



TEXAS CHEMISTRY COUNCIL

2025
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE



TEXAS CHEMISTRY COUNCIL

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MISSION STATEMENT

To create a globally competitive environment for the chemical industry in Texas
in a manner that is positive for the State and its people.

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TEXAS CHEMISTRY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Texas Chemistry Council's legislative advocacy efforts would not have been successful without the active participation and support of our Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee began its work in the fall prior to session by developing issues of importance to the chemical industry and reaching out to key legislators on various issues. Throughout the legislative session, the Legislative Committee met weekly to discuss priority issues and legislative strategy. The Legislative Committee members worked tirelessly, attending committee hearings late into many evenings and working assigned legislators on key votes. Our Legislative Committee's contribution to the process is invaluable, and the Council is fortunate to have such hard-working and talented individuals representing the chemical industry in Texas.

Sam Gammage (Chair), Dow
Martha Landwehr (Vice Chair), BASF
Zach Adamson, OCI
Quinn Alexander, Nouryon
Lisa Anderson (Consultant: Shell)
Matthew Anderson, Air Liquide
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Paresh Bhatka, Nouryon
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Craig Cookson, Covestro
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Joe Fawell, Air Liquide
Heather Fitzgerald, CITGO
Phillip Fordham, Celanese
Jeff Fritz, Chemours
Ross Giesinger, (Consultant: Air Liquide)
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Leo Guglielmi, Indorama
Kevin Gundersen, Huntsman
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David Kunz, Arkema
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Mia McCord, TCC
Kolton McDougald, TCC
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MaryJane Mudd, EHCMA
Chris Noonan, Covestro
Trip Oliver, Air Products & Chemicals
Samantha Omev, ExxonMobil
Shea Pearson, (Consultant: Air Products & Chemicals, Alcoa, Celanese, Covestro, Eastman, Flint Hills, Koch, INVISTA)
Charley Poe, Eastman
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Brian Riley, Goodyear Chemical
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Christina Wisdom (Consultant: Oxy)
Robert Wood (Consultant: TCC Tax)
Dani Woodrum, Eastman
Jared Young, ExxonMobil

TEXAS CHEMISTRY COUNCIL
BILL ANALYSTS

During the 89th Legislative Session, TCC relied on our issue experts from our member companies to help review and provide feedback on bills of interest. TCC would like to thank all our bill analysts for their time and expertise in helping to ensure a successful legislative session for our industry.

April Andrews, Chevron Phillips Chemical
Chad Burke, Economic Alliance
Katie Coleman, Electricity Policy Consulting
Phillip Fordham, Celanese
Sam Gammage, Dow
Sherman Hampton, Dow
Martha Landwehr, BASF
Mike Meroney, Meroney Public Affairs
Chris Noonan, Covestro
Rohit Sharma, LyondellBasell
Jeff Suggs, Kuraray
Maria Valdez, Dow
Robert Wood, Tax & Fiscal Consulting

89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

OVERVIEW

The 89th Texas Legislature convened on January 14, 2025, and adjourned *sine die* on June 2, 2025. There were many issues of importance for our industry deliberated during the legislative session, including tax policy, water policy, electricity policy, environmental regulation, product regulation, and workforce development. The Texas Chemistry Council (TCC) has been a strong advocate for our industry at the Capitol and working with lawmakers to maintain a globally competitive environment for the chemical industry in Texas. Despite a very challenging session, we have advocated for good policies and have stood firm against proposals that could harm our industry.

The political landscape in our state has shifted dramatically and traditional ideologies have morphed, flipped, and defied conventional wisdom. Driven more and more by social media and populist ideologies, the Republican led Legislature has increasingly prioritized social and cultural issues like immigration, foreign ownership, split-roll tax policies, school choice, anti-renewable energy policies, reproductive rights, and a distrust of traditional institutions including corporations and higher education. Less of a priority, are business issues that attract new investment, create jobs, provide regulatory certainty, support sustainability, and prevent lawsuit abuse.

The Texas House and Senate have had a Republican majority since 2003. The Republican party platform gradually shifted with the emergence of the Tea Party movement in 2009 with a greater focus on less government - lower taxes and less government spending. Much of this movement was driven by a growing suburban Republican electorate across the country and the use of social media that has shaped public opinion on social issues. Over the past 10 years, the Tea Party movement has evolved to a more nationalist and populist movement. This evolution is a reflection of changing voter priorities, national political trends, and strategic realignment within the Republican party. Today, there is less focus on fiscal conservatism and more of a focus on state intervention in social and cultural issues.

The Texas Senate has 31 members - 20 Republicans and 11 Democrats. The Texas House of Representatives is made up of 150 members - 88 Republicans and 62 Democrats.

The 2025 Legislative Session set a new record number of bills filed but has had a lower-than-normal passage rate. Legislators filed a total of 9,208 bills and resolutions - nearly 1,000 more bills than in the 2023 Legislative Session. Of those 9,208 bills and resolutions, 1,259 bills passed (15%). Historically, the passage rate is closer to 20%.

TCC tracked and analyzed over 1,800 bills this Session. TCC provided industry testimony before House and Senate committees and was actively involved in negotiations on many legislative issues.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 9,208 bills and resolutions filed by legislators (A new state record)
- 1,295 bills will become Texas law
- 14% Passage Rate
- The Senate passed 19% of their bills
- The House passed 11% of their bills.
- 1,332 bills and resolutions were sent to the Governor
- 56% of House bills did not get a hearing in the House
- 59% of Senate did not get a hearing in the Senate.

BILL STATISTICS AND COMPARISONS

Bill Type	Range	Democrat		Republican		Total		
		Filed	Passed	Filed	Passed	Filed	Sent to Gov	
House Bills	HB 1 - HB 5702	2354	138	3290	481	5644	619	11%
House Concurrent Resolutions	HCR 5 - HCR 172	28	10	140	86	168	96	57%
House Joint Resolutions	HJR 1 - HJR 218	75	1	133	7	208	8	4%
Senate Bills	SB 1 - SB 3075	1232	158	1843	436	3075	594	19%
Senate Concurrent Resolutions	SCR 1 - SCR 58	17	10	41	18	58	28	48%
Senate Joint Resolutions	SJR 1 - SJR 87	33	0	54	10	87	10	11%
Total		3739	317	5501	1038	9240	1355	15%

On January 13th, Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar released his Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE). Hegar announced that \$194.6 billion was available to the Legislature to create a state budget for the 2026-27 fiscal biennium. The majority of general revenue for the state budget is derived from sales tax, oil production severance tax, motor-vehicle taxes, franchise tax, and natural gas tax.

On January 14th, the 89th Texas Legislature convened, and the House of Representatives began with a rare, contested election for Speaker of the House. Representative Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) was elected Speaker, defeating Representative David Cook (R-Mansfield) after two rounds of voting. In the Texas Senate, Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) was elected President Pro Tempore; a ceremonial post for a senior member of the Senate each legislative session.

On February 2nd, Governor Greg Abbott delivered his State of the State address. During his State of the State, Governor Abbott announced seven “Emergency Items.” The Legislature is constitutionally prohibited from passing any legislation during the first sixty days except for Emergency Items identified by the Governor. The seven emergency items were: Property Tax Relief, Dedicated Funding for New Water and Water Infrastructure, Teacher Pay Raises, Career Training Programs, School Choice, Bail Reform, and the Creation of the Texas Cyber Command.

Governor Abbott was successful in getting legislation passed addressing each of his priorities.

While the Speaker of the House was elected by a bipartisan majority of over 100 votes, there was a small group of republican members known as the Freedom Caucus, that regularly criticized the Speaker and disrupted House proceedings, prolonging debates and heightening tensions within the House.

In mid-May, Representative Brian Harrison, a strong critic of the House Speaker, filed a resolution to “vacate the chair”— a procedural attempt to remove the Speaker from his position. Harrison claimed that Speaker Burrows had betrayed the will of republican voters by not taking quick action to pass republican party priorities. On a vote of 141-2, the motion was quickly tabled, squashing the coupe attempt to remove the Speaker.

TCC stayed above the fray advocating for the interests of the business of chemistry, its employees, and the billions of people whose lives are made better through the innovations and products made by chemistry.

TCC advocated for efforts to provide equitable tax relief for our industry. We advanced initiatives for tax incentives to attract new industry investment and Research & Development investment to our state. TCC advocated for a dedicated funding source for new water projects and improvements to aging water infrastructure. We promoted legislation to improve recycling infrastructure and create a recycling fund to support grants for new technologies and recycling investment. We fought to ensure reliability and affordability of our electric grid. TCC also advocated for additional funding for our Community Colleges and the Texas State Technical College.

Among TCC's top initiatives was legislation to make improvements to the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovations (JETI). This bill (HB 105) would enhance the JETI program's competitiveness for new industry investment in Texas. While we knew there was little legislative support for making changes to the program after its first year, TCC felt it important to deliver a message that the JETI program was not competitive with incentives offered by other competing states and countries. Hopefully, more compelling data will be available next session to warrant legislative action.

Another major initiative for TCC was extending the Research and Development Tax Credit (SB 2206). SB 2206 by Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would reestablish the R&D Franchise Tax Credit for businesses making such investment in our state. TCC and other trade associations formed Texans for Innovation to organize broad industry support for renewing the R&D Tax Credit before its scheduled expiration at the end of 2026. We worked closely with the State Comptroller to make needed improvements to the program and successfully passed the legislation at the very end of session. TCC thanks Senator Bettencourt for his sponsorship of this important legislation.

Another important TCC priority was water funding. TCC worked with other trades to push for a dedicated funding stream for new water projects and improvements to water infrastructure. TCC testified in the House and Senate about the importance of water to maintain operational efficiency and attract new industry investment. HJR 7 will allow voters to authorize \$1 Billion annually from sales and use tax for water funding through 2047. SB 7 provides regulatory direction to the Texas Water Development Fund for the administration of those funds for new water projects and infrastructure improvements, equally. The Legislature also approved a one-time investment of \$2.5 billion to jumpstart the effort for new water projects.

Another TCC initiative was recycling (HB 4839 / SB 2689). HB 4839 would establish the Texas Recycling Market Development Program within the TCEQ to help modernize our state's recycling system and improve the collection and separation of recycled materials. While we received a hearing in both chambers, there was strong opposition from the beer industry, package stores, and soft drink industry. While we ultimately were able to secure the votes to pass the bill out of Committee, it was too late to get it considered by the full house.

TCC strongly advocated for reliable and affordable electricity for our industry. Dozens of bills were filed to impose additional costs to industrial customers. TCC defeated legislation that would authorize new rate making for electric providers. TCC also defeated legislation that would require industrial customers to maintain an equivalent amount of dispatchable power equal to the amount of renewable power it may have contracted.

TCC played a great deal of defense this session and defeated dozens of onerous bills that would have been costly or negatively impacted our members. TCC defeated legislation that would have:

- prevented the renewal of certain environmental permits,
- impose debilitating regulatory requirements for preproduction plastics,
- required cumulative impact studies,
- impose additional regulatory requirements and inspections for VOC's,
- expanded the scope and allowance of contested case hearings,
- required the TCEQ to do emergency notifications for chemical releases,
- impose a lower ground level threshold for hydrogen sulfide,
- authorized publishing Tier II data on the City of Houston's website, and
- impose new regulations on PFAS.

June 22nd was the end of the Veto period – the deadline for Governor Greg Abbott to sign or veto bills, otherwise they become law without his signature. Governor Abbott vetoed 26 bills (12 HBs and 14 SBs).

The following report is an extensive summary of many of the bills that impacted the Texas chemical industry in the 89th legislative session. TCC closely monitored each of these bills and advocated on behalf of industry to protect our members' interests.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Members of the Texas Chemistry Council make a substantial investment in the Council through their dues and company participation. Our members depend on the Council to actively represent their interests in both the legislative and regulatory process. Each session there are many issues that significantly impact the chemical industry's ability to operate in Texas and maintain the jobs and tax base that are critical to the state's economy. With over 9,200 pieces of legislation filed this session and numerous industry legislative initiatives, the Council worked hard to ensure that our members receive a great return on their investment.

The following is an industry-wide estimate of new revenue opportunities, cost savings, or cost avoidance for some of the major legislative issues that we were actively engaged in during the session. The estimated savings or cost avoidance depicted here is based upon the cost analysis submitted by members. As you assess the impact that this Legislature had on your company's Texas operations, we hope you appreciate the return on your investment as a member of the Texas Chemistry Council.

TAX		
<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Savings or Cost Avoidance</u>
<u>SB 1</u> <i>Passed</i>	<p>Property Tax Rate Compression:</p> <p>SB 1 is the state budget and includes \$3 billion in funding to reduced property taxes through rate compression of the school district maintenance & operations (M&O) tax by a total of \$0.068 over the next biennium - \$.0532 in compression in 2025, and an additional \$.0148 in 2026.</p> <p>This is our industry's preferred means of tax relief as it reduces property taxes equitably for all taxpayers.</p>	\$31,000,000
<u>HB 9 / HJR 1</u> <i>Passed</i>	<p>Business Personal Property Tax Exemption:</p> <p>HB 9 and HJR 1 increase the business personal property tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$125,000 per location. The exemption would apply to each location in a taxing unit where the property owner holds or uses tangible personal property to produce income. All property that has taxable sites within a taxing unit is aggregated to determine taxable value.</p> <p>This tax exemption is contingent upon the passage of a constitutional amendment (Prop. 9) authorizing the property tax exemption that will appear on the November 2025 ballot.</p>	\$550,000 – \$20,100,000
<u>SB 2206</u> <i>Passed</i>	<p>Research & Development Tax Credit:</p> <p>SB 2206 establishes a new franchise tax credit for new research and development investment in the state of Texas.</p>	No Cost Estimates Received

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Savings or Cost Avoidance</u>
<u>HB 853</u> <i>Failed</i>	<p>Cumulative Impacts for Permitting in Nonattainment: HB 853 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston) and SB 429 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston) would have required TCEQ to conduct a cumulative impacts analysis and consider whether the benefits of the facility outweigh potential environmental and social costs for the construction or major modification of facilities in nonattainment areas.</p> <p>TCC successfully prevented this legislation from getting a committee hearing. This bill would prevent any new permits or facility expansions in nonattainment areas.</p>	\$25,000,000
<u>HB 3926</u> <i>Failed</i>	<p>Three-Mile Cumulative Impacts for Permitting: HB 3926 by Rep. Reynolds (D-Houston) and SB 273 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston) would have required TCEQ to consider the cumulative effects to public health of expected air contaminant emissions with other facilities located within three miles of the proposed facility.</p> <p>TCC successfully defeated this legislation. This bill would have significantly impacted new construction or expansions in industrial complexes.</p>	\$50,000,000
<u>HB 4028</u> <i>Failed</i>	<p>Regulation of Preproduction Plastics: HB 4028 attempted to regulate the discharge of preproduction plastics. Preproduction plastic would be defined as “pre-consumer plastic resin, consisting of organic polymers and additives, in the form of pellets, powder, flakes, or powdered additives.” The legislation would have classified preproduction plastics as Class II Nonhazardous Industrial Waste and require the TCEQ to establish strategic and comprehensive monitoring of water quality as it relates to pollution from preproduction plastics. The TCEQ would have been required to set water quality standards for all water sources in the state with consideration for the existence and effects of preproduction plastic pollution.</p> <p>TCC successfully defeated this legislation.</p>	\$350,000,000
<u>HB 4049</u> <i>Failed</i>	<p>GHG Reporting Liability: HB 4049 by Rep. Janie Lopez (R-San Benito) would have imposed penalties on companies who voluntarily track and report their site’s GHG emissions. The legislation would have restricted a company from providing</p>	

transparency in their communities and impacted their compliance with laws in other jurisdictions where they operate.

