



# 89<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION: END OF SESSION REPORT

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## *Note(s):*

All testimony provided by the City of Houston is linked throughout the document with their respective bills.

A complete list of testimony provided by the City of Houston can be accessed via the City of Houston’s Intergovernmental Affairs Website under the TX Legislature 89<sup>th</sup> Session section of the website: <https://www.houstontx.gov/govrelations/89th-session.html>

## Letter From the Chief of Intergovernmental Relations

Mayor Whitmire and Members of City Council,

It is with great pride and humility that we present to you the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session End of Session Report from the City of Houston Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team.

Representing 20,900 employees, 16 city council members, and Mayor John Whitmire, the IGR team successfully supported legislation that promoted the city's Legislative Principles approved by the Houston City Council on January 15, 2025.

On behalf of the IGR team, I would like to thank our city department legislative liaisons who put in many hours, many weeks, and many months to provide us with their expertise to review and analyze thousands of pieces of legislation throughout this legislative session. Their support and guidance on the many complex issues that our city faces provides the IGR team with the necessary perspective to educate members of the Texas legislature on the impacts of filed legislation. Without them, we would not be successful.

Our strategy for this session focused on working collaboratively behind the scenes, providing valuable insight and constructive feedback on pending pieces of legislation. Only when all possibilities to improve or amend a piece of legislation were exhausted, did we become publicly vocal in our opposition. Following this strategy with the spirit of collaboration allowed us to gain the trust of, be a resource for, and serve as a partner to legislators and their staff.

During the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session the IGR team successfully advocated for a number of policy and funding issues. From passing legislation to help combat neighborhood blight caused by bandit signs, to securing \$100 million dollars for vital improvements to the Lynchburg Pump Station, the Texas legislature listened and responded with overwhelming support to address Houston's needs.

I am proud of the work that the City of Houston Intergovernmental Relations team accomplished thanks to the state legislature, city legislative liaisons, and our mayor and city council, and I look forward to the continued success of this administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Sanders', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joshua Sanders  
Chief of Intergovernmental Relations  
City of Houston

## Legislative Principles and City Council Approval

The Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team works with the mayor and city council on advocacy efforts with the State of Texas. The process involves the creation of Legislative Principles and assembling a team of employees from across city departments to work with the IGR team.

Additionally, the mayor's administration selected individuals from seven lobby firms to advocate for the city's interests in Austin. The scope of work includes lobbying services for proactive legislation, adverse legislation, filed legislation, and general services, in accordance with the Legislative Principles approved by Houston City Council. The following firms provided services to the Mayor's Office and City of Houston:

Pope Strategies Group	Aceves Communications, LLC
CapTex Strategies, LLC	Holland & Knight, LLP
Arete Public Affairs	One World Strategy Group
Longleaf Consulting	

The Legislative Principles serve as the guiding document to instruct the IGR team and lobby team in Austin. Typically, the city will only work on priority legislation that falls within the Principles.

The Principles document provides the city with the necessary flexibility to work within the fast pace of the Texas Legislature while remaining within the approved priorities of the City of Houston. The document outlines the proactive and defensive positions for the legislative session.

After being passed by the city council, the Legislative Principles are posted on the Intergovernmental Relations website.

The document is available on the [City of Houston Intergovernmental Relations Website](#) and linked here: [Legislative Principles for the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature](#).

## Legislative Analysis and Bill Tracking

Starting in the fall before the Texas legislative session, department directors designate representatives from their departments to serve as legislative liaisons to work with the IGR team. In early November, the IGR Team trains departmental legislative liaisons on the legislative process and begins meeting weekly to review legislation that may impact the City of Houston.

The full IGR team is present at these meetings with city staff to discuss the impact of legislation on Houston. Analyzing bills that will impact city services is one of the most important functions of the IGR team and legislative liaison team.

To help put their work and this endeavor into perspective, the IGR team pulled together some numbers on the bills that impact city operations. The city legislative team analyzed a total of 2,289 bills. Most bills are analyzed by multiple departments, and the IGR team uses those analyses to determine course of action for the city. The city actively tracked 1,701 bills.

Legislative liaisons also worked with the IGR team to craft testimony as needed throughout the course of the legislative session.

## Supportive Legislation

The City of Houston carefully considers what legislation to lend its support to. During this legislative session, the IGR team proudly worked with both the Senate and the House on legislation that impacts public safety, neighborhoods, flooding, forensic science, and economic development.

### Supportive Bills that Passed

Of the 638 total bills the City of Houston supported, 83 bills passed. While these are not proactive city agenda items, these bills would have had a positive impact on the City of Houston.

Additionally, there were priority bills of the legislature that did not have a hearing, so the city was unable to register support for the bill.

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*Senate Bill 1164: Senator Judith Zaffirini*  
***Mental Health and Emergency Detention Orders***

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Borris Miles

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Joe Moody

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

SB 1164 by Senator Judith Zaffirini clarifies that anosognosia, a neurological condition when someone cannot recognize one or more health issues they are experiencing, qualifies as one of the symptoms when evaluating the need for an emergency detention order for involuntary commitment. The city's action on this bill aligns with the Legislative Principle on Homelessness.

As the City of Houston responds to the needs of those experiencing homelessness, Director of Public Safety and Homeland Security Larry Satterwhite and the Houston Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) note that there is a portion of the population that is symptomatic of anosognosia. When someone is experiencing anosognosia, they are less likely to accept assistance or treatment for their other health conditions.

As part of Mayor John Whitmire's larger goal to end on-street homelessness, the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, in collaboration with the Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Houston Police Department, the Housing and Community Development Department, and The Harris Center, worked with Senator Zaffirini to build support on the issue. The team also worked with Senator Zaffirini to amend the filed version to remove "imminent danger" within the bill to clarify that anosognosia is a condition that does not always present as an imminent danger to the person with the condition but oftentimes presents as a gradual harm to and deterioration of the person.

Director Satterwhite testified in both the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice on April 15, 2025, and the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, and Jamey Caruthers, director of Public Affairs for the Coalition for the Homeless, testified in the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence.

The bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025. The bill becomes effective on September 1, 2025. This legislation is already showing promise as HOT provides services to those experiencing homelessness.





## *House Bill 3611: Representative Pat Curry*

### ***Bandit Sign Violation Penalties***

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Sheryl Cole, Tom Craddick, Emilio DeAyala, Christian Manuel, Charlene Ward Johnson, Jolanda Jones, Mary Ann Perez, Ron Reynolds, Toni Rose, John Rosenthal, Lauren Ashley Simmons, Penny Morales Shaw, and Hubert Vo

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Borris Miles

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 3611 by Representative Pat Curry increases civil penalties for unauthorized signs placed on the right-of-way of a public road. The penalties escalate with repeated violations, starting at \$1,000 for the first violation and reaching \$5,000 for the third or subsequent offenses. It also authorizes local attorneys to enforce these provisions.

Bandit signs plague communities throughout Houston often promoting highly predatory scams placing our residents at risk. Many signs are placed near power lines, high-traffic intersections, and active railroad crossings, making removal dangerous. Some are even booby-trapped with nails, glass, or sharp objects. The city's enforcement team has been verbally assaulted, threatened, and followed, for enforcing city ordinance. Unfortunately, repeat offenders are the city's biggest challenge with multiple citations not deterring offenders from placing bandit signs on city right of way and with some treating the infractions as the cost of doing business. In FY 2022, the City of Houston collected over 53,000 illegal signs. It takes one and a half labor hours per 311 complaint, and up to four to five hours to issue a citation for a new offender. The City of Houston spends approximately \$300,000-\$500,000 annually to remove illegal bandit signs. This cost includes labor, resources, and administrative efforts to address the issue.



Mayor Pro Tem Martha Castex-Tatum is a staunch advocate for increased penalties for the placement of unauthorized commercial signs in the public right of way. Mayor Pro Tem Castex-Tatum testified in support of Senate Bill 284, the companion bill authored by Senator Borris Miles, in the Senate Transportation Committee on March 12, 2025. Sheri Strong and Dee Harris, City of Houston bandit sign enforcement officers, testified in support of HB 3611 in the House Committee on Transportation on April 3, 2025.



The Houston team worked with Chairman Craddick, Representative Curry, and Representative Canales to amend the filed version to clarify that political signs are not included in the increased penalties.

The bill passed both chambers on May 19, 2025, and was signed by the governor on May 29, 2025. This bill becomes effective on September 1, 2025.







*House Bill 1532: Representative Charles Cunningham*  
*Lake Houston Dredging District*

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Harold Dutton, Valoree Swanson, and Armando Walle

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Brandon Creighton

**Status:** Effective June 20, 2025

House Bill 1532 by Representative Charles Cunningham establishes the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District, designed to facilitate essential conservation and reclamation efforts within Harris County.

Houston's legislative team worked with Representative Cunningham to create a board that is reflective of the responsible and impacted agencies on dredging.

The district is empowered to issue revenue bonds to fund its operations, with these bonds requiring board authorization and adherence to specified terms. Notably, the district is explicitly prohibited from levying taxes or fees, ensuring that funding derives exclusively from the bonds and potential state appropriations, limited to \$25 million per state fiscal year, and cannot be appropriated for fiscal years starting on or after September 1, 2027.

Moreover, the district may conduct dredging and maintenance operations, which include the removal of sediment and debris, without the need for permits. This allows the district to effectively manage Lake Houston's water quality, crucial for local water treatment facilities. The bill underscores the importance of maintaining environmental standards by mandating that all operations do not degrade the water quality in Lake Houston. The legal and logistical prerequisites for implementing this district are outlined, setting a pathway for governance, funding, and operational effectiveness.



Council Member Fred Flickinger testified in support of this bill at the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 19, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was filed without signature on June 20, 2025. The bill is effective immediately.





### *Senate Bill 1333: Representative Bryan Hughes*

#### ***Unauthorized Entry and Occupancy of Real Properties in Texas***

**Coauthor(s):** Senators Lois Kolkhorst, Borris Miles, and Kevin Sparks

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Jeff Leach

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1333 by Senator Bryan Hughes intends to strengthen laws governing the unauthorized entry and occupancy of real properties in Texas. It amends the Penal Code to include new offenses related to fraudulent documentation for property transactions and to impose stricter penalties for illicit actions involving real property. Specifically, if an individual uses a false document to claim property rights, they face a Class A misdemeanor. Furthermore, selling or renting property without legal authority becomes a first-degree felony, showcasing a strong stance against property fraud.

Property owners, or their agents, can request law enforcement assistance to remove such individuals if specific conditions are met, including having previously directed the occupants to leave. This brings clarity and efficiency to the eviction process, allowing sheriffs to act without delay following verified complaints.

The bill also establishes liability protections for sheriffs and property owners concerning removal actions while introducing fees for services rendered during these processes. Overall, the bill aims to enhance property protection, streamline legal actions, and impose comprehensive penalties on offenders, signaling a robust legislative effort to mitigate property crime and unauthorized occupancy by 2025.

The City of Houston registered its support for the bill during the Senate Committee on State Affairs on March 24, 2025, and at House Committee on Trade, Workforce and Economic Development on April 30, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025. The bill is effective September 1, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 1620: Senator Joan Huffman*

#### ***Houston Forensic Science Center Apprenticeship Program***

**Coauthor(s):** Senators César Blanco, Sarah Eckhardt, and Juan Hinojosa

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Greg Bonnen

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1620 by Senator Joan Huffman introduces the Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot Program, designed to enhance the capacity of the forensic science workforce in Texas. It adds a new subchapter, Subchapter H, to Chapter 72 of the Government Code, providing clear definitions relevant to the program.

The pilot program will facilitate training and professional development through partnerships with specific universities and accredited crime laboratories. Contracts will be established with the Center for Human Identification, the Institute for Forensic Research, and Texas A&M University to create specialized training programs in forensic biology, drug chemistry, toxicology, and firearms comparison.

