of child abuse or neglect may be made to local or state law enforcement.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff Office, Constables

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Swanson/Sparks

## **HB 109**

Relating to health benefit coverage for hearing aids for children and adults.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1365, Insurance Code, to disallow certain health benefit plans from denying coverage for hearing aids for an enrollee because the cost of the hearing aid is greater than the benefit allowed under the plan.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Johnson, Julie/Zaffirini, Judith

## **HB 162**

Relating to minimum standards for prescribed burns.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 153, Natural Resources Code, to clarify that if a landowner includes on their prescription plan for a prescribed burn a certified and insured burn manager as the burn boss then a certified and insured burn boss must be on site to conduct the prescribed burn.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Fire Marshal

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Murr/Zaffirini

## **HB 266**

Relating to the required filing and use of an affidavit containing the contact information of certain persons in a guardianship proceeding.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1101, Estates Code, to require an individual who is filing an application for the appointment of a guardian file the affidavit with the court including the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and other contact information known to the applicant for each individual entitled to the application according to 1051.104(a) (child, sibling, administrator of the nursing home facility, et al). The affidavit is considered privileged and confidential. When the court qualifies a guardian, the court shall provide a copy of the affidavit to the guardian if the guardian did not file the affidavit. The guardian shall use the contact information



provided in the affidavit to provide notice about the ward to relatives of the ward.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Swanson/Zaffirini

## **HB 291**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 521, Transportation Code, to make substantial changes to the qualifications for and process of attaining an occupational driver's license. The bill expands the definition of an "essential need" for a person to operate a vehicle to include the pursuit of an occupation or trade. The bill also expands the list of an individual's ineligibility to apply for an occupational driver's license to include individuals who have been determined by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to be incapable of safely operating a vehicle, a person that does not hold a driver's license and is ineligible to obtain one due to a suspension order, and an individual who holds a driver's license from another state or county but that driver's license is suspended for a cause other than physical or mental disability. The bill excludes an individual who holds an occupational license from operating a commercial motor vehicle under Chapter 522.

An individual applying for an occupational driver's license may file the petition with the clerk of a justice, county, or district court with jurisdiction in a county where the individual resides, where the incident occurred, or the court in which the person was convicted. The information required under a petition is expanded to include a description of the hours and location of essential travel, the reason the petitioner's license was suspended, evidence of financial responsibility, and a complete driving record. A court may dismiss a petition if the court lacks jurisdiction. A petitioner must pay the filing fee. If it is determined that the court does not have jurisdiction, then the court must refund the fee. A petitioner may file a statement of inability to afford payment of court costs, and the court may hold a hearing to determine a person's inability to afford the payment of filing fees. All forms must be available at no cost to

the petitioner. The judge shall hold a hearing, including by electronic or telephonic means, to determine essential need for petitioners whose license was suspended, revoked, or canceled for certain convictions, and a judge may hold a hearing if the petitioner's license was suspended, revoked, or canceled for reasons other than the certain convictions above. An order granting or denying an application for an occupational driver's license may not be appealed. The bill also adds to the list of requirements in an order granting an occupational driver's license to include that a person may not operate a commercial vehicle, required to attend alcohol dependence counseling, if applicable, and required to submit to supervision, if applicable. The order may require the individual to keep travel logs with the date, time, and location of travel to demonstrate compliance with the order. The order may be modified at any time without the cost of a filing fee.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Justices of the Peace

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Murr/Hughes

## **HB 315**

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: This bill amends Chapter 84, Election Code, to require the Secretary of State to develop a statement explaining the benefits of providing a telephone number for a vote by mail. The statement will be attached to the application. The statement will also be available on the Secretary of State's website.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Cortez/Zaffirini

## **HB 367**

Relating to the powers and duties of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 33, Government Code, to allow the Judicial Conduct Commission to have the same authority to accept complaints, conduct investigations, and take any other authorized action on a candidate for judicial office as it does for a sitting judge.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Judges, Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Jetton/Zaffirini

## **HB 430**

Relating to the criteria and qualifications for distributions under the rural volunteer fire department assistance program.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 614, Gov't Code, to require the Texas A&M Forest Service to consider the age of equipment used by a volunteer fire department in the distribution of funds from the volunteer fire department assistance fund.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Fire Marshal

Effective Date: 6/10/23

Author(s): VanDeaver/Perry

## **HB 433**

Relating to the definition of a commercial fleet.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 502, Transportation Code, to reduce the number of relevant vehicles from twenty-five (25) to twelve (12) in the definition of a "commercial fleet".

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): VanDeaver/Flores

## **HB 471**

Relating to benefits for certain first responders and other employees related to illness and injury.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 177A, Local Gov't Code and provides one year of paid leave for law enforcement and first responders that are injured in the line of duty.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff, Budget and Risk Management, Human Resources

Effective Date:

Author(s): Patterson/Schwertner

## **HB 474**

Relating to certain requirements regarding court-appointed volunteer advocate programs.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 264, Family Code, to add definitions for "active volunteer advocates" (currently with a case) and "inactive volunteer advocates" (currently without a case) for children's cases. The bill also requires the non-profit that the state contracts with for volunteer advocate or guardian ad litem services to adopt a grievance procedure for negligence and misconduct complaints against volunteer advocate duties and maintain accurate records regarding active and inactive volunteer advocates.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Juvenile, 323<sup>rd</sup> District Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hull/Zaffirini

## **HB 541**

Relating to donations to certain local charities ordered to be paid as a condition of community supervision.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 42A, Code of Criminal Procedure, to expand eligible organizations to which a judge may order a defendant to make a specified donation in lieu of community service hours. The list is expanded to include charitable organizations that support defendants under

community supervision and a veterans county service office where the defendant resides. The bill also amends Chapter 434, Gov't Code, to stipulate that a commissioners court may not consider donations made by defendants to a county service office as part of the county's budget for the office.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal Courts Administration, CSCD, Budget and Risk Management, Veterans Service

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Longoria/Hinojosa

## **HB 567**

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

Summary: The bill amends Chapter 21, Labor Code, to add braids, locks, and twists to protective hairstyles. Discrimination because of race or on the basis of race includes discrimination because of an employee's hair texture or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bowers/Miles

## **HB 568**

Relating to education and training for peace officers on interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Summary: The bill amends Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, to include in Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) forty (40) hour education and training curriculum a requirement for a peace officer to be instructed in interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The curriculum includes techniques for recognizing symptoms, effective communication, employing alternatives to physical restraints, and identifying signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables, Fire Marshal, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bowers/Menendez

## **HB 586**

Relating to municipal annexation of certain rights-of-way.

Summary: The bill amends Chapter 43, Local Gov't Code, to annex road right-of-way that is either 1) contiguous to the municipality's boundary or an area being annexed by the municipality; 2) parallel to the boundary of the municipality or an area being annexed or connecting the boundary of the municipality to an area being simultaneously annexed by the municipality. The right-of-way must be in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The municipality may only annex a road right-of-way if the owner or governing body of the political subdivision that maintains the right-of-way requests annexation in writing or the municipality provides written notice to the owner or governing body of the political subdivision that maintains the right-of-way not later than the 61st day before the date of annexation. An owner or governing body of the political subdivision that maintains the right-of-way may submit a written objection to the annexation before the date of the proposed annexation. Annexing right-of-way through this bill does not allow a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction to expand.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 5/23/23

Author(s): Thompson/Bettencourt

## **HB 608**

Relating to the sale of fireworks before and during the Diwali holiday.

Summary: The bill amends Chapter 2154, Occupations Code, to authorize a commissioners court to approve a retail firework permit holder to sell fireworks the five days before the first day of Diwali until midnight on the last day of Diwali. The court order must be adopted fifteen (15) days before the beginning of Diwali.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Fire Marshal, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Shaheen/Huffman

## **HB 616**

Relating to continuing education of county and district clerks regarding the proper selection of petit and grand juries.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 51, Gov't Code, to require, during the initial instruction required during the first year of service, a county and district clerk to have one hour of continuing education instruction on impaneling petit and grand juries.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County and District Clerk

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Vasut/Zaffirini

## **HB 628**

Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to honor fallen law enforcement officers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 504, Transportation Code, to require the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Funds received for these license plates above administrative costs shall be deposited in an account to provide financial assistance to surviving family members of peace officers killed in the line of duty.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Harris/Nichols

## **HB 639**

Relating to the number of temporary licenses to conduct bingo issued to certain authorized organizations in a calendar year.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2001, Occupations Code, to define that an organization eligible to conduct bingo that does

not hold a license may not receive more than twelve (12) temporary licenses in a calendar year.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Audit

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Lozano/Lamantia

## **HB 660**

Relating to a law enforcement agency's duty to enter certain protective order information into certain agency computer records and state information databases.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 83, Family Code, to require law enforcement agencies to enter protective order information into local and state information systems. The bill also allows for the enforcement of temporary ex parte orders to be the same as a final protective order.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff, County & District Clerks, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Cook/ Zaffirini

## **HB 671**

Relating to a veterans suicide prevention campaign.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 434, Gov't Code, to require the Texas Veterans Commission to conduct a suicide prevention campaign to provide information to veterans and establish a dedicated website. The Commission may work with community-based, nonprofit, or private organizations and may solicit and accept gifts and grants to conduct the campaign.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veterans Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023; not later than 03/01/24 Texas Veterans Commission to establish veterans suicide prevention campaign and rules to implement.

Author(s): Gonzalez/Eckhardt



## **HB 679**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2252, Gov't Code, to prohibit the use of workers compensation experience modifiers in public construction contracts. A contract cannot require a person to have a specified experience modifier and a solicitation may not require a specified experience modifier. This prohibition only applies to contracts that a government entity first advertises or solicits after September 1, 2023.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Purchasing

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bell/Schwertner

## **HB 718**

Relating to the issuance of temporary tags and license plates by a motor vehicle dealer.

Summary: This bill makes substantial changes to the Transportation Code that will require the use of metal plates in lieu of paper tags when a vehicle is purchased as well as for other temporary licenses needs.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector, Sheriff Office, Constables

Effective Date: 07/1/2025

Author(s): Goldman/West

## **HB 755**

Relating to prior authorization for prescription drug benefits related to the treatment of chronic and autoimmune diseases.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, to prohibit a health benefit plan to require an enrollee to receive more than one prior authorization annually for a prescription drug benefit to treat an auto immune disease, hemophilia, or Von Willebrand Disease.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Johnson/Menendez

## **HB 767**

Relating to the entry into the Texas Crime Information Center of certain information regarding conditions of bond for stalking offenses.

Summary: This bill amends Article 17, Code of Criminal Procedure, to include entry of bond conditions of stalking cases into Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC). Applies to bond conditions imposed on or after September 1, 2023.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal Courts Administration, Sheriff's Office, County and District Clerks

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Harless/Kolkhorst

## **HB 785**

Relating to the delivery of certain notices or other communications in connection with guardianship proceedings.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1002, Estates Code, to define a qualified delivery method for notices given to guardians under court supervision.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Swanson/Zaffirini

## **HB 796**

Relating to the creation and maintenance by an appraisal district of a publicly available Internet database of information regarding protest hearings conducted by the appraisal review board established for the district.

Summary: This bill amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district to create and maintain a publicly available and searchable internet database that

contains information regarding protest hearings conducted by the appraisal review board.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Button/Bettencourt

## **HB 841**

Relating to certain judicial statistics and related information gathered by the Texas Judicial Council.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 71, Gov't Code, to require the Texas Judicial Council to gather case-level information on the volume and character of business before the courts.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts, Criminal Courts Administration, County & District Clerks

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Ordaz/Middleton

## **HB 844**

Relating to the definition of trafficking for purposes of the offense of trafficking of persons.

Summary: This bill amends Article 56B, Code of Criminal Procedure, to include solicitation or patronization of forced labor or services that are connected to human trafficking in the definition of criminally injurious conduct. The bill designates a victim of criminally injurious conduct as a trafficking victim to be eligible for governor's office grant programs.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Patterson/Paxton

## **HB 907**

Relating to persons authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony.