\$480,000 - \$6,400,000

The bill further provided for a civil penalty imposed on companies who would violate Texas law by reporting their GHG emissions. The penalty would have been the greater of \$10,000, or twice the amount expended by the company to track GHG emissions.

TCC strongly opposed this bill and persuaded the bill author not to pursue the legislation.

ENERGY

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Savings or Cost Avoidance</u>
<u>SB 6</u> <i>Passed</i>	<p>Large Load Interconnections Regulation:</p> <p>SB 6 addresses the expected growth of large loads in Texas. Among other things, SB 6 (i) requires loads over 75 MW to disclose other interconnection requests in Texas and information about on-site backup that can serve at least 50% of demand; (ii) creates an up-front interconnection fee for large loads; (iii) standardizes an interconnection fee of \$100,000 for large loads; (iv) establishes a standardized security deposit for large loads; (v) institutes an approval process for loads co-located with existing dispatchable generators; (vi) requires utilities to install disconnect equipment on non-critical large loads that interconnect after 12/31/2025; (vii) creates a reliability service to procure large load demand response; and (viii) directs the PUCT to reevaluate the 4CP transmission cost allocation policy.</p> <p>TCC successfully negotiated removing language relating to a minimum transmission charge. Additionally, we were able to have language included in the final bill that ensures that the transmission cost allocation will be based on cost causation.</p>	<p>\$6,500,000 - \$560,000,000</p>
<u>HB 2868</u> <i>Failed</i>	<p>Electricity Capitalization Rates:</p> <p>HB 2868 would have required the PUCT to approve an ERCOT utility's capitalization structure if it was based on the utility's actual debt-to-equity ratio. If the PUCT determined the actual capitalization structure was unreasonable, the PUCT could calculate a reasonable return using the national average for utility operating companies.</p> <p>TCC successfully defeated this bill.</p>	<p>\$125,000,000</p>

<u>HB 3157/</u> <u>SB 1837</u> <i>Failed</i>	Electricity Interim Rates: This legislation would have allowed utilities to change rates before going through its rate case due diligence with the PUCT.	\$80,000,000
	TCC successfully defeated these bills.	
<u>HB 3356/</u> <u>SB 715</u> <i>Failed</i>	Retroactive Firming Requirements: This legislation would have expanded the “firming” requirement to retroactively apply to all renewable facilities with interconnection agreements that have been in operation for at least a year.	\$409,500,000
	TCC successfully defeated these bills.	
<u>HB 4302/</u> <u>SB 1022</u> <i>Failed</i>	Vegetation Management Cost Recovery: This legislation would have created a vegetation management rider to help utilities quickly recover expenses for vegetation management with limited opportunities for customers to contest the prudence of vegetation management expenses.	\$12,750,000
	TCC successfully defeated this legislation.	

Total Estimated Return on Investment: \$1.1 Billion - \$1.6 Billion
(based on available aggregated industry data)

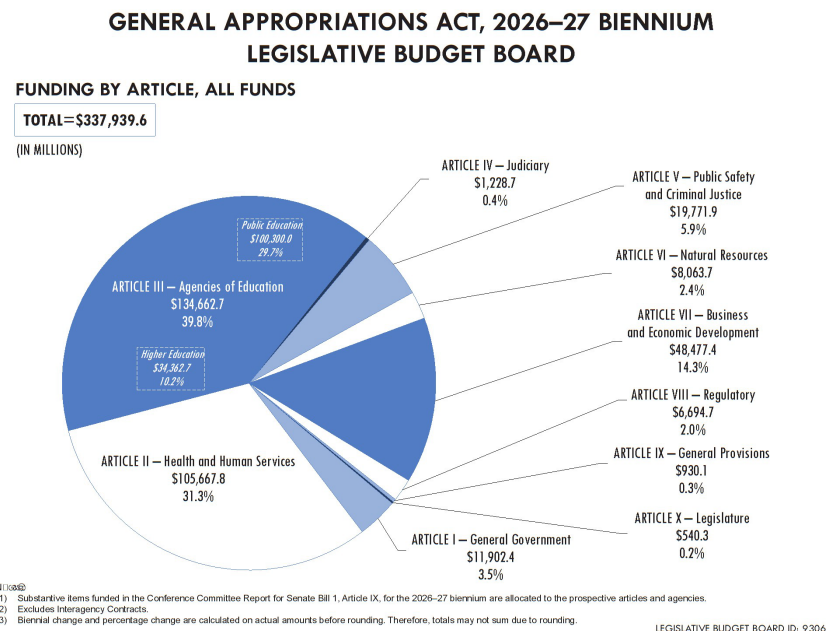
STATE BUDGET

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SB 1 by Sen. Joan Huffman (R-Houston): **PASSED**

TCC Supported

The 89th Legislature's final budget reflected the body's focus toward **property tax relief, regulatory efficiency, and long-term infrastructure investment**. The 2026-27 budget, including all funds, appropriates approximately \$338 Billion for the biennium. Texas is constrained by three mandated spending limits, the Pay-as-you-go Limit, the Tax Spending Limit, and the Consolidated General Revenue Limit. The Legislature worked within all three of these limits and the chart below shows the amounts under the spending limits of the final budget.



REMAINING GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS SPENDING AUTHORITY, 2026–27 BIENNIUM

(IN BILLIONS)	AMOUNT
Pay-as-you-go Limit	\$3.9
Tax Spending Limit	\$10.3
Consolidated General Revenue Limit	\$15.3

SOURCES: Comptroller of Public Accounts; Legislative Budget Board.

Pay-as-you-go Limit - The Constitution requires that any bill that makes an appropriation is sent to the Comptroller of Public Accounts for certification that the appropriation is within the estimates of available revenue. Comptroller Hegar certified that the Pay-as-you-go limit for General Revenue Funds for the 2026-27 biennium as \$194.6 Billion in his January Biennial Revenue Estimate.

Tax Spending Limit - The Constitution prohibits all appropriations funded with state tax revenue (not dedicated by the Constitution) from growing faster than the estimated rate of growth of the state's economy. The biennial tax spending limit for the 2026-27 budget is estimated to be \$126.0 Billion.

Consolidated General Revenue (CGR) Limit - This spending cap restricts how much General Revenue can be appropriated for general-purpose spending. The CGR appropriations are equal to the total sum of General Revenue Funds and General Revenue-Dedicated Funds. The growth in CGR appropriations is limited to no more than the compounded rate of the state's population growth and inflation growth, averaged over the current and upcoming biennium. The 2026-27 CGR limit is estimated at \$155.2 billion, leaving \$15.3 billion of CGR spending capacity for the biennium.

The 89th Legislature successfully allocated funds according to its priorities while adhering to the mandated spending limits as shown above. Specific appropriations of interest to the Business of Chemistry and our communities are as follows:

- Total of \$51 billion for property tax buy down including, \$10 billion in new property tax relief with \$3 billion in additional rate compression and \$3.9 billion in increased homestead exemptions.
- \$350 million for Texas Advanced Nuclear Development Fund
- \$5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund
- \$2.5 billion for the Texas Water Fund
- \$135 million for Texas Cyber Command
- \$100 million for well plugging for abandoned oil and gas wells
- \$8.5 billion for teacher pay raises
- \$89.5 billion for community college formula funding
- \$12 million increase to TCEQ for safe drinking water programs
- \$5 million increase to TCEQ for water resource permitting
- \$2.25 million dedicated to staff pay for expedited permitting

TAX

TAX INCENTIVES

HB 105 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This legislation would have made important revisions to Chapter 403, the Jobs, Energy, Technology and Innovation (JETI) Act, to enhance the program's competitiveness for new industry investment in Texas. Specifically, the bill would have given special recognition for priority projects, defining them as eligible projects with a minimum investment of \$750 million. It also would have revised job and wage calculation requirements by stipulating that required wages align with 110% of the average county manufacturing wage, and applying only to the required jobs. Lastly, the bill would have exempted dispatchable electric generation projects from the compelling factor test. This bill was a TCC priority and had the support of other business trades. The bill died as a result of a point of order on the House floor on the last day that House Bills could be considered.

SB 2322 by Senator Phil King (R-Weatherford): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have amended the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation (JETI) Act by exempting dispatchable electric generation from having to meet the compelling factor test when those projects apply for a JETI agreement.

HB 2027 by Representative Cody Vasut (R-Angleton): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

This bill will authorize the Brazoria County Commissioners Court to offer tax abatements under Chapter 312 for leasehold or real property in the Port Freeport district.

HB 2765 by Representative Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will change the entities that are eligible for financial assistance under the Rural Economic Development and Investment Program, by raising the county population limit to 200,000, allowing a public utility owned by a municipality under 50,000, and allowing other political subdivision. The bill also makes changes to financial programs under the Texas Economic Development Fund at the Agriculture Department.

HJR 34 by Representative Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

If passed by voters in November, this constitutional amendment will allow the Legislature to exempt from taxation property installed or constructed and used for border security. The tax exemption provisions of this resolution are limited to property in counties that border the United States and Mexico border.

PROPERTY TAX

SB 1 by Sen. Joan Huffman (R-Houston): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

The Appropriations Act includes a provision providing property tax rate compression of \$0.068 for school district maintenance & operations (M&O) tax. The bill provides \$.0532 of compression in 2025, and an additional \$.0148 in 2026. The tax cut will be absorbed by the State which has included \$3 billion in the budget to ensure that public schools are kept whole.

SB 4 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

SJR 2 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

This bill will provide a significant increase in the residence homestead exemption for school district property taxes from the current \$100,000 to \$140,000. If approved by Texas voters through a constitutional amendment, it will become the largest homestead exemption in state history. As homestead exemptions increase and reduce residential taxable values, school districts will look to other areas to raise revenue, potentially shifting more of the tax burden to businesses. Without similar exemptions, businesses may pay a larger share of property taxes. TCC and other business groups warn that any increase of the homestead exemption creates a split roll in our tax system, with business properties carrying a disproportionate share.

SB 23 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

SJR 85 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

This bill will increase property tax exemptions for elderly and disabled homeowners from the current \$10,000 to \$60,000. If constitutionally approved by voters, SB 23, in tandem with SB 4, would provide elderly and disabled homeowners with a cumulative \$200,000 homestead exemption.

SB 850 by Sen. Mayes Middleton (R-Galveston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

In the event a taxpayer is owed a refund on overpaid property taxes of at least \$20, this legislation will require the taxing unit to send the taxpayer the refund without the taxpayer having to first apply for the refund.

HB 247 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): PASSED

TCC Neutral

HJR 34 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): PASSED

This bill will create a property tax exemption for any value added to property through the construction or installation of improvements completed under a qualified border security infrastructure agreement or on land dedicated for that purpose through a recorded easement.

HB 2011 by Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will permit a person from whom a real property interest is acquired by an entity through eminent domain for public use to repurchase the property if the ad valorem taxes due on the property have not been paid by the acquiring entity before the second anniversary of the date on which the taxes became due.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

SB 32 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): FAILED

TCC Supported

This bill would have provided tax relief to businesses by exempting a portion of the appraised value of tangible personal property used for income production. The bill would support business by alleviating some of the tax burdens on property utilized to generate income.

HB 9 by Rep. Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas): PASSED

TCC Supported

HJR 1 by Rep. Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas): PASSED

This bill will provide property tax relief to businesses by increasing the exemption for income-producing tangible personal property from \$2,500 to \$125,000 per business location. This exemption applies to property such as inventory, machinery, and equipment used for income production. For this bill to take effect, the proposed constitutional amendment must be approved by Texas voters.

HB 22 by Representative Candy Noble (R-Lucas): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill will remove intangible personal property from taxable property in the property tax code, as well as insurance and finance institutions. Additionally, the bill removes the Comptroller as an opposing party to an appeal related to a property owner of an order of the Comptroller determining a protest of the appraisal, interstate allocation, or intrastate apportionment of transportation business intangibles; or a county or a property owner of an order of the Comptroller apportioning among the counties the appraised value of railroad rolling stock.

FRANCHISE TAX

SB 2206 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill will extend the franchise tax credit for research and development investments which is set to expire in January 2026. This credit would reduce the upfront costs for businesses engaged in R&D, making it more financially feasible to undertake such activities and encourage more innovation and technological advancement in Texas. This was a TCC priority bill.

SB 2018 by Sen. Angela Paxon (R-Plano): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will provide a taxable entity with a franchise tax credit of no more than \$5 million per taxable year if the taxpayer contributes to eligible non-profit organizations that provide evidence-based, family-strengthening services. This new tax credit is titled the Strong Families credit.

SB 2774 by Sen. Adam Hinojosa (R-Corpus Christi): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will lower the franchise tax rate for companies that are in the business of rentals for industrial uniforms, industrial garments, and industrial linen supplies to 0.375% (retail/wholesale franchise tax rate) from the current state franchise tax rate of 0.75%. This lower franchise tax rate aligns these industries with similar rental industries in the state.