The bill empowers the Texas Forensic Science Commission to set eligibility criteria for both applicants and sponsoring laboratories, with a focus on ensuring the long-term retention of forensic analysts within the state's accredited laboratories. Furthermore, the commission will work alongside the Texas Association of Crime Lab Directors to assess the need for apprentices in various forensic disciplines, and it will establish the training curricula needed for the program.

Dr. Peter Stout, CEO of the Houston Forensic Science Center and president of the Texas Association of Crime Lab Directors, was instrumental in coordinating efforts between the Texas Forensic Science Commission, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and universities. His leadership and liaising with these organizations helped to structure a system that would effectively support forensics across the state while creating a sustainable pipeline of forensic science analysts.

The program is slated to run until September 1, 2030, with the act itself coming into effect on September 1, 2025. This legislation aims not only to fortify the forensic workforce but also to improve the overall quality and effectiveness of forensic analysis in Texas.

In alignment with the city's Legislative Principle of coordinating with the Houston Forensic Science Center to better address workforce development, the City of Houston registered its support for the bill during the Senate Committee on Finance on April 2, 2025 and presented a [one-page factsheet](#).

The bill passed both chambers on May 20, 2025, and was signed by the governor on May 30, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 1660: Senator Joan Huffman*

#### ***Blood Tube DNA Evidence Retention***

**Sponsor(s):** Representative David Cook

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1660 by Senator Joan Huffman addresses the retention and preservation of toxicological evidence pertaining to intoxication offenses under Article 38.50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. A key addition is Subsection (c-1), which requires crime laboratories to notify the relevant prosecutor's office annually about any toxicological evidence they hold related to offenses in that jurisdiction. This includes informing the prosecutor of the expiration date for the evidence's retention period.

Subsection (g) updates the methodology of delivering notices, allowing for first-class mail as an acceptable form of communication. The bill also clarifies guidelines for destroying toxicological evidence. Under Subsection (h), for felony cases, a prosecutor's office must approve destruction requests, and if there's no denial within 60 days, the evidence may be destroyed once the retention period has expired. Conversely, Subsection (i) stipulates that for misdemeanor charges, entities can destroy evidence without prior written approval if the retention period has elapsed.

In Houston, these blood samples are largely from driving while under the influence cases, and some are upwards of 30 years old. Dr. Peter Stout, CEO of the Houston Forensic Science Center, helped to identify the need for this legislation. Every blood tube that is held has an expense associated with it, so streamlining the destruction of blood tubes that have no evidentiary usefulness and have expired the retention period helps to open space in Houston property rooms and save funding.

In alignment with the city's Legislative Principle of coordinating with the Houston Forensic Science Center to better address the processing and storage of evidence, the City of Houston registered in support of the bill at the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice on April 29, 2025, and at the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence on May 20, 2025.

The act is set to take effect on September 1, 2025, and will affect only those cases whose retention periods expire after this date, ensuring that existing regulations remain functional for prior cases.

The bill passed both chambers on June 1, 2025, and was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025.



### *House Bill 1089: Representative Dennis Paul*

#### ***Gulf Coast Protection Account***

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Jeffery Barry, Cecil Bell, Brad Buckley, Ben Bumgarner, Briscoe Cain, Charles Cunningham, Emilio DeAyala, James Frank, Gary Gates, Ryan Guillen, Richard Hayes, Lacey Hull, Janie Lopez, Don McLaughlin, Morgan Meyer, Tom Oliverson, Angelia Orr, and Cody Vasut

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Carol Alvarado

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 1089 by Representative Dennis Paul establishes the Gulf Coast Protection Account, a key financial resource aimed at enhancing coastal protection efforts along the Texas Gulf Coast. Within the Natural Resources Code, the newly added Section 31.070 outlines the account's structure, which is specifically governed by the General Land Office and its adopted rules.

The account will be funded through gifts, donations, grants, as well as additional funds appropriated or transferred by the legislature. Its designated use is critically focused on ensuring compliance with federal and local agreements related to coastal protection projects, particularly those established through collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and specific local cooperation with the Gulf Coast Protection District.

Moreover, the bill emphasizes that expenditures from this account are not only necessary for fulfilling public obligations but also serve a clear public purpose, underscoring the importance of accountability as all transactions are subject to audit by the state auditor. The bill provides an immediate effect clause contingent on legislative approval but also includes a default effective date of September 1, 2025, if needed. This legislation reflects Texas's commitment to robust coastal management and spur comprehensive funding pathways for essential protective initiatives.

In alignment with the city's Legislative Principles of securing the public safety of the region and the future of economic development, the City of Houston registered its support for the bill at the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 19, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 9, 2025, and was signed by the governor on May 24, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 22: Senator Joan Huffman*

#### **Film Incentive**

**Coauthor(s):** Senators Carol Alvarado, César Blanco, Brent Hagenbuch, Royce West, and Judith Zaffirini

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Todd Hunter, Ken King, Barbabra Gervin-Hawkins, Cecil Bell, and Trey Martinez Fischer

**Cosponsor(s):** Representatives John H. Bucy III, Sheryl Cole, Stan Gerdes, Mary González, Ann Johnson, Suleman Lalani, Janie Lopez, Christian Manuel, Joe Moody, Toni Rose, John Smithee, Denise Villalobos, and Charlene Ward Johnson

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 22 by Senator Joan Huffman restructures and expands the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIIP) by creating the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Fund. The bill provides \$300 million every two years through 2035 to attract film, television, and multimedia projects to Texas, making it the largest state investment in this industry to date. The fund will be managed by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, with rulemaking authority granted to the governor's Office and the Comptroller.

The legislation requires that funded projects align with “general standards of decency” and reflect “Texas values,” excluding content deemed inappropriate, obscene, or negatively portraying the state.

SB 22 passed the Senate unanimously and was recently signed by Governor Abbott. The new fund will begin issuing biennial transfers, supporting the state's efforts to remain competitive in the national film and media production market while balancing economic development with culturally aligned content guidelines.

In alignment with the Legislative Principle of securing the future of economic development in the region, the City of Houston registered its support for the bill at the Senate Committee on Finance on March 31, 2025. Council members Sallie Alcorn and Tarsha Jackson advocated for this bill in the halls of the Capitol.

The bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was filed without governor's signature on June 22, 2025. This act takes effect September 1, 2025, except Sections 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, and 3.04 take effect September 1, 2035.



## *House Joint Resolution 7: Representative Cody Harris*

### ***Water Constitutional Amendment***

<b>Author(s):</b>	Representatives Cody Harris, Todd Hunter, Armando Martinez, Stan Kitzman, and Will Metcalf
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Representatives Daniel Alders, Trent Ashby, Jeffrey Barry, Cecil Bell, Greg Bonnen, Brad Buckley, Briscoe Cain, Emilio DeAyala, Caroline Fairly, Erin Gámez, Josey Garcia, Stan Gerdes, Mary González, Ryan Guillen, Hillary Hickland, Carrie Isaac, Terri Leo Wilson, Janie Lopez, Don McLaughlin, Eddie Morales, Candy Noble, Angelia Orr, Mihaela Plesa, Richard Peña Raymond, Ramon Romero, David Spiller, Cody Vasut, Denise Villalobos, Trey Wharton, and Erin Zwiener
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Senator Charles Perry
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Senators Carol Alvarado, Brian Birdwell, César Blanco, Pete Flores, Roland Gutierrez, Kelly Hancock, Adam Hinojosa, Juan Hinojosa, Joan Huffman, Lois Kolkhorst José Menéndez, Charles Schwertner, Kevin Sparks, and Judith Zaffirini
<b>Status:</b>	Effective September 1, 2025

House Joint Resolution 7 by Representative Cody Harris proposes a constitutional amendment aimed at dedicating a portion of future revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund.

Under the proposed Section 7-e, the comptroller of public accounts will deposit the net revenue from the state's sales and use tax that exceeds \$48 billion into the water fund each fiscal year, with a maximum cap of \$1 billion for deposits. Important adjustments can be made to these deposits with a two-thirds majority vote from both houses of the legislature, allowing increases or decreases within specific bounds.

Additionally, the comptroller's duty to make these deposits is limited, expiring on August 31, 2035, but it can be renewed in increments of 10 years through another majority vote resolution. A temporary provision clarifies that this amendment will take effect on September 1, 2026, and that this provision itself will expire the following year.

In alignment with the city's principle of supporting increases water infrastructure funding, the City of Houston provided support to Chairmen Harris and Perry on this issue. This City of Houston has over \$5 billion in water infrastructure investment needs. This constitutional amendment will provide some long-term stability in the State's strategy in water security.

The City of Houston registered its support in the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 19, 2025, and registered support in the Senate Committee on Finance on May 7, 2025. HJR 7 passed on May 29, 2025, and was filed with the secretary on June 2, 2025. The election for voter consent for this constitutional amendment is scheduled for November 4, 2025.



### *House Bill 1584: Representative Lacey Hull*

#### **Priority Facilities by Electric Utilities**

<b>Author(s):</b>	Representatives Lacey Hull, Will Metcalf, Suleman Lalani, and Terri Leo Wilson
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Representatives Penny Morales Shaw and Eddie Morales
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Senator Charles Schwertner
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Senators Carol Alvarado and Royce West
<b>Status:</b>	Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 1584, authored by Representatives Lacey Hull, mandates electric utilities to create and maintain a list of priority facilities. This list ensures that critical infrastructure for the protection or maintenance of public safety, such as hospitals, police and fire stations, confinement facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and water treatment plants, receive prioritized restoration during power outages.

This legislation is especially crucial for Houston, where maintaining power to essential services during emergencies and extreme weather events such as hurricanes or freezes. During the Derecho Storms of May 2024 and Beryl in July 2024, the largest impact to public health and safety was the prolonged power outages that followed the storms. Due to loss of power, thousands of residents were unable to keep their food cold and medication in a safe environment. These impacts then trickled down to the hospitals as they were taking in residents that needed their medication, and unfortunately, the hospital was unable to discharge patients to homes without power due to unsafe temperatures. Additionally, the power outage resulted in over a thousand traffic signals being out of service resulting in the diverting of police officers to manage traffic across the city.

This bill is a step in the right direction to ensure that the electric utility prioritizes critical, high-impact facilities when restoring power due to a widespread, prolonged power outage.

In alignment with the City of Houston's Legislative Principle of supporting electric utility resilience and reliability, the city registered its support in the House Committee on State Affairs on March 19, 2025, and the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on May 8, 2025. The City of Houston provided written testimony in support of this bill to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 19, 2025.

#### **Testimony:**

- [HB1584](#)

The bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 31, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20 and takes effect September 1, 2025.





## House Bill 3112: Representative Carl Pepper

### Open Meeting Law and Cybersecurity Measures

**Author(s):** Representatives Lacey Hull, Will Metcalf, Suleman Lalani, and Terri Leo Wilson

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Penny Morales Shaw and Eddie Morales

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Charles Schwertner

**Cosponsor(s):** Senators Carol Alvarado and Royce West

**Status:** Effective June 20, 2025

House Bill 3112, authored by Representative Carl Pepper, amends the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) and the Texas Public Information Act (TPIA) to provide greater protections for cybersecurity-related information concerning critical infrastructure facilities. The bill allows government entities, including those in Houston, to hold closed meetings and keep certain cybersecurity measures, policies, and contracts confidential to protect essential systems like the electrical grid, water treatment plants, and communication networks. This ensures that sensitive cybersecurity information is kept confidential to reduce the risk of threats.

This bill contributes to protecting sensitive cybersecurity-related information tied to critical infrastructure in the City of Houston. In alignment with the city of Houston's Legislative Principle of securing public safety, including cybersecurity, the city of Houston registered its support in the House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency on April 2, 2025, and in the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on May 22, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 31, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025, and takes effect immediately.



