



City Council, Item 4

87th Texas Legislature

State Legislative Update



Update on 87th Texas Legislature Activity

- **Purpose:** Provide an update on the 2nd Special Legislative Session and future special sessions
- **18 items identified** by Governor for 2nd Special Legislative Session
 - 480 House bills filed
 - 173 Senate bills filed
 - **14 bills passed** in both House and Senate

Bills that Passed

- CRITICAL RACE THEORY- **SB 3** relating to civics training programs for certain public school social studies teachers and principals, parental access to certain learning management systems, and certain curriculum in public schools, including certain instructional requirements and prohibitions.
- SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP - **HB 20** relating to censorship of or certain other interference with digital expression, including expression on social media platforms or through electronic mail messages.
- ELECTION INTEGRITY - **SB 1** relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses. **Signed by Governor Abbott.**

Bills that Passed

- ARTICLE X FUNDING- **HB 5** relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction regarding appropriations.
- BORDER SECURITY - **HB 9** relating to making supplemental appropriations relating to border security and giving direction regarding those appropriations.
- APPROPRIATIONS - **HB 5** relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction regarding appropriations.
- BAIL REFORM - **SB 6** relating to rules for setting the amount of bail, to the release of certain defendants on a monetary bond or personal bond, to related duties of certain officers taking bail bonds and of a magistrate in a criminal case, to charitable bail organizations, and to the reporting of information pertaining to bail bonds.

Bills that Passed

- RADIOACTIVE WASTE - **HB 7** relating to the storage or disposal of high-level radioactive waste.
- ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS - **SB 4**, relating to abortion complication reporting and the regulation of drug-induced abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; creating a criminal offense.
- THIRTEENTH CHECK - **SB 7** relating to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.
- EDUCATION – **SB 9** relating to public school instruction and materials regarding the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking and the adoption of public school policies to prevent dating violence.

Bills That Moved But Did Not Pass

- **SB 2** Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex. **Passed in Senate but left pending in the House Committee.**
- **SB 14** Relating to the regulation by a municipality or county of certain employment benefits and policies. **Passed in Senate but when considered on the House Floor, Rep Moody raised a Point of Order which sent the bill back to the House Committee.**

Third Special Legislative Session

- Begins September 20
- Items on the Call
 - Redistricting
 - Legislation providing appropriations from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 1 17-2

Third Special Legislative Session Items cont.

- Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth
- Legislation regarding whether any state or local governmental entities in Texas can mandate that an individual receive a COVID-19 vaccine and, if so, what exemptions should apply to such mandate.
- Legislation similar to Senate Bill 474 as passed by 87th Legislature, Regular Session, but that addresses the concerns expressed in the governor's veto statement.

Third Special Legislative Session

Redistricting

- Purpose to draw Legislative, Congressional, and Judicial maps
 - Texas received two additional Congressional Members per 2020 Census increase
- Public hearings already scheduled/conducted in House/Senate Redistricting Committees (Rep. Moody only El Paso member)
- Lawsuit filed by 2 Democratic senate members challenging constitutionality of conducting redistricting in Special Session as opposed to “Regular Session” as stated in Texas Constitution.
 - Raises question about Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB) participation if Lege fails to pass maps (doesn't impact Congressional maps)

Third Special Legislative Session

- Work with your delegation to get *City and regional stakeholders* key positions taken into consideration when proposed maps being drawn/considered.
 - Understanding that EP Delegation will be working within larger process and not just given free rein to draw their own EP maps. There will be competing maps.
 - Very partisan, political, and often self-interested process (that doesn't always promote transparency)
- *TX Legislative Council* oversees process and produces maps that get incorporated into actual bill format. Excellent resource to follow process/proposed maps:
<https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov>
- Proposed maps and data can be viewed at: <https://data.capitol.texas.gov/topic/redistricting>
- ***Spoiler Alert: all of it will end up in Federal Court!***



Questions?