SALES TAX

SB 1030 by Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have exempted parts and components used in the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of aircraft for aircraft maintenance providers and operators from state sales and use taxes .

HJR 7 by Rep. Cody Harris (R-Palestine): PASSED

TCC Support

If approved by voters on the November ballot, this constitutional amendment will authorize the Comptroller to transfer \$1 billion in sales and use tax revenue a year to the Texas Water Fund once collections exceed \$46.5 billion. The Legislature would not be authorized to change the amount for 10 years except in a declared emergency.

MISCELLANEOUS

SB 266 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will authorize a person to bypass the redetermination process and sue the comptroller of public accounts to dispute the results of a managed audit and to revise changes to certain tax and fee collection procedures. The bill authorizes a person who conducts a managed audit authorized by statutory provisions relating to the sales and use tax or the gas production tax to file with the comptroller a notice of intent to bypass the process of petitioning the comptroller for a redetermination of taxes.

SB 771 by Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill provides for a tax credit or refund for diesel fuel used in Texas by auxiliary power units or power take-off equipment on any motor vehicle. A license holder may take a credit and a non-license holder may request a refund.

SB 1025 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will require ballot language to read “THIS IS A TAX INCREASE” if a ballot proposition is submitted to the voters for approval of the imposition or increase of a tax rate for cities, counties, and special purpose districts.

SB 1453 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will revise the definition of “current debt” related to property tax assessment to a definition for “current debt service” to mean the minimum dollar amount required to be expended for debt service for the current year, rather than just debt service for the current year. The governing body of a taxing unit is authorized to approve a debt rate that exceeds the required debt rate if at least 60 percent of the governing body’s members approved a motion that states the determined and proposed rates and the difference between the two; and describes the purpose for which the excess revenue collected from the proposed rate will be used.

SB 1502 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will prohibit a school district from adopting a tax rate above the voter-approved threshold for any tax year if, in a previous tax year, the district attempted to implement a similar rate increase that was rejected by voters.

HB 4236 by Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer (D-San Antonio): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will create a study group made up of three members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate tasked with having a public meeting and making recommendations related to a school district Property Value Study (PVS) conducted by the Comptroller. The study group is required to report its recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2026, and will be dissolved January 1, 2027.

ENVIRONMENTAL

RECYCLING

HB 4839 by Rep. Armando Walle (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

SB 2689 by Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills): *FAILED*

This bill would have established the Texas Recycling Market Development Program within the TCEQ. The program would have promoted the development of recycling infrastructure and technologies in the state through research, financial incentives, and coordinating recycling initiatives with other state agencies. This bill would have established the Recycling Market Advisory Council comprised of 13 representatives from industries across the recycling supply chain. The Council would make recommendations to TCEQ in the administration of the program. The bill also would have established the Texas Recycling Fund to support programs through legislative appropriations, loans, and any gifts, grants, or donations. The fund would not have consisted of fees, taxes, or penalties assessed against, or collected from, private entities. TCEQ would use the funds to administer the program, award grants and loans for research or recycling projects, and support TCEQ's recycling education campaign. The bill also identified eligibility criteria and requirements for any grants or loans awarded by TCEQ.

HB 2048 by Rep. John Lujan (R-San Antonio): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 728 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

This bill would have established the Texas Beverage Container Recycling Consortium, a nonprofit corporation formed for the purpose of creating and implementing a plan to achieve a 75% recycling rate for beverage containers. The bill would have mandated all producers of beverage containers to participate in the program and empowered the consortium to sue producers that failed to comply. The consortium would have established container quality and labeling standards, and procedures for the collection of a beverage container deposit. The bill would prohibit a person from selling beverage containers that fail to comply with the labeling standards or fail to provide for the collection of a beverage container deposit. The bill also would have established the Recycling Refund Trust Fund consisting of beverage container deposits used to construct, operate, and maintain redemption centers; reimburse entities that provided refunds to consumer; or provide educational materials to consumers.

SB 2981 by Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have required TCEQ to allocate \$10 million to support recycling infrastructure projects from the interest earned by the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Fund. If the Fund earned less than \$10 million in interest, then the TCEQ would have allocated a lesser amount to support recycling infrastructure projects.

HB 4413 by Dennis Paul (R-Webster): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

This bill requires TCEQ to recognize, by rule, a third-party mass balance attribution for "renewable chemicals", including a monomer, polymer, plastic, formulated products, or chemical substance produced from renewable biomass feedstocks.

PER- OR POLY- FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

SB 1898 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have regulated the use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a certain type of firefighting foam, which contains PFAS. This bill would have established a definition for PFAS in Texas statute that was recommended by TCC. The bill would have restricted the use of AFFF for firefighter training and testing purposes unless certain conditions were met. The bill would require non-fluorinated firefighting foam, or a surrogate foam, to be used for training purposes with proper collection methods. The bill would continue to allow the manufacture, sale, or distribution of AFFF or its use for emergency firefighting purposes.

HB 1674 by Rep. Helen Kerwin (R-Glen Rose): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 886 by Sen. Kevin Sparks (R-Midland): *FAILED*

This bill would have regulated biosolid-based commercial fertilizers that contain at least one of seventeen PFAS. The bill would have required fertilizer manufacturers to frequently sample and test batches of product for the presence of PFAS, and prohibited the sale, distribution, or application of fertilizers that exceeded certain concentration limits of PFAS. The bill would have established a definition for PFAS not supported by TCC and would have created a criminal offense for any person that knowingly sold, distributed, or applied noncompliant fertilizer.

HB 1730 by Rep. Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 768 by Sen. Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio): *FAILED*

This bill would have required the University of Houston to conduct a study on the health effects linked to PFAS in (1) food, beverages, and associated packaging; (2) a variety of water sources; and (3) equipment or materials that likely contained PFAS, and was used regularly by industry professionals, including firefighters and chemical manufacturing workers. The University of Houston would have been required to collaborate with TCEQ, Texas Railroad Commission, and the Department of State Human Health Services. The bill would have required the University of Houston to submit a report with conclusions from the study to the Legislature by December 1, 2026.

PERMITTING

SB 2203 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have made improvements to the contested case process after TCEQ referred a permit to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). Specifically, the bill required SOAH and TCEQ to adopt rules that would have allowed parties to request an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to certify a discovery issue back to TCEQ for consideration to ensure the issue is properly within the scope of issues referred by the agency. The bill would allow an ALJ to abate the contested case while the certified issue was being considered by the TCEQ. To ensure this would not cause unnecessary delay, TCEQ would be limited to considering the issue within 15 days after the ALJ referred it back to the TCEQ.

HB 4981 by Rep. Shelley Luther (R-Sherman): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required TCEQ to implement a scoring system when evaluating permit applications. The scoring system would have established a weighted calculation to determine the level of community support for a permit application. The level of community support would have been determined by public comments, written statements from legislators and neighborhood organizations, and resolutions by local political subdivisions. The bill would have prevented TCEQ

from approving a permit application that did not receive a score of at least 75 percent of the total points available. This would have politicized the permitting process and would have upended the process of environmental permitting based on science and compliance with state and federal environmental standards. TCC strongly opposed this bill.

SB 2275 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required TCEQ to establish procedures to allow public comment submission via e-mail for permit applications.

ENFORCEMENT

HB 736 by Rep. Lulu Flores (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have allowed local governments to file environmental civil suits immediately after notifying the TCEQ and the Office of the Texas Attorney General. Specifically, the bill would have removed the existing 90-day waiting period after a local government provided notice of alleged environmental violations of state statutes or TCEQ rules.

SB 779 by Sen. Mayes Middleton (R-Galveston): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

HB 3964 by Rep. Cody Vasut (R-Angleton): *FAILED*

This bill would have provided protection to industry from potential civil enforcement actions brought by private parties or political subdivisions under public nuisance claims. Specifically, the bill prohibited public nuisance claims seeking damages, or other relief, related to authorized or permitted activities. The bill would have prevented public nuisance claims for products, even if defective, and for activities or conditions that are allowed as a result of a separate civil or administrative enforcement action.

HB 1682 by Rep. Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have established a special environmental remediation fund administered by TCEQ for remediation projects determined by local governments. The fund would be comprised of half of the state's portion of civil penalties resulting from an environmental enforcement action brought by a local government. Currently, all of the state's civil penalties from an environmental enforcement case are credited to the state's general revenue fund. This legislation would have incentivized an increase of frivolous environmental litigation by local governments.

HB 4482 by Rep. Armando Walle (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 1264 by Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston): *FAILED*

This bill would have required TCEQ to notify a local government's air pollution control program when an excessive emissions event occurs in their jurisdiction. The bill would require TCEQ to provide the local government with a copy of a regulated entity's proposed corrective action plan and allowed the local government to provide comments within 30 days. The bill would have prohibited TCEQ from approving a corrective action plan until after the local government's comment period. This bill would grant local governments much greater regulatory authority for industries operating under state permits that experience emissions events.

SB 2321 by Sen. Phil King (R-Weatherford): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

This bill grants TCEQ statutory enforcement discretion for unauthorized emissions from electric generation facilities, and on-site backup facilities, during a period of time when the state's electric grid needs additional generation. An independent system operator will notify the TCEQ and market electric grid market participants when additional generation is needed for the grid to

mitigate a significant risk of emergency conditions. The bill requires applicable owners and operators that may seek an enforcement waiver to still take reasonable steps to minimize emissions, submit proper operational records, and report any exceedances of permit requirements.

PREPRODUCTION PLASTIC REGULATION

HB 4028 by Rep. Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 2441 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo): *FAILED*

This bill would have regulated preproduction plastics in multiple ways. The bill defined preproduction plastic as plastic resin pellets, flakes, fibers, powders, and powdered coloring for plastics. The bill would require TCEQ to designate preproduction plastic as a Class II nonhazardous industrial waste and assess preproduction plastic as part of the state's water quality standards. The bill also would have established an onerous preproduction plastic monitoring and reporting framework for facilities with a multi-sector general permit.

TEXAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN

HB 205 by Rep. Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio) *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have created an exception to allow certain alternative fueling facilities owned by certain transit authorities in nonattainment areas with eligibility to receive TERP grant funding. TERP currently prohibits alternative fueling facilities from receiving grant funds unless the facility is accessible to the public. Alternative fueling facilities covered under this bill would have to be located in a county with a population of more than one million and located in a county that is in nonattainment.

HB 2179 by Rep. Joanne Shofner (R-Nacogdoches) *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have added five east Texas counties to the list of "affected counties" under TERP. This addition would have authorized TCEQ to consider TERP grant applications for projects in these five counties. The five proposed counties are not adjacent to counties currently designated as nonattainment under the Clean Air Act.

HB 3079 by Rep. J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have authorized TCEQ to establish a program within TERP to address emissions reductions from marine vessels operated by pilots engaged in pilot services on navigable waters to a port in the state.

HB 3263 by Rep. Chris Turner (D-Arlington) *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have established a Methane Emissions Program to be administered by TCEQ using funds from TERP. Although it would have been funded by TERP, methane is not a criteria pollutant identified by the EPA and the program would be applied statewide, not only in nonattainment areas. The bill would require TCEQ to adopt standards for methane emissions and other related gases and monitor areas with high methane emissions. As part of this program, TCEQ would have to establish a continuous emissions monitoring program in areas with substantial infrastructure linked to methane emissions, including oil and gas facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and paper/pulp facilities. The bill would also grant the TCEQ with enforcement authority to assess penalties and shut down facilities in violation of methane standards until repairs are made.

HB 3868 by Rep. Brooks Landgraf (D-Odessa): FAILED

TCC Supported as Amended

This bill would have adjusted some of the funding percentages for TERP programs, including the clean school bus program, the new technology implementation grant program, and the Texas clean fleet program, and removed the funding for the port authority incentives. The bill also would have added language to encourage the adoption of hydrogen infrastructure and vehicles. The bill was amended to incorporate key provisions from HB 4519 and HB 4841 regarding the clean fleet program and a program to replace pre-2009 diesel vehicles, further discussed below.

HB 4519 by Rep. Claudia Ordaz (D-El Paso) FAILED

TCC Supported

This bill would have restructured several programs within TERP to streamline TCEQ's processes when reviewing applications for eligible projects. Specifically, the bill combined several existing programs into a new Texas Clean Fleet program.

HB 4841 by Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) FAILED

TCC Supported

This bill would have required TCEQ to create and maintain a database that helped target the replacement of pre-2009 model year diesel vehicles. Specifically, the database would have assisted TCEQ in connecting TERP applicants with older diesel vehicle owners in order to satisfy certain TERP program requirements. The TCEQ would also be required to conduct public outreach about this initiative.

AIR

HB 853 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): FAILED

TCC Opposed

SB 429 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston): FAILED

This bill targeted major stationary sources in nonattainment areas and would have required TCEQ to conduct a cumulative impacts analysis for any preconstruction air permit of those sources. Specifically, TCEQ would have had to consider alternative locations, facility sizes, production processes, and environmental control techniques to ensure the benefits significantly outweighed the potential environmental and social costs before the agency issued a preconstruction air permit.

HB 1341 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): FAILED

TCC Opposed

SB 2350 by Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston): FAILED

This bill would have required TCEQ to establish maximum allowable ground level concentrations for hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and reevaluate the concentration limits every five years based on relevant health studies. The H₂S concentration limits could be different based on the land use, e.g. residential, commercial, or agricultural. However, the bill would have required H₂S concentration limits not to exceed 0.04 parts per million (ppm) to downwind sources that were residential, recreational, business, or commercial land use; or 0.06 ppm over any 30-minute period to any other type of downwind source.

HB 2612 by Rep. Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have established the Texas Carbon Sequestration Policy Council within the Railroad Commission (RRC). The Council would have made recommendations related to the RRC's regulatory framework of carbon sequestration, carbon capture industry, and carbon capture technology. The bill outlined specific topics the Council would have studied, including the reliability of long-term storage of CO₂, assessing the accuracy in CO₂ accounting techniques, and

the development of the carbon capture Industry in the state. The bill would require the Council to provide a report to the Texas Legislature with recommended policy changes.

HB 2722 by Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas): FAILED

TCC Opposed

SB 2636 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): FAILED

This bill would have required TCEQ to deny any application for a new source review air permit or authorization that causes certain adverse impacts. Specifically, TCEQ would not be able to issue a permit or authorization if a facility disproportionately affected the health, property, or environment of a low-income population compared to emissions in other areas. TCEQ would have been required to conduct an overall cumulative impacts analysis by considering existing facilities in the area.