Summary: The following persons may now conduct a marriage ceremony: a current or former federal judge or state judge.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): District Judges, County Clerk

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Moody/Hinojosa

## **HB 916**

Relating to health benefit plan coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, to require certain health benefit plans to provide the coverage necessary for an enrollee to receive a three-month supply of contraceptives the first time the enrollee obtains the drug and a 12-month supply of contraceptives for each additional time the enrollee obtains the drug.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Ordaz/Paxton

## **HB 969**

Relating to local regulation to enforce child custody orders; authorizing a civil penalty.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 157, Family Code, to allow a municipality or county to adopt an ordinance or order that imposes a civil penalty of no more than \$500 for an individual that interferes with child custody as defined by Section 25.03, Penal Code.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Cook /Middleton

## **HB 995**

Relating to sheriff's department disability leave in certain counties.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 158, Local Gov't Code, to require a county with a civil service system to provide a sheriff's department employee a leave of absence for an illness or injury from activities related to their line of duty. The leave of absence is with full pay for up to a year. The commissioners court can, at

the end of the one-year period, extend the leave at full or reduced pay. The bill allows the employee to retire or use accrued benefit time before the employee is placed on temporary leave.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff, Budget and Risk Management, Human Resources, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Muñoz, Jr./Paxton

## **HB 999**

Relating to the effect of certain reductions in a health benefit plan enrollee's out-of-pocket expenses for certain prescription drugs on enrollee cost-sharing requirements.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, to require a health benefit plan to apply any third-party payment, financial assistance, discount, product voucher, or other reduction in out-of-pocket expenses towards the enrollee's deductible, copayment, or out-of-pocket maximum.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Price/Schwertner

## **HB 1088**

Relating to the representation of a community supervision and corrections department in cases in which a person under the supervision of that department challenges the fact or duration of the supervision.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 76, Gov't Code, to require the attorney general or the district attorney to defend a community supervision department (CSCD) or employee when a person under supervision challenges the fact or duration of the supervision.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney, CSCD

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Johnson/Whitmire

## **HB 1182**

Relating to judicial statistics and other pertinent information gathered by the Texas Judicial Council and certain populous counties.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 71, Gov't Code, to require a county with population of at least a million to submit monthly court activity statistics and case-level information for each trial court including: number of cases assigned, case clearance rate, number of cases disposed, number of jury panels empaneled, number of orders of continuance for an attorney or by the court, number of pleas accepted, number of cases tried by judge or by jury, number of cases tried before a visiting or associate judge. The bill requires the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to publish the data for each court on its website in a searchable format. In a county over one million population, a court official for each court is required to submit the monthly report for publication on county's website in a searchable format. Reports to be submitted by the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) day of the month following the month being reported. The bill removes the requirement of the District and County Clerks' offices to maintain copies for two years for public inspection and reproduction.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts, Criminal Courts Administration, County & District Clerks

Effective Date: 09/1/2023; Texas Judicial Council to adopt rules necessary to implement as soon as practicable.

Author(s): Harless/Whitmire

## **HB 1195**

Relating to the authority of a county to require photo identification to file certain documents with the county clerk.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 191, Local Gov't Code, to allow a county clerk's office that allows electronic filing of documents to require a person to present photo ID when filing a record or requesting a service, and removes the minimum population threshold for a request to present ID. A clerk that requires photo ID may not accept a filing from a person if they do not have or refuse to provide photo ID.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Clerk

Effective Date: 6/9/23

Author(s): Holland/Hall

## **HB 1217**

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

Summary: This bill amends the Elections Code to standardize the hours for early voting across the state. The bill also clarifies that early voting polling locations must be open for twelve (12) consecutive hours except for the last Sunday (six 6) consecutive hours).

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Swanson/Kolkhorst

## **HB 1228**

Relating to the right of a property owner or the owner's agent to receive on request a copy of the information used to appraise the owner's property for ad valorem tax purposes.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1, Tax Code, to allow a property owner (or their designee) to select their preferred electronic communications from the appraisal district, tax office, or taxing unit.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/01/2024

Author(s): Metcalf/Springer

## **HB 1243**

Relating to the penalty for the offense of illegal voting.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 64, Election Code, to consider Illegal voting a second-degree felony. An attempt to vote illegally will be a state jail felony.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff Office, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hefner/Hughes

## **HB 1285**

Relating to the duties of the taxpayer liaison officer of an appraisal district.

Summary: This bill amends the Tax Code to clarify the duties of taxpayer liaison officers appointed by appraisal districts. The bill allows the board to appoint deputy taxpayer liaison officers and requires training. The bill also allows the local administrative judge to remove an appraisal review board chair if the chair does not ensure compliance.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector, Local Administrative Judge

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Shine/Springer

## **HB 1299**

Relating to the signature required on a carrier envelope for a ballot voted by mail.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 86, Election Code, to require a voter voting by mail or a person assisting a voter who is voting by mail to sign the certificate on the carrier envelope using ink.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Noble/Paxton

## **HB 1337**

Relating to step therapy protocols required by health benefit plans for coverage of prescription drugs for serious mental illnesses.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, to prohibit health benefit plans from requiring enrollees with serious mental illness from completing certain step therapy protocols before medications are prescribed.



Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/01/2023

Author(s): Hull/Menéndez

## **HB 1382**

Relating to the public sale of real property taken in execution of a judgment.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 34, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, to authorize a commissioners court to conduct a public auction through online bidding and sale for real property taken in execution of a judgment.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office, Tax Assessor-Collector, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hernandez/Bettencourt

## **HB 1457**

Relating to required military informed care or military cultural competency training for certain personnel of entities that provide mental health services to veterans.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code and Health and Safety Code to require an entity that receives a grant to provide mental health services to veterans or veterans' families to have previously received and successfully executed a grant from the state agency or provide certain training on military informed care or cultural competency to its personnel. The training must be provided by one of the following: Texas Veterans Commission, Health and Human Services Commission, the Military Veteran Peer Network, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or a nonprofit organization that meets certain qualifications. The Commission and the Department of State Health Services must jointly verify that the state agencies providing the grants have adopted policies ensuring grantee compliance.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veterans Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Rosenthal/Blanco

## **HB 1486**

Relating to the adoption of a mental health leave policy for certain telecommunicators.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 614, Gov't Code, to add full-time telecommunicators to the list of persons eligible to receive mental health leave under a political subdivision's mental health leave policy.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources, Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Gerdes/Whitmire

## **HB 1527**

Relating to the relationship between dentists and certain employee benefit plans and health insurers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1451, Insurance Code, to make substantial changes to dental insurance plans including limiting recovery of overpayments and rules regarding third-party access to network groups.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Oliverson/Zaffirini

## **HB 1598**

Relating to local government and other political subdivision regulation of certain solid waste facilities.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, to standardize permitting and siting process for municipal solid waste facilities. The commissioners court cannot require an applicant to obtain a permit as a prerequisite to a permit being issued by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services,  
Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Darby/Perry

## **HB 1603**

Relating to the procedures governing the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses in the jurisdiction of the justice and municipal courts.

Summary: This bill amends Article 45, Code of Criminal Procedure, to allow a justice or judge of a municipal or justice court to appoint a competent attorney as an attorney pro tem to represent the state.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Justices of the Peace

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Guillen/Hinojosa

## **HB 1631**

Relating to hours of service by an election watcher.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 33, Election Code, to give poll watchers on election day the ability to come and go from a precinct polling place by striking the minimum five (5) hour service requirement.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Paul/Middleton

## **HB 1632**

Relating to standardized training for election officers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 32, Election Code, to require the Secretary of State to develop and publish a handbook for election judge training. The Secretary of State must also develop an online training program for early voting ballot board members, signature verification committee members, and counting station members.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Paul/Middleton

## **HB 1647**

Relating to health benefit plan coverage of clinician-administered drugs.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, to prohibit health plans from imposing limitations on coverage for drugs administered by a clinician for patients with chronic, complex, rare, and or life-threatening medical conditions.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Harris/Schwertner

## **HB 1649**

Relating to health benefit coverage for certain fertility preservation services under certain health benefit plans.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, to require certain health benefit plans to provide coverage for fertility preservation services to a person who has received certain medically necessary treatments, including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. This coverage does not include the storage of unfertilized genetic materials. The fertility preservation services described in the bill must become the standard procedure and consistent with established American Society of Clinical Oncology or American Society for Reproductive Medicine guidelines.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Button/Parker

## **HB 1707**

Relating to the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter schools.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 12, Education Code, to require a political subdivision to consider a charter school a school district for the purposes of zoning, platting, permitting, licensing, subdivision regulation, et al.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 06/12/2023

Author(s): Klick/Hughes

## **HB 1712**

Relating to the inclusion of a magistrate's name on certain signed orders.

Summary: This bill amends Article 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, to require an order signed by a magistrate to include the magistrate's name in legible handwriting, typewritten form, or stamp.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal Courts Administration

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Canales/Alvarado

## **HB 1740**

Relating to waivers for entrance fees to state parks for certain veterans, active duty armed forces members, and family members of a person who died while serving in the US armed forces.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 13, Parks and Wildlife Code, to allow the following persons to be eligible to apply for and receive a state parklands passport: a resident of Texas aged 65 or older who has resided in the state for at least 6 months; an honorably discharged US veteran; an active-duty member of the US armed services; and a survivor spouse, parent, child, or sibling of a person who died while serving in the US armed

forces. These persons may enter any state park without payment of an entrance fee, an admission fee, or a vehicle fee.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veterans Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Leach/Hancock

## **HB 1766**

Relating to the issuance of private activity bonds for qualified residential rental projects.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code to create a cap for certain housing projects seeking private activity bonds issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. For years when private activity bonds are in high demand, a fifty-five (55) percent bond financing cap will be instituted.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Community Development, Tarrant County Housing Finance Corporation

Effective Date: 06/18/2023

Author(s): Darby/Parker

## **HB 1817**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2252, Gov't Code, to clarify that if a contractor does not provide a Form 1295 for a contract with a government entity, then the governmental entity may submit to the business written notice of the deficiency. The business has ten (10) days to submit the required disclosure, or the government entity may void the contract.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Purchasing, Criminal District Attorney – Civil Division

Effective Date: 6/9/23

Author(s): Capriglione/Hancock

## **HB 1848**

Relating to a study by the secretary of state on the feasibility of central counting stations complying with federal standards for facilities that contain sensitive information.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 127, Election Code, to require the Secretary of State to perform a feasibility study on conforming central count stations to standards required to be considered a sensitive compartmented information facility. The study is due to the legislature by December 1, 2024.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): DeAyala/Hall

## **HB 1885**

Relating to the authority of the Texas Transportation Commission to establish variable speed limits.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 545, Transportation Code, to allow the Texas Transportation Commission to establish a program for variable speed limits. Notice of the speed limit change may be displayed using a portable or stationary message sign. Speed limits set under this program must be based on an engineering and traffic study; may be in effect for all or a portion of a highway and for any time of the day TxDOT deems necessary; must reduce the speed limit by more than 10mph; and are in effect when the speed limit is posted within a certain distance of the change.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Canales/Nichols

## **HB 1819**

Relating to the repeal of the authority of political subdivisions to adopt or enforce juvenile curfews.

Summary: This bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Local Government Code to prohibit a political subdivision

from imposing an ordinance or order to create a juvenile curfew. The prohibition does not extend to curfews implemented under Chapter 418, Gov't Code.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Cook/Hughes

## **HB 1957**

Relating to the availability of financial information of nonprofit corporations for public inspection.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 22, Business Code, to define what financial documents a nonprofit organization must make available to the public at its principal office during regular business hours.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Administration, Community Development

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Geren/King

## **HB 1959**

Relating to the transfer of certain public-school students who are children of peace officers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 25, Education Code, to allow a peace officer who is a parent or parental relation to a student to request a transfer for the student to another district or campus. The district is not required to provide transportation to any campus other than the student's assigned campus or outside school district.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables, Fire Marshal, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 06/2/2023

Author(s): Noble/King



## **HB 1989**

Relating to the fees assessed by a district clerk for copies of certain court documents.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 51, Gov't Code, to prohibit a district clerk from charging US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Citizenship and Immigration Services, or a criminal justice agency that requests a document for a criminal justice purpose a fee to copy a document.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): District Clerk

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Cook/Parker

## **HB 2015**

Relating to the exemption from jury service for persons over a certain age.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 62, Gov't Code, to change the age that a person may choose to be exempt from jury service from 70 to 75 years of age.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Jury Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Leach/Zaffirini

## **HB 2059**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, to expand those eligible to receive mental health first aid training provided by local mental health authorities to include first responders, veterans and immediate family members of veterans, service members, judges, and attorneys.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts, Criminal District Attorney, Sheriff's Office, Constables, Veterans Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Price/Zaffirini

## **HB 2071**

Relating to certain public facilities, including public facilities used to provide affordable housing.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 303, Local Gov't Code, to impose conditions for financing, operating, or owning a multifamily residential development by a public facility corporation.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Community Development

Effective Date: 06/18/2023

Author(s): Jetton/Bettencourt

## **HB 2127**

Relating to state preemption of certain municipal and county regulation.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 102A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, to preempt certain local regulations outside of what is explicitly authorized in the Agriculture Code, Business and Commerce Code, Finance Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Local Gov't Code, Natural Resources Code, Occupations Code, and Property Code. A person may bring a claim against a local gov't entity if the person believes that they have been injured through the entity's ordinance, order, or regulation. The bill waives governmental immunity and allows the claimant to recover attorney's fees. A local gov't may also recover attorney's fees for frivolous suits.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Commissioners Court, Administrator's Office, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Burrows/Creighton

## **HB 2183**

Relating to the temporary appointment of county jailers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, to allow for the temporary appointment of a county jailer. The appointment may be renewed for up to 6 months if a sheriff petitions the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. If a

person has been appointed as a county jailer on a temporary basis in the past, they may only be reappointed if they left the position in good standing. A person with an inactive county jailer license may be appointed as a county jailer on a temporary basis. A person who has served as a temporary county jailer for 2 years may serve the remainder of their appointment, not to exceed 1 year. After their term is complete, the person is not eligible to serve again for 1 year.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Stucky/Flores

## **HB 2251**

Relating to computerized fee records in criminal cases.