### *House Bill 3595: Representative Jeffrey Barry*

#### **Emergency Preparedness for Assisted Living Facilities**

**Author(s):** Representatives Jeffrey Barry, Drew Darby, Donna Howard, Ann Johnson, and Ken King

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Ryan Guillen, Suleman Lalani, Penny Morales Shaw, and Chris Turner

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Charles Perry

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 3595, authored by Representative Jeffery Barry, establishes new requirements for emergency preparedness and contingency operations in assisted living facilities. The bill mandates that these facilities adopt plans that include measures for maintaining temperature regulation during power outages or other emergencies. For residents who are not bedfast, facilities must provide climate-controlled areas of refuge with a minimum of 15 square feet per resident. Bedfast residents must be provided with a dedicated climate-controlled room. The bill also requires assisted living facilities to notify the commission if there is an unplanned loss of electric utility service lasting more than 12 hours.

The legislation mandates that facilities maintain temperatures between 68 F and 82 F in designated areas of refuge and climate-controlled rooms. Additionally, it requires facilities to prepare for emergencies by having backup power systems, and it directs the state to set licensure standards for these facilities starting in September 2026. The bill includes provisions for penalties if these standards are not met.

For the City of Houston, this bill ensures that assisted living facilities in the area are prepared for extreme weather conditions, including power outages, ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable residents during emergencies. During the 2025 disasters, the prolonged power outages resulted in increased public safety response to independent living, assisted living, and nursing facilities. This bill will help to ensure that these facilities are better prepared to address needs on the property during power outages. The City of Houston registered its support in the House Committee on Human Services on April 1, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 31, 2025, and was sent to the governor on June 2, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025. This bill becomes effective on September 1, 2025.



### *House Bill 4219: Representative Giovanni Capriglione*

#### **Response to TPIA**

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Judith Zaffirini

**Cosponsor(s):** Senators Juan Hinojosa, Lois Kolkhorst, and Mayes Middleton

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 4219, authored by Representative Giovanni Capriglione, introduces stricter timelines and penalties for governmental bodies that fail to respond to public information requests. The bill amends the Texas Government Code to require that, if a governmental body determines it has no responsive information to a request, the public information officer must notify the requestor in writing within 10 business days. Additionally, if the information is subject to withholding due to a previous determination, the governmental body must provide notice to the requestor and identify the specific determination relied upon, also within 10 business days.

The bill also expands provisions in Subchapter H by adding Section 552.328, which allows requestors to file complaints with the attorney general if a governmental body fails to respond as required. Should the attorney general determine the body improperly failed to comply, penalties include mandatory open records training for the responsible officer, no costs to the requestor for obtaining the information, and specific timelines for the body to request an attorney general decision on withholding information.

For the City of Houston, HB 4219 ensures greater accountability and transparency in governmental responses to public information requests, fostering more efficient and consistent compliance with open records laws. The City of Houston registered its support in the House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency on April 9, 2025, and in the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on May 13, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 20, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 22, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20 and takes effect September 1, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 57: Senator Judith Zaffirini*

#### **Students with Disabilities and School Emergency Preparedness**

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Donna Campbell

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Mary González

**Status:** Effective June 20, 2025

Senate Bill 57, authored by Senator Judith Zaffirini, strengthens school emergency preparedness by requiring districts to include specific provisions in their emergency operations plans to ensure the safety of students and staff with disabilities during drills, disasters, or other emergencies. The bill mandates that accommodations for students with individualized education programs (IEPs) or 504 plans be documented, communicated among staff and safety committees, and incorporated into district planning.

It also expands the role of school safety committees to include representatives focused on special education and requires the Texas Education Agency to issue formal guidelines for accommodations.

For the Houston Independent School District and other districts, SB 57 ensures emergency preparedness plans are inclusive, protecting vulnerable students in crisis situations. The City of Houston registered its support in the Senate Committee on Education K-16 on March 11, 2025, and in the House Committee on Public Safety on May 6, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 30, 2025, and was sent to the governor on June 1, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025, and took effect immediately.



### *Senate Bill 916: Senator Judith Zaffirini*

#### **EMS Insurance Billing**

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Kelly Hancock  
**Sponsor(s):** Representative David Spiller  
**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 916, authored by Senator Judith Zaffirini, enhances consumer protections against aggressive or unfair billing practices by emergency medical services (EMS) providers. It authorizes the Texas Department of State Health Services to revoke or suspend EMS provider licenses if providers submit false information or repeatedly violate state insurance billing laws.

The bill also extends existing rate-setting protections through 2027, allowing political subdivisions to cap EMS charge increases to the lower of either the Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor or 10% annually. These protections help shield consumers from excessive ambulance bills.

For Houston residents and local EMS providers, SB 916 promotes accountability and limits sudden cost hikes. The Houston Fire Department, Fire Chief, and their finance team worked with the Intergovernmental Relations Team to create the financial impact statement of this bill and to advocate in support of SB 916.

The City of Houston registered its support in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on March 5, 2025, and in the House Committee on Insurance on April 17, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 22, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 27, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025, and is effective on September 1, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 1841: Senator Nathan Johnson*

#### **Traveler Privacy Protection**

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Royce West  
**Sponsor(s):** Representative Yvonne Davis  
**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1841, authored by Senator Nathan Johnson, enhances privacy protections by expanding the types of personal identifying information that local governments and airport joint boards must keep confidential when collected in connection with the use of airport facilities or commercial online payment systems. The bill amends Sections 22.028 and 22.091 of the Transportation Code to ensure that sensitive information such as names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, zip codes, license plate and toll tag numbers, payment card information, travel dates, flight details, airport lounge memberships, and trusted traveler credentials is not subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act (Chapter 552, Government Code). It also applies to data associated with parking history and commercial transactions made at the airport, whether in person or online. These provisions apply to both municipally operated airports and those governed by joint boards of populous home-rule cities.

This bill aligns with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its support for the bill at the Senate Committee on Transportation on March 26, 2025.

The bill passed both chambers on May 12, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 13, 2025. It was signed by the governor on May 24, 2025. The bill takes effect September 1, 2025.



## House Bill 5246: Representative Greg Bonnen

### Texas Space Commission

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Joan Huffman

**Cosponsor(s):** Senator Donna Campbell

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 5246, authored by Representative Greg Bonnen, seeks to enhance the functions and governance of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium while abolishing the spaceport trust fund. The bill amends the Government Code by changing references from "space-related" to "aerospace-related" and removing provisions concerning the funding and support of spaceports. It establishes a new definition for the "Consortium" and outlines the commission's purpose to promote innovation in aerospace exploration and commercial opportunities. The governance structure is modified to include a board of nine voting members appointed by state leaders, with an executive director from the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office serving as a nonvoting member. The board is empowered to direct the commission's activities and ensure that procurement actions serve a legitimate public purpose.

Additionally, the bill introduces amendments that allow the board to conduct closed meetings to discuss grant applications and military, or aerospace facility matters, with final actions required to occur in open meetings. It changes the frequency of strategic planning updates from annually to biennially and expands the purposes for which the space exploration and aeronautics research fund can be utilized. The bill also establishes the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium as an advisory committee, detailing its governance and operational duties, including the ability to solicit donations. The spaceport trust fund is abolished, with its balance transferred to the general revenue fund, while ensuring existing contracts with spaceport development corporations remain valid.

This bill aligns with the City of Houston's general government and economic development legislative principles. Given this, the City of Houston registered its support for HB 5246 at the House Delivery of Government Efficiency Committee on April 16, 2025.

This bill passed the Senate on May 23, 2025, and was sent to the governor on June 2, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025. The bill takes effect on September 1, 2025.





## *Senate Bill 1300: Senator Pete Flores*

### **Organized Retail Theft**

<b>Author(s):</b>	Senators Pete Flores, Brent Hagenbuch, Juan Hinojosa, Joan Huffman, Phil King, and Tan Parker
<b>Coauthors(s):</b>	Senators Carol Alvarado, Paul Bettencourt, César Blanco, Donna Campbell, Brandon Creighton, Bob Hall, Lois Kolkhorst, José Menéndez, Charles Perry, Kevin Sparks, and Royce West
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Representatives Molly Cook, John Smithee, A.J. Louderback, Carl Tepper, and Pat Curry
<b>Status:</b>	Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1300, authored by Senator Pete Flores, strengthens the prosecution of organized retail theft in Texas by clarifying definitions, easing evidentiary requirements, and increasing criminal penalties for offenders. The bill simplifies the indictment process and allows prior theft-related conduct to be admitted as evidence in court when intent or group activity is at issue.

The bill amends the Penal Code to broaden the definition of “merchant” and “retail merchandise,” and provides that price tags are considered prima facie evidence of value and ownership. SB 1300 also enhances penalties for organized retail theft, making even low-value offenses potentially subject to felony charges depending on the circumstances and total value of stolen goods.

For Houston retailers and law enforcement, SB 1300 offers stronger tools to combat organized retail theft rings, which have increasingly targeted large commercial districts and shopping centers across the city. The bill supports more effective prosecution and acts as a deterrent to coordinated theft operations.

The bill passed both chambers on May 30, 2025, and was sent to the governor on June 1, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025. The bill takes effect September 1, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 1316: Senator Molly Cook*

#### **E-cigarette Advertising**

**Coauthors(s):** Senators Carol Alvarado, Paul Bettencourt, César Blanco, Adam Hinojosa, Juan Hinojosa, Tan Parker, Angela Paxton, Charles Perry, and Judith Zaffirini

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Charles Cunningham, James Frank, Ann Johnson, Mike Olcott, and Lauren Ashley Simmons

**Cosponsor(s):** Representatives Suleman Lalani and John Lujan

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1316 by Senator Molly Cook introduces stringent regulations regarding the advertising of e-cigarettes in Texas by placing them under the same restrictions that apply to traditional cigarettes and tobacco products. The heading of Subchapter K in Chapter 161 of the Health and Safety Code now clarifies the prohibition on cigarette, e-cigarette, and tobacco product advertising.

The bill defines an "e-cigarette" consistent with Section 161.081 and extends the existing law to prohibit advertisements for e-cigarettes located within 1,000 feet of churches and schools. The method for assessing distance from these institutions is clearly outlined, determining distance from the nearest property line to the closest point on the street or highway.

Additionally, the bill includes a grandfather clause, ensuring that any sign advertising cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or tobacco products that was established before September 1, 1997, and complies with specified distance requirements is exempt from the new restrictions. The bill aims to reduce the exposure of youth and communities to e-cigarette advertising near sensitive locations. The City of Houston registered its support for the bill at the Senate Committee on State Affairs on March 31.

The bill passed both chambers on May 7, 2025 and was sent to the governor on May 9, 2025. It was signed by the governor on May 21. This bill is set to take effect on September 1, 2025.



## *Senate Bill 1555: Senator Robert Nichols*

### **Railroad Grade Separation Projects**

<b>Author(s):</b>	Senators Robert Nichols and Carol Alvarado
<b>Coauthors(s):</b>	Senators Sarah Eckhardt, Brent Hagenbuch, Nathan Johnson, Lois Kolkhorst, José Menéndez, Borris Miles, Royce West, and Judith Zaffirini
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Representatives Jared Patterson, Ana Hernandez, Mary Ann Perez, Caroline Harris Davila, and Trey Martinez Fischer
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Representatives Nicole Collier and Christina Morales
<b>Status:</b>	Effective May 24, 2025

Senate Bill 1555 by Senator Robert Nichols introduces a dedicated grant program aimed at improving public safety, economic development, and traffic flow through railroad grade separation projects. Specifically, it creates Section 471.010 that outlines the establishment and administration of grants for two types of projects: rail-roadway grade separations at relevant intersections and rail-pedestrian crossings.

Political subdivisions or railroad companies awarded grants under this section are permitted to use the funds as matching contributions to secure additional financial assistance for their projects, encouraging broader investment in infrastructure enhancements. To ensure a commitment to the projects, the bill stipulates that the Texas Transportation Commission must approve any grants awarded, with the criteria of funding requiring that at least 10% of project costs be covered by non-state sources.

Furthermore, it clarifies that funding for these grants will only come from legislative appropriations and external gifts or grants, excluding the use of the state highway fund. The commission will also be responsible for developing the necessary rules for the program by October 1, 2025. The legislation is structured to take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds vote or on September 1, 2025, if that threshold is not met.