HB 2824 by Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston): FAILED

TCC Opposed

SB 1179 by Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston): FAILED

This bill would have required TCEQ to regulate “chemical distribution facilities” for volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, with a focus on benzene. The bill broadly defined “chemical distribution facilities.” Applicable facilities would have been required to install state-of-the-art emissions controls and conduct real-time emissions monitoring beyond the fence line for public disclosure. Applicable facilities would need to conduct quarterly visual inspections and be subject to quarterly TCEQ audits. The bill would have required any violations to be subject to criminal penalties and any emission leaks discovered to be repaired immediately. The bill would also have required TCEQ to review any rules related to benzene emissions every five years.

HB 3768 by Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required TCEQ to host a public meeting in an area where monitoring or modeling data indicated there was an exceedance of an ambient air quality standard for benzene. TCEQ would have been required to notify the public and provide the public an opportunity to comment on the elevated levels of benzene. There is currently no national or state ambient air quality standards for benzene.

HB 3872 by Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required TCEQ to reevaluate any state ambient air quality standard for benzene and update any relevant exposure guidelines when an area exceeds an ambient air quality standard for benzene. There is currently no national or state ambient air quality standards for benzene.

HB 3925 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): FAILED

TCC Opposed

SB 279 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston): FAILED

This bill would have allowed a person to request a contested case hearing for the issuance, renewal, or revocation of a standard air permit if they alleged the authorization does not comply with the Texas Clean Air Act. Currently, standard air permit issuance or renewals are not subject to a contested case. This bill would have greatly departed from the current permitting process for standard air permits.

HB 3926 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 273 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston): *FAILED*

This bill would have required TCEQ to consider the cumulative effects on the public's health and physical property when the agency evaluates a preconstruction permit. Specifically, TCEQ would have to consider cumulative effects for all facilities within three miles of a potential permitted facility.

HB 4049 by Rep. Janie Lopez (R-San Benito): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have prohibited the direct, or indirect, expenditure of resources to track, calculate, measure, assess, or estimate greenhouse gas emissions from a facility in Texas unless required by federal law. The bill also prohibited a company, state, or foreign nation from penalizing a company that complied with the bill's prohibition on tracking greenhouse gas emissions. If a company, state, or foreign nation, violated either of the bill's prohibitions, then the Texas Attorney General would have been granted enforcement authority to seek a civil penalty for a violation. The civil penalty would have been the greater between \$10,000 or twice the amount expended to directly, or indirectly, track greenhouse gas emissions in Texas.

SB 1176 by Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required TCEQ to seek public comments for an amendment, modification, or renewal of a standard air permit at the request of a member of the Legislature who generally represents the area near the facility. Currently, the Texas Clean Air Act prohibits TCEQ from seeking public comments for standard air permits if the modification or renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions from already known air contaminants. The bill would have provided an exception for members of the Legislature to the existing prohibition.

SB 2270 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required TCEQ to review every standard air permit authorized by the agency every five years to determine whether the authorized facility should continue to operate under the standard air permit.

SB 2496 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required TCEQ and the Department of State Health Services to conduct a joint study assessing the potential human health risks associated with exposure to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). TCEQ would have been required to publish a report by December 1, 2026 to the Texas Legislature and provide recommendations based on the results of the study.

WATER

HB 1501 by Rep. Tony Tinderholt (R-Arlington): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University to conduct a study identifying ways to incentivize the creation of seawater desalination plants along the Gulf Coast. Specifically, the Center would have studied international desalination plants to identify best practices, financial barriers, and environmentally and cost-effective methods for disposing of brine concentrate. The Center would have been required to produce a report by January 1, 2027 to the Texas Legislature.

HB 3728 by Rep. Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston): *FAILED* *TCC Neutral*

This bill would have required TCEQ to incorporate standards for numerical salinity gradients and narrative salinity criteria for bays and estuaries into the Texas water quality standards. The bill would require TCEQ to publish a report by September 1, 2026 containing the results of any long-term studies conducted by state agencies between 2003 and 2025 concerning estuarine salinity gradients.

HB 3429 by Rep. Tony Tinderholt (R-Arlington): *FAILED* *TCC Neutral*

This bill would have required a public water system selling drinking water to the public to disclose if fluoride was added to the drinking water on a customer's water bill. The bill also identified specific information that would have been required to include on the disclosure to customers.

HB 4026 by Rep. Caroline Harris Davila (R-Round Rock): *FAILED* *TCC Opposed*

This bill would have required TCEQ to consider flood planning and mitigation information before issuing, amending, or renewing, a wastewater discharge permit. Currently, TCEQ is not required to consider this information when evaluating a wastewater discharge permit application.

SB 1302 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham): *PASSED* *TCC Neutral as Amended*

This bill initially prohibited a regulated entity from receiving a general discharge authorization for five years after TCEQ either suspended or denied the regulated entity's authority to use the general discharge permit. TCC worked with the bill author to remove the arbitrary five-year prohibition. Instead, the bill prohibits TCEQ from allowing a previously suspended or denied regulated entity to use the automated online process to receive a general discharge authorization.

HB 5044 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): *FAILED* *TCC Opposed*

This bill would have required TCEQ to analyze water rights not being fully utilized in the preceding ten years and prepare a report identifying permits or authorizations that may be subject to cancellation or exemption. TCEQ would have had to submit a report identifying certain water rights information to the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Legislative Budget Board by December 31, 2026.

SB 1663 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo): *PASSED* *TCC Neutral*

This bill will require TCEQ to notify all residents within a one-mile radius of a site when it obtains information about groundwater contamination. TCEQ will also be required to notify private drinking water well owners and groundwater conservation districts. TCEQ must send the notice as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days, after receiving information regarding groundwater contamination.

HB 5341 by Rep. Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston): *FAILED* *TCC Neutral*

This bill would have changed the requirements for TCEQ to issue a permit related to the diversion of seawater for industrial purposes. Specifically, TCEQ would have been required to include permit provisions to ensure any permit complies with the environmental flow standards. The bill also would have required TCEQ to restrict or deny a permit application with a diversion point in/near an area designated as a sensitive habitat.

HB 5493 by Rep. Ramon Romero (D-Fort Worth): *FAILED* *TCC Neutral*

This bill would have required TCEQ, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and the General Land Office to perform a study on the diversion of seawater and discharge of wastewater

related to desalination. The study would have identified specific factors and tolerances for the protection of the marine environment that were appropriate for desalination. The agencies would have generated a final report that recommended tolerances for different locations along the Gulf Coast. After the report is generated, TCEQ would have had to designate areas that are allowable for diversion of seawater and discharge of desalination wastewater in a standardized permit application. The bill also would have required a person seeking a diversion or discharge permit to consult with TPWD until TCEQ promulgated its rules based on the report.

HB 5518 by Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed TCEQ to waive two statutory provisions when an entity seeks to amend its water rights. In order to satisfy the waiver, the bill would have required TCEQ to find that the water right amendment would not adversely affect the environment or another water right.

SB 448 by Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-Edinburg): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required agreements or service contracts for a desalination public-private partnership to include a provision that the private entity must pay at least 50 percent of the energy costs to operate the desalination facility. The provision would have only applied after a desalination facility started charging its customers.

SB 976 by Sen. Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have established a 12-person Surface Water and Groundwater Interaction Advisory Board. The Board would consist of qualified persons from TWDB, TCEQ, river authorities, groundwater conservation districts, chairs from relevant legislative committees, and the governor’s office. This Board would have studied the interaction of surface water and groundwater, challenges arising from the interaction, and recommendations to mitigate the challenges.

SB 2653 by Sen. Bob Hall (R-Rockwall): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited a person from adding, or causing to add, any form of fluoride to any public water system. The bill also would have assessed a penalty for a violation of this prohibition, which would have been enforced by the TCEQ.

WASTE

HB 1238 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

This bill will allow TCEQ to accept inspection reports prepared by a Texas-licensed engineer or geoscientist for a proposed Class I injection well. Under current law, TCEQ is required to send agency staff for an inspection of the local conditions and well-casing requirements.

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 3866 by Rep. Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral as Amended

This bill authorizes TCEQ to regulate intermediate bulk container (IBC) recycling facilities. An IBC is defined as a rigid or flexible portable packaging that is designed for mechanical handling with a volume of at least 275 gallons. The bill prohibits a person from installing or operating an IBC recycling facility within 2,000 feet of a private residence. It also requires the owner of an IBC recycling facility to register and pay a fee to TCEQ. The fees are used by the agency to administer the program and conduct inspections at least once every three years. An IBC recycling facility is

exempt if it does not store more than 50 IBCs at one time. TCC worked with the bill author to amend the bill so that it would not affect chemical manufacturing facilities.

HJR 138 by Rep. Daniel Alders (R-Tyler): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SJR 71 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *FAILED*

This joint resolution would have prohibited the Texas Legislature from imposing a tax on the carbon content of any fuel or the emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases that result from the use, production, or consumption of any good or service.

HB 859 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have established an 8-person Texas Environmental Justice Advisory Council with the authority to advise state agencies and local governments. The Advisory Council would have been comprised of representatives from certain state agencies, including TCEQ, the Office of the Attorney General, and TXDOT. The Council would have been authorized to appoint a 15-person Environmental Justice Review Board with authority to advise the Council and review community action plans. The Council also would have the authority to perform an environmental justice review of state agencies and programs and prepare a report on the positive and negative effects. The bill would also authorize the Council to evaluate environmental permits to determine a facility's positive or negative environmental justice effects and make recommendations.

SB 561 by Sen. Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have created the Office of Environmental Justice within TCEQ to protect environmental justice communities from the effects of permits. The bill defined an environmental justice community as a community within three miles of a permitted facility. The Office would have provided recommendations that TCEQ would have been required to consider when evaluating whether to issue a permit.

HB 866 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have created a Climate Change Impact Assessment Council to study the effects of climate change on the health, safety, and welfare of Texans. The Council would have been comprised of members of the Texas Legislature, and experts in climatology, the state's economy, land and resource management, and tourism industry. The Council would be authorized to host public hearings to gather information and would have made recommendations to minimize the effects of climate change on the state.

HB 2618 by Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SB 2296 by Sen. Borris Miles (D-Houston): *FAILED*

This bill would have required 13 state agencies to publish a severe weather adaptation plan to assess an agency's role in response to severe weather events. The bill identified specific items to be included in a severe weather adaptation plan. The agencies would have been required to publish the plans on the internet and provide copies to certain members of the Texas Legislature.

WATER

WATER POLICY

SB 7 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill addresses the state's growing water infrastructure challenges. This comprehensive water infrastructure bill will reform the Texas Water Development Board's financial assistance programs by establishing a permanent \$1 billion annual funding stream for water projects in the state. The bill expands the Texas Water Fund to include infrastructure development projects and enhance connectivity for regional and statewide water infrastructure.

HB 16 by Rep. Cody Harris (R-Palestine): FAILED

TCC Supported

This bill would have amended the Texas Water Code to improve the oversight and financing of water infrastructure projects under the Texas Water Development Board. It expands the types of projects eligible for financial assistance to include desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, potable reuse, and infrastructure to integrate these sources into water systems. The bill also establishes new accounts, such as the flood infrastructure fund and the water access assessment account, to support rural and economically distressed areas and strengthen statewide water resource management.

HJR 7 by Rep. Cody Harris (R-Palestine): PASSED

TCC Supported

HJR 7 is a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of state sales and use tax revenue to the Texas Water Fund, ensuring a stable and recurring source of funding for water infrastructure projects statewide. If approved by Texas voters, it will dedicate 50% of its funding to new water projects and 50% for current water infrastructure improvements. Texas voters will consider this constitutional amendment in November.

SJR 66 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock): FAILED

TCC Supported

This proposed constitutional amendment would have dedicated part of Texas' state tax revenue to long-term water infrastructure needs. The proposal would allow the state to set aside portions of sales tax and insurance tax collections to fund water improvement projects. At least 80% of this money would go toward developing new water sources.

HB 2109 by Rep. Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have removed the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir from the State Water Plan. TCC opposed this legislation in Committee.

ENERGY

ELECTRICITY

HB 14 by Rep. Cody Harris (R-Palestine): Passed

TCC Supported

This bill, the Texas Nuclear Deployment Act, will promote the development of advanced nuclear reactors in Texas. It directs the Public Utility Commission to create a dedicated grant fund within the Texas Energy Fund and establishes the Texas Advanced Nuclear Development Office in the Governor's office. The Texas Workforce Commission, in coordination with the nuclear office and the Higher Education Coordinating Board, is directed to implement a workforce development program to address skills gaps in the nuclear sector.

HB 3356 by Rep. Jared Patterson (R-Frisco): FAILED

TCC Opposed

SB 715 by Sen. Kevin Sparks (R-Midland): FAILED

These bills would retroactively require firming requirements to existing renewable generation, undoing compromise language negotiated last session that would only apply firming requirements to new renewable generation starting in 2027. The bill would strike that limitation and require firming for periods when renewables cannot operate. This legislation could result in significant cost increases for companies with existing power purchase agreements (PPAs).

SB 388 by Sen. Phil King (R-Weatherford): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill replaces the existing natural gas mandate into a dispatchable mandate, requiring that 50% of a generator's capacity be dispatchable by January 1, 2026, including renewable sources. The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) must create a dispatchable energy credit trading program for providers that fall short of the mandate. If dispatchable resources make up less than 55% of new capacity installed in ERCOT after January 1, 2026, the trading program must launch by January 1, 2027. ERCOT is tasked with developing a tracking system and must annually report on newly energized generation facilities, including whether 55% of the added capacity was dispatchable.

SB 2967 by Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown): FAILED

TCC Supported

This bill creates the Texas Advanced Nuclear and Innovative Energy Technologies Office within the Governor's office to promote the development and deployment of advanced nuclear and other innovative energy technologies. It also establishes a dedicated fund with two grant programs: the Tier 1 Project Development Program to cover early planning and siting costs, and the Tier 2 Project Construction Program to reimburse construction-related expenses for advanced nuclear projects.