Summary: This bill amends Article 103, Code of Criminal Procedure, to require a court clerk that has been provided a computerized case and financial management system by the county to provide a hardcopy of the computerized form to the individual.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts, Justices of the Peace, County & District Clerks

Effective Date: 09/01/2023

Author(s): Raymond/Zaffirini

## **HB 2308**

Relating to nuisance actions and other actions against agricultural operations.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 251, Agriculture Code, to prohibit nuisance actions or other actions to restrain an agricultural operation that has been lawfully in operation and substantially unchanged for one year or more. A person who brings a nuisance action or other restraining action against an agricultural operation that has been lawfully in operation and substantially unchanged for one year or more is liable for certain costs and expenses as well as any other damages found. The definition of "agricultural land" will now include any lands on which agricultural operations exist or may take place. The definition of "agricultural improvements" is also broadened.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney,  
Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Ashby/Perry

## **HB 2314**

Relating to filing death benefits claims under the workers' compensation system.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 408, Labor Code, to require an insurance carrier that has had the family of a first responder file for death benefits to create and maintain records documenting the claim and provide written notice to the Texas Department of Insurance Worker's Compensation Division that the person filed a claim.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources, Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 06/10/2023

Author(s): Canales/Kolkhorst

## **HB 2384**

Relating to court administration, including the knowledge, efficiency, training, and transparency requirements for candidates for or holders of judicial offices.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 141, Elections Code, to require a candidate for certain judicial offices to disclose any sanction or disciplinary sanction from the state bar association. The candidate must also include on their application their state bar number, the nature of the candidate's legal practice, professional courtroom experience, and any final conviction of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor in the previous ten (10) years. A judge can be sanctioned for knowingly making a false declaration on the application for ballot. The bill also requires thirty (30) hours of judicial education.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Judges, Elections

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Leach/Hughes

## **HB 2453**

Relating to the issuance of digital licenses by a licensing agency.

Summary: This bill adds Chapter 60, Occupations Code, to allow a licensing authority that issues occupational licenses to issue a digital license to a license holder. Digital licenses must meet the following requirements: the license must be in a secure format, available online, available on a cell phone, and accessible for viewing by the public. If a license issuer contracts with a vendor to issue the digital licenses, the license must be in a verifiable format.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health, Fire Marshal, Sheriff's Office, County and District Clerk, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Guillen/Parker

## **HB 2468**

Relating to the eligibility of an injured employee for lifetime income benefits under the workers' compensation system.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 408, Labor Code, to clarify eligibility provisions for first responders to receive lifetime benefits for serious bodily injury sustained in the line of duty.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources, Budget and Risk Management, Sheriff's Office, Constables, Fire Marshal, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Burrows/Perry

## **HB 2518**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2252, Gov't Code, to require performance bonds for construction contracts on property leased by a government entity to a person. The contractor must provide the government entity ninety (90) days' notice before work may commence.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Facilities

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bell/Nichols

## **HB 2559**

Relating to the persons authorized to administer an oath in this state.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 602, Gov't Code, to allow the following persons to administer an oath of office in Texas: a retired justice of the peace and the comptroller or former comptroller.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Vasut/Zaffirini

## **HB 2616**

Relating to the operation of and lighting equipment for medical examiner vehicles and vehicles operated by justices of the peace in certain circumstances.

Summary: This bill amends the Transportation Code to authorize medical examiner and justice of the peace vehicles to have lighting equipment for duties as a coroner.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Budget and Risk Management, Transportation Services, Medical Examiner

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Vasut/LaMantia

## **HB 2620**

Relating to the confinement in a county jail of a person pending a transfer to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and to compensation to a county for certain costs of confinement.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to develop a five-day pen packet certification process. The bill also authorizes the Texas Department of Criminal Justice

to reimburse counties at the department's cost rate for holding paper-ready inmates after forty-five (45) days.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Budget, Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Geren/King

## **HB 2626**

Relating to the availability on the Internet of certain reports of political contributions and expenditures.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 254, Election Code, to require the clerk or secretary of a political subdivision's governing body to make the following local campaign finance reports available to the public within ten (10) business days after the reports are filed: candidate, officeholder, or specific purpose committee. The governing body's presiding officer may file the reports if the governing body does not have a clerk or secretary. The authority of the political subdivision may redact a donor's street address from the report. However, the street address must be kept on file. Reports must be kept on the entity's website for five (5) years.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Clerk

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Tepper/Perry

## **HB 2660**

Relating to duties and procedures and to training programs for law enforcement agencies regarding missing children and missing persons.

Summary: This bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a law enforcement agency, within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving a notice of missing persons, to electronically send the notice to each municipal and county law enforcement agency within 200 miles the report. A law enforcement agency that receives a missing person report for a child must, within two (2) hours of receiving the report, immediately start an investigation, enter the name of the child in the national clearinghouse and national crime information center missing person file and enter the applicable information into the Texas

Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. Within thirty (30) days, the agency must enter the name of the child into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System and inform the person who filed the report of the reports submitted. The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall create a training program by December 1, 2024.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Oliverson/Hughes

## **HB 2719**

Relating to the powers of the Texas Historical Commission over historic sites in this state.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 442, Gov't Code, to allow the Texas Historical Commission to operate an in-person gift shop, as well as an online gift shop. The commission may employ personnel for this purpose and may establish related standards and procedures. Creates the Texas Historical Commission Retail Operations Fund. The fund will be administered by the Comptroller. The fund will consist of money from retail sales and interest. Money from the fund will be spent to benefit state historic sites and the retail operations for those sites. Property does not have to be donated to be included as a historic site. The commission may purchase or otherwise acquire a site. A grant for a historic courthouse restoration may not exceed \$10 million to a single county. The bill also amends the jurisdiction of the commission by changing the definition of a historic site.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Archives

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Ashby/Zaffirini

## **HB 2754**

Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for retired peace officers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 504, Transportation Code, to require the Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to design and issue specialty license plates for retired peace officers. There will be no fee associated with these plates.



Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bell/King

## **HB 2800**

Relating to meetings of a county election board.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 51, Elections Code, to require meetings of a county election board to be held in person and open to the public. No later than forty-eight (48) hours before each meeting, the county clerk must post notice of the meeting on the county's website.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections, County Judge, County Administration, County Clerk

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Paul/Paxton

## **HB 2802**

Relating to the Medicaid application form and communication with Medicaid recipients.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 533, Gov't Code, to allow Medicaid managed care organizations to communicate by telephone and other forms of electronic communication, with applicants for and recipients of Medicaid. For those enrolled in a Medicaid managed care organization, HHSC must allow the organization to communicate with the recipient through any electronic means regarding health care matters. HHSC may not require the organization to submit the recipient's contact preferences to HHSC. The Medicaid application form must include a notification to the applicant that they are able to opt out of electronic communications if they notify their managed care organization or health care provider. On the application, the option to consent to contact by a managed care organization or health care provider is removed.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Rose/Blanco

## **HB 2878**

Relating to the operation in certain counties of mobile food service establishments in more than one municipality within the county.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 437A, Health and Safety Code, to create a pilot program in Tarrant County for mobile food truck permits. A mobile food truck must receive a permit from the county to operate in the county, and a county permit will allow the mobile food truck to operate in any municipality in the county.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health, Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Capriglione/Parker

## **HB 2951**

Relating to the establishment of a service dog pilot program for certain veterans.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 434, Gov't Code, to require the Texas Veterans Commission to create a service dog pilot program for veterans. The purpose of the program is to provide assistance to veterans with symptoms of service-related PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma. The Commission must request proposals from nonprofit corporations to implement the program. The Commission may only approve nonprofit corporations that have demonstrated experience working with veterans who have experienced PTSD, TBI, or military sexual trauma. All goods and services, including the veteran's service dog, must be provided to the veteran at no cost. By October 1, 2026, the Commission must prepare and submit a report evaluating the pilot program. The report must be sent to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and any appropriate legislative committees.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veteran Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Buckley/Hancock

## **HB 3009**

Relating to the health care providers authorized to examine a person to determine whether the person is incapacitated for purposes of certain guardianship proceedings.

Summary: This bill amends the Estates Code to expand the list of practitioners authorized to examine a person for certain guardianship proceedings to include advanced practice registered nurses. The bill also provides for the establishment of probable cause for an investigation and letter or certificate for restoring a ward's capacity or modifying guardianship.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): VanDeaver/Zaffirini

## **HB 3014**

Relating to the motor vehicle safety inspection of electric vehicles.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 548, Transportation Code, to exempt electric vehicles from emissions and exhaust system inspections.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Car. Harris/Zaffirini

## **HB 3033**

Relating to the public information law.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 552, Gov't Code, to define "business day" as it relates to public information law. A "business day" is not a Saturday or Sunday, national, or state holiday. A governmental body may designate not more than ten (10) nonbusiness days in a calendar year to close administrative offices. The bill also clarifies that a requestor who has exceeded the limit under 552.275 may not request information on behalf of another requestor. A governmental body may also request a photo identification from a requestor to establish that they have not exceeded the limit or concealed their identity.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney,  
Administrator's Office, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Landgraf/ Zaffirini

## **HB 3075**

Relating to the operation of an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility or detention facility.

Summary: This bill amends the Penal Code and the Gov't Code to designate that a person commits an offense if they intentionally or knowingly take the following actions using an unmanned aircraft: fly over a correctional or detention facility and the aircraft is less than 400 feet above ground level, make contact with a person, object, or other structure within a correctional or detention facility, or come within a distance of a correctional or detention facility that causes a disturbance to the facility. The first offense is a class B misdemeanor, and the second offense is a class A misdemeanor.

If a person uses the unmanned aircraft to provide any form of contraband to the facility, the offense is a state jail felony.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Kacal/Flores

## **HB 3125**

Relating to the use of certain lighting equipment on authorized emergency vehicles.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 547, Transportation Code, to allow for emergency vehicles to have alternating or flashing white lights.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Gamez/Zaffirini

## **HB 3161**

Relating to the duties of a justice of the peace, medical examiner, or other investigator regarding the bodies of unidentified deceased persons and to the control by certain persons of the disposition of a deceased person's remains.

Summary: This bill amends Article 49, Code of Criminal Procedure, to clarify that a person or body is considered unidentified if the deceased person's legal name is unknown and there is no known person to inter the deceased person's remains. The bill also clarifies when a justice of the peace or medical examiner is authorized to hold an inquest. The bill also requires a court with probate jurisdiction to expedite resolution of disputes over the disposition of a decedent's remains.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Medical examiner, Probate Courts, Justices of the Peace

Effective Date: 09/01/2023

Author(s): Hull/Huffman

## **HB 3186**

Relating to youth diversion strategies and procedures for children accused of certain fine-only offenses in municipal and justice courts and related criminal justice matters.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 45, Code of Criminal Procedure, to create a new system to allow for pre-adjudication youth diversion strategies. The bill requires a youth diversion plan for each justice and municipal court or for a county. Local governments can create regional youth diversion plans. A local government may adopt rules necessary to coordinate services under a youth diversion plan. A court may designate a youth diversion coordinator to assist the court with youth diversion programs (the duties may be performed by a court clerk, juvenile case manager services, service offices, court supervision or corrections department, et al).

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Justices of the Peace, Juvenile Services

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Leach/Zaffirini

## **HB 3222**

Relating to eligibility for a loan under the disaster recovery loan program.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 418, Gov't Code, to allow a political subdivision to apply to the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) for a loan through the Disaster Recovery Loan Program. To be eligible for a loan, a political subdivision must have submitted its operating budget for the fiscal year to the department within thirty (30) days of the budget approval. The previous time frame was fifteen (15) days.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Budget and Risk Management, Emergency Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Guillen/Kolkhorst

## **HB 3223**

Relating to the management of a declared state of disaster.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 418, Gov't Code, to require the chair of the emergency management council to appoint a chair of each disaster district committee based on the declared disaster and phase of disaster response while complying with the National Incident Management System guidelines. Disaster committee chairs must inform the chair of the emergency management council on all related matters as requested by the chair of the emergency management council.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Judge, Emergency Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Guillen/Kolkhorst

## **HB 3273**

Relating to public notice of the availability on the Internet of property-tax-related information.

Summary: This bill amends the Tax Code to require the chief appraiser and the tax assessor-collector to provide, on their

respective internet websites, information regarding the estimated amount of taxes imposed on properties in the property tax database. The chief appraiser must also provide notice to the public of the means to sign up for updates from the property tax database website.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Thierry/Bettencourt

## **HB 3288**

Relating to notice of transfer of a used motor vehicle.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 501, Transportation Code, to require, on a transfer notice of a used motor vehicle, the full name, address, and telephone number of the purchaser.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Canales/Hinojosa

## **HB 3290**

Relating to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 771, Health and Safety Code, to specify that the Comptroller must transfer the following funding to the Next Generation 911 Service Fund: available State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) monies or from any related state or federal funding source. The funds shall be transferred after the state receives enough federal funds to make the transfer or the effective date of the most recent legislative appropriation. For emergency communications districts not participating in the state system, the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) must distribute certain appropriated funds in an amount proportional to an area's population compared with Texas' population. For certain emergency communication districts that are eligible to receive the funding in this section, the CSEC must: reduce the district's funding amount by nine (9) percent and distribute the amount equally between all other eligible emergency communications districts and distribute to the

district the remainder of the funding that the district is entitled to. All other remaining funds will be deposited into the 911 services fee account.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Information Technologies

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Guillen/Hancock

## **HB 3297**

Relating to the elimination of regular mandatory vehicle safety inspections for noncommercial vehicles and the imposition of replacement fees.

Summary: This bill amends the Health and Safety and Transportation Codes to no longer require non-commercial safety inspections by the state of Texas. If a vehicle is in an accident that prevents the safe operation of the vehicle, the vehicle does not need to be inspected after repairs to the vehicle have been made. Department of Public Safety (DPS) will continue to require certain vehicles to be inspected and pass inspection. A vehicle must do one of the following: pass an inspection taking place no more than ninety (90) days before the initial registration date; pass an inspection taking place no more than ninety (90) days before the expiration date for a renewal registration; pass an inspection taking place no more than 180 days before the sale of the vehicle by a dealer; or if applicable, pass an inspection in compliance with federal motor carrier safety regulations, in a time frame that complies with the regulations.