As being the city with the largest number of at-grade rail crossings and being a vocal supporter of grade separation, the City of Houston collaborated early on with Senator Nichols and the Lieutenant Governor on the development of this bill. The City was invited to meetings with the Senator and Lieutenant Governor early on in the session, where the City of Houston brought its Houston Public Works Grants Expert, David Wurdlow, to speak about how a grant like this would be implemented. The City appreciates the collaboration and looks forward to applying for grants once available.

Additionally, the City of Houston provided written testimony in support of this bill to the Senate Committee on Transportation on March 12, 2025.

#### **Testimony:**

- [SB 1555](#)

The bill passed both chambers on May 10, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 13, 2025. It was signed by the governor on May 24, 2025, and was effective immediately.



### *Senate Bill 2351: Senator Carol Alvarado*

#### **Concrete Batch Plants**

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Armando Walle, Charlie Geren, and Ana Hernandez

**Status:** Effective May 24, 2025

Senate Bill 2351 by Senator Carol Alvarado regulates the construction, expansion, or modification of concrete plants that operate under a standard permit in Texas. Key changes include the addition of Subsection (f-1) in Section 382.05195 of the Health and Safety Code, which applies specifically to concrete plants engaging in wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing, and it mandates that if the commission amends the standard permit, facility operators must update their construction plans to comply with the amended permit, provided that the construction has not begun before the permit's adoption.

Section 382.05195(k) now includes a requirement for applications to demonstrate a clear plan detailing various geographical features, ensuring compliance with setback or buffer requirements. The terminology around the application process is also modified, changing references from “the issuance of” to “an authorization to use,” thus refining the focus on operational compliance for the concrete plants. Similarly, Section 382.05198 sees the incorporation of Subsection (d), establishing a parallel requirement for plan updates following permit amendments for those operators not yet engaged in construction.

This legislation emphasizes regulatory adherence and promotes environmental and operational standards for concrete production facilities in Texas. The bill is set to take effect immediately if passed with a two-thirds majority or on September 1, 2025, otherwise.

This bill aligns with the City of Houston's principles on environment. The city registered its support for this bill on April 23, 2025, at the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The bill passed both chambers on May 9, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 13, 2025. It was signed by the governor on May 24, 2025, and was effective immediately.

## Supportive Bills that Did Not Pass

Some of the bills that the City of Houston supported did not pass this legislative session.

While these bills did not pass, the City is optimistic that the state legislature and local governments will continue to move in a positive direction on these issues.

**House Bill 636 ..... 27**

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**Senate Bill 2521..... 29**



### *House Bill 636: Representative Armando Walle*

#### ***Homelessness Data Sharing Network***

**Author(s):** Representatives Armando Walle and Cassandra Garcia Hernandez

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 636 by Representative Armando Walle aims to establish a comprehensive statewide homeless data sharing network under a new subchapter, Subchapter QQ, in Chapter 2306 of the Government Code. The goal of this initiative is to enable the sharing and assessment of real-time data on homelessness, thereby enhancing the response systems within the state.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is tasked with collaborating with the Texas Homeless Network to set up the network. An essential function of this network is to synchronize efforts with health benefit plan issuers and managed care organizations. This collaboration aims to identify individuals experiencing homelessness effectively and to facilitate their access to necessary services and resources such as housing navigation, which is critical for improving overall health outcomes and support systems.

Moreover, the bill emphasizes the importance of confidentiality by mandating that any shared information protected under state or federal law should not be disclosed, thus safeguarding sensitive data.

The City of Houston supports the expanded use of a data system that tracks services provided to people experiencing homelessness. The Houston Police Department Homelessness Outreach Team uses the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a tool that the Continuum of Care organizations are asked to use by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to secure funding. HPD collaborates with other public safety agencies in the region to train other city departments on how to leverage HMIS. This bill would have supported efforts like this to better share data and understand how interventions are working in addressing homelessness in the state.

The City of Houston registered its support for this bill at the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs on March 18, 2025. The bill passed the House on May 16, 2025, and referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government on May 25, 2025. It was not voted out of committee. The bill did not pass.



### *House Bill 1517: Representative Ana Hernandez*

#### ***Constables Enforcing Municipal Ordinances***

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 1517 by Representative Ana Hernandez pertains to the enforcement capabilities of constables concerning municipal ordinances in Texas. A significant provision added is Subsection (f) to Section 86.021 of the Local Government Code, allowing constables in counties with a population exceeding four million to enforce municipal ordinances. This empowerment is contingent on these constables operating under a written agreement with the governing body of the municipality and the commissioners court of their respective county. The enforcement authority granted specifically applies to ordinances within the designated areas of the municipality located in that county.

The bill aims to enhance collaboration between county constables and municipalities, thereby streamlining the enforcement of local regulations in densely populated areas. The City of Houston is supportive of the constables assisting their constituents within the City limits with the enforcement of local regulations, like the sound ordinance.

The City of Houston registered its support for this bill at the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs on April 1. A committee substitute was voted favorably on April 28 and reported from committee as substituted on May 12. The bill did not pass.





### *Senate Bill 2521: Senator Paul Bettencourt*

#### **Death Certificate**

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Angie Chen Button

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 2521, authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, requires local registrars to compile and submit monthly abstracts of death certificates for individuals aged 18 or older to the chief appraiser of the appraisal district in the county of the decedent's residence. Upon receiving these abstracts, the chief appraiser must investigate whether the deceased individual had property receiving a tax exemption that no longer qualifies due to their death. The appraiser must also determine whether a surviving spouse or child may still qualify for the exemption. If the exemption is no longer valid, the chief appraiser is required to cancel it and update the appraisal records within five days of making that determination.

The bill is intended to improve the accuracy of property tax rolls by ensuring that exemptions are promptly removed when they no longer apply. This process helps maintain fairness in the property tax system and ensures that only eligible individuals receive tax benefits.

This bill is in line with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its support for this bill at the Senate Committee on Local Government on April 24, 2025. Council Member Fred Flickinger provided written testimony in support of the bill at the hearing.

#### **Testimony:**

- [SB 2521](#)

The bill was voted favorably by the House Ways and Means Committee on May 20, 2025, and was set on the House Calendar on May 27, 2025. SB 2521 did not pass.

## Amended Legislation

The City of Houston collaborated with legislators, other cities, and partnering organizations to amend legislation that would have been detrimental if passed in its filed form. The following section provides some background on bills that the team worked to amend.

### Bills that were Amended and Passed

<b>Senate Bill 840 .....</b>	<b>31</b>
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### *Senate Bill 840: Senator Bryan Hughes*

#### ***Municipal Regulation of Mixed-Use and Multifamily Development***

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Tan Parker

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Cole Hefner, Daniel Alders, and Sheryl Cole

**Cosponsor(s):** Representatives Trent Ashby, Giovanni Capriglione, Charles Cunningham, Pat Curry, James Frank, Gary Gates, Mary González, Hillary Hickland, Janie Lopez, David Spiller, James Talarico, and Chris Turner

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 840, authored by Senator Hughes, limits how certain large Texas cities can regulate mixed-use and multifamily residential developments, especially in areas currently zoned for commercial or office use. It requires cities with over 150,000 people in counties over 300,000 to allow these residential developments in commercial zones without requiring rezoning or variances - except near industrial sites, airports, or military bases.

The bill caps restrictions on density, building height, setbacks, and parking requirements. It also streamlines permit approvals by requiring administrative approval when the project complies with local regulations.

For commercial buildings being converted to residential use, SB 840 prohibits cities from requiring traffic studies, impact fees (unless already applied), additional parking, or design standards stricter than the International Building Code. It also allows housing organizations or individuals to sue municipalities over violations, with guaranteed legal fee recovery for prevailing parties.

Alongside the cities of San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Corpus Christi, the City of Houston worked with Senator Carol Alvarado to amend the bill to add “official immunity of a municipal officer or employee is waived to the extent of liability created by this section” and Representative Cole Hefner to ensure these regulations do not impact a municipality’s ability to regulate activities that effect sewer and water access, building codes, storm water requirements, and historic preservations and districts.

The bill passed the Senate on May 26, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 28, 2025. The governor signed the bill on June 20, 2025. This bill is effective on September 1, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 2477: Senator Paul Bettencourt*

#### ***Office to Mixed Use Residential***

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Adam Hinojosa

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Jared Patterson

**Cosponsor(s):** Representatives Pat Curry, James Frank, Gary Gates, Hillary Hickland, Don McLaughlin, Penny Morales Shaw, David Spiller, Chris Turner, and Cody Vasut

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 2477, authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, regulates how municipalities with populations over 150,000 in large counties oversee the conversion of office buildings into mixed-use or multifamily residential developments. The bill limits the ability of these cities to impose certain fees, traffic studies, parking requirements, and design restrictions on such conversions, aiming to streamline the approval process and encourage more residential development. It also prohibits impact fees unless specific conditions are met and mandates administrative approval without requiring zoning changes or additional discretionary approvals.

On April 24, 2025, the City of Houston registered its opposition and provided written testimony for SB 2477 to the Senate Committee on Local Government, and for its companion bill, HB 5187 by Representative Jared Patterson, to the House Committee on Land and Resource Management.

#### **Testimony:**

- [SB 2477](#)
- [HB 5187](#)

Alongside other Texas cities, Houston collaborated with Representative Patterson to mirror language in SB 840 that allows a city to regulate as it relates to sewer and water access, building code, stormwater mitigation, deed restrictions, and impact fees.

The bill passed the Senate on May 30, 2025, and was sent to the governor on June 2, 2025. The bill was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025, and is effective on September 1, 2025.



### *House Bill 29: Representative Stan Gerdes*

#### ***Water Loss Mitigation***

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Carrie Isaac and A.J. Louderback

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Charles Perry

**Cosponsor(s):** Representatives Pat Curry, James Frank, Gary Gates, Hillary Hickland, Don McLaughlin, Penny Morales Shaw, David Spiller, Chris Turner, and Cody Vasut

**Status:** Effective May 29, 2025

House Bill 29, authored by Representative Stan Gerdes, requires municipally owned water utilities with more than 150,000 connections to validate annual water audits and submit water loss mitigation plans to the Texas Water Development Board. Utilities must assess their water loss data, plan strategies to reduce leakage, and update their plans every 10 years. Failure to comply can result in a \$25,000 administrative penalty.

As one of the largest municipal water providers in Texas, Houston would be directly affected by this bill prompting additional accountability in identifying and addressing water loss, improving long-term water conservation, infrastructure planning, and cost savings for the city and its residents.

The author held a stakeholder meeting on HB 29, where the City of Houston was the only invited municipal water utility. The City of Houston is supportive of identifying ways to mitigate leaks from water facilities owned by the city, however there are concerns surrounding the reoccurring penalties, the lack of a phase-in period, and the absence of regional approaches to water leaks to account for soil and weather patterns. The city successfully advocated to make the penalty a one-time cost associated with a utility's failure to submit a water loss mitigation plan versus applying to every violation of water loss rate being higher than prescribed in the file version of the bill. This approach allows cities to plan for regional needs instead of being penalized.

The House passed the Senate's amendments on May 19, 2025, and the bill was signed by the governor on May 29, 2025. The bill went into effect immediately on May 29, 2025.



### *House Bill 30: Representative Ellen Troxclair*

#### ***Disaster Tax Rate***

<b>Author(s):</b>	Representatives Ellen Troxclair, Morgan Meyer, Tom Oliverson, Candy Noble, and Carl Tepper
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Representatives Daniel Alders, Greg Bonnen, David Cook, Emilio DeAyala, Caroline Harris Davila, Carries Isaac, Helen Kerwin, Joanne Shofner, Steve Toth, and Cody Vasut
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Senator Paul Bettencourt
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Senator Brandon Creighton
<b>Status:</b>	Effective January 1, 2026

House Bill 30, authored by Representative Ellen Troxclair, allows certain taxing units (excluding school districts and special taxing units) affected by a declared disaster to adjust their voter-approval tax rates to include disaster relief costs, such as debris removal and emergency services. This adjustment can be applied for up to three years or until property values recover.