HB 3970 by Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo): FAILED

TCC Neutral

SB 1942 by Sen. Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound): FAILED

This bill would direct the PUCT to require ERCOT to create an interconnection program to provide an expedited interconnection process for operators of large loads who agree to cease consuming energy from the grid when directed by ERCOT. It would only be available for large loads with an aggregate peak power demand threshold of at least 75 MW, unless ERCOT determines a lower threshold is better.

HB 3157 by Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 1837 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *FAILED*

This bill would allow utilities to implement a charge rate to consumers before going through rate case due diligence with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

HB 3069 by Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would require ERCOT to look at cost savings well into the future (10 to 15 years) when approving transmission lines. The current timeline is 3 to 5 years.

HB 5247 by Rep. Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth): *PASSED*

TCC Supported as Amended

This bill would allow certain electric utilities operating exclusively within ERCOT to streamline how they recover costs for transmission and distribution infrastructure investments. TCC worked with the bill author to amend the bill with agreeable language that's favorable to industry.

SB 819 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would introduce significant regulatory changes for renewable energy projects in Texas by mandating new permitting processes for facilities over 10 megawatts. It also imposes setback requirements of twice the height of the turbine including blades for wind turbines and 200 feet for solar panels from property lines and establishes an annual environmental impact fee to fund a renewable energy cleanup fund.

HB 2868 by Rep. Will Metcalf (R-Conroe): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would allow utilities to essentially choose their own capital structure, which is a primary driver in their profit level and one of the PUC's core responsibilities in setting rates.

HB 2678 by Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 1105 by Sen. Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound): *FAILED*

This bill establishes the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority under the Governor's office to lead the state's efforts in developing advanced nuclear energy. The Authority is tasked with creating a strategic plan, supporting nuclear industry growth, managing projects, and implementing policy recommendations.

HB 3083 by Rep. Ray Lopez (D-San Antonio): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would allow the Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUCT) to use money available in the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) to provide a one-time grant to one qualified independent entity to conduct a study on the effectiveness of mini nuclear reactors and the feasibility of them in this state. Requires the entity to be a nonprofit headquartered in this state that has conducted research for over 75 years and has a mission that benefits government, industry, and the public through the research of innovative science and technology with established nuclear research or testing programs.

HB 3423 by Rep. Tony Tinderholt (R-Arlington): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would direct the chancellor of the University of Texas System to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of integrating additional facilities that use nuclear energy, including a comparison of the costs and benefits of nuclear reactors.

SB 1535 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo): PASSED***TCC Supported***

This bill would create the Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce Development Program to help meet the growing demand for skilled labor in the nuclear energy sector. It tasks the Texas Workforce Commission with developing a strategic plan to close labor supply gaps by providing financial support for new training programs, research initiatives, and leadership development at Texas universities.

TRANSMISSION**SB 6 by Sen. Phil King (R-Weatherford): PASSED*****TCC Supported***

This bill would establish a minimum transmission charge for all ERCOT retail customers served behind-the-meter. Municipal Owned Utilities and electric cooperatives may pass this charge on to retail customers as they see fit. The bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUCT) to set interconnection standards for large electric loads, typically 75 MW or more, to prevent stranded infrastructure costs. The PUCT cannot restrict MOUs or coops from imposing additional service requirements on large loads. Furthermore, it requires utilities to notify the PUCT and ERCOT before launching new net metering agreements if the customer's demand exceeds 10% of the generation resource's capacity and no equivalent replacement capacity is proposed.

BUILDING CODES**SB 783 by Sen. Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio): PASSED*****TCC Supported***

This bill would allow the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) authority to adopt energy, water and high-performance building code standards for state-funded buildings, and the ability to adopt the latest energy codes of the International Code Council. TCC negotiated a compromise on this bill with the Sierra Club and the Texas Association of Builders.

HB 3314 by Rep. Cody Harris (R-Palestine): FAILED***TCC Neutral*****SB 2102 by Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels): FAILED**

This bill would establish specific energy efficiency performance standards for residential construction in Texas, particularly for unvented attics and enclosed rafter assemblies. It would have allowed a local jurisdiction to consider a residence in compliance with energy efficiency performance standards if air impermeable insulation (spray foam) is utilized.

HB 871 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would update the residential and commercial building codes that municipalities in Texas must follow. It adopts the 2018 versions of the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC) as the statewide standards, replacing the previously adopted 2012 versions.

HB 882 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would expand and update building code requirements in the unincorporated areas of certain Texas counties.

CARBON CAPTURE & SEQUESTRATION

SB 2612 by Rep. Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would establish the Texas Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Policy Council within the Texas Railroad Commission. The Council would be tasked with studying and making recommendations on carbon capture and sequestration policies, technologies, and industry practices in Texas. The Council would also assess the effectiveness, safety, and emissions impacts of carbon capture, develop a state plan, create an online database of projects, and submit a report to the Legislature.

HB 2790 by Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would limit legal liability for companies that capture, transport, or store carbon dioxide underground in Texas. It prevents lawsuits claiming carbon dioxide is a nuisance or pollutant and restricts damage claims unless there is proof of actual harm and misconduct, such as regulatory violations or misrepresentation. The bill would support the growth of carbon capture and storage projects.

HB 2762 by Rep. Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

SB 1258 by Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville): *FAILED*

This bill would establish that, unless otherwise specified in a legal agreement, the surface owner of land in Texas also owns the pore space beneath it (geologic voids and cavities underground). The bill would not change existing common law governing the relationship between surface and mineral rights.

CIVIL JUSTICE

COURTS

HB 40 by Rep. Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill will make several changes to the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and Government Code to better incorporate the Business Court established in the 88th Legislative Session. The Business Court was created to handle specialized complex business litigation cases with 11 divisions across the state. In the 88th legislative session, the Governor was allowed to appoint judges to the 5 divisions covering the major metropolitan areas. This court started presiding over cases on September 1, 2024, and has discovered some initial statutory issues/ambiguities after managing over 80 cases. This bill refines and clarifies the court's jurisdiction, certain procedural rules, and other operational provisions to ensure the Business Court. The bill also allows the governor to appoint judges for the six remaining divisions.

HB 523 by Rep. Brian Harrison (R-Midlothian): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed state or local officials to issue recommendations and nonbinding guidelines to assist with the state's response to a declared disaster. The bill also required any order issued by the Governor in response to a disaster must be narrowly tailored, served a compelling public health or safety purpose, and limited in duration to protect individual rights. The bill also would have placed additional restrictions on the governor's power to issue or extend an order for a disaster. The bill would have empowered a district or appellate court to conduct expedited hearings when a state order is challenged and invalidate the order if it did not comply with the language in this bill.

HB 4797 by Rep. Keresa Richardson (R-McKinney): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have consolidated the state's appellate districts from 15 courts of appeal down to six courts of appeal. The bill would have changed the name of each appellate court from using numbers, e.g. First Court of Appeals, to using letters for identification, e.g. Court of Appeals District A.

HB 5067 by Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Plano): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required a notice of appeal requesting assignment to the 15th Court of Appeals to identify the specific matter that is within the court's exclusive jurisdiction. The 88th Legislature created the new 15th Court of Appeals and granted it exclusive intermediate appellate authority over certain cases, including cases brought by or against the state. This bill would have provided clarity in the Government Code on the types of cases that may be appealed to the 15th Court of Appeals after the Texas Supreme Court issued an opinion in early 2025.

SB 2883 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have made several changes related to the Texas Business Court. Specifically, the bill would have clarified the court's jurisdiction on certain business issues like intellectual property; reduced the minimum amounts in controversy; authorize the Governor to appoint judges to certain divisions; and extend the deadlines for divisions to be abolished unless the Legislature reauthorizes them.

CONTRACTS

HB 2463 by Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Plano): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SB 776 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *FAILED*

This bill would have regulated contract provisions related to compensatory damages in a contract between a contractor and a governmental entity. Specifically, it would have prevented parties from including a contract provision that prohibited an award of compensatory damages to a contractor when certain conditions are met. The bill would have voided in-contract provisions attempting to waive the bill's restriction. TCC routinely monitors construction related bills that may affect the freedom to contract. This includes monitoring bills that regulate contracts with government entities because similar legislation often appears in succeeding legislative sessions seeking to regulate contract provisions between private parties.

HB 1922 by Rep. Jay Dean (R-Longview): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill addresses the cause of action accrual date for a construction defect claim brought by a governmental entity against a private party. Specifically, the bill identifies that the cause of action accrues on the postmarked date when a government entity mails the required construction defect report to the contractor. TCC monitored this bill in case any amendments sought to change the accrual dates for other types of construction liability claims.

HB 2021 by Rep. Jeff Barry (R-Pearland): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required a private owner to provide a contractor the right to repair a construction defect on a project exceeding \$10 million at certain facilities before the private owner could bring a claim for damages. The bill would have required premise owners the same right of repair requirements that apply to government contracts, including a prohibition to include a waiver for the right to repair in private party contracts.

HB 2483 by Rep. Pat Curry (R-Bruceville): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required construction contract retainage, funds that are withheld until after a job is complete, to be deposited into an escrow account by the contractor.

HB 2484 by Rep. Pat Curry (R-Bruceville): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill is almost a duplicate of HB 2483, which would have required construction contract retainage to be deposited into an escrow account by the contractor. This bill would have added a three percent late payment if retainage funds were not released within three months of completion of the work in the construction contract.

HB 2960 by Rep. Richard Hayes (R-Denton): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will void construction contract provisions that seek to require the parties to be subject to another state's laws for disputes or seek to establish proper venue for a dispute, or arbitration, to be located in another state. The described contract provisions are now void for being against public policy. Texas contracts, and conflicts arising from them, shall be interpreted based on Texas laws and in Texas courts. The bill also requires that the default venue for a dispute is in the county where the property at issue is located, unless stipulated to another venue by the parties after a dispute arises.

HB 3005 by Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio): PASSED *TCC Neutral as Amended*

This bill clarifies that a bona fide dispute related to a public works construction project does not include an audit that continues for more than 60 days after the date of substantial completion of the project. TCC worked with the bill's author on an amendment. The bill was amended to remove language that would have similarly limited the good faith dispute exception under the Prompt Pay Act for construction contracts between private parties.

HB 3223 by Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Plano): FAILED *TCC Opposed*

This bill would have shortened the statutes of limitations and repose for certain construction contract claims. For claims against a constructor, licensed architect, engineer, designer, or landscape architect, the bill would have required a claim be filed two years sooner than existing law (ten years) after the substantial completion of an improvement.

HB 3287 by Rep. Keith Bell (R-Forney): FAILED *TCC Neutral as Amended*

SB 1612 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): FAILED

This bill would have made a few changes related to reserve funds, trust fund liability, and attorney's fees that may be collected in a dispute. TCC worked with the bill's author to find agreeable language for the various proposed changes. First, the bill would have required reserved funds to be considered trust funds when a subcontractor perfects a lien for the reserve funds and the property at issue could be subject to a lender's foreclosure. The bill would have released a premise owner's liability if an owner distributed reserve funds to a contractor or subcontractor early. The bill also limited liability for premise owners that may be subject to trustee liability by requiring a claimant to demonstrate a premise owner withheld funds with the intent to defraud. Finally, the bill would have allowed the prevailing party in a lawsuit to collect attorney's fees.

HB 3288 by Rep. Keith Bell (R-Forney): FAILED *TCC Neutral as Amended*

SB 1615 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): FAILED

This bill would have prohibited the ability to enforce any cross-offset provisions in a construction contract. A cross-offset provision allows the parties to negotiate when funds can be withheld for one project to ensure proper completion of another project. TCC worked with the bill author to amend the bill with agreeable language. This bill would have clarified that this practice would be considered a misapplication of trust funds and subject the trustee to increased liability. The bill was amended to exclude a premise owner from the trust fund liability and restriction on the use of cross-offset provisions.

HB 3289 by Rep. Keith Bell (R-Forney): FAILED *TCC Opposed*

SB 1614 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): FAILED

This bill would have similarly prohibited the ability to enforce any cross-offset provisions in a construction contract by making changes to the Prompt Pay Act. TCC worked with the bill author to identify agreeable language but could not reach consensus. Specifically, this bill would have clarified that a good faith dispute cannot include a dispute relating to a different contract or agreement. This would have prevented the applicability of the good faith dispute exception in the Prompt Pay Act.

HB 3290 by Rep. Keith Bell (R-Forney): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral as Amended

SB 1530 by Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-Edinburg): *FAILED*

This bill would have changed the length of time a premise owner could withhold reserve funds for a construction contract. TCC worked with the bill author to amend the bill with agreeable language. Instead of being required to withhold reserve funds for 30 days after work is completed, the bill would have allowed owners to release reserve funds until the earlier of 31 days after completing work or 61 days after a project receives a certificate of occupancy or is used for its intended purpose.

HB 3712 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral as Amended

This bill would have removed the requirement for a premise owner to withhold reserve funds until after a project is completed for specially fabricated materials. TCC worked with the bill author to amend the bill with agreeable language. The bill required that the specially fabricated materials be delivered to the project site and covered by a manufacturer’s warranty in order to receive the early release of reserve funds.

HB 3874 by Rep. Richard Hayes (R-Denton): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 1040 by Sen. Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound): *FAILED*

This bill would have hindered the ability for owners, contractors, and subcontractors to incorporate by reference other documents in construction contracts. TCC worked with the bill author to identify agreeable language but could not reach consensus. Specifically, the bill would make contract provisions voidable if they referenced terms and conditions in a separate document and the other document was not provided at least ten days prior to the date the contract was executed. The bill’s restriction did not apply if the referenced document was publicly available. The bill also would have specifically prohibited parties from including a waiver of this restriction, and any waiver provision would be void.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

HB 331 by Rep. Jared Patterson (R-Frisco): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This legislation expands the heart attack or stroke presumption for first responders under workers’ compensation to “routine” stressful or strenuous physical activity that occurs not later than 8 hours after the end of the first responder’s shift.

HB 480 by Rep. Armando Walle (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 338 by Sen. Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin): *FAILED*

This bill would have required contractors and subcontractors to provide workers’ compensation insurance for their employees.

HB 673 by Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have mandated workers’ compensation benefits for first responders diagnosed with PTSD if it was caused by one or more events occurring in the course and scope of their employment.

HB 823 by Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have permitted a decedent’s estate to recover exemplary damages based on the employer’s gross negligence.