When registering a vehicle, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) or county assessor-collector must collect a portion of the inspection fee to be remitted to the state. In addition to other fees imposed at the time of registration or renewal, an additional annual fee of \$7.50 is levied for the following: a motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or mobile home. An applicant must pay a one-time fee of \$16.75 if the application is for the initial registration of a passenger car or light truck that meets certain criteria. The Comptroller must deposit the associated fees into the Texas Mobility Fund, the general revenue, and the clean air account. The Conservation Commission must appoint the following persons to the advisory committee: 4 persons to represent inspection station owners



and operators, 1 person to represent manufacturers of vehicle inspection devices, 1 person to represent independent vehicle repairmen, and 1 person to represent the public interest. In compliance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards, DPS may waive program requirements for certain vehicles, including vehicles that DPS can verify are driven less than 5,000 miles per year. DPS must administer a system of registration to allow for owners of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to register the vehicle for an extended period not to exceed five (5) years, if the vehicle is below a certain weight.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2025

Author(s): Cody Harris/Middleton

## **HB 3323**

Relating to food system security and resiliency planning.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 23, Agriculture Code, to create the Texas Food System Security and Resiliency Planning Council. The council will be composed of persons appointed by certain elected officials and stakeholders. Council members must have experience in an industry or sector involving food production, sales, or other related industries. The council will give guidance and review the state food system security plan. The Office of Food System Security and Resiliency must develop the plan. The plan must contain certain elements to ensure state food security. When developing the plan, the office must consult with DSHS and the Parks and Wildlife Department. The plan shall be reviewed and revised at least once every 5 years. The plan shall be delivered to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the chairs of appropriate state-level legislative committees. The bill establishes the Food System Security Planning Fund. The fund will consist of funding from various sources and will be used to administer the council. The Department of Agriculture shall provide a biannual report to the legislature informing them of the activities of the office and council.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Texas AgriLife

Effective Date: 06/11/23

Author(s): Goodwin/West

## **HB 3372**

Relating to the reporting of political contributions, including in-kind contributions, and expenditures made using a credit card.

**Summary:** This bill amends Chapter 254, Election Code, to require a candidate or office holder that accepts a donation made using a credit card, and a processing fee is deducted by the credit card issuer, the recipient must report the full intended amount, including the fee deduction, and report the deducted amount as a political expenditure. If the processing fee paid by the donor exceeds the donation amount, the recipient must report the full amount that is accepted, excluding the amount paid in excess of the donation. Recipients of in-kind donations are not required to report the excess amount paid as a processing fee by the donor.

**Affected Office(s)/Department(s):** Elected Officials

**Effective Date:** 09/1/2023

**Author(s):** Thimesch/Parker

## **HB 3474**

Relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures regarding proceedings in the judicial branch of state government, including the service of process and delivery of documents related to the proceedings, the administration of oaths, and the management of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and the composition of certain juvenile boards; establishing a civil penalty; increasing certain court costs; authorizing fees.

**Summary:** This bill is the biennial omnibus courts bill. The bill includes, for Tarrant County, the requested changes to the various criminal and district court statutes. The bill also includes the following provisions: The Office of Court Administration performing a biennial district court case load analysis for the thirty (30) most populous counties; allowing credit for time-served for elected judges for their time as a full-time associate judge of a district court and time as a district attorney, criminal district attorney or county attorney; set an associate judge as ninety (90) percent of a district judge with comparable years of service as the associate judge; monthly longevity pay for criminal district attorney's or district attorney's years of service paid by the state; expand grand jury summoning to include the

district clerk; state reimbursement for \$14 for the first day of jury summons and \$52 a day for each subsequent day; extend the exemption from jury service from seventy (70) years to seventy-five (75) years of age; and require the clerk of the court to maintain a list of the name and address of each person disqualified from jury service because the person was convicted of a misdemeanor theft or a felony and send the list to the secretary of state.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Judiciary, Criminal Courts Administration, Audit, Jury Services, Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 1/1/24

Author(s): Leach/Hughes

## **HB 3485**

Relating to a contractor's or subcontractor's right to elect not to proceed with additional work under a contract.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2251, Gov't Code, to allow a vendor to choose not to continue with work for a governmental entity in a public work contract if the vendor has not received an executed change order for the additional work and the additional work is expected to exceed ten (10) percent of the vendor's original contract. A subcontractor may choose not to continue with a contract on similar grounds. Vendors or subcontractors are not liable for damages associated with not proceeding to work for a governmental entity. A contractor or subcontractor may choose not to continue with additional work directed by an owner if: the contractor or subcontractor has not received a change order and the anticipated value of the additional work exceeds ten (10) percent of the original contract amount. A contractor or subcontractor is not liable for damages associated with choosing not to proceed.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Purchasing, Facilities

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bell/Johnson

## **HB 3492**

Relating to county and municipal authority to impose certain value-based fees and require disclosure of certain information related to subdivision construction.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code and Local Gov't Code to delineate that municipalities and counties may not consider costs associated with the construction or improvement of public infrastructure when determining inspection fees. Instead, municipalities and counties must base the fees on the actual cost to review and process the engineering or construction plan or to inspect the public infrastructure improvement.

Municipalities and counties may calculate the costs associated by using certain criteria. Municipalities and counties may not require the disclosure of information related to the value or cost of constructing or improving certain properties, except when required for the National Flood Insurance Program. Fees shall be published by the municipality or county on the entity's website or in print, along with the basis for those fees.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services,  
Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Stucky/Springer

## **HB 3697**

Relating to county regulation of subdivisions and approval of subdivision plans or plats.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 232, Local Gov't Code, to make substantial changes to the county platting process. A plat is considered filed on the date the applicant submits the plat, the plat application, application fees, and certain other requirements to a commissioners court or the county authority responsible for approving plats. Unless required by state law, the approving authority cannot require analysis, study, agreement or similar document to be included in or as part of an application for a plat, development permit or subdivision of land. If a commissioners court or the court's designee does not approve the plat, the applicant has the right to an appeal. The commissioners court shall post and maintain the list of all documentation and other information to be submitted with a

plat application on the county’s website. If an applicant submits an incomplete application, the applicant must be notified. With certain exceptions, a plat application will automatically be approved thirty (30) days after the application is submitted if the application is not rejected by the approving authority. If an approving authority fails to follow certain procedures for plat application approvals or rejections, the commissioners court and the applicant shall or may take certain actions. The applicant must recover attorney’s fees and court costs caused by bringing an action. The county may recover attorney’s fees and court costs caused by an action brought against the county if the court finds the action is frivolous and the county prevails.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/01/2023

Author(s): Wilson/Bettencourt

## **HB 3858**

Relating to peace officer wellness programs within certain law enforcement agencies.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 425, Gov't Code, which allows a law enforcement agency that employs more than twenty (20) peace officers to establish and maintain a wellness program for the agency's peace officers. The program can be funded by the peace officer’s wellness fund in the state treasury.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff’s Office, Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Frazier/Johnson

## **HB 3860**

Relating to the liability of county tax assessor-collectors for certain acts of deputies.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 520, Transportation Code. A county tax assessor-collector may not be held liable for offenses or damages caused by employees of the office if the employee's

offenses are related to the misuse of license plates or other fraudulent activity related to vehicle registration and titling.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Goldman/Springer

## **HB 4051**

Relating to population criteria for media production development zone recognition.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 485A, Gov't Code, to remove the requirement that to receive recognition as a media production development zone the area must have a population of 250,000.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Goldman/Huffman

## **HB 4077**

Relating to the procedure for qualifying for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of an elderly person.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 11, Tax Code. If a person who receives a residence homestead exemption will turn sixty-five (65) during the next tax year, the chief appraiser is required to grant that person a school district property tax exemption of \$10,000. The person is not required to apply or request the exemption if the person's age is shown by certain appraisal district records or certain information provided by Department of Public Safety.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Noble/Eckhardt

## **HB 4082**

Relating to the purposes for which a municipality or county may issue an anticipation note or certificate of obligation.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code and the Local Gov't Code to define eligible uses of tax anticipation notes and certificate of obligations. The bill defines "public work" and enumerates allowable public improvements. The bill specifically prohibits public works facilities to be funded through tax anticipation note and certificates of obligation if the use would be more than fifty (50) percent for a professional or semi-professional sport; a new stadium, arena, civic center, convention center or coliseum that is to be leased to a single for-profit tenant for more than one hundred and eighty (180) days in a calendar year; or a hotel.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office, Budget and Risk Management, Facilities

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Goldman/Bettencourt

## **HB 4085**

Relating to the payment by the state or a county of costs for certain mental health hearings or proceedings.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 571, Health and Safety Code, to change when the state or county pays for certain probate hearings. A state or county cannot pay costs associated with committing a patient to a private mental hospital, except for a filing fee or certain other costs associated with a hearing or proceeding. However, if a public facility is not available and the commissioners court of a county approves the payment of costs associated with committing a patient to a private mental hospital, a state or county may pay these costs. In a hearing for a patient committed to a mental hospital, the clerk of the court must refund court costs paid by the hospital if the hospital files an affidavit with the clerk of the court stating that the hospital has received no compensation for the treatment of the patient, the facility provided treatment to the patient under contract with a local mental health authority, or the facility provided treatment to the patient and only received reimbursement through Medicaid.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts, Budget and Risk Management, Auditor

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Spiller/Perry

## **HB 4123**

Relating to access to and use of certain criminal history record information.

Summary: This bill conforms state statute and practices to the new federal requirements for the Federal Bureau of Investigation criteria for the use of criminal background check information. The bill authorizes a ten (10) dollar fee for certain background checks.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Clerk, Human Resources

Effective Date: 06/13/2023

Author(s): Guillen/Zaffirini

## **HB 4250**

Relating to the right of the clerk of a court to deduct from the amount of the excess proceeds from an ad valorem tax sale of property the cost of postage for sending to the former owner of the property a notice of the owner's right to claim the proceeds.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 34, Tax Code, to allow a court clerk to deduct the postage cost for sending a former owner notice of excess proceeds from a property tax sale.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector, Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Lalani/Miles



## **HB 4446**

Relating to certain licensing and permitting requirements for game rooms.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 234, Local Gov't Code, to allow a county to require a person employed by a game room to obtain a license or permit to be employed by a game room. The bill also creates an owner license and an employee license.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Landgraf/Springer

## **HB 4539**

Relating to certain eligibility requirements for a grant under the moving image industry incentive program.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 485, Gov't Code, to alter the eligibility requirements for the Moving Image Industry Grant. At least fifty-five (55) percent of the production crew, actors and extras must be Texas residents.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Goldman/Huffman

## **HB 4645**

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property used to provide low-income or moderate-income housing.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 11, Tax Code. An organization that leases land under a ground lease to provide housing to certain low-income families and individuals is eligible to be exempt from taxation on the improvements made by the organization. An organization that leases land for the purpose of providing housing to certain low-income residents is considered to be the owner of the land for the purposes of this tax abatement.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Community Development

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Flores/Zaffirini

## **HB 4885**

Relating to programs established and funded under the Texas emissions reduction plan.

Summary: Amends Chapters 386 and 391, Health and Safety Code to make changes to the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP). The Comptroller and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will provide certain grants and funding to the Texas hydrogen infrastructure, vehicle, and equipment grant program established in this bill. The Texas Emissions Reduction Fund may allocate eight (8) percent of the fund to the Texas hydrogen infrastructure, vehicle, and equipment grant program and a separate program. Not more than \$8 million may be used for the hydrogen grant program. The bill makes additional funding changes to other programs and efforts funded by the Texas Emissions Reduction Fund. TCEQ will establish and administer the hydrogen grant program. TCEQ will provide funding for certain eligible projects and purposes. TCEQ shall develop an application package and review submitted applications. Certain other projects may be considered for the grant program including projects that reduce emissions from oil and gas production, refining, and certain other activities.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Landgraf/Birdwell

## **HB 5180**

Relating to the public inspection of election records.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1, Election Code. The first day after the final canvas is completed, the following election records must be made available to the public: cast vote records and images of voted ballots (if a county maintains the images). On the sixty-first (61<sup>st</sup>) day after election day, the original voted ballots must be made available to the public. The custodian of

election records must take measures to ensure that a voter's personal information is redacted.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Wilson/Hughes

## **HB 5310**

Relating to the creation of the Tarrant County Municipal Utility District No. 2.

Summary: This bill creates the Tarrant County Municipal Utility District No. 2. The bill establishes the following: the boundaries of the municipal district, procedures for electing board members, the composition of the board, the powers and duties of the district, the procedures for issuing bonds and holding elections, the procedures for determining certain tax rates, and the ability of the board to handle certain other financial matters.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 6/9/23

Author(s): Cook/King

## **HJR 3**

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.

Summary: If approved, this amendment would provide the Texas University Fund with funding from the Economic Stabilization Fund. The Comptroller will distribute an amount equal to the interest, income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the Economic Stabilization Fund, not to exceed a certain amount, to the Texas University Fund. The amendment describes how the amount attributed to the economic stabilization fund will be calculated. Universities in the Texas A&M System and the University of Texas System are not eligible to receive funding from the Texas University Fund.

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Bonnen/Huffman

## **HJR 107**

Proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.

Summary: If approved, this amendment would increase the age of retirement for state justices and judges. A judge or justice may not be reappointed or reelected if they are over the age of 79. If a judge or justice turns 79 while in office, the judge or justice may finish their current term. The legislature may lower the mandatory retirement age if it chooses to. The mandatory retirement age may not be below 75.