Taxing units must estimate and report disaster relief costs using federal or state-approved methods. When using this adjusted tax rate or adopting a higher tax rate without an election, the taxing unit must specify the disaster declaration authorizing it.

The City of Houston provided written testimony in opposition to the filed version of the bill in the House Committee on Ways and Means on April 21, 2025, as the filed version was not responsive to all costs associated with a disaster. The filed version only allowed the city to recover costs associated with debris removal. In the 2024 disasters, the City of Houston had costs associated with emergency medical services, police, fire, solid waste, and public works. The city must continue to provide services during disaster regardless of where costs are being incurred.

#### **Testimony:**

- [HB 30](#)

The City of Houston worked with Representative Troxclair to clarify that other costs allowed by the federal government for reimbursement are allowed to be counted toward the disaster tax rate. Houston was supportive of the amendment offered by Representative Troxclair on the House floor. The city remained neutral in the Senate.

The bill passed the Senate on May 15, 2025, and was signed by the governor on May 28, 2025. The law takes effect January 1, 2026, for tax years starting on or after that date.



## *Senate Bill 38: Senator Paul Bettencourt*

### ***Eviction/Squatters***

<b>Author(s):</b>	Senators Bettencourt, César Blanco, Donna Campbell, Brandon Creighton, Brent Hagenbuch, Joan Huffman, Bryan Hughes, Lois Kolkhorst, Mayes Middleton, Tan Parker Angela Paxton, and Kevin Sparks
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Senator Brian Birdwell
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Representatives Angie Chen Button, Charlie Geren, Joe Moody, John Smithee, and Jeff Leach
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Representatives Trent Ashby, Greg Bonnen, Briscoe Cain, Terry Canales, Jay Dean, Caroline Fairly, Carrie Isaac, Terri Leo Wilson, David Lowe, Will Metcalf, Eddie Morales, Shelby Slawson, and Steve Toth
<b>Status:</b>	Effective January 1, 2026, except for Section 16, which is effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 38, authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, reforms Texas’s eviction process by clarifying court procedures during appeals and strengthening landlord protections when government rental assistance is involved. The bill requires tenants appealing eviction judgments to pay rent into the court registry to retain possession and allows either party to contest the required amount if rent was partially paid by a government agency.

If a government agency fails to pay its share of the rent, landlords may request the court to require tenants to cover the full rent amount. Courts must grant this request if landlords provide evidence of nonpayment and show they were not responsible for it. The bill also mandates faster issuance and enforcement of writs of possession if tenants fail to comply with payment requirements and permits off-duty trained officers to serve writs if regular enforcement is delayed.

The bill expands non-attorney representation in eviction cases, allowing owners of multifamily properties to be represented by authorized agents during appeals in county or district court. It also repeals outdated provisions and directs the Texas Supreme Court to adopt updated rules to reflect the new procedures.

The law applies to eviction suits filed on or after January 1, 2026. The Supreme Court rulemaking provision takes effect September 1, 2025.

The Senate passed the House’s amendments on May 28, 2025, and the bill was sent to the governor on June 1, 2025. The governor signed the bill June 20, 2025, and it takes effect January 1, 2026, except Section 16 takes effect September 1, 2025.





### *House Bill 35: Representative Senfronia Thompson*

#### ***Peer Support for First Responders***

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Royce West

**Cosponsor(s):** Senators César Blanco, Juan Hinojosa, and José Menéndez

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 35, Authored by Representative Senfronia Thompson, establishes a peer support network for first responders, including firefighters and emergency medical services personnel. The bill directs the Texas Division of Emergency Management to develop a statewide network that provides peer-to-peer support, suicide prevention training, technical assistance, and access to licensed mental health professionals. Participation in the program is confidential and protected from disciplinary actions. The network must be operational by March 31, 2026, contingent on state funding appropriations.

As a city with a significant number of first responders, Houston would benefit from this bill by promoting mental health support and resilience among its emergency personnel. The peer support network aims to reduce burnout and suicide risk, improve overall well-being, and enhance workforce retention—leading to stronger emergency response capabilities and safer communities.

The City of Houston provided written testimony and registered in support of HB 35 in the House Committee on Public Health on April 14, 2025.

#### **Testimony:**

- [HB 35](#)

The House passed the Senate's amendments on May 28, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 31, 2025. The governor signed the bill on June 20, 2025, and the bill is effective on September 1, 2025.



*Senate Bill 1252: Senator Charles Schwertner*  
***Municipality's Authority to Regulate the Installation or Inspection of Residential Energy Backup Systems***

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Ken King

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1252, authored by Senator Charles Schwertner, limits the authority of municipalities to regulate the installation or inspection of residential energy backup systems. These systems, defined as providing up to 50 kilowatts of electricity or 100 kilowatt hours of storage, are now exempt from municipal electrical code amendments or ordinances that impose local oversight. However, municipally owned utilities retain authority to regulate these systems within their service areas

The bill passed the Senate on May 21, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 22, 2025. The bill was filed without the governor's signature on June 20, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 1202: Senator Phil King*

#### ***Third Party Back Up Power Installation***

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Jay Dean

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 1202, authored by Senator Phil King, allows licensed third parties, including inspectors and master electricians, to review development documents and conduct inspections for home backup power installations without requiring municipal review. Municipalities will be required to post all relevant codes, standards, and fee schedules online or provide them upon request, or else they will forfeit the ability to charge related fees. The bill also limits municipal liability for third-party inspections and requires permits to be issued within three business days of approval notification.

The City of Houston worked with the bill sponsor, Representative Jay Dean, to require document sharing between the third-party reviewer and the municipality. This will allow cities to better understand what back up power systems are available and to better respond to public safety. Additionally, the amendment clarifies that the city is not liable for a third-party review or inspection conducted by a person under this bill.

The Senate concurred the House's amendments on May 26, 2025, and the bill was sent to the governor on May 28, 2025. The governor signed the bill on June 20, 2025. This bill goes into effect September 1, 2025.



## *House Bill 9 and House Joint Resolution 1: Representative Morgan Meyer*

### ***Personal Property Tax Exemption***

<b>Author(s):</b>	Representatives Morgan Meyer, Greg Bonnen, Hillary Hickland, Trey Martinez Fischer, and Diego Bernal
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Representatives Daniel Alders, Trent Ashby, Jeffery Barry, Cecil Bell, Keith Bell, Brad Buckley, Ben Bumgarner, Angie Chen Button, Giovanni Capriglione, David Cook, Philip Cortez, Tom Craddick, Charles Cunningham, Pat Curry, Aicha Davis, Jay Dean, Emilio DeAyala, Mark Dorazio, Paul Dyson, Caroline Fairly, Jame Frank Cassandra Garcia Hernandez, Gary Gates, Stan Gerdes, Charlie Geren, Ryan Guillen, E. Sam Harless, Cody Harris, Caroline Harris Davila, Richardd Hayes, Cole Hefner, Lacey Hull, Carrie Isaac, Helen Kerwin, Stan Kitzman, Stan Lambert, Brooks Landgraf, Jeff Leach, Terri Leo Wilson, Janie Lopez, Ray Lopez, John Lujan, Shelley Luther, Armando Martinez, John McQueeney, Will Metcalf, Brent Money, Matt Morgan Sergio Muñoz, Candy Noble, Tom Oliverson, Angelia Orr, Jared Patterson, Dennis Paul, Katrina Pierson, Mihaela Plesa, Richard Peña Raymond, Keresa Richardson, Mike Schofield, Matt Shaheen, Joanne Shofner, Shelby Slawson, David Spiller, Valoree Swanson, Carl Tepper, Tony Tinderholt, Ellen Troxclair, Gary VanDeaver, Cody Vasut, Trey Wharton, and Terry Wilson
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Senator Paul Bettencourt
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Senators Carol Alvarado, Brian Birdwell, Brandon Creighton, Roland Gutierrez, Adam Hinojosa, Bryan Hughes, Phil King, Lois Kolkhorst, Mayes Middleton, Angela Paxton, Kevin Sparks, and Royce West
<b>Status:</b>	Effective January 1, 2026, pending voter approval

House Bill 9, authored by Representative Morgan Meyer, exempts up to \$125,000 of the appraised value of income-producing tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation. Exemption applies per location or, in certain cases, per taxing unit, and includes leased property and property not located on land owned or leased by the owner. For related business entities forming a unified business enterprise, property values are aggregated at a single location to determine eligibility. The bill also modifies rendering requirements for property tax purposes, allowing owners under the exemption threshold to opt out of full renditions while still certifying eligibility. The exemption is contingent on voter approval of the constitutional amendment HJR 1 and would take effect January 1, 2026.

The filed version of HB 9 exempted up to \$250,000 of the appraised value of income-producing tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation. The City of Houston worked with Senator Bettencourt to reduce it to the exemption, that passed, up to \$125,000.

The House concurred the HB 9's Senate amendments on May 19, 2025, and the bill was sent to the governor on May 22, 2025. The governor signed the bill on June 12, 2025.

House Joint Resolution 1, authored by Representative Meyer, was approved by the House on May 19, 2025, and filed with the secretary of state on May 20, 2025. It will be voted on in the November 4, 2025, election.



*Senate Bill 924: Senator Kelly Hancock*  
**Cable Franchise Fee**

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Charlie Geren

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 924, authored by Senator Kelly Hancock, updates the definition of “video service” in the Utilities Code to clarify which entities providing video programming are regulated under Chapter 66. The bill defines video service as programming delivered via wireline facilities that use public rights-of-way, including internet protocol technology, but explicitly excludes video services provided by commercial mobile service providers, direct-to-home satellite services that do not use public rights-of-way, and video programming accessed through internet-based platforms such as streaming services.

The City of Houston registered its opposition in the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on March 18, 2025.

In the House, the City of Houston led the effort to provide a [one-page document](#) that describes the financial impact of the filed version of SB 924 on multiple cities in Texas. Council Member Julian Ramirez worked with the IGR team to deliver in person testimony on the negative impacts of the bill. The House then provided a House Committee Substitute.

The bill preserves existing obligations for people holding state-issued certificates of franchise authority as of September 1, 2025, requiring them to continue compensating municipalities for the use of public rights-of-way. It also maintains the application of the law to services provided before September 1, 2025, by entities involved in litigation as of January 1, 2025.

Lastly, SB 924 clarifies that municipalities retain their right to bring legal action against certificate holders or non-holders under Chapter 66 in courts with jurisdiction. The Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston’s General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston provided written testimony and registered in opposition of SB 924 for the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on March 18, 2025.



**Testimony:**

- [SB 924](#) (link on website “Not Found”)

The Senate concurred the House’s amendments on May 28, 2025, and the bill was sent to the governor on June 1, 2025. The bill was signed on June 20, 2025, by the governor and is effective September 1, 2025.

## Opposed Bills

While there are many bills that are filed that benefit the City of Houston and its residents, there are just as many bills that would have a negative impact on the way we operate and provide services for Houstonians. These bills are a high priority for the City of Houston and the IGR team, and we dedicate all available resources to fighting these pieces of legislation.

<b>House Bill 111 .....</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>House Bill 2068 .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>House Bill 134 .....</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>House Bill 2767 .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Senate Bill 2858 and 3016 .....</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>House Bill 2844 .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Senate Bill 2623 and 2624 .....</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>House Bill 4272 .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Huse Bill 950 .....</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Senate Bill 617 .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>House Bill 1227 .....</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>Senate Bill 1024 .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>House Bill 23 .....</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Senate Bill 1065 .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Senate Bill 2541 .....</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Senate Bill 2703 .....</b>	<b>62</b>
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### *House Bill 111: Representative Giovanni Capriglione*

#### ***Texas Public Information Act***

<b>Author(s):</b>	Representatives Giovanni Capriglione, Will Metcalf, and Steve Toth
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Representatives Greg Bonnen and John McQueeney
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Senator Bryan Hughes
<b>Cosponsor(s):</b>	Senator Mayes Middleton
<b>Status:</b>	Bill did not pass

House Bill 111, authored by Representative Giovanni Capriglione expands the definition of “governmental bodies” under the Texas Public Information Act (TPIA) to include certain nonprofit organizations that receive public funds and have significant staff size. The bill clarifies that certain parts of entities supported wholly or partially by public funds are subject to public information requests. However, it also creates new exceptions to disclosure, notably shielding certain internal business records of nonprofit associations from public view when it is claimed they constitute trade secrets, proprietary, or financial information. Additionally, it narrows the scope of legal privilege exemptions and reaffirms that legislative communications and Sunset Advisory Commission materials remain outside TPIA’s reach.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston’s Legislative Principle of General Government, therefore the City of Houston provided written testimony for both the House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency on April 9, 2025, and the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on May 23, 2025.