HB 1292 by Rep. Terry Meza (D-Irving): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed This bill

would have indexed death benefits paid under workers' compensation insurance to the Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers CPI.

HB 1691 by Rep. Ben Bumgarner (R-Flower Mound): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral This bill

would have expanded the cancer presumption for first responders under workers' compensation insurance to include "any cancer that may be caused by exposure to heat, smoke, radiation, or a known or suspected carcinogen as determined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer."

HB 2369 by Rep. Jared Patterson (R-Frisco): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill attempted to revert to the workers' compensation system prior to the reforms made in 1989. Specifically, the legislation would have authorized the performance of a medical exam to define the compensable injury at the request of a custodial officer, detention officer, emergency medical technician, firefighter, or peace officer regardless of whether an exam was previously performed. The bill would have waived the insurer's right to contest the extent of the injury if they do not contest the report within 60 days of receipt. It would have further required the contesting insurer to give the specific reason for contesting the claim and provide evidence that the determination was based on. The insurer would have also been required to directly reimburse the injured employee for all medical expenses incurred in relation to the injury if the carrier denied the claim, an administrative law judge (ALJ) determined that the injury was compensable, and the ALJ's decision was not appealed and became final. If the appeals panel affirmed the ALJ's determination that benefits are owed or reversed the ALJ's determination that benefits are not owed, the insurer would have been required to directly reimburse the employee's medical expenses.

HB 2488 by Rep. Keith Bell (R-Forney): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will authorize the workers' compensation division to hold contested case hearings virtually upon a determination by the division that good cause exists for conducting the hearing by videoconference or upon mutual agreement of the parties.

HB 5412 by Rep. Stan Lambert (R-Abilene): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This legislation would have changed the definition of "intoxication" to mean the involuntary introduction into the body of an intoxicating substance including an abusable volatile chemical. The bill further provided that an analysis of a specimen of blood, urine, or any bodily fluid collected during an autopsy that shows the presence on an intoxicating substance would have created a rebuttable presumption that the person was intoxicated, and the presumption could only be rebutted by credible and objective evidence.

SB 220 by Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

The bill would have allowed an employee who was sexually assaulted or abused to pierce the exclusive remedy of workers' compensation by bringing a cause of action against the employer if the employee has an intellectual or developmental disability and their injuries arose from the employer's negligence.

SB 264 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill winds down a no longer needed Texas self-insurance group guaranty fund and trust fund under the Workers' Compensation Act. The fund and trust were originally created to address workers' compensation affordability issues that have since been addressed in the market.

SB 423 by Sen. Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have authorized the Department of Workers' Compensation to conduct a contested case hearing remotely on mutual agreement of the parties. A similar piece of legislation did pass, HB 2488 by Rep. Keith Bell.

LOCAL REGULATION

CONSTRUCTION

HB 871 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have updated the residential and commercial building codes that municipalities in Texas must follow. It adopts the 2018 versions of the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC) as the statewide standards, replacing the previously adopted 2012 versions.

HB 882 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have expanded and updated building code requirements in the unincorporated areas of certain Texas counties.

HB 3299 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have revised existing Texas law to narrow restrictions on local regulation of building materials and standards, limiting its scope to residential buildings only. Currently, governmental entities are prohibited from banning or limiting the use of certain approved building materials or imposing stricter standards than those in current national model codes for both residential and commercial construction. This bill would have removed commercial buildings from those protections, allowing municipalities more authority to regulate construction materials and standards in commercial projects.

HB 3314 by Rep. Cody Harris (R-Palestine): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SB 2102 by Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels): *FAILED*

This bill would establish specific energy efficiency performance standards for residential construction in Texas, particularly for unvented attics and enclosed rafter assemblies. It would have allowed a local jurisdiction to consider a residence in compliance with energy efficiency performance standards if air impermeable insulation (spray foam) is utilized.

ANNEXATION

HB 377 by Rep. Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have changed consent requirements for municipal annexation. It would have required the governing body of a municipality to negotiate and enter into a written agreement with the landowners for the provision of services at least 90 days before the annexation date. Furthermore, any agreement authorizing a municipality to annex land cannot waive these newly established requirements, ensuring that the landowners' consent and service agreements are properly addressed in the annexation process.

HB 2512 by Rep. Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will change the rules for how landowners or residents can remove property from a city's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). It clarifies when and how a city's ETJ can be reduced without the city's approval, allowing release in specific cases such as a court order, certain agreements, or through a petition or election by residents. It also adds new exceptions, preventing release for areas close to military bases, in fast-growing counties, or within large cities' ETJs near military zones. It blocks release for small parcels, certain subdivisions, or land under active development agreements in large, multi-county cities. The bill also requires cities to notify residents and

landowners within seven business days of receiving a petition and gives landowners the option to keep their property in the ETJ.

LOCAL REGULATION

SB 779 by Sen. Mayes Middleton (R-Galveston): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have provided protection to industry from potential civil enforcement actions brought by private parties or political subdivisions for public nuisance claims. Specifically, this bill would prohibit public nuisance claims seeking damages, or other relief, related to authorized or permitted activities. They also prevent public nuisance claims for products, even if defective, and for actions or conditions that are allowed as a result of a separate civil or administrative enforcement action.

SB 2858 by Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have significantly expanded state preemption over local regulation in Texas. It asserted that the state has exclusive authority over several areas including commerce, trade, elections, and criminal justice, and aimed to eliminate what it describes as a “patchwork” of inconsistent local regulations. The bill would have voided any local ordinances, orders, or rules that regulate areas already covered by state law. It would enable private citizens and trade associations to sue local governments over ordinances that allegedly violate this preemption.

HB 1226 by Rep. Gary Gates (R-Rosenberg): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have allowed for the dissolution of a municipal management district by petition from property owners. Under this bill, the district’s board would have been required to dissolve the district if a written petition is filed by owners representing at least two-thirds of the assessed property value subject to ad valorem or sales tax, or a majority of the assessed value if the district only levies assessments and not taxes. These provisions would have taken precedence over any conflicting special laws governing a district. It also makes a conforming change to the Water Code to allow ship channel security districts to be dissolved using the same process.

HB 1378 by Rep. Wes Virdell (R-Brady): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would require municipalities and counties in Texas to regulate the installation of certain electric energy storage systems used for selling wholesale energy or ancillary services. Specifically, it mandates that local governments prohibit the installation of such storage facilities within 500 yards of privately owned property unless the developer obtains written consent from each affected property owner. The bill clarifies that counties cannot enforce this regulation within city limits.

HB 1563 by Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

SB 723 by Sen. Carol Alvarado (D-Houston): *FAILED*

This bill would have allowed local governments to publish Tier II data when it has been made public by TCEQ or if the information released only states the name of a class of dangerous goods under the hazard classification system. This would have included posting Tier II data on city and county websites. This legislation would pose a homeland security threat to industrial facilities.

HB 1729 by Rep. Cody Vasut (R-Angleton): PASSED***TCC Neutral***

This bill will set term limits for commissioners serving on the Port Freeport Board. Specifically, it states that a person cannot be elected as a commissioner if they have already served two or more full terms. However, if someone was appointed or elected to fill the remainder of someone else's unfinished term, that partial service does not count toward the two-term limit.

HB 1740 by Rep. Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would make significant changes to the requirements for fire, health, and code inspections in Texas. Primarily, a search warrant would be required for inspections conducted by fire marshals, health officers, or code enforcement officials, replacing the previous provision that allowed inspections without a warrant under certain conditions. However, inspections could proceed without a warrant if the owner or occupant consents or if there is an immediate life-threatening situation.

SB 304 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock): PASSED***TCC Neutral***

This bill will give municipal courts more authority to handle cases related to public health, safety, and nuisance issues. It allows cities to pass ordinances that give their municipal courts civil jurisdiction to enforce certain local laws, such as those dealing with dangerous buildings or abandoned vehicles. It also lets these courts share authority with district and county courts to enforce health and safety and nuisance abatement ordinances within city limits and on city-owned land just outside city limits. Additionally, municipal judges can now issue search and seizure warrants to investigate violations, remove hazardous property, and clean up debris.

HB 2068 by Rep. Dennis Paul (R-Webster): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have overhauled the governance of the Harris County Flood Control District by transferring authority from the Harris County Commissioners Court to a new independent Board appointed by the Governor. It defines the Board's structure and powers, including hiring a flood control manager, acquiring land, issuing bonds independently, and managing district funds.

HB 3056 by Rep. Wes Virdell (R-Brady): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have required municipalities and counties in Texas to prohibit the installation of wind or solar power facilities intended for wholesale energy or ancillary services within 500 yards of property owned by someone other than the facility's owner or operator, unless the facility owner obtains written consent from nearby property owners.

HB 4313 by Rep. Cecil Bell (R-Magnolia): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have prohibited political subdivisions from imposing any fees to fund projects aimed at addressing climate or environmental issues.

HB 4337 by Rep. Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston): FAILED***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have made several changes to the regulation of maritime pilots serving the Harris County port. The bill would extend the jurisdiction of the Harris County Board of Pilot Commissioners to include not only ports in Harris County but also those in Chambers County that utilize the Houston Ship Channel, as well as all related anchorages, stops, and landing places. It confirms that the board has exclusive authority over the regulation of these pilots.

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 1735 Rep. Nate Schatzline (R-Fort Worth): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have created the Texas Local Government Accountability Association, focused on promoting ethics and transparency among local governments. Local governments could voluntarily join the association through a vote by their governing body or be required to join if enough local voters petition and approve it through an election. Once a local government becomes a member, all its officials, employees, contractors, and vendors must follow the association's published ethics and transparency standards.

PRODUCT REGULATION

PRODUCT REGULATION

SB 25 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham): PASSED

TCC Opposed

This bill is the Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) model legislation. SB 25 establishes requirements for nutritional education in public schools and requires students to take recess with physical activity. More onerously, the bill would require food manufacturers to include a warning label on food products required to be labeled by the United States Food and Drug Administration. This exempts fresh meats, produce and dairy products.

TCC worked closely with Texas Retailers, Consumer Brands, and the agriculture industry to remove the following ingredients from the warning label requirement:

- A product labeled with a governmental warning with a recommendation from the surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service;
- A drug or dietary supplement; or
- A pesticide chemical, soil or plant nutrient, or other agricultural chemical used in the production, storage, or transportation of a raw agricultural commodity.
- The House removed the following ingredients from the warning label requirements:
 - acesulfame potassium,
 - aspartame,
 - atrazine,
 - glyphosate,
 - high fructose corn syrup,
 - potassium sorbate,
 - saccharine,
 - synthetic or artificial vanillin, and
 - titanium dioxide used in dairy products.

The bill also includes a federal preemption for a federal law or regulation issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration or the United States Department of Agriculture.

SB 314 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill prohibits school districts and charter schools in Texas from including certain food additives (such as artificial colors, preservatives, and titanium dioxide) in free or reduced-price meals provided under federal school meal programs.

HB 1637 by Rep. Lacey Hull (R-Houston): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited the use of glyphosate herbicides on public and private school grounds in Texas, except if being used as part of an agriculture curriculum at a high school. It also would have banned certain artificial food color additives in school meals provided by districts or charter schools.

HB 3137 by Rep. David Lowe (R-North Richland Hills): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have banned the sale, distribution, and use of three herbicides in Texas: chloropropham, glyphosate, and dicamba. It would also have prohibited the sale of any food or beverage containing certain additives (aspartame, artificial flavoring, and others) for human consumption. Violators could face a civil penalty of up to \$500 per item sold, with additional

penalties for each violation. The attorney general would have been authorized to enforce the penalties and recover associated legal costs.

HB 2565 by Rep. Carrie Isaac (R-Wimberley): FAILED

TCC Opposed

HB 3292 by Rep. Will Metcalf (R-Conroe): FAILED

HB 3736 by Rep. Joanne Shofner (R-Nacogdoches): FAILED

HB 4787 by Rep. Joanne Shofner (R-Nacogdoches): FAILED

HB 4971 by Rep. Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park): FAILED

HB 5548 by Rep. Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown): FAILED

These bills would have prohibited Texas public schools from serving ultra-processed foods or food and drinks that contain specific additives and dyes.

HB 699 by Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required cosmetic manufacturers selling products in Texas to disclose all ingredients including fragrances, flavors, and color additives, on their websites, along with each ingredient's chemical abstracts service number.

HB 719 by Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required manufacturers of lipstick and lip gloss sold in Texas to disclose all ingredients, including fragrances, flavors, and color additives, as well as the presence of toxic metals like lead, chromium, and cadmium, both on the product label and the manufacturer's website.

HB 2669 by Rep. Bobby Guerra (D-McAllen): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to create a reporting system for ranchers to report balloon-related livestock deaths and to develop an outreach program educating the public on the environmental dangers of balloon releases, with annual reports submitted to the legislature.

HB 3738 by Rep. Joanne Shofner (R-Nacogdoches): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have required the Texas Department of Agriculture, with help from the Texas Education Agency, to conduct an annual study measuring levels of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in food served to students and submit a report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and each member of the legislature.

HB 5378 by Rep. Caroline Harris Davila (R-Round Rock): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required Texas public schools to notify parents or guardians if school meals contained certain additives, such as artificial dyes, preservatives, or chemicals, linked to health risks like cancer, endocrine disruption, or hyperactivity, and allows this information to be published on the school's website.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE FUNDING

SB 1786 by Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill makes technical corrections for the community college funding system established by HB 8 last session. HB 8 introduced a performance-based funding model for Texas community colleges to incentivize coordination with employers to enhance job placement.

HB 3041 by Rep. Dennis Paul (R-Houston): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill expands access to public higher education and financial aid for students with a nontraditional secondary education, such as homeschool or other alternative schooling models. It ensures equal treatment for these students in admissions, dual credit opportunities, and eligibility for state financial aid.

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

SJR 59 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill enhances funding for the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. It would establish two dedicated funds for capital projects and equipment purchases for TSTC's educational programs and would provide the institution with greater financial flexibility. Voters will need to approve this constitutional amendment at the ballot box for it to become law.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

HB 120 by Rep. Keith Bell (R-Forney):

TCC Supported

This bill enhances college and career readiness in Texas public schools by improving data reporting on student outcomes and expanding access to workforce-aligned education pathways. It increases funding for schools offering Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) and Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) programs and prioritizes credentials tied to the state's higher education goals.