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Price/Hinojosa

## **HJR 125**

Proposing a constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.

Summary: If approved, this amendment would establish a broadband infrastructure fund (HB 9). The fund will consist of funding from certain sources and will be administered by the Comptroller. The funds may only be used for certain purposes related to establishing broadband infrastructure and access within the state. If the amendment is adopted, the section establishing the fund will expire on September 1, 2035.

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Ashby/Huffman

## **HJR 126**

Proposing a constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, and wildlife management.

Summary: If approved, this amendment would assert that Texans are able to engage in generally accepted farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management on property they own or lease. This amendment would not prevent state agencies or political subdivisions from creating certain laws or regulations related to the safety of public and animal health, crop production, the preservation of natural resources, and certain other areas.

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Burns/Perry

## **HJR 132**

Proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual net worth or wealth tax.

Summary: If approved, the legislature may not impose a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. This would include a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Hefner/Hughes

## **HJR 134**

Proposing a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of county treasurer of Galveston County

Summary: If approved, the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County would be abolished. If abolished, the commissioners court may employ or contract with a qualified person to perform the functions of the role.

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Bonnen/Middleton

## **SB 12**

Relating to the authority to regulate sexually oriented performances and to restricting those performances on the premises of a commercial enterprise, on public property, or in the presence of an individual younger than 18 years of age; authorizing a civil penalty.

Summary: This bill adds Chapter 769 to the Health and Safety Code. Sexually oriented performances may not be attended by persons younger than eighteen (18) years old. If a minor attends a performance of this nature, the business owner may be fined up to \$10,000 for each violation. The Attorney General may take actions to obtain the fines and to obtain a temporary or permanent injunction to restrain the violation. Municipalities and counties have the authority to regulate sexually oriented performances. Performances may not take place on public property or in the presence of a minor. Offenses are a Class A misdemeanor.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Administration, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hughes/Shahen

## **SB 29**

Relating to prohibited governmental entity implementation or enforcement of a vaccine mandate, mask requirement, or private business or school closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 81B, Health and Safety Code, to prohibit a governmental entity, except in certain circumstances, from requiring the use of a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This prohibition would not apply to the following: state supported living centers, Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, and hospitals or health care facilities. Except in certain circumstances, a governmental entity may not require a person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. A governmental entity may not require certain schools or private businesses to close to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Birdwell/Lozano

## **SB 30**

Relating to supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.

Summary: The supplemental appropriations act included several important programs to the county.

Community Mental Health Grant Program: This new strategy was proposed in response to various communities' requests. The program would provide \$100,000,000 for "county-based collaboratives" for the construction of "jail diversion facilities, step-down facilities, permanent supportive housing, crisis stabilization units, and crisis respite units." This is one-time funding.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) was appropriated over \$15 million to reimburse counties for the cost of holding TJJD eligible juveniles over thirty (30) days in the county facility. Counties are eligible to seek reimbursement until June 2025. The county has already received \$1.8 million.

SB 30 included additional funding for the Dallas State Hospital and requires that at least 75% of the beds be used for forensic purposes. The 200-bed facility was contemplated to only include 25 forensic beds; with the passage of SB 30, at least 150 forensic beds will be available in that facility once completed.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Administration,  
Juvenile Services, Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Bonnen



## **SB 48**

Relating to the issuance and effectiveness of protective orders, magistrate's orders for emergency protection, and temporary ex parte orders.

Summary: This bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Family Code, and the Gov't Code to require standardized protective order forms promulgated by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to be used by courts, magistrates, and individuals. Failure to use this form does not affect the validity or enforceability of the protective order that is issued. The form is to be made available on the OCA website. The bill requires certain information be included on the application for protective order, and OCA must develop the applications, forms, and materials after consulting with various agencies and organizations. OCA and DPS must conduct a study on effectiveness of protective orders in protecting victims of violence.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal Courts Administration, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 6/18/23. Study is due no later than 9/1/24. Forms to be available not later than 6/1/24.

Author(s): Zaffirini/Leach

## **SB 49**

Relating to crime victim's compensation

Summary: This bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to expand the individuals eligible to receive funds from the crime victim compensation fund as well as the eligible uses of those funds.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Gonzalez

## **SB 62**

Relating to posting certain documents and information related to certain real property sales on a county's Internet website.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 51, Property Code, to require a county to prominently post notice of certain sales on the county's website. The sale notice must be in the same location on the website as other auction notices. The county must include the date, time, and location of the sale in the same location as the notice. The county assessor-collector must post an online form to the county's website. The form will be used to request information on delinquent taxes owed to the county. The county does not need to post the form if the county allows for the comptroller's to be used. In this case, the county would post a link to the comptroller's form.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector,  
Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Guillen

## **SB 63**

Relating to an instruction guide for family members and caregivers of veterans who have mental health disorders.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 531, Gov't Code, to require Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission to jointly produce an instruction guide for family members and caregivers of veterans with mental health disorders. The instruction guide must be published on each agency's website. The instruction guide must contain information about how to provide mental health first aid, general education about mental health disorders, and services available for family members and caregivers of veterans with mental health disorders.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veteran Services

Effective Date: 5/23/23

Author(s): Zaffirini/Raymond

## **SB 133**

Relating to prohibiting the physical restraint of or use of chemical irritants or Tasers on certain public-school students by peace officers and school security personnel under certain circumstances.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 37, Education Code, to prohibit a peace officer or a school security officer, while on school property or at a school sponsored event or activity, from taking the following actions towards a child enrolled in grades K-5: restrain a child, use a chemical irritant spray, or use a taser. This rule also applies to students in grades K-5 with a disability and receiving special education services. These actions may only be considered if the child poses a serious risk of harm to themselves or another person.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): West/Hull

## **SB 158**

Relating to the location of a bank eligible to be selected as a depository or sub depository of county public money, including money held by a county or district clerk.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 116, Local Gov't Code, to allow a county commissioners court to select a bank to hold county funds that is in an adjoining county.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Audit, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 06/18/2023

Author(s): Perry/Lambert

## **SB 232**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 180, Local Gov't Code, to expand the list of "qualifying offenses" for an elected or appointed official of a political subdivision to be automatically removed from office. The day of the removal occurs when an

individual a guilty plea or no contest to certain offenses, receives deferred adjudication for a certain offense, or is convicted of a certain offense. Qualifying offenses for removal from office include bribery, theft of public money, perjury, coercion of a public servant or voter, tampering with a governmental record, misuse of official information, abuse of official capacity, or conspiracy to commit any of the previously listed offenses. After the officer is removed from office, the governing body of the political subdivision must order an election or otherwise fill the position if an election is not required.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hinojosa/Geren

## **SB 240**

Relating to workplace violence prevention in certain health facilities.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 331, Health and Safety Code, to direct certain facilities, including hospitals and mental health facilities, to create a workplace violence prevention committee, and adopt a workplace violence prevention policy. The bill also requires each facility to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan. The workplace violence committee will annually evaluate and review the prevention plan and report the results of the evaluation to the governing body of the facility.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Campbell/Howard

## **SB 252**

Relating to hiring and licensing certain veterans as peace officers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 370, Local Gov't Code, to allow a political subdivision to appoint or employ a legal permanent resident of the United States as a peace officer if the individual was an honorably discharged veteran with two (2)

years of service and holds the appropriate license. The individual may not hold a supervisory position until they are a US citizen. The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) must issue a license to a person who is a legal permanent resident of the US if the person is an honorably discharged veteran with 2 years of service, meets TCOLE's rules for the license, and presents evidence to TCOLE that the person has applied for US citizenship.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/01/2023

Author(s): Alvarado/Guillen

## **SB 271**

Relating to state agency and local government security incident procedures.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2054, Gov't Code, to define "security incident". State and local governments that own, license, or maintain certain types of computerized data must take certain actions following a security incident. If the security incident involved election data, the secretary of state must be notified. No later than ten (10) days after the incident, the state or local government entity shall notify the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the DIR's chief information officer.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Information Technologies

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): N. Johnson/Shahen

## **SB 349**

Relating to county and municipal housing authority pet policies

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 392, Local Gov't Code, to require a housing authority that allows tenants to own a pet to comply with all applicable municipal or county restrictions on dangerous dogs.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Community Development

Effective Date: 5/10/23

Author(s): Springer/Anderson

## **SB 372**

Relating to creating a criminal offense for the unauthorized disclosure of non-public judicial opinions and judicial work product.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 21, Gov't Code, to require a judge or justice of a court to comply with court rules governing the confidentiality of non-public judicial work product. A person, other than a judge or justice, involved in crafting an opinion or decision must maintain confidentiality concerning all non-public judicial work products. A person, other than a judge or justice, commits a Class A misdemeanor if the person knowingly breaks confidentiality concerning a non-public judicial work product. A judge or justice may authorize the disclosure of a non-judicial work product under certain conditions.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Leach

## **SB 374**

Relating to the period for disposing of a charge that a person violated a condition of release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 508, Gov't Code, to require a parole panel, a designee of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to dispose of the charges against an inmate or person within forty-one (41) days after the date that a warrant issued is executed for an administrative violation. The individual held on a parole violation for committing an offense is to be released after ninety-one (91) days if the offense has not been filed in a court.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/DeAyala

## **SB 380**

Relating to payment of certain court costs associated with interpreters.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 57, Gov't Code, to allow for an individual who files a statement of inability to pay for an interpreter during a court proceeding does not have to pay for the interpreter. However, if the person's inability to pay is contested and the court has ordered the person to pay for an interpreter, the person must pay. The county auditor or other designated individual must, in consultation with the district and county clerks, submit to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) the funds spent during the previous fiscal year to provide court-ordered interpretation services in civil and criminal proceedings. OCA shall submit and publish a report containing certain information to the legislature.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts, Budget and Risk Management, Auditor

Effective Date: 5/23/23

Author(s): Zaffirini/Moody

## **SB 402**

Relating to the preference given by trial courts to hearings and trials for murder and capital murder offenses.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 23, Gov't Code, to require trial courts, when scheduling, to give preference to hearings and trials for the offenses of murder and capital murder.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal Courts Administration, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Whitmire/Harless

## **SB 435**

Relating to the disclosure under the public information law of certain evidence of a crime that resulted in the death of a person.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 552, Gov't Code, to allow a prosecutor to allow an individual to view evidence of a crime that resulted in the death of a person. The individual permitted to view the evidence may not reproduce the information. The individual may be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before viewing the information.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 5/24/23

Author(s): Middleton/Bonnen

## **SB 477**

Relating to accommodating voters with a disability.

Summary: This bill amends the Election Code to require an election officer to give priority to a voter with a severe mobility issue that impairs the voter's ability to move. The notice of priority shall be posted in certain locations including at each entrance to a polling place. Procedures and accommodations for voters with disabilities must be posted in an accessible manner on the county clerk's website. Each polling place must have an area larger than the size of a parking space that is reserved for voters with disabilities or who are unable to enter a polling place. The space must be marked for voters who are unable to enter the polling place and display a telephone number the voter may call or text to request assistance. The early voting clerk must post the early voting ballot application form on their website. The Secretary of State shall provide a printable application for a mail-in ballot.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Zaffirini/Bucy



## **SB 490**

Relating to itemized billing for health care services and supplies provided by health care provider.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 185, Health and Safety Code, to require an itemized bill for patients that received health care services by a health care provider. No later than thirty (30) days after the provider receives payment from a third party (insurance), the provider must send the itemized bill to the patient. Copies of the bill may be provided to the patient at any time. Unless the provider has complied with the itemized billing requirements, the provider may not pursue debt collection.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hughes/Harris

## **SB 493**

Relating to qualifications for certain individuals for veterans benefits.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 434, Gov't Code, to allow an individual who did not receive an honorable discharge due to the person's refusal to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to be considered to have received an honorable discharge for the purpose of receiving veterans benefits or services from the state.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veterans Service

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Hughes/Hefner

## **SB 496**

Relating to a study on potential improvements to training provided to 9-1-1 service call takers and dispatchers.

Summary: This bill requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), in consultation with the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, to conduct a study to find the potential improvements to training provided to 9-1-1

emergency service call takers and dispatchers. When conducting the study, TCOLE must include effectiveness of training on communicating and identifying accurate information. TCOLE may collaborate with law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders during the study. By September 1, 2024, TCOLE must submit a report to the legislature containing the results of the study and any recommendations for action.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Guillen

## **SB 505**

Relating to imposing an additional fee for the registration of an electric vehicle

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 502, Transportation Code, to establish fees for electric vehicle registration and renewal. Owners of new electric vehicles shall pay \$400 to register. A fee of \$200 will be charged for a renewal or a registration of a used electric vehicle.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Nichols/Canales

## **SB 533**

Relating to training for peace officers on responding to and investigating child fatalities.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to require an officer to complete a training program on responding to and investigating child fatalities, including the differences between sudden unexpected infant death and sudden infant death syndrome. The curriculum must also include all relevant regulations for child-care facilities. An officer shall complete the program within two (2) years of the officer obtaining their license unless the officer completes the program during basic training.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Paxton/Shahen

## **SB 539**

Relating to the manner in which an individual who has elected to defer collection of a tax, abate a suit to collect a delinquent tax, or abate a sale to foreclose a tax lien on the individual's residence homestead is listed on the delinquent tax roll of a taxing unit.