#### **Testimony:**

- [HB 111](#)

The bill passed the House on May 7, 2025, and was advanced from the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on May 26, 2025. The bill did not pass.





### *House Bill 134: Representative Morgan Meyer*

#### ***Sales Tax Destination***

**Author(s):** Representatives Morgan Meyer, Giovanni Capriglione, and Candy Noble

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 134, authored by Representative Morgan Meyer, clarifies where sales are considered consummated for local sales and use-tax purposes in Texas. It defines a retailer's "place of business" as a physical location where orders are received, excluding digital platforms, unless three or more orders occur there annually. The bill introduces "principal business location" as the site where business decision makers conduct daily operations and defines "small business" based on employee count and gross receipts. Sales by small businesses are consumed at their principal business location, while other retailers' sales are consummated where orders are received in person. Retailers with active economic development agreements may elect to report sales tax based on their business or shipping location within the municipality, with this election valid through 2030. The bill becomes effective January 1, 2026.

The bill repeals several prior tax code provisions to align with these changes. Specifically, it repeals Section 3853.202(d) of the Special District Local Laws Code and multiple subsections of Section 323.203 of the Tax Code, including subsections (b), (c), (c-1), (d), (e), (e-1), (f), (g), (g-1), (g-2), (g-3), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (m). These repealed provisions largely governed where sales were consummated for certain municipal sales taxes and related rules on order receipt and fulfillment, now superseded by the updated definitions and rules in House Bill 134.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Therefore, the City of Houston opposes this bill and worked to amend it.

The House committee substitute version of this bill was voted favorably out of the House Ways and Means Committee on May 20, 2025. The bill did not pass.



### *Senate Bill 2858 and 3016: Senator Brandon Creighton* **State Preemption**

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Paul Bettencourt  
**Sponsor(s):** Representative Cecil Bell  
**Status:** Both Bills did not pass

Senate Bill 2858, authored by Senator Brandon Creighton, asserts broad state preemption over municipal and county regulations in Texas, particularly in areas where state law is already present, including commerce, trade, elections, and criminal justice. It prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing rules in these areas unless explicitly authorized by statute. The bill amends both the Elections and Penal Codes to render local regulations void and unenforceable if they touch on state-occupied fields. It also expands Section 102A.002 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, allowing individuals or trade associations to sue local governments over ordinances that conflict with a list of preemption statutes. While the bill claims not to impair basic local functions like road maintenance, tax collection, or public awareness efforts, it introduces strict limitations on local regulatory authority and allows rollback or amendment of ordinances only to bring them into compliance.

The legislation grants the attorney general investigative and enforcement powers and imposes significant financial penalties on local governments during and after litigation. These include withholding sales tax revenue, freezing grant eligibility, and capping property tax rates at the no-new-revenue level during legal proceedings. If the state prevails, these penalties may last for five fiscal years, and the local government's portion of suspended tax funds is forfeited to the general revenue. If the locality wins, it is entitled to the immediate release of withheld funds. Although SB 2858 contains a severability clause and directs constitutional challenges to the Texas Supreme Court, there is concern that it would undermine local autonomy and restrict community-driven policy solutions. The bill takes effect immediately upon a supermajority vote or on September 1, 2025.

SB 3016 mirrors SB 2858 in its overall intent but differs by embedding preemption authority directly into the Local Government Code through the creation of Chapters 40 and 250A. These new chapters broadly prohibit municipalities and counties from regulating in any field already governed by Titles 2 and 7 of the code, unless expressly authorized by statute. Unlike SB 2858, which lists numerous specific state codes as grounds for legal action, SB 3016 narrows this to local laws conflicting with the new Local Government Code provisions. This structure centralizes preemption within local governance statutes, potentially simplifying enforcement while still curtailing local regulatory authority.

This City of Houston believes these two bills are unconstitutional, in conflict with the city's General Government Legislative Principle, and that they would significantly negatively impact the city. These bills are an expansion of a similar bill from the 88th Legislative Session, HB 2127, which was ruled unconstitutional in state court in 2023. For these reasons, the City of Houston opposes SB 2858 and SB 3016.

The City of Houston registered its opposition to SB 2858 in both the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on April 22, 2025, and in the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs on May 13, 2025. The City of Houston had an in-person witness that traveled and stayed until midnight the night of the House Committee hearing to testify, however, around 11:00 PM, the House canceled the rest of the hearing. This bill was voted favorably by the House Committee on May 16, 2025.

The City of Houston registered its opposition to SB 3016 in both the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce on April 22, 2025. There was no House hearing, yet it was voted favorably by the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs on May 16, 2025.

**Testimony:**

- [SB 2858](#)

Neither SB 2858 nor SB 3016 passed.



*Senate Bill 2623 and 2624: Senator Brandon Creighton*  
**Homeless Preemption**

**Sponsor(s);** Representative Cody Harris

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 2623, authored by Senator Brandon Creighton, establishes "school safety zones" and prohibits municipalities, counties, and nonprofit provider organizations from offering homeless services within one and a half miles of schools, playgrounds, or higher education institutions. The bill creates a four-member state-appointed task force to identify violations and recommend licensing requirements for homeless service providers. Noncompliance by local governments or providers can trigger civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per day and severe fiscal consequences, including withholding state tax revenue and prohibiting property tax increases. Unlike related preemption bills, SB 2623 specifically targets homeless services and adds a regulatory layer through task force oversight.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's Homelessness and General Government Legislative Principles, therefore the City of Houston submitted its written testimony in opposition to both SB 2623 and SB 2624 in the Senate Committee on April 7, 2025. The city worked with the author to amend the bills to include exemptions for different service providers like service providers that assist persons experiencing homelessness due to domestic abuse in the home.

The house committee substitute version of this bill was voted favorably from the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs on May 16, 2025, and reported from the committee on May 20, 2025.

**Testimony:**

- [SB 2623](#)
- [SB 2624](#)

The bills did not pass.



*Huse Bill 950: Representative Richard Hayes*  
*Release of Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)*

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 950, authored by Representative Richard Hayes, imposes strict new mandates on municipalities regarding the provision of “full municipal services” to land annexed for full purposes, regardless of landowner consent. Cities would be required to fund and deliver a comprehensive set of services ranging from emergency response to water, wastewater, and road infrastructure within four years of annexation (or by 2029 for prior annexations). It prohibits cities from passing costs onto landowners or requiring them to contribute to land or infrastructure. If a city fails to comply, affected landowners can seek mandatory disannexation through court, with the city bearing the burden of proof.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston’s General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston opposes this bill and worked to amend it. The City of Houston provided written testimony in opposition to the bill in the House Committee on Land and Resource Management on March 20, 2025. The city worked with the author to clarify the applicability of the bill, which was included in the committee substitute.

**Testimony:**

- [HB 950](#)

The house committee substitute version of this bill was voted favorably out of the House Committee on Land and Natural Resources on April 28, 2025. The bill did not pass.



### *House Bill 1227: Representative Gary Gates*

#### ***Solid Waste Management Services Contracts***

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 1227, authored by Representative Gary Gates, caps municipal franchise fees for solid waste management services at 2% of a provider's gross receipts, significantly limiting local revenue flexibility. It also prohibits municipalities from enforcing exclusive franchise agreements for commercial, industrial, or multifamily solid waste services, allowing private entities to contract independently with waste haulers. These provisions undermine local control over service standards, contract oversight, and cost recovery for infrastructure impacts.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government and Environment and Public Utilities Legislative Principles. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition and provided written testimony opposing HB 1227 in the House Committee on Environmental Regulation on April 17, 2025.

#### **Testimony:**

- [HB 1227](#)

This bill was reported favorably from the House Committee on Environmental Regulation on May 12, 2025, and was set on the House Calendar on May 15, 2025. The bill did not pass.



### *House Bill 23: Representative Cody Harris*

#### ***Third Party Permitting***

<b>Athor(s):</b>	Representatives Cody Harris, Todd Hunter, Gary Gates, and Will Metcalf
<b>Coauthor(s):</b>	Representatives Brad Buckley, Briscoe Cain, Charles Cunningham, Cole Hefner, Hillary Hickland, Janie Lopez, Don McLaughlin, Angelia Orr, and David Spiller
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Senator Brandon Creighton
<b>Status:</b>	Bill did not pass

House Bill 23, authored by Representative Cody Harris, expands the ability of developers and property owners to seek third-party review and inspection of development-related documents, such as plats, construction plans, and site development applications rather than relying solely on municipal staff. The bill allows licensed engineers and certified inspectors to conduct these reviews, and their determinations must be accepted by local regulatory authorities unless found to be unlawful or noncompliant.

The City of Houston along with other cities, collaborated with the author to identify ways to ensure public health and safety while avoiding delays in development. With municipal feedback, Chairman Harris put forward amendments that require third party inspectors to share development documents with the municipality, that allow municipalities to continue to enforce regulations that relate to water and stormwater permitting, that preserve the city's ability to require a final inspection by the regulating authority, that allow regulatory authorities to ban third party reviewers that violate the chapter, and that clarify that the person or agency conducting the review and inspection are liable for damages resulting from the person's acts or omissions in conducting that inspection.

The bill passed the House on April 30, 2025. The bill was left pending action from the Senate Committee on Local Government. The bill did not pass.



*Senate Bill 2541: Senator Paul Bettencourt*

***Changes to Unused Increment Rate Formula for Taxing Units***

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Cody Vasut

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 2541, authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, modifies the calculation of the “unused increment rate” for taxing units by redefining the tax years used in the formula. The bill specifies that “Year 1” refers to the second tax year preceding the current tax year, and “Year 2” refers to the tax year immediately preceding the current tax year. It removes the previous inclusion of a third year from the calculation and changes the formula to divide the sum of foregone revenue amounts from Year 1 and Year 2 by the current total taxable value. This change impacts how taxing units determine the portion of unused taxing authority that can be utilized in setting property tax rates. The bill also repeals Section 26.013(a)(5) of the Tax Code and takes effect January 1, 2026, applying to tax years starting January 1, 2027, and later.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston’s General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition and provided written testimony in opposition to SB 2541 in the House Committee on Ways and Means on May 19, 2025.

**Testimony:**

- [SB 2541](#)

The bill passed the Senate on May 6, 2025. It was reported favorably out of the House Committee on May 22, 2025, and was set on the House Calendar on May 26, 2025. The bill did not pass.





## *House Bill 1228: Representative Gary Gates*

### ***Emergency Repairs***

**Author(s):** Representatives Gary Gates, Jared Patterson, Terry Canales, Armando Martinez, and Jeff Leach

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Ben Bumgarner, Pat Curry, Drew Darby, Mark Dorazio, Paul Dyson, Ryan Guillen, E. Sam Harless, Cody Harris, Richard Hayes, Carl Hefner, Hillary Hickland, Janis Holt, Lacey Hull, Mitch Little, Oscar Longoria, A.J. Louderback, J.M. Lozano, Shelley Luther, Don McLaughlin, Terry Meza, Brent Money, Matt Morgan, Sergio Muñoz, Tom Oliverson, Claudia Ordaz, Dennis Paul, Richard Peña Raymond, Ron Reynolds, John Smithee, James Talarico, Carl Tepper, Senfronia Thompson, Ellen Troxclair, Cody Vasut, Hubert Vo, and Terry Wilson

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 1228, authored by Representative Gary Gates, requires municipalities and counties to allow owners of damaged residential buildings to begin emergency repairs without first obtaining a permit, as long as the repairs are necessary to protect public safety, prevent further damage, or maintain structural integrity, and do not qualify as new construction or substantial improvements. Property owners must apply for an emergency permit within three business days after starting repairs or once the local government is able to accept the application.