WORKFORCE TRAINING / APPRENTICESHIP

SB 1535 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill establishes an Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce Development Program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. The program addresses labor shortages in the advanced nuclear sector by supporting education, training, and career pathways from high school through higher education.

HB 2768 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill creates a new state information technology apprenticeship credential to be offered by public junior colleges and public technical institutes in Texas. It addresses shortages in the state's information resources workforce. State agencies can partner with colleges to offer programs that include classroom instruction and a one-year apprenticeship with a state agency or related organization. The credential will be used as a substitute for a four-year degree for state IT jobs.

HB 3260 by Keith Bell (R-Forney): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill revises and expands the Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program. The bill allows the Texas Workforce Commission to directly certify apprenticeship programs and define apprenticeable occupations under state-specific criteria. The bill also

authorizes milestone-based grant reimbursements as participants meet job training and employment benchmarks.

JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) PROGRAM

SB 1728 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill expands the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program to include the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, juvenile boards, and juvenile probation departments. These entities will receive funding to develop new career and technical education (CTE) programs, similar to those already available to public schools and colleges. It will increase educational and workforce opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system, helping them gain skills for high-demand careers and reducing recidivism.

HB 322 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): PASSED

TCC Supported

This bill expands how funds from the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program can be used. In addition to covering start-up costs for new career and technical education (CTE) programs, JET grants may now also be used to pay for the acquisition, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of technology solutions that support these programs. The bill ensures that grant funding can be used not just for launching programs, but also for the long-term technological infrastructure needed to sustain them.

EMPLOYER ISSUES

DISCRIMINATION

SB 2713 by Sen. Mayes Middleton (R-Galveston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have prohibited professional or trade associations from denying membership, access, or participation to individuals based on characteristics such as race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, or because of a person's exercise of free speech or assembly—regardless of what the association's bylaws state. It would have created a private cause of action, allowing individuals who believe they've been wrongfully excluded to sue for damages or injunctive relief. This bill was filed in response to a REALTOR who posted defamatory statements regarding a class of people on social media, and who was then considered for suspension by the Texas Association of REALTORS for violating their code of ethics. This legislation would have greatly undermined the ability of a trade association to establish and enforce their own professional bylaws and code of ethics approved by their members.

HB 302 by Rep. Jon Rosenthal (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SB 361 by Sen. Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin): *FAILED*

This bill would have prohibited employment discrimination against a person based on reproductive decisions including their marital status, their use of assisted reproduction to become pregnant, their use of contraception or a specific form of contraception, or their obtainment or use of any other health care drug, device, or service relating to reproductive health.

HB 949 by Rep. Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have prohibited an employer from taking an adverse employment action or from discriminating against an employee based on their nondisclosure of personal health information. The bill would have imposed a \$50,000 civil penalty on the employer for a violation that was enforceable by the attorney general.

HB 1191 by Rep. Christian Manuel (D-Port Arthur): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

HB 2466 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City): *FAILED*

This bill would have prohibited an employer from inquiring about an applicant's criminal history record in an initial application for employment. The employer would be permitted to inquire after determining that the applicant was otherwise qualified and had extended a conditional offer or invited the applicant to interview.

HB 1609 by Rep. Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited an employer of 20 or more employees from terminating or suspending the employment of or discriminating against an employee who is a volunteer emergency responder because the employee was absent from or late to work because they were responding to a declared disaster.

HB 2351 by Rep. Harold Dutton (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This legislation would have made it a third-degree felony for an employer to knowingly hire or employ a person not lawfully present in this state. The bill also provided that it was not a defense that the employer classified the person as an independent contractor if the classification was not in accordance with the Unemployment Compensation Act.

HB 2753 by Rep. Cassandra Garcia Hernandez (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

HB 5400 by Rep. Jessica Gonzalez (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

SB 2868 by Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

These bills would have allowed an individual to bring a civil action for damages caused by an unlawful employment practice based on sexual harassment regardless of whether the individual filed a grievance or complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission, the complaint is still pending, or the individual has not received notice of the right to sue. The bill did not cap damages and would establish a two-year limitation period.

HB 4245 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have increased the compensatory and punitive damage limits in employment discrimination claims based on the increase in the CPI as of September 1, 2025.

HB 5373 by Rep. Ana-Maria Rodriguez Ramos (D-Richardson): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

The bill would have prohibited caste-based discrimination.

EMPLOYMENT

HB 317 by Rep. Mary Gonzalez (D-El Paso): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This legislation would have entitled an employee to five days off without compensation within the three-month period following a reproductive loss. The employer would have been prohibited from retaliating against an employee who takes leave and made retaliation an unlawful employment practice.

HB 822 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have mandated employers to offer comprehensive paid sick leave, set pay rates and standards for sick leave, and created a civil penalty enforceable by the attorney general for non-compliance. Additionally, the bill would have allowed an employee to bring a civil action against an employer for alleged non-compliance.

HB 841 by Rep. Diego Bernal (D-San Antonio): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

HB 2466 by Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Houston): *FAILED*

HB 1880 by Rep. Lauren Ashley Simmons (D-Houston): *FAILED*

Each of these bills would have mandated employers to provide paid sick leave annually.

HB 1351 by Rep. Terry Meza (D-Irving): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have entitled an employee who has worked for an employer for at least one year to up to 30 days of leave to attend to the employee's own serious health condition or the serious health condition of a family member, for the birth of a child, or the care or services necessary if the employee or employee's family are a victim of family violence, sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking. The bill also created a wage replacement benefit fund to be funded by employee contributions of .25% of the employee's monthly pay. Violations of this legislation would have been classified as unlawful employment practices.

HB 1069 by Rep. Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have clarified the classification of construction workers as either independent contractors or employees for the purposes of establishing eligibility for unemployment benefits. Specifically, the bill would have classified construction workers as independent contractors leading to fewer construction workers qualifying for unemployment benefits.

HB 1070 by Rep. Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

The bill would have clarified that an individual is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits if their unemployment stems from a work stoppage due to a labor dispute, except in the situation where employees have been denied entry by the employer or placed on emergency leave without pay during a labor dispute. The bill would have also clarified that the payment of regular union dues would not be considered as financing a labor dispute.

HB 1362 by Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SB 543 by Sen. Jose Menendez: *FAILED*

This bill would have allowed individuals to qualify for unemployment benefits if they left their employment as a direct result of documented sexual harassment.

HB 1567 by Rep. Ana Hernandez (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have extended unemployment benefits eligibility to individuals who leave their workplace to care for a minor child due to an unexpected illness, accident, or other unforeseeable event or to care for a terminally ill spouse.

HB 1843 by Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have increased the allowed reduction in normal weekly hours for a shared work plan under Texas's unemployment compensation program from a maximum of 40 percent to 50 percent.

HB 2760 by Rep. Denise Villalobos (R-Corpus Christi): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will clarify which courts are eligible to conduct judicial review of a final Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) decision in an unemployment compensation proceeding. The bill specifies that a party aggrieved by a final TWC decision can obtain judicial review through a county court at law or a district court, rather than a court of competent jurisdiction.

HB 3698 by Rep. Hubert Vo (D-Houston): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will require mandatory participation in reemployment services as a condition for eligibility for unemployment benefits for those individuals who are identified as likely to exhaust their benefits before finding employment.

HB 3699 by Rep. Hubert Vo (D-Houston): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will clarify the definition of "last work" for qualification of unemployment benefits. The previous definition required that the claimant work for a person for at least 30 hours. The new definition simply refers to "employer" as defined by law closing a loophole that the TWC identified with the 30-hour provision.

HB 4424 by Rep. Mano DeAyala (R-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill attempted to make significant changes to the Texas unemployment benefits program to encourage reemployment and combat fraud. Provisions included in the reforms would require an applicant to have actively engaged in five work searches a week and increased the criteria for benefit wage credits from two to three quarters. The bill would have further expanded disqualifications for claimants if they failed to respond to interview requests. The commission would have also been required to verify claims against multiple databases in an effort to improve the integrity of the program. Finally, the bill would have increased penalties for fraudulent claims including forfeiture of current and future benefits based on the number of offenses committed.

SB 1950 by Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have amended the “actively seeking work” requirement for applicants seeking unemployment benefits to include a minimum of five specific steps to prove they are actually seeking work. The bill would have increased the base year requirement from two to three quarters of employment with recorded wages in order for the claimant to qualify for benefits and would have been required to have earned wages equal to 37 weeks of benefits during the benefit year to re-qualify.

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 1488 by Rep. AJ Louderback (R-Edna): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have mandated that private employers register and participate in the E-Verify program and creates a Legal Hiring Compliance Division within the Texas Workforce Commission to ensure compliance and impose penalties. Further, private contractors working with state agencies would have been mandated to participate in E-Verify.

HB 1882 by Rep. Lauren Ashley Simmons (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have provided a legal framework to allow businesses in Texas to create and support employee-related organizations, including employee resource groups and labor unions. The bill would have also required the establishment of employee-inclusionary practices as part of normal business operations.

HB 3191 by Rep. Angie Chen Button (R-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have introduced several initiatives aimed at improving child care access and availability including:

- Employer Child-Care Contribution Partnership Program to incentivize employers to contribute to their employees’ childcare costs with the state providing matching funds;
- Child-Care Innovation Pilot Program to facilitate partnerships between local employers and high-quality childcare providers through grants aimed at addressing workforce needs; and
- Tax credits for taxable entities that provide financial support to their employees for childcare.

HB 3982 by Rep. Armando Walle (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have created the Worker Heat Illness, Injury, and Death Prevention Act to address heat-related illnesses, injuries, and fatalities. The bill attempted to create a state regulatory framework around heat illness prevention and would have applied to all employers whose employees perform work activities during a period when the heat index at the employees’ worksite is at or above 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The bill included onerous provisions that would

limit or impede the ability of employers to manage their industrial health and heat stress programs based on medical research and guidance to keep their employees safe.

HB 4598 by Rep. Vicki Goodwin (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have mandated an employer contribution framework requiring employers in Texas to contribute 0.15% of all wages paid within a calendar year to subsidize employee child-care costs. Employers who offer self-funded child-care services for employees would be exempt from participating in the mandatory contribution.

SB 2882 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have removed provisions relating to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, or disability as factors to be considered in conjunction with objective job-related requirements for achieving diversity in the employer's workforce.

SITE SAFETY & SECURITY

GUNS

HB 925 by Rep. Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have repealed two sections in the Texas Penal Code that outline exceptions to defense to prosecution for an offense related to carrying a handgun in prohibited locations.

SB 82 by Sen. Bob Hall (R-Edgewood): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have made businesses in Texas liable for damages if they prohibit licensed individuals from carrying concealed handguns on their premises and a criminal act occurs on the property.

HB 644 by Rep. Cecil Bell (R-Magnolia): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have protected Texas businesses from liability for allowing individuals to carry handguns on their premises. The bill clarified that not posting a sign or giving other formal notice counts as allowing concealed handguns.

HB 1739 by Rep. Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have simplified and expanded the signage requirements for Texas property owners who wish to prohibit firearms on their premises. It would allow a clearer sign format with plain language in English and Spanish, smaller text, and a handgun picture with a red slash.

CYBERSECURITY

HB 150 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will establish the Texas Cyber Command within The University of Texas System to help strengthen the state's cybersecurity infrastructure. Various cybersecurity responsibilities will transfer from the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to the new command, including threat intelligence, training, and the development of best practices. It also creates a cybersecurity threat intelligence center to coordinate information sharing across state agencies and governmental entities.

GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

HB 1089 by Rep. Dennis Paul (R-Webster): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

This bill creates the Gulf Coast Protection Account, a dedicated fund to be administered by the Texas General Land Office. This account will finance coastal protection projects in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Gulf Coast Protection District.

SB 410 by Sen. Mayes Middleton (R-Galveston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have made changes to the Gulf Coast Protection District by granting the Governor of Texas the authority to appoint the district's presiding officer instead of the board of directors having that authority. The bill also sought to ensure that any project carried out by the district does not interfere with navigation safety or disrupt two-way maritime traffic.

EMERGENCY ALERTS & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

HB 440 by Rep. Christina Morales (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have expanded emergency communication accessibility in Texas by requiring that emergency alerts are issued in both English and Spanish.

HB 457 by Rep. Christina Morales (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have created the Toxic Chemical Emergency Alert System to notify the public of dangerous chemical releases from manufacturing facilities. It would require the responsible state agency to issue alerts, in both English and Spanish, within 30 minutes if the agency determines a release poses a significant threat to health or the environment. The system would provide location-specific information, maps, chemical details, health symptoms, and safety instructions.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

SB 36 by Sen. Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

This bill will create a Homeland Security Division withing the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The division will lead multi-agency and public-private operations, manage border surveillance, oversee intelligence gathering, and coordinate planning and response to security threats. The division will also focus on protecting critical infrastructure by developing strategic plans and emergency exercises, facilitate outreach with private organizations, and ensure that sensitive information shared by private organizations remain confidential.

HB 4341 by Rep. Don McLaughlin (R-Uvalde): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will require emergency response maps for certain critical infrastructure facilities to assist first responders in effectively responding to emergencies. These detailed emergency maps will show building layouts, hazards, emergency equipment, and utility locations, and would only be shared with emergency responders and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Chemical manufacturers were removed from the bill and airports and military installations are the only critical infrastructure facilities captured.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

SB 871 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SJR 40 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

This bill, and enabling resolution, would have granted the Legislature exclusive authority during a disaster declaration to restrict or impair the operation or occupancy of businesses in the state. It also required the Legislature to consult the county judge of each county affected by the declaration. The bill also would have required the Governor to convene a special session in order for the Legislature to exercise this authority and to renew or extend an existing disaster declaration. The bill also would have added more limitations on the Governor's power to suspend laws or agency rules during a disaster declaration.

SB 951 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have added new requirements to the Governor's disaster declaration authority if a renewal of a declaration extends beyond 90 days from the initial declaration. Specifically, in order for the Governor to renew an applicable declaration, the Joint Disaster Oversight Committee would need to hold a public hearing about the declaration renewal and the legislature would need to approve the maximum number of days for the renewal.