**Summary:** This bill amends Chapter 33, Tax Code, to require the tax collector, each year, for each taxing unit to prepare a current and cumulative delinquent tax roll. The tax collector for each unit must indicate on each delinquent tax roll that a delinquent tax included on the roll is deferred or abated due deferred collection of taxes on a homestead of a person who is elderly, disabled or a disabled veteran, or deferred collection of taxes on an appreciating residence homestead.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Campbell/Craddick

## **SB 543**

Relating to the conveyance of property by a municipality for the public purpose of economic development.

**Summary:** This bill amends Chapter 253, Local Government Code. Municipalities involved in Chapter 380 agreements may transfer real property or an interest in real property. The entity is required to use the property to promote economic development. The agreement must allow the municipality to ensure that the public purpose of economic development is accomplished and that a return benefit is received. Municipalities may not transfer public squares, parks, and property acquired through eminent domain. Before the municipality can transfer the real property or interest in real property, the municipality must provide public notice through certain methods.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 5/24/23

Author(s): Blanco/Ordaz

## **SB 577**

Relating to regulation of food service establishments, retail food stores, mobile food units, roadside food vendors, temporary food service establishments, and food managers.

Summary: This bill amends Chapters 437 and 438, Health and Safety Code. If a municipality or public health district adopts an ordinance that is different from state law, the municipality or district may not inspect an establishment for compliance with the ordinance until sixty (60) days after a copy of the ordinance is submitted. An inspecting authority may not take disciplinary action against certain establishments for failing to comply with easily cleanable surface requirements for certain surfaces in a consumer area. A county or municipality may not charge multiple fees for an alcoholic beverage permit or license. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and certain forms of local government may not restrict aspects of the disposable utensils or related items provided to customers by establishments. Local health jurisdictions may not require a food manager to hold a local food manager card if the food manager already holds a certain food manager certificate.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Springer/Harris

## **SB 599**

Relating to the carrying or possession of a handgun by a district or county clerk and the issuance of a handgun license to a district or county clerk.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 411, Gov't Code, to allow a person serving as a district or county clerk to obtain a license to carry a handgun if they establish handgun proficiency by a sworn statement from a handgun instructor approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) stating that the person has demonstrated weapon proficiency. DPS is required to issue a handgun license to applicants who meet the criteria.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): District and County Clerk

Effective Date: 9/1/23

Author(s): Birdwell/Anderson

## **SB 617**

Relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in ad valorem tax appraisal records.

Summary: This amends Chapter 25, Tax Code, to require the home addresses of customs and border protection officers or border patrol agents of the US Customs and Border Protection, along with certain family members, to be confidential in ad valorem tax appraisal records.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 5/19/23

Author(s): Blanco/Gonzalez

## **SB 622**

Relating to the disclosure of certain prescription drug information by a health benefit plan.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1369, Insurance Code, to require changes regarding the disclosure of certain prescription drug information specified by a drug formulary to only apply to certain health benefit plans. If a drug is covered under a health benefit plan's pharmacy benefit, the issuer shall provide information about a prescription drug to the enrollee or prescribing provider on request. The information must include the issuer's drug formulary. For the drug and formulary alternatives, certain other information must be provided. Insurers are prohibited from certain activities including delaying responses, restricting access to certain information, discouraging access to certain information, and penalizing a provider for taking certain actions related to the provision of a lower cost drug. Health benefit plan issuers with fewer than 10,000 enrollees may request to receive another year to comply with the new requirements and after that period.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Parker/Smithee

## **SB 643**

Relating to the conduct of charitable bingo.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2001, Occupations Code, to allow a non-profit organization to obtain a regular bingo license from the Texas Lottery Commission. The Texas Lottery Commission may issue up to forty-eight (48) temporary bingo licenses to a regular bingo license holder once a year. The commission shall issue a temporary or regular license or renew a regular license to conduct bingo if the commission determines several factors including that the applicant has made and can demonstrate progress toward the organization's goals in the last 24 months. A person may not offer or award on a single bingo occasion a prize with a value of more than \$5,000.

Prize fees are not included in the calculation of operating capital if the prize fees are held in escrow for remittance to the commission, a county or municipality, or retained by a licensed authorized organization. A licensed authorized organization or other unit that collected a prize fee for a bingo game conducted in a municipality that was entitled to receive a portion of the bingo prize as of January 1, 2019, shall remit 50% to the commission and remit or deposit the remainder per the guidelines established in the bill.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Audit, County Administration

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Thompson

## **SB 728**

Relating to the reporting of mental health and intellectual disability information with respect to certain children for purposes of a federal firearm background check.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 411, Gov't Code, and the Occupations Code to alter the definition of "federal prohibited person information" to include an individual who is at least sixteen (16) and meets certain other criteria. No later than the thirtieth (30) day after the court date, the clerk of the court must provide Department of Public Safety (DPS) with certain information about individuals aged sixteen (16) and older concerning certain persons' access to firearms. If requested to

do so by DPS, the clerk of the court must send a signed court order containing federal prohibited person information. An audit of records will be provided to the FBI for use in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. DPS will work to resolve instances of incomplete or invalid records.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Clerks, Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Leach

## **SB 760**

Relating to taking a blood specimen from the body of a deceased person during an inquest.

Summary: This bill amends Article 49, Code of Criminal Procedure, to expand the reasons why a justice of the peace may order certain qualified individuals to draw a blood specimen to confirm or determine the person's cause and manner of death.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Justices of the Peace, Medical Examiner

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Lamantia/Moody

## **SB 768**

Relating to the process for notifying the attorney general of a breach of security of computerized data by persons doing business in this state.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 521, Business and Commerce Code, to require, if a certain breach of computerized data occurs, to disclose the breach to the Attorney General as soon as practicable and not later than the thirtieth (30) day after the breach. The notification shall be submitted online using a form available on the Attorney General's website.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Information Technology

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Parker/Capriglione

## **SB 784**

Relating to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state to regulate greenhouse gas emissions in this state and the express preemption of local regulation of those emissions.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, to prohibit a municipality or other local government from enacting or enforcing a measure to directly regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The bill asserts that the state has jurisdiction over the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in Texas.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Birdwell/Landgraf

## **SB 806**

Relating to the duties of peace officers regarding interactions with victims of sexual assault.

Summary: This bill amends Article 56A, Code of Criminal Procedure, to require a peace officer who investigates an incident involving sexual assault or responds to a disturbance call that may involve sexual assault to provide the victim a written notice containing information about the rights of crime victims. At the earliest possible time after the incident, the peace officer responding to the incident shall provide to the victim a written referral to the nearest sexual assault program and information about the statewide electronic tracking system. The officer shall also offer to request a forensic medical exam on behalf of the victim, coordinate with the local response team to provide continuing care or further investigate the offense, and provide the victim with a written notice containing the required information. Law enforcement agencies must consult with a local sexual assault program or response team to develop a written notice to provide to victims. The notice must be reviewed and updated at least once every two (2) years. The notice must be in English and Spanish and include contact information for a victim assistance coordinator and a crime liaison, as well as certain additional statements and information.



Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Paxton/Manuel

## **SB 812**

Relating to food allergen awareness in food service establishments, food handler and food manager certifications, and food service training or education programs.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 437, Health and Safety Code, to require a food service establishment to display a food allergen awareness poster in an area of the establishment readily available to employees. Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must collaborate with subject matter experts when developing the poster, post a sample on the department's website, and update the poster as needed to comply with federal standards. The poster must contain certain information related to food allergies. All accredited food service training programs must include a safety course on food allergen awareness.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Cortez

## **SB 855**

Relating to continuing judicial training regarding family violence victims.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 22, Gov't Code, to require the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to provide family violence training regarding for district judges, judges of a statutory county court, certain associate judges, masters, referees, or magistrates. The training must be completed within the judge's first term or the judicial officer's first four (4) years of service. The training must meet certain requirements and must be developed in consultation with certain advocacy groups. Judges in a court focusing on family law or family violence must complete an additional hour of the required training every two (2) years.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Alvarado/Hull

## **SB 861**

Relating to coordination of vision and eye care benefits under certain insurance policies and vision plans.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1203, Insurance Code, to set requirements for a health or vision benefit plan that provides coverage to an individual that is covered by at least two (2) health or vision benefit plans. Each of the plans must provide the person with coverage for the same vision or medical eye care services, procedures, products. Insurers providing health or vision plans are liable for eligible eye care expenses up to the full amount of the plan's applicable coverage limit. Before the coverage limit is reached, the insurer for the secondary health benefit plan is responsible for eligible eye care expenses that are not covered under the plan issued by the primary insurer. After the coverage limit has been reached, the secondary plan insurer is also responsible for eligible eye care expenses covered by both plans that exceed the primary plan coverage limits, up to the coverage limit of the secondary plan. If a person is enrolled in two plans that are liable for eye care expenses, the person may use both plans on the same date of service. Vision benefit plan issuers must coordinate with a health plan issuer if both are liable for eye care expenses.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hughes/Buckley

## **SB 943**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2051, Gov't Code, to require that if a government notice is published in a newspaper, the newspaper must publish the notice on the newspaper's website in a location that is free and easy to access. The newspaper will share the online notice with the Texas Press Association (TPA). The TPA will add the notice to the Association's online archives.

The archives must be searchable and sortable; cost-free; and updated as notices are received. The archives must also offer email notice subscriptions for certain subject matters.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): County Administration

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Kolkhorst/Hunter

## **SB 989**

Relating to health benefit plan coverage for certain biomarker testing

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1372, Insurance Code, to require a health benefit plan to provide coverage for biomarker testing for diagnosis, treatment, management, or monitoring of a disease or certain condition. The testing for enrollees of certain health plans must be supported by certain kinds of medical and scientific evidence. Coverage provided for the testing of enrollees of certain other health plans must be provided in a manner that limits disruptions in care.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Bonnen

## **SB 991**

Relating to the establishment of a crime laboratory portal by the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas and to disciplinary proceedings applicable to a crime laboratory or license holder investigated by the Texas Forensic Science Commission.

Summary: This bill amends Article 38, Code of Criminal Procedure, to allow the Texas Forensic Science Commission, if it determines that a license holder or crime lab committed professional negligence or misconduct, violated the code of professional responsibility or otherwise violated certain rules, to revoke or suspend the person's license or crime lab's accreditation, refuse to renew the person's license or crime lab's accreditation, or punish the license holder or crime lab. The commission must provide a notice containing certain information to the license holder or crime lab of the commission's actions. After receiving the notice, the license

holder or the crime lab has twenty (20) days to accept the disciplinary action or request a hearing. If a hearing is requested within the twenty (20) days, the Judicial Branch Certification Commission shall conduct the hearing and any subsequent appeals. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) shall establish and maintain the Crime Laboratory Portal. The portal will facilitate requests for crime lab records and transfers of those records to other crime labs, attorneys representing the state and parties authorized to access the records.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Medical Examiner, Sheriff's Office, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hinojosa/Leach

## **SB 994**

Relating to the declaration of a candidate's ineligibility on the basis of failure to pay a filing fee or submit a petition in lieu of a filing fee.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 145, Election Code, to allow a candidate in the general election for state and county officers to be declared ineligible thirty (30) days before Election Day by the Secretary of State. However, a candidate cannot be declared ineligible for failure to pay the filing fee or submit a petition instead of a filing fee, seventy-four (74) days before Election Day. An executive committee may make a replacement nomination after an administrative declaration of ineligibility only if the replacement candidate pays the filing fee or submits the petition instead of the filing fee.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Schwertner/Burrows

## **SB 997**

Relating to the publication of certain photographs of human remains by certain individuals for a purpose other than an authorized purpose; providing a civil penalty.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 672A, Health and Safety Code, to prohibit an individual from publishing a photo of

human remains they accessed through their work as an officer or employee of Texas or a political subdivision. The individual is liable for a civil penalty of up to \$10,000. The Attorney General or appropriate attorney may sue to collect the penalty and may recover attorney's fees and costs. It is a defense to liability from civil penalty that the individual published a photo as part of a civil proceeding or the photo was published in a documentary film or TV show with the approval of the chief medical examiner, coroner, or commissioners court, as long as the remains are not identifiable. A defendant may not assert official immunity as a defense in an action brought under this section.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Medical Examiner,  
Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): West/Leach

## **SB 1002**

Relating to the operation of electric vehicle charging stations

Summary: The bill amends the Utilities Code to provide a regulatory structure for electric vehicle charging stations. An electric utility may provide EV charging service directly to the customer if the public charging station is in compliance with certain requirements and the rates charged by the utility are set by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). An electric utility interested in providing consumer service must file a proposal with the PUC.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023 et al

Author(s): Schwertner/Hernandez

## **SB 1004**

Relating to creating the criminal offense of tampering with an electronic monitoring device.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 38, Penal Code, to penalize tampering with an electronic monitoring device. An individual is prohibited from tampering with an electronic monitoring

device. If the individual removes or disables the device, the person commits a state jail felony. If a person removes or disables the device while participating in an intensive supervision program, the person commits a third-degree felony.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts, CSCD

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Herrero

## **SB 1017**

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

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 247, Local Gov't Code, to restrict the ability of political subdivisions to regulate energy sources. Political subdivisions may not adopt or enforce measures to limit access to or use of specific energy sources or the infrastructure needed for those energy sources. The bill prohibits a political subdivision from directly or indirectly restricting an engine based on the fuel type of the engine. The bill states that these restrictions do not prohibit a political subdivision from incentivizing certain energy sources.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office, Commissioners Court

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Birdwell/Landgraf

## **SB 1023**

Relating to the establishment and posting of the maximum loads permitted on certain bridges.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 201, Transportation Code, to allow the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to post a notice related to loads permitted on a bridge if the bridge is under jurisdiction of a county or municipality. The notice may be posted if TxDOT is required or authorized to post the notice under federal law.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 5/19/23

Author(s): Nichols/Canales

## **SB 1040**

Relating to health benefit plan coverage of a transplant of an organ that originated from or is transplanted in a country known to have participated in forced organ harvesting.