The bill allows local governments to conduct inspections to ensure code compliance and clarifies that it does not override other state or federal health and safety requirements. It prohibits the governor from exempting localities from these provisions and waives governmental immunity, permitting property owners to sue municipalities or counties for damages if repair efforts are improperly blocked.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston’s General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition and provided written testimony opposing the filed version of the bill at the House Land and Resource Management Committee on March 20, 2025.

### **Testimony:**

- [HB 1228](#)

A committee substitute was voted favorably on March 27, 2025, and reported from committee as substituted on April 3, 2025. The bill was set on the House Calendar on May 14, 2025. The bill did not pass.



### *House Bill 2068: Representative Dennis Paul*

#### ***Flood Control District Governance***

**Author(s):** Representatives Dennis Paul, Charles Cunningham, Emilio DeAyala, and Valoree Swanson

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Jeffery Barry, Cecil Bell, Ben Bumgarner, Briscoe Cain, James Frank, Gary Gates, Richard Hayes, Janis Holt, Terri Leo Wilson, Tom Oliverson, Angelia Orr, Steve Toth, and Cody Vasut

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 2068, authored by Representative Dennis Paul, proposes significant amendments to the governance and operational framework of the Harris County Flood Control District. It establishes the district as a governmental agency responsible for managing flood control, including the control, storage, and distribution of storm and flood waters. A new governing body structure is introduced, with board members appointed by the governor and designated roles such as presiding officer, secretary, and treasurer. The district's boundaries are defined to align with Harris County, with provisions allowing the inclusion of adjacent counties through petition and voter approval.

Additionally, the bill expands the district's powers to acquire property, hire personnel, and collaborate with federal and local entities. It outlines procedures for issuing bonds to finance flood control projects, requiring public hearings and voter approval. The legislation amends existing laws by replacing references to "County" with "District" to clarify governance and specifies that bonds will be issued in the district's name. It authorizes the use of state-donated tax funds for flood control improvements.

The bill grants the district eminent domain powers for property acquisition without requiring bond posting, allows the use of public property for flood control purposes subject to existing rights, and establishes a new governance structure ensuring continuity of appointed board members until successors are qualified.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition to the bill in House Committee on Natural Resources on April 9, 2025.

This bill was laid out for consideration in the House Committee on Natural Resources and was pending committee action as of April 9, 2025. The bill did not pass.



*House Bill 2767: Representative Brooks Landgraf*  
***Online Global Market Place***

**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 2767, authored by Representative Brooks Landgraf, introduces regulations for online global marketplaces in Texas by adding Chapter 121 to the Business and Commerce Code. The bill defines an online global marketplace as a platform that facilitates transactions for goods or services in Texas, is not regulated by the state, and provides various services such as payment systems, communication of offers, and infrastructure for connecting users. Additionally, it includes provisions for virtual currencies and software development related to these activities.

The bill also prohibits local governments from regulating online global marketplaces or requiring them to disclose personally identifiable information of users without an administrative subpoena or court order. The act is set to take effect on September 1, 2025.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. This bill would have preempted the City of Houston's recently adopted short term rental ordinance. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition and provided written testimony to the bill at the House Committee on State Affairs on April 2, 2025.

**Testimony:**

- [HB 2767](#)

A committee substitute was voted favorably on April 16, 2025, and reported from committee as substituted on April 23, 2025. The bill did not pass.



### *House Bill 2844: Representative Brooks Landgraf*

#### ***Regulations for Mobile Food Vendors and Small-Scale Food Businesses***

**Author(s):** Representatives Brooks Landgraf and Richard Peña Raymond

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Lois Kolkhorst

**Status:** Some penalties effective September 1, 2025

House Bill 2844, authored by Representative Brooks Landgraf, introduces new statewide regulations for small-scale food businesses and mobile food vendors in Texas. It exempts small food businesses making under \$1.5 million annually from permit and fee requirements if they hold a manufacturer's permit or license, while prohibiting local authorities from imposing conflicting rules. The bill creates a licensing system for mobile food vendors, categorizing them into three types based on the complexity of food handling. All vendors must obtain a state license and submit their operating locations for inspection purposes. The bill requires randomized health inspections and establishes a statewide database to track vendors and inspection results.

It outlines conditions under which licenses can be denied, suspended, or revoked, including fraud or multiple violations, and imposes penalties for operating with a suspended or revoked license. Local authorities can conduct inspections only through agreements with the state and must be reimbursed for costs.

The bill delays the licensing requirement for mobile vendors until July 1, 2026, mandates rule adoption by May 1, 2026, and sets most provisions to take effect July 1, 2026, with some penalties effective September 1, 2025.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition to the bill at the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on May 21, 2025.

This bill passed both chambers on May 29 and was sent to the governor on June 1. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025.



*House Bill 4272: Representative Jared Patterson*  
***Municipal Relocation of Utility Facilities at Local Expense***  
**Status:** Bill did not pass

House Bill 4272, authored by Representative Jared Patterson, amends the Utilities Code to allow municipalities in Texas to require certificated telecommunications utilities and holders of state-issued certificates of franchise authority to relocate their facilities within municipal public rights-of-way. The relocation must be at the municipality's expense and is intended to facilitate street widening, straightening, or other municipal projects. The bill specifies that the municipality must provide at least 30 days' notice before the relocation is required and must specify the new location for the facility along the right-of-way.

Key provisions of the bill include clarifying that the municipality, rather than the utility, is responsible for the costs of relocation. Additionally, the bill modifies the language around the 30-day notice requirement, replacing the previous phrasing of "30 days' notice" with the specific requirement for notice to be given at least 30 days before the relocation. The bill is scheduled to take effect on September 1, 2025.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle as it creates an unfunded mandate. Given this, the City of Houston provided written testimony opposing the bill and registered its opposition to the bill in the House subcommittee on Telecommunications and Broadband on April 14, 2025.

**Testimony:**

- [HB 4272](#)

The bill was left pending in the House. The bill did not pass.



***Senate Bill 617: Senator Charles Schwertner***  
***Regulation Concerning the Conversion of Property to House Homeless Populations***

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Caroline Harris Davila

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

Senate Bill 617, authored by Senator Charles Schwertner, introduces new regulations regarding the conversion of municipal properties to house homeless individuals. It establishes Chapter 255 in the Local Government Code, requiring a municipality's governing body to hold a public hearing at least 90 days before converting any property under its control for this purpose. The hearing must occur within a one-mile radius of the property, and notice must be mailed to all residences and businesses within that radius at least 36 hours in advance. Individuals entitled to notice may seek injunctive relief in district court if the municipality fails to comply.

The bill also states that in case of conflict, Chapter 255 overrides any municipal charter provisions on this issue. These requirements do not apply to conversions for temporary shelter or housing during natural disasters, declared emergencies, or other life-threatening situations.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's addressing homelessness legislative principle. Given this, the City of Houston communicated its concerns to members of the Senate Committee on Local Government on March 17, 2025.

This bill passed both chambers on May 14, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 15, 2025. It was signed by the governor on May 27, 2025.



*Senate Bill 1024: Senator Paul Bettencourt*

***Restrictions on Issuance of Anticipation Notes and Certificates of Obligation***

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Kevin Sparks

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Giovanni Capriglione

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 1024, authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, amends the Government Code and Local Government Code to regulate the issuance of anticipation notes and certificates of obligation by governing bodies. The bill introduces new restrictions on anticipation notes, prohibiting their issuance to pay contractual obligations if a bond proposition for the same purpose was rejected by voters in the last five years, or if the total amount of the note exceeds 5% of the issuer's total outstanding bonded indebtedness, including principal and interest. Exceptions are allowed for cases involving natural disasters, court orders, or compliance with federal or state regulations.

The bill also aligns the issuance of certificates of obligation with the new five-year voter approval requirement and clarifies that the prohibition on using ad valorem taxes for repayment does not apply under this section. These changes will apply only to anticipation notes or certificates authorized after the bill's effective date of September 1, 2025.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition to the bill at the House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services on May 12, 2025.

A committee substitute was reported favorably from committee on May 22, 2025, and a committee report was distributed and sent to calendars on May 25, 2025. The bill did not pass.



### *Senate Bill 1065: Senator Bob Hall*

#### ***Regulation of Handgun Carrying Provisions in Government Contracts***

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Brandon Creighton and Brent Hagenbuch

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Dade Phelan

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 1065, authored by Senator Bob Hall, mandates that contracts between governmental entities and contractors involving the use of property must include a provision stating that contractors cannot prohibit licensed handgun holders from entering or remaining on the property, unless explicitly prohibited by Section 46.03, Penal Code, or other law.

Contractors who violate this provision will face civil penalties. \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the first offense and \$10,000 to \$10,500 for subsequent violations. Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense. Additionally, the bill outlines a process for residents or license holders to file complaints with the attorney general, who must investigate violations. If the contractor does not cure the violation within three business days of notice, the attorney general may take legal action to collect penalties or seek equitable relief.

The civil penalties collected will be directed to the compensation to victims of crime fund. The bill applies only to contracts entered into, renewed, or modified after its effective date. Contracts signed before the effective date are not affected unless they are renewed or modified after that date.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's Public Safety Legislative Principle. The City of Houston worked with Houston First and other municipalities to provide amendments that would ensure safety in locations where alcohol was being sold to the public, but no amendments were made.

This bill passed the Senate on April 30, 2025, and was reported favorably from the House Committee on State Affairs on May 20, 2025. This bill was stalled in the House Calendars Committee and did not pass.





*Senate Bill 2703: Senator Brandon Creighton*

***Regulation of Condominiums by Municipalities and Counties***

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Tom Oliverson

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 2703, authored by Senator Brandon Creighton, amends Section 82.006 of the Property Code to clarify and limit the authority of municipalities and counties in regulating condominiums. It prohibits local ordinances, building codes, or regulations from banning the condominium form of ownership or imposing requirements on condominiums that are not also imposed on comparable developments under other ownership structures.

The bill also establishes that a condominium declaration is not considered a subdivision of land under Chapters 212, 232, or 242 of the Local Government Code. Consequently, local governments may not require a subdivision plat for the creation or modification of a condominium. These provisions apply only to condominium declarations recorded on or after September 1, 2025. Declarations filed before that date remain subject to prior law.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the city of Houston communicated its concerns with the Senate and House delegation SB 2703.

This bill was reported favorably from the Senate Committee on Land and Resource Management on May 19, 2025, and failed to pass to a third reading on May 27, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 2529: Senator Paul Bettencourt*

#### ***Unused Increment***

**Coauthor(s):** Senators Kelly Hancock, Adam Hinojosa, and Lois Kolkhorst

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Mayes Middleton

**Status:** Bill did not pass

Senate Bill 2529, authored by Senator Bettencourt, amends the Government Code, Tax Code, and Water Code to establish supermajority voting requirements for certain fiscal decisions by Texas taxing units and political subdivisions. The bill mandates that the issuance of general obligation bonds by a political subdivision requires approval by at least 60 percent of its governing body members. Additionally, when a taxing unit or water district seeks to adopt an annual ad valorem tax rate exceeding the voter-approval tax rate in the tax year following an unsuccessful voter proposition on such a rate, at least 75 percent of the governing body or board members must approve the tax rate by record vote.

These new voting thresholds establish higher approval requirements for tax rate increases and bond issuances following voter rejection. The provisions apply only to authorized bonds and tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, the effective date of the bill.

This bill conflicts with the City of Houston's General Government Legislative Principle. Given this, the City of Houston registered its opposition to the bill at the House Ways and Means Committee on May 19, 2025.

The bill was reported favorably from committee and sent to calendars on May 22, 2025. The bill did not pass.

## Neutral Bills

While the City of Houston remained neutral on the following bills, their passage impact city operations.