HB 5464 by Rep. Shelley Luther (R-Sherman): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have significantly restricted the emergency powers of the Governor and local officials during a declared disaster. It would require the Governor to call a special legislative session to extend any disaster declaration affecting a large portion of the state and only the Legislature would have the authority to extend, modify, or end the declaration. Without legislative approval, such declarations would expire after 30 days. It would also remove the automatic legal force of the Governor's executive orders and repeals criminal enforcement of disaster rules

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 13 by Rep. Ken King (R-Canadian): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have established the Texas Interoperability Council tasked with improving and coordinating emergency communication systems across the state. The council would develop a statewide strategic plan to ensure that first responders can communicate effectively during emergencies using interoperable equipment and infrastructure. It will also administer a grant program to help local governments purchase or upgrade communication equipment, build infrastructure such as radio towers, and provide training for emergency personnel.

SB 1898 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have restricted the use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), firefighting foams containing PFAS, for testing or training purposes. The bill would not prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution of AFFF containing PFAS chemicals, nor does it restrict its use during actual emergency firefighting operations.

TRANSPORTATION & PORTS

PORTS

HB 2120 by Rep. Jose Lozano (R-Kingsville): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have changed the composition of the Commission of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority by increasing the number of commissioners from seven to nine. It would change how commissioners are appointed. The bill would have increased the number of appointments made by San Patricio County from one to three commissioners; the same number appointed by both Nueces County and the City of Corpus Christi.

HB 2680 by Rep. Jose Lozano (R-Kingsville): *FAILED*

TCC Supported

This bill would have limited the legal liability of maritime pilots providing services in Matagorda and Lavaca Bays. Specifically, the bill would have protected a pilot from being held responsible for claims arising from the actions or omissions of other pilots or pilot organizations. The bill would have also capped a pilot's personal liability for damages caused by their own error, fault, or negligence while performing pilot services to \$1,000, unless the damage results from willful misconduct, gross negligence, or certain actions involving pilot boats.

HB 2970 by Rep. Dennis Paul (R-Webster): *PASSED*

TCC Supported

HB 2970 will make changes to the management and operations of the Gulf Coast Protection District. It shifts the authority to appoint the district's presiding officer from the district's board to the Governor, and establishes a two-year term for the presiding officer and limits a presiding officer to two consecutive terms. Additionally, the bill adds a provision to ensure that projects undertaken by the district do not interfere with navigation safety or two-way maritime traffic in violation of rules established by the board of pilot commissioners for the ports of Harris County. The bill will improve oversight and ensure that infrastructure or flood protection efforts do not compromise maritime safety.

SB 1733 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will change the composition of the Board of the Calhoun Port Authority by increasing the number of commissioners from six to seven. The bill adds a new at-large commissioner who will be elected by all voters within the port authority, in addition to the six commissioners elected from individual precincts. The Governor is directed to appoint a qualified at-large commissioner to serve on an interim basis until the first election is held in 2027.

HB 4337 by Rep. Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have made several changes to the regulation of maritime pilots serving the Houston Ship Channel. The bill would have extended the jurisdiction of the Harris County Board of Pilot Commissioners to include waterways in Harris County and Chambers County that utilize the Houston Ship Channel, as well as all related anchorages, stops, and landing places. It would also have granted the Board exclusive authority over the regulation of pilots in these waterways.

OVERWEIGHT TRUCK PERMITS & CORRIDORS

HB 2999 by Rep. Caroline Harris Davila (R-Georgetown): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed hydrogen-fueled motor vehicles in Texas to exceed current weight limits by an amount equal to the difference in weight between their hydrogen fueling systems and the weight of comparable diesel fueling systems. However, this exemption would have only applied up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 82,000 pounds. Importantly, the bill would only take effect if the federal government, either through congressional legislation or agency regulation, authorizes hydrogen-powered vehicles to operate on interstate highways at weights above current federal limits.

SB 995 by Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill will update the process for approving surety bonds required in contracts that authorize oversize or overweight vehicles to cross roads or highways in Texas. It will shift the authority for approving these bonds from the Comptroller and the Attorney General to the Texas Department of Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

HB 265 by Rep. Tom Craddick (R-Midland): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have modified how certain constitutionally required transfers of state revenue are allocated among the Economic Stabilization Fund ("Rainy Day Fund"), the State Highway Fund, and the Grow Texas Fund. It would have established procedures to allow adjustments to these allocations based on revenue levels, with the goal of maintaining a minimum funding threshold for the Economic Stabilization Fund. If revenue projections fall short of that threshold, the bill would have authorized the State Comptroller to proportionally reduce transfers to the State Highway Fund and the Grow Texas Fund to ensure adequate funding of the stabilization fund. Additionally, the bill would have established a grant program within the Grow Texas Fund to support infrastructure such as roads, schools, and health care facilities in regions heavily impacted by oil and gas production.

HB 542 by Rep. John Bucy (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have expanded the allowable uses of money deposited in the State Highway Fund to include transit-oriented projects, in addition to its traditional uses for road construction and maintenance. Specifically, the bill would amend existing statutes to reflect that funds constitutionally allocated to the State Highway Fund, such as those from gasoline taxes and vehicle registration fees, may now also be used for projects that support transit infrastructure.

HB 4906 by Rep. Mary Ann Perez (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have dedicated a portion of the revenue collected from certain oversize or overweight vehicle permits to the State Highway Fund. Specifically, the bill would have ensured that 50% of the fees collected would be deposited into the State Highway Fund, with the remaining 50% distributed to the counties designated in the relevant permit applications.

MISCELLANEOUS

SB 2199 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have increased the criminal penalty for certain overweight vehicle violations involving hazardous materials. It would have made it a second-degree felony to exceed the legal gross weight limit for fuel or other hazardous materials in a cargo tank with at least three axles.

SB 2200 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have created a new criminal offense related to the operation of certain overweight vehicles transporting hazardous materials. Specifically, the bill would have prohibited the operation or movement of a vehicle with at least three axles carrying placarded quantities of hazardous materials in a cargo tank if the vehicle is driven on a public highway not included in its permitted route or if the vehicle operates without a permit and exceeds its authorized gross weight by at least five percent. Violations of this law would be classified as a second-degree felony.

HB 4316 by Rep. Cecil Bell (R-Magnolia): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited counties and municipalities in Texas from banning or restricting the use of a particular mode of transportation on a roadway unless such a restriction is already required by state law.

SB 2949 by Sen. Juan Hinojosa (D-Edinburg): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have increased the regulation of motor fuel and hazardous materials transportation in Texas by introducing new licensing requirements, a refining tax and new documentation rules. The bill would have also established criminal penalties for certain violations. It would have required individuals transporting motor fuels to obtain their own licenses and would prohibit the use of another person's license, ensuring accountability for each transporter. The bill would also amend the Tax Code to redefine exports as direct, unaltered transport, expand shipping document requirements to include detailed information about the transporter and operator, and exempt certain direct exports from fuel taxes. It creates new criminal offenses for operating overweight vehicles carrying hazardous materials without proper permits or outside authorized routes and updates penalties for transporting motor fuel without required documentation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP AND INVESTMENT

SB 17 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham): PASSED

TCC Neutral

This bill will restrict foreign ownership of agricultural land in Texas by countries that pose a risk to the national security of the United States, including, China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. It will bar land purchases by governments from the specified countries, companies headquartered in those countries, and individuals domiciled in or affiliated with those countries, unless they are lawful U.S. residents or citizens.

SB 2117 by Sen. Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have established the Texas Committee on Foreign Investment. This committee would be tasked with reviewing certain transactions involving foreign entities that may pose risks to the state's security or its critical infrastructure. The bill focused on covered transactions where a foreign individual or company, especially from countries without U.S. trade agreements, attempts to gain control over businesses, real estate, or infrastructure within Texas. The bill would explicitly exclude certain deals, such as passive investments, residential real estate transactions, and deals already reviewed by the federal Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

HB 4921 by Rep. Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas): FAILED

TCC Opposed

This bill would have placed restrictions on how Texas state funds and tax benefits can be used in relation to private entities that move jobs overseas to discourage the outsourcing of American jobs. The bill would have prohibited state government entities from investing in or purchasing obligations of U.S.-based companies that, within the past two years, outsourced jobs that could have been performed in the United States to foreign countries, resulting in the elimination or non-creation of similar jobs domestically.

HB 173 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited public institutions of higher education in Texas from soliciting or accepting gifts, grants, or donations from the governments of certain foreign countries. Specifically, these institutions would be barred from receiving such support from the governments of China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or any country that has provided material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

HB 1450 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required public institutions of higher education in Texas to submit quarterly reports to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board detailing any gifts, grants, donations, or investments they receive from foreign sources. These sources include foreign governments, foreign legal entities, non-U.S. individuals, and their agents. Each report must include the amount received, the date it was received, the identity and origin of the foreign source, the intended use of the funds or items, and any conditions placed on their use—unless that information is confidential under state or federal law.

REGULATION OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

SB 2713 by Sen. Mayes Middleton (R-Galveston): *FAILED*

TCC Opposed

This bill would have prohibited professional or trade associations from denying membership, access, or participation to individuals based on characteristics such as race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, or because of a person's exercise of free speech or assembly—regardless of what the association's bylaws state. It would have created a private cause of action, allowing individuals who believe they've been wrongfully excluded to sue for damages or injunctive relief.

LEGISLATIVE & ETHICS

ETHICS REFORM

HB 1555 by Rep. Matt Shaheen (R-Plano): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have created an interim committee to study and review the statutes and regulations related to ethics, campaign finance, lobby laws, and personal financial disclosure. The interim committee would have considered the current law's purposes, determined whether the current laws are effective, and identified any changes. The committee would have been comprised of state representatives and senators, one member of the public, and the presiding officer of the Texas Ethics Commission.

HB 2020 by Rep. Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required a candidate or officeholder who is required to file reports with the Texas Ethics Commission to electronically file the reports if the person accepts more than \$25,000 in political contributions or spends more than \$25,000. The bill would have required the reports to be made publicly available within seven days of the report being filed.

SB 139 by Sen. Bob Hall (R-Rockwall): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed the Texas Ethics Commission to dismiss an ethics complaint before it issues a final decision if the respondent to the complaint filed a corrected or amended statement, registration, or report at issue. This bill also would have allowed a respondent to bring an action in district court within 90 days after the date the respondent receives a notice of determination from the Commission.

SB 161 by Sen. Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required registered lobbyists to complete sexual harassment prevention training and ethics training every two years. The bill also would have required lobbyists to certify completion of these trainings with the annual registrations.

SB 869 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *PASSED*

TCC Neutral

This bill prevents the Texas Ethics Commission from extending the 120-day deadline for the Commission to either dismiss a complaint or propose a resolution. The bill still provides for an extension of time if litigation is brought in district court by the respondent or Commission regarding the complaint.

SB 1460 by Sen. Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have established a public registry of individuals that had been found to have violated Texas' ethics laws. The registry would have included the names and assessed penalties for ethics violations. This bill also would have linked an individual's ethical compliance to any state-issued professional licenses, which would require state agencies to consult the public registry to confirm a license applicant is not on the registry before issuing or renewing a state-issued professional license.

SB 3014 by Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have changed the scope of penalties assessed by the Texas Ethics Commission. The bill would have prohibited the Commission from assessing penalties for technical or clerical errors and required the Commission to adopt rules outlining these types of errors and timelines to fix

them. The bill also would have required the Commission to only assess a penalty against an individual that knowingly commits a violation and created a presumption that a violation concerning \$500 or less is not committed knowingly.

LEGISLATIVE

HB 523 by Rep. Brian Harrison (R-Midlothian): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed state or local officials to issue recommendations and nonbinding guidelines to assist with the state's response to a declared disaster. The bill also required any order issued by the Governor in response to a disaster must be narrowly tailored, served a compelling public health or safety purpose, and limited in duration to protect individual rights. The bill also would have placed additional restrictions on the Governor's power to issue or extend an order for a disaster. The bill would have empowered a district or appellate court to conduct expedited hearings when a state order is challenged and invalidate the order if it did not comply with the language in this bill.

HB 5464 by Rep. Shelley Luther (R-Sherman): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required the Governor to convene a special session when he proposes to renew an order or proclamation declaring a state of disaster that affects at least half of the state population, two fifths of Texas counties, or two thirds of the counties in three or more trauma services areas. The bill would have allowed the Legislature to renew or extend the state of disaster, respond to the disaster with legislation, and consider other subjects in the Governor's proclamation. The bill also would have restricted the Governor's disaster declaration to only 30 days and could only be renewed or extended by the Legislature.

SB 707 by Sen. Phil King (R-Weatherford): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have authorized the Legislature to determine that a federal directive is unconstitutional by passing a joint resolution and prohibit state officials from enforcing or assisting in the federal directive. The bill also would have placed requirements on when this type of joint resolution could be filed.

SB 871 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SJR 40 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

This bill, and enabling resolution, would have granted the Legislature exclusive authority during a disaster declaration to restrict or impair the operation or occupancy of businesses in the state. It also required the Legislature to consult the county judge of each county affected by the declaration. The bill also would have required the Governor to convene a special session in order for the Legislature to exercise this authority and to renew or extend an existing disaster declaration. The bill also would have added more limitations on the Governor's power to suspend laws or agency rules during a disaster declaration.

SB 951 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have added new requirements to the Governor's disaster declaration authority if a renewal of a declaration extends beyond 90 days from the initial declaration. Specifically, in order for the Governor to renew an applicable declaration, the Joint Disaster Oversight Committee would need to hold a public hearing about the declaration renewal and the legislature would need to approve the maximum number of days for the renewal.

SB 1474 by Sen. Bob Hall (R-Rockwall): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SJR 61 by Sen. Bob Hall (R-Rockwall): *FAILED*

This bill, and enabling resolution, would have prohibited an agency from adopting a proposed rule, or substantially similar version, if the proposed rule was withdrawn at least two times unless both chambers of the Legislature approve it. The bill would require an agency rule that received 52% negative comments to be approved by both chambers of the Legislature in the following regular session in order for the rule to remain effective. The bill would also require certain proposed rules to go through the legislative process like other bills, e.g. referral to substantive committees, and must receive approval of both chambers in order to be effective.

SB 2051 by Sen Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SJR 68 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

HJR 214 by Rep. Cody Vasut (R-Angleton): *FAILED*

This bill, and enabling resolution, would have made changes to the impeachment process for public officers. The bill would have made all witness testimony be completed under oath and in a session open to all members of the house or applicable committee. The bill also required that any committee report concerning the investigation of an impeach