Summary: This bill adds Chapter 1380, Insurance Code, to prohibit certain health insurance plans from covering a human organ transplant or post-transplant care if the operation takes place in China or another country known to have participated in forced organ harvesting. If the organ was obtained by a sale or donation from China or another country known to participate in forced organ harvesting, the health insurance plan is prohibited from covering the transplant or care. The Commissioner of State Health Services may add countries to the list of known participants in forced organ harvesting.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Kolkhorst/Oliverson

## **SB 1045**

Relating to the creation of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals with jurisdiction over certain civil cases, the compensation of the justices of that court, and the jurisdiction of the courts of appeals in this state.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code to create the Fifteenth Court of Appeals. This court of appeals will be housed in Austin and will have intermediate appellate jurisdiction over certain matters brought against the state, an employee or officer of the state, and matters challenging the constitutionality or validity of a state statute or rule and the attorney general is a party to the case.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney, Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Murr

## **SB 1052**

Relating to the compensation of an election judge or clerk.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 32, Elections Code, to expand the number of hours that an election judge or clerk may be paid before the polls open from one (1) to two (2) hours.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections, Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Springer/Gonzalez

## **SB 1070**

Relating to the interstate voter registration crosscheck program.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 18, Elections Code, to expand the scope of the interstate voter registration crosscheck program. The Secretary of State (SOS) must require the program to include information on voters registered to vote in more than one state and felons. The SOS may contract with a private company to identify voters whose addresses have changed, who are registered to vote in more than one state, who are deceased and who are not qualified. The private sector company must have a demonstrated ability to work with voter identification and matching systems. The SOS is required to record information in the system and submit a report to the legislature annually.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hughes/Jetton

## **SB 1089**

Relating to repealing the ability to declare certain unopposed candidates for office as elected.



Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2, Election Code, to repeal the provision allowing a certifying authority for a general election to declare an unopposed candidate elected.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Parker/Capriglione

## **SB 1115**

Relating to the titling, registration, and operation of an autocycle.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 501, Transportation Code, to allow for the titling, registration, and operation of an autocycle. The autocycle must be equipped with a steering mechanism and seat belts.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hancock/Patterson

## **SB 1122**

Relating to the exclusion of certain medical services performed to determine an appropriate level of workers' compensation benefits from sales and use taxes.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 151, Tax Code, to expand the definition of "insurance service" to not include a medical service, exam, or test required by the Texas Workers' Compensation Act for the purpose of determining the level of workers' compensation benefits.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Human Resources, Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Schwertner/Turner

## **SB 1124**

Relating to qualifications of a sheriff or a candidate for sheriff.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 85, Local Gov't Code, to stipulate qualifications for a sheriff and a candidate for sheriff. To serve as a sheriff an individual must: have a high school degree and either 1) hold an active permanent peace officer license or 2) can be licensed under certain sections of the Occupations Code and has a minimum of five (5) years' experience as a federal investigator or is a military veteran with a minimum of ten (10) years of experience. The bill would not apply to a sheriff serving a term prior to the effective date of the bill. However, the bill would apply after the current term has been completed.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): King/Neave-Criado

## **SB 1145**

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 11, Tax Code, to allow a commissioners court or municipality to establish a tax exemption for certain child-care facilities. The percentage of abatement from ad valorem taxes cannot be less than fifty (50) percent. Persons claiming an exemption must also submit an affidavit certifying certain items to the chief appraiser.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Commissioners Court, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: Effective on Jan. 1, 2024, after the election to consider the adoption of a corresponding constitutional amendment.

Author(s): West/Talarico

## **SB 1238**

Relating to broadband development.

Summary: This bill amends the Gov't Code to require the Broadband Development Office to update and publish, on the comptroller's website, a map of the state displaying unserved locations, underserved locations, and served locations. A political subdivision may petition for reclassification. The office may award various types of funding to applicants for certain eligible projects, based on certain criteria by the office. The office must prioritize fiber optic facilities when considering projects. The Broadband Development Office Board of Advisors must have a member of the public with telecommunications experience as a member, rather than a representative from the nonprofit field.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 6/2/23

Author(s): Nichols/Ashby

## **SB 1158**

Relating to single event classification for eligibility under the major event reimbursement program.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 478, Gov't Code, to include World Cup soccer tournament games to be eligible for reimbursement through the Major Events Reimbursement Program.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Whitmire/Paul

## **SB 1180**

Relating to civil actions by a civilly committed individual.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 14A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, to make substantial changes to civil processes for individuals who are sexually violent predators and have been committed to a facility operated or under contract with

the Texas Civil Commitment Office. The bill applies only to an action, including an appeal or original proceeding, brought by a civilly committed individual in a district, county, or appellate court, who has filed an affidavit or unsworn declaration of inability to pay costs.

A court may dismiss a claim before or after service of process if a court finds the individual is able to pay, the claim is frivolous or malicious, or if the individual filed an intentionally false affidavit or unsworn declaration. A civilly committed individual who files an affidavit or unsworn declaration of an inability to pay must also file an additional declaration containing information about whether the petition has been previously filed in another court. If the affidavit or unsworn declaration filed states that a previous action or claim was dismissed as frivolous or malicious, the affidavit or unsworn declaration must provide the date of the final order of dismissal.

A court may order an individual who has filed a claim to pay the fees and costs associated. On the court's order, the individual shall pay an amount equal to the lesser of 20% of the past 6 months deposits into the individual's trust account or the total amount of court fees, costs, and other costs. In every month following, the individual must pay a certain amount until the costs are paid.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Courts

Effective Date: 5/24/23

Author(s): Perry/King

## **SB 1259**

Relating to the maximum judgment amount awarded by a justice court in certain civil cases regarding the repair of residential rental property.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 92, Property Code, to increase the limit that a justice court may award a judgement on behalf of a tenant from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Justices of the Peace

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Creighton/Vasut

Author(s): Schwertner/A. Johnson

## **SB 1319**

Relating to the reporting of certain overdose information and the mapping of overdoses for public safety purposes.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, to require the mandatory reporting of controlled substance overdoses for public safety mapping. This mandate applies to EMS personnel operating within the jurisdiction of a local health authority or law enforcement agency that has entered into a participation agreement for overdose mapping. The bill requires applicable personnel responding to an overdose to report the incident to the appropriate local health authority or law enforcement. Local health authorities or law enforcement agencies are required to enter into a participation agreement with an entity that maintains an overdose mapping system.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Public Health, Sheriff's Office

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Huffman/Turner

## **SB 1325**

Relating to the notice given to certain victims of family violence.

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 51A, Human Resources Code, to standardize and update resources provided to victims of family violence, stalking, harassment, and terroristic threats. The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is required to provide a written notice to victims of these crimes and assist them in obtaining information and services. Article 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to require peace officers and campus peace officers to undertake certain duties when interacting with possible victims of these crimes.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 5/13/23

Author(s): Alvarado/Goodwin

## **SB 1340**

Relating to the local development agreement database maintained by the comptroller of public accounts.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 403, Gov't Code, to require the Comptroller to create and make accessible to the public the Local Development Agreement Database. The database must include local development agreements including Chapter 380, 381, 312, and 313 agreements. The database must include certain information related to each agreement. Taxing units must provide links to the database on their website for each applicable agreement. Changes to the law apply to agreements entered on or after the effective date of the bill.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office

Effective Date: 01/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Meyer

## **SB 1381**

Relating to the eligibility of the surviving spouse of an elderly person who qualified for a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a taxing unit of a portion of the appraised value.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 11, Tax Code, to allow the surviving spouse of a person aged 65 or older who was receiving a homestead exemption at the time of death, to receive the exemption for the following tax year. The exemption will be granted to the surviving spouse without an application. This benefit would not apply if the appraiser found that the surviving spouse is no longer entitled to a homestead exemption on the property.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Eckhardt/Hefner

## **SB 1401**

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: This bill amends several codes to make substantial changes to forensic medical examinations for sexual assault survivors. A survivor of sexual assault is entitled to payment for a forensic medical exam. The Attorney General may make the payment to the victim or on behalf of the victim for the costs of the exam and necessary medical care. A health care provider shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim of sexual assault who is a minor.

A law enforcement agency must refer a victim of sexual assault for a forensic medical exam if the assault is reported to a law enforcement agency within 120 hours of the assault or if the survivor is a minor, regardless of when the assault is reported. The law enforcement agency may make a referral regardless of the survivor's age if the agency believes it is necessary. A law enforcement agency or office of the state's attorney may pay any costs related to the testimony of a licensed health care professional in a criminal proceeding regarding the results of a forensic medical exam. After the initial contact between the survivor and law enforcement, law enforcement must provide information to the survivor including information about payment for the forensic medical exam.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) shall develop procedures for the transfer and preservation of evidence collected during a forensic medical exam for a sexual assault that was not reported to a law enforcement agency.

After an indictment or information is returned against a defendant for an offense, the state's attorney must provide the survivor with certain information including compensation for the costs of a forensic medical exam.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Johnson

## **SB 1457**

Relating to guardianships and the delivery of certain notices or other communications in connection with guardianship proceedings.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 1002, Estates Code, to define a qualified delivery method for notices given to

guardians under court supervision. The bill also requires that a guardian, when there is no longer a need to manage a ward's funds, file an affidavit of fulfillment with the court.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Thompson

## **SB 1484**

Relating to a border operations training program for peace officers employed by local law enforcement agencies.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 411, Gov't Code, to create a border operations training program. The Department of Public Safety (DPS), in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, will administer the program for peace officers. The officers will receive training related to criminal activity on the Texas-Mexico border. DPS may partner with federal agencies in administering the training program. The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) may choose to recognize this training as a continuing education program and offer hours.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Creighton/Holland

## **SB 1525**

Relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in property tax appraisal records.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 25, Tax Code, to allow a current or former attorney for the Department of Family and Protective Services with confidentiality protections for certain home address information in property tax appraisal records.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Blanco/Rose



## **SB 1585**

Relating to certain proceedings in juvenile court for children with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

Summary: This bill amends Chapters 51 and 55 of the Family Code to make substantial changes to processes related to determining a child's fitness to proceed and lack of responsibility for conduct. The bill updates processes for juvenile examinations and reports as well as outpatient services.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Juvenile services, 323rd

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Sparks/A. Johnson

## **SB 1599**

Relating to ballots voted by mail.

Summary: This bill amends the Election Code to make changes to procedures for mail-in voting. When a vote by mail ballot is returned at a polling place, the ballot must be added to the ballot box. An election officer must maintain a register of the mail-in ballots that were returned to a polling place. The Secretary of State (SOS) shall adopt a form for the purpose of registering these ballots.

If a person applies to vote by mail and there is a defect with their application that could lead to the rejection of their application, the early voting clerk must determine if it would be possible for the applicant to correct the defect and return the application by mail before the deadline. If the clerk determines it would be possible to correct the defect while meeting the deadline, the clerk will return the application to the applicant or deliver an official application to the applicant. With the returned application or the new application, the clerk must provide instructions for submitting the application. If the clerk determines that it is not possible to correct the application and meet the deadline, the applicant may be notified by phone or email of their ability to appear in person at the clerk's office to correct the defect. The Secretary of State must create an online mail-in ballot tracker. The online mail-in ballot tracker will notify an applicant of their ability to correct a defect.

The jacket envelopes containing mail-in early voting ballots must be delivered to the early voting ballot board at least nine (9) days before election day. Jacket envelopes of mail-in early voting ballots returned after ballot delivery may be delivered to the presiding judge of the board within nine (9) days of the election up until the closing of the polls on Election Day or as soon after closing as is practicable.

The signature verification committee and early voting ballot board must notify the voter by mail of the defect(s) on their ballot and provide a list of corrective actions that may be taken. The voter may be notified of the defect by phone or email if it is determined that the voter would not receive notice of the defect in time if notice was sent through the mail. If possible, the voter may be permitted to correct an application defect using the online ballot tracking tool.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hughes/Bucy

## **SB 1606**

Relating to evidence and orders regarding intellectual disability or mental condition in certain guardianship proceedings.

Summary: This bill amends Chapters 1101 and 1202, Estates Code, to require, before a court grants an application for guardianship on the grounds of an intellectual disability, a prospective guardian to present a letter or certificate that shows information related to the person's incapacity or that the proposed ward has been examined in the last two (2) years by a licensed or certified physician or psychologist. The examination must be conducted in accordance with rules established by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and include the written findings or recommendations by the physician or psychologist. A ward does not need to have their capacity completely restored if a court finds that the ward is no longer incapacitated.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Leach

## **SB 1612**

Relating to court administration and costs.

Summary: This bill amends the Estates Code, Local Gov't Code, and Family Code to update court processes and costs for probate and guardianship cases. The bill updates copy costs, transfer certificates, and the state consolidated civil fee for district and county clerks. The bill restructures case transfer processes and increases the transfer fee to eighty (80) dollars. The bill also made a change to the fees that Commissioners Court can set for sheriff's and constables.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Audit, Budget and Risk Management, Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 09/1/2023, 01/1/2024

Author(s): Zaffirini/Orr

## **SB 1624**

Relating to guardianships and services for incapacitated persons and to the emergency detention of certain persons with mental illness.

Summary: This bill amends the Estates and Government Codes to require a court, in a guardianship proceeding, to appoint an attorney ad litem to represent the proposed ward's expressed wishes and interests. The ward's attorney or proposed ward's attorney must be provided all of the records for the guardianship case.

A judge may appoint a guardian ad litem for an incapacitated person. The guardian may not be an interested person or the attorney ad litem for the proceeding. The court may not grant guardianship for an incapacitated person, other than a minor or a person who must have a guardianship to receive governmental funds, unless the applicant for guardianship presents certain information to the court from a psychologist or physician with experience determining a person's capacity or with a patient-provider relationship with the proposed ward. A court may appoint a physician or psychologist to examine the proposed ward.

A court investigator or court visitor must prepare a report every three (3) years. When preparing the report, the court investigator or court visitor must meet with the ward in person,

present the bill of rights for wards to the ward, document the ward's statement of guardianship, and document the supports and services available to the ward. The ward's statement of guardianship must include certain information and may be in certain formats.

The Texas Supreme Court, in consultation with the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, must ensure that at least one (1) hour of training related to alternatives to guardianships is provided to relevant judges. Court investigators and court visitors must take required trainings at least once every two (2) years.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Probate Courts

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/West

## **SB 1661**

Relating to a ballot scan system used in a central counting station.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 127, Election Code, to update language related to technology in the central counting station. A county may only purchase or use a ballot scan system with a data transfer device that cannot be modified after a vote record is written on it.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hughes/Smith

## **SB 1727**

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the functions of the office of independent ombudsman for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and the powers and duties of the office of inspector general of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

Summary: This bill reauthorizes the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and makes substantial changes to the procedures and processes of TJJD. The bill changes the composition of the TJJD's board of directors, necessitates that TJJD create a regionalization plan, and reauthorizes the agency until 2029.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Juvenile Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Schwertner/Canales

## **SB 1730**

Relating to the processing of United States passport applications by a district court clerk.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 51, Gov't Code, to allow district clerks to sell money orders to US passport applicants for payment purposes. The clerks may also collect a reasonable fee, set by the commissioners court, for the services.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): District Clerk

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Zaffirini/Cole

## **SB 1732**

Relating to standards for certain electric vehicle charging stations.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 2311, Occupations Code, to require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to adopt standards for electric vehicle charging stations. These regulations would apply only to public electric vehicle charging stations that are funded by grants or rebate programs and constructed after December 1, 2024.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services, Facilities

Effective Date: 5/24/23

Author(s): Hancock/Patterson

## **SB 1766**

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

Summary: This bill amends, Chapter 271, Local Gov't Code, to indemnify real property appraisers as they relate to contracts with certain local gov't entities. The bill makes the following

provisions of contracts void: provisions requiring an appraiser to compensate or hold harmless certain local government entities against liability for damages and contracts requiring an appraiser defend persons against certain claims. Contracts for appraisal services must require licensed appraisers to perform services with a standard level of professionalism.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Facilities, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Creighton/Paul

## **SB 1780**

Relating to online notarizations

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 406, Gov't Code, to require an online notary to keep a record of the documents that are tangible instruments that they have notarized with a tangible symbol. The record must contain the same elements required for an electronic record of documents. An online notary is required to authenticate online notarizations with the notary's electronic seal or, if on a tangible document, the seal of the notary's office.

An online notary may administer an oath or affirmation as an online notarization if the person is identified through certain steps, a video or audio recording is taken of the person reciting the oath or affirmation, and the recording or video is retained.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Parker/Capriglione

## **SB 1801**

Relating to a requirement that each appraisal district periodically confirm that recipients of residence homestead exemptions qualify for those exemptions.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 11, Tax Code, to require the chief appraiser of an appraisal district to take certain steps to review residence homestead exemptions granted by the

district. Reviews must take place at least once every five (5) years. Reviews may be completed in phases.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Springer/Darby

## **SB 1849**

Relating to the establishment of an interagency child protection database

Summary: This bill amends the Education, Health and Safety, and Human Resources Codes to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to create and maintain a central registry of abuse and neglect findings to ensure providers do not hire individuals who have a history of harming vulnerable populations.

HHSC may remove a person from the employee misconduct registry if, after receiving a written request, HHSC determines that the person does not meet the requirements for the registry. The executive commissioner of HHSC may establish criteria for a person to submit a request to be removed from the registry and the process by which HHSC may determine if a person meets registry requirements.

The bill establishes the Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine. The Texas Department of Information Resources, in collaboration with participating state agencies, must establish an interagency reportable conduct search engine. The head of each participating state agency must designate agency employees or contractors who are able to access the search engine. Participating agencies may also designate for additional users to have access to the search engine. The additional users may be managers or administrators in certain entities or facilities including nursing homes and assisted living facilities; day care centers; school districts and private schools; juvenile detention facilities; and non-profit tutoring organizations.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Juvenile Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Kolkhorst/Noble

## **SB 1852**

Relating to active shooter training for peace officers.

Summary: The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) shall require peace officers to complete an active shooter training developed by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Constables

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Flores/Metcalf

## **SB 1859**

Relating to benefits and services for veterans and certain other related benefits.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 434, Gov't Code, to require a claims benefits advisor to report to the Department of Veterans Affairs if the advisor has direct knowledge of claims containing false or deceptive information. The Texas Commission on Veterans Affairs must track and evaluate the average processing time for claims and appeals. The commission may only create a monetary incentive for performance. The commission must create printable booklets rather than only electronic booklets. Veteran county service officers are encouraged to inform veterans of their benefits and are required to take certain actions related to electronic booklets.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Veteran Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hancock/Raymond

## **SB 1893**

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

Summary: This bill creates Chapter 620, Gov't Code, to prohibit the use of the following applications or services on devices owned, or leased by governmental entities: TikTok, services



developed by ByteDance, and any applications or services the Governor deems to be a risk to the state based on certain criteria. The Department of Information Resources and DPS will jointly identify applications or services that pose a risk to the state. Each year the departments will submit a list of applications to the Governor and publish the list on the departments' websites.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Information Technology

Effective Date: 6/14/23

Author(s): Birdwell/Anderson

## **SB 1999**

Relating to the calculation of the unused increment rate of a taxing unit.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 26, Tax Code, to repeal the "unused increment" provision and create the "foregone revenue amount". The foregone revenue amount is the difference between the voter-approval tax rate and the adopted tax rate expressed in a dollar value.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Administrator's Office, Audit, Budget and Risk Management, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Bettencourt/Hefner

## **SB 2038**

Relating to the release of an area of a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.

Summary: This bill amends Chapters 42 and 242, Local Gov't Code, to establish a process for how an area may be released from municipal extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) by petition or election. For a municipality to release an area from the ETJ by petition, a resident and owner of the majority of value of an area must first file a petition. The petition must be signed by over fifty (50) percent of registered voters in the area or a majority in value of land title holders in the area. The signature requirement of the petition must be met within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the first signature is signed. A municipality must notify residents and landowners of the

petition results. If the petition is successful, the area must be immediately released from the ETJ. In order to release an area from an ETJ by election, an area resident must first file a petition that includes signatures from five (5) percent or more registered voters in the area. If the requirements for the petition are met, the municipality must host an election at least ninety (90) days after receiving the petition. Residents and landowners shall be notified of the election results. Annexation occurring after Jan. 1, 2023, cannot expand an ETJ unless area property owners request inclusion in the ETJ. If an area is removed from an ETJ, the ability to regulate subdivision plats goes to the county.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Bettencourt/Bell

## **SB 2085**

Relating to a grant program for crime victim notification systems.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 772, Gov't Code, to create a grant program for a crime victim notification system. The criminal justice division will oversee operations and procedures of the grant program. The bill requires the criminal justice division to submit an annual report to the legislature regarding the number and types of notifications sent using the crime victim notification system.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Criminal District Attorney

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Whitmire/Walle

## **SB 2101**

Relating to certain notifications related to the rights of crime victims.

Summary: This bill amends Article 56A, Code of Criminal Procedure, to create an electronic notification and information system for victims of crimes and their family members. The forms of available communication from judges, attorneys representing the state, peace officers or law enforcement

agencies are email, video conferencing, text message, mail, personal contact, telephone, and an anonymous online portal.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Criminal District Attorney, Criminal Courts Administration

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Miles/Morales

## **SB 2102**

Relating to the initial registration and inspection period for certain rental vehicles.

Summary: This bill amends the Health and Safety and Transportation Codes to require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to allow rental vehicles to have a three-year inspection period. Requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to establish and assess fees for rental vehicle emissions inspections. The bill amends sections of the Transportation Code to allow an extended registration and inspection period for certain rental vehicles. DPS is required to set a fee for these vehicles and the fee must meet certain requirements. TCEQ must submit the revised version of the state's air quality plan to the Environmental Protection Agency as soon as is practicable.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Miles/Raney

## **SB 2144**

Relating to advanced air mobility technology.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 21, Transportation Code, to establish the Advanced Air Mobility Advisory Committee. The Texas Transportation Commission will appoint committee members. By November 1, 2024, the committee will submit a report to the commission and legislature including findings and recommendations. The committee expires January 1, 2025. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is directed to review existing aviation standards and guidelines, support the development of standards with a specific focus on safety,

designate a FAA liaison, develop a plan for TX or update current plans, provide resources and assistance, and collaborate with stakeholders in education.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Parker/Cook

## **SB 2221**

Relating to issuance of specialty license plates to honor Texas Sheriffs' Deputies.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 504, Transportation Code, to allow the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to create and issue a license plate for the Sheriff's Association of Texas. The plate will be issued to honor sheriff's office personnel. Fees for issuing the plates will be allocated to administrative costs and the comptroller. Funds deposited into the account managed by the comptroller may be used by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Sheriff's Office, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Schwertner/Raney

## **SB 2258**

Relating to authorizing certain cities to change the date on which their general election for officers is held.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 41, Election Code, to allow a home-rule city to change its city officer elections to the November uniform election date and to elect all the officers in a single election. The governing body of a city with a council-manager form of government may change the date of the city's officer elections to the November uniform election date.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Elections

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Blanco/Murr

## **SB 2310**

Relating to longevity pay for certain prosecutors.

Summary: This bill amends Chapters 41 and 46, Gov't Code, to allow a district attorney, criminal district attorney, the state prosecutor, and each state prosecutor to receive monthly longevity pay based on years of service. The amount of longevity pay they will receive is equal to the longevity pay of a justice or judge with the same experience.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Criminal District Attorney, Budget and Risk Management

Effective Date: 09/1/2023

Author(s): Hinojosa/Smith

## **SB 2350**

Relating to the voter-approval tax rate used to calculate the unused increment rate of a taxing unit for ad valorem tax purposes.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 26, Tax Code, to require a taxing unit that calculates an unused increment rate to use the voter-approval rate adopted for the preceding tax year.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Audit, Budget and Risk Management, Administrator's Office, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: 6/18/23

Author(s): Bettencourt/Shine

## **SB 2440**

Relating to a requirement that certain plats for the subdivision of land include evidence of groundwater supply.

Summary: This bill amends Chapter 212, Local Gov't Code, to require a plat application, if the intended water supply for a proposed subdivision is groundwater, to include a statement that is prepared by a licensed engineer licensed or geoscientist. The statement must certify that enough groundwater is available for the proposed subdivision. A municipality or commissioners court may waive this requirement if the

municipality or county determines that sufficient groundwater is and will continue to be available.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Transportation Services

Effective Date: 01/1/2024

Author(s): Perry/Burrows

## **SJR 64**

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation real property used to operate a child-care facility.

Summary: Authorizes a county or municipality to exempt from ad valorem taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a childcare facility. The percentage of abatement may not be less than fifty (50) percent.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Commissioners Court, Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): West/Talarico

## **SJR 74**

Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be administered by the Parks and Wildlife Department.

Summary: Establishes a centennial parks conservation fund. The fund can only be used for the creation and improvement of state parks. The fund will include funding from the legislature; gifts, grants, and donations; and investment earnings and interest. Funds from the centennial parks conservation fund can be appropriated to the Parks and Wildlife Department. Expenses of managing the fund and its assets will be paid by the fund.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): n/a

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Parker/Walle

## **SJR 75**

Proposing a constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.

Summary: Establishes the Texas water fund to finance water projects in the state. The fund is administered by the Texas Water Development Board. The amendment creates rules for

the transfer of funds to and from the fund. Expenses for managing the fund shall be paid from the fund. Of funds initially appropriated to the fund, no less than twenty-five (25) percent is to be allocated to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): n/a

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Perry/T. King

## **SJR 87**

Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation certain tangible personal property held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products.

Summary: Authorizes the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the tangible personal property of a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products as a finished good or in the manufacturing or processing of these products.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): Tax Assessor-Collector

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Huffman/Bonnen

## **SJR 93**

Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.

Summary: Establishes the Texas energy fund. The fund will support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities. The fund will be administered and used by the Public Utility Commission. The amendment describes how the fund should be used and the types of projects the fund shall allocate funding to. The amendment also creates rules for the types of funding the fund can consist of. Expenses of managing the fund shall be paid by the fund. The amendment creates rules for the transfer of funds to and from the fund.

Affected Office(s)/Department(s): n/a

Effective Date: Election will be held Nov. 7, 2023.

Author(s): Schwertner/Hunter