<b>House Bill 1522 .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Senate Bill 1883.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Senate Bill 1844.....</b>	<b>67</b>



### *House Bill 1522: Representative Stan Gerdes*

#### ***Updates to Open Meetings Notice and Budget Disclosure Requirements***

**Coauthor(s):** Representatives Aicha Davis, Richard Hayes, Helen Kerwin, Marc LaHood, Janie Lopez, Penny Morales Shaw, and Matt Morgan

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Lois Kolkhorst

**Cosponsor(s):** Senator Mayes Middleton

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

**Position:** Neutral

House Bill 1522, authored by Representative Gerdes, modifies Section 551.043 of the Government Code by extending the required notice period for meetings held under the Texas Open Meetings Act of a minimum of 72 hours to at least three business days before the scheduled meeting. The bill also introduces additional requirements for meetings where a governmental body will discuss or adopt a budget. Specifically, the meeting notice must include either a physical copy of the proposed budget or a clearly accessible link to the budget on the governmental body's website. Furthermore, the notice must contain a taxpayer impact statement comparing the property tax bill for a median-valued homestead in the current fiscal year to the estimated bill for the upcoming fiscal year.

These new notice and disclosure requirements do not apply to the governing boards of general academic teaching institutions or university systems governed by Section 551.1281.

This bill passed both chambers on May 28, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 31, 2025. It was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025. It is scheduled to take effect on September 1, 2025.



### *Senate Bill 1883: Senator Bettencourt*

#### ***Amendment of Impact Fees, Capital Improvement Plans, and Land Use***

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Lois Kolkhorst  
**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Daniel Alders, Brad Buckley and Paul Dyson  
**Cosponsor(s):** Representatives David Spiller  
**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025  
**Position:** Neutral

Senate Bill 1883, authored by Senator Paul Bettencourt, revises procedures around the adoption and amendment of impact fees, modifies multiple sections of Chapter 395 of the Local Government Code to expand public transparency and impose additional requirements on political subdivisions. Among the key changes, the bill increases the public notice period from the date of the hearing on land use assumptions and capital improvements plans from “on or before” to at least 60 days in advance. It also extends the timeline for a governing body to adopt a public hearing on plan updates from 60 to 120 days and raises the minimum private-sector representation on the impact fee advisory committee from 40% to 50%.

The bill imposes a three-year moratorium on increasing adopted impact fees and requires an independent financial audit before a political subdivision can adopt a new or increased impact fee in an area with a previously adopted fee. The audit must be completed by a licensed CPA with no prior financial ties to the political subdivision and must be made publicly available 30 days before the required notice and adoption steps. The bill also gives the Attorney General authority to bring actions on behalf of property owners related to contesting or refunding impact fees.

The Senate concurred the House’s amendments on May 21, 2025, and the bill was sent to the governor on May 22, 2025. SB 1883 was signed by the governor on June 20, 2025, and is effective on September 1, 2025.



## Senate Bill 1844: Senator Angela Paxton

### Disannexation of Areas of a Municipality due to Failure to Provide Services

**Coauthor(s):** Senator Mayes Middleton

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Tom Craddick, Drew Darby, Ken King, and Jared Patterson

**Status:** Effective September 1, 2025

**Position:** Neutral

Senate Bill 1844, authored by Senator Angela Paxton, expands the authority of property owners to petition for disannexation from a municipality if services are not provided as promised. The bill strengthens legal pathways for residents in annexed areas - including those adjacent to navigable waterways - to request removal from city limits if the municipality fails to deliver water, wastewater, or other required services within the legally required timeframe. The bill also outlines specific petition procedures, public notice requirements, and allows for expedited legal review.

Specific to Houston, this bill increases the city's accountability in meeting service obligations to annexed areas. With portions of the city adjacent to major navigable waterways and ongoing annexation-related challenges, this bill could expose Houston to new legal vulnerabilities if infrastructure commitments are unmet - particularly for water and wastewater projects. It underscores the need for improved annexation planning, service delivery, and monitoring to avoid potential disannexation petitions, legal costs, and revenue loss.

The bill passed the Senate on May 15, 2025, and was sent to the governor on May 16, 2025. The governor signed the bill on May 28, 2025, and it takes effect September 1, 2025.

## Appropriations

This last section provides details on the multiple state appropriations that the City of Houston was successful in securing. These appropriations were made both directly to the City of Houston and to area partners that support the city.

### Water Projects

In alignment with the City's Legislative Principle of supporting water infrastructure investments, the City of Houston targeted appropriations that would support the Houston Water system.

#### ***Miscellaneous Provisions – Supplemental Budget – HB 500***

##### ***Sec. 17.18. Texas Water Development Board: Direction for Specific Water Infrastructure, Flood, Wastewater, and Supply Projects and Grants Funded in House Bill 500***

Contingent upon the enactment of House Bill 500 or similar legislation relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations by the Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, the Texas Water Development Board shall use \$581,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund appropriated in HB 500, Section 6.02(c), to provide funding for the following infrastructure, flood, wastewater, and supply projects in the following amounts:

Unexpended balance authority remaining from appropriations made in the General Appropriations Act, 88th Legislature, Article IX, Sec. 17.42, Accumulated Siltation at Lake Houston, (estimated to be \$50,000,000) is appropriated for the same purpose

In the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the State appropriated \$50,000,000 for the purposes of dredging in Lake Houston. This rider secures any remaining unused funding for the next two years.

**Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Charles Cunningham

**Councilmember:** Fred Flickenger, Council District E

#### **\$100,000,000 for Lynchburg Pump Station**

The Lynchburg Pump Station provides all raw water to the entire ship channel, to over 600 manufacturing and petrochemical facilities, and to 60% of the region. This rider serves to create additional redundancy and to upgrade facilities.

**Sponsoring State Legislators:** Senator Paul Bettencourt and Representative Emilio DeAyala

#### **\$60,000,000 for Lake Livingston Dam Improvement**

This rider provides funding to the Trinity River Authority for the purposes of improving and repairing the Lake Livingston Dam. The City of Houston owns a majority of this lake and but for this rider would have been required to pay for all repairs to the dam caused by the major flooding in 2024.

#### **\$5,000,000 for Spring Shadows Drainage and Paving Project**

The rider provides funding to the City of Houston for the purposes of improving drainage in the Spring Shadows community.

**Sponsoring State Legislators:** Representative Lacey Hull

### **Parks**

The City of Houston, in collaboration with the Houston Parks Board, was successful in securing appropriations for 12 different parks across the City of Houston.

#### ***Article VI – Parks and Wildlife Department Miscellaneous Provisions***

##### ***43. Local Parks Grants***

Amounts appropriated above to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Strategy B.2.1, Local Parks Grants, include \$20,800,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2026 for grants for the following local parks in the following amounts. Any unobligated and unexpended balances appropriated from the General Revenue Fund for these grants as of August 31, 2026, are appropriated for the same purpose in the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2026

#### **\$2,000,000 - Melrose Park**

**Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Armando Walle

**Councilmember:** Mario Castillo, Council District H

#### ***Miscellaneous Provisions – Supplemental Budget – HB 500***

##### ***Sec. 17.17. Parks and Wildlife Department: Direction for Local Park Grants for Specific Recreational Facilities Funded in House Bill 500.***

Contingent upon the enactment of House Bill 500 or similar legislation relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations by the Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, the Parks and Wildlife Department shall use \$60,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund appropriated in HB 500, Section 6.08, to provide local park grants for the following recreational facilities in the following amounts:

#### **\$1,000,000 – Dylan Duncan Memorial Skate Park**

**Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Charles Cunningham

**Councilmember:** Fred Flickenger, Council District E



**\$1,000,000 – Haden Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Lacey Hull**Councilmember:** Amy Peck, Council District A**\$1,000,000 – Agnes Moffit Park Pool****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Lacey Hull**Councilmember:** Amy Peck, Council District A**\$1,000,000 – Andover Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Jolanda Jones**Councilmember:** Joaquin Martinez, Council District I**\$1,000,000 – Montie Beach Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Christina Morales**Councilmember:** Mario Castillo, District H**\$1,000,000 – Meadowcreek Village Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Mary Ann Perez**Councilmember:** Charles Cunningham, Council District E**\$1,000,000 – Zollie Scales Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Lauren Ashley Simmons**Councilmember:** Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, Council District D**\$3,000,000 – Tidwell Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Senfronia Thompson**Councilmember:** Tarsha Jackson, Council District B**\$2,000,000 – Warren Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Armando Walle**Councilmember:** Mario Castillo, Council District H**\$1,000,000 – E.L. Crain Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Gene Wu**Councilmember:** Edward Pollard, Council District J**\$2,000,000 – Bordersville Park****Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Senfronia Thompson**Councilmember:** Tarsha Jackson, Council District B

## Public Safety

The City of Houston was successful in securing 2 appropriations that support public safety.

### ***Police Vehicles – Trusteed Programs within the Office of the governor 57.***

**Local Law Enforcement Equipment.** Included in amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice, is \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 from the General Revenue Fund. It is the intent of the legislature that the Trusteed Programs Within the Office of the governor provide grants to the Houston Police Department for the purchase of 200 police vehicles. Funds specified in this rider shall not be expended for any other purpose. Any unobligated and unexpended balances of these funds remaining as of August 31, 2026, are appropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2026

**\$10,000,000 – Houston Police Department**

### ***Article V – Department of Criminal Justice***

**Statewide Reentry Services Pilot Programs.** Included in the amounts appropriated above are \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the General Revenue Fund to establish and operate a statewide pilot program for reentry services to offenders released from TDCJ facilities who are returning to the community. The programs shall at a minimum implement reentry service in the City of Houston and through a competitive award process in the Dallas metropolitan area, which may include agreements with non-profit entities, faith-based organizations, community groups, and the private sector for the provision of reentry services. TDCJ shall report on the recidivism rate and effectiveness of each program to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor no later than January 1 of each fiscal year.

**\$5,000,000 – City of Houston and City of Dallas**

## Transportation – Railroad Grad Separation and Railroad Pedestrian Crossing

The City of Houston was successful in securing three appropriations that support transportation.

### ***Article VII – Department of Transportation***

#### **Sergio Ivan Rodriguez Memorial Pedestrian Bridge Project.**

Out of amounts appropriated above to the Department of Transportation in Strategy A.1.4, Construction Contracts, the amount of \$10,000,000 in General Revenue Funds for the 2026-27 biennium is to be used for the purpose of funding the design and construction of the Sergio Ivan Rodriguez Memorial Pedestrian Bridge at the Union Pacific rail line located in the vicinity of Milby High School in Houston, Texas, to provide a safe crossing for students and other pedestrians.

**\$10,000,000 – Houston Public Works Department**

**Sponsoring State Legislator:** Senators Robert Nichols and Carol Alvarado/  
Representative Christina Morales

**Councilmember:** Joaquin Martinez, Council District I

#### **Railroad Grade Crossing Bridge Project at Little York Road and Hirsch Road.**

Out of the amounts appropriated above to the Department of Transportation in Strategy A.1.4, Construction Contracts, the amount of \$5,000,000 in General Revenue Funds for the 2026-27 biennium is to be used for the purpose of funding the planning, development, and construction of a bridge at the railroad grade crossing at Little York Road and Hirsch Road in Houston.

**\$5,000,000 – Houston Public Works Department**

**Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Senfronia Thomson

**Councilmember:** Tarsha Jackson, Council District B

**Railroad Grade Crossing Bridge Project at Tidwell Road and Hirsch Road.** Out of amounts appropriated above to the Department of Transportation in Strategy A.1.4, Construction Contracts, the amount of \$5,000,000 in General Revenue Funds for the 2026-27 biennium is to be used for the purpose of funding the planning, development, and construction of a bridge at the railroad grade crossing at Tidwell Road and Hirsch Road in Houston.

**\$5,000,000 – Houston Public Works Department**

**Sponsoring State Legislator:** Representative Senfronia Thomson

**Councilmember:** Tarsha Jackson, Council District B and Mario Castillo, Council District I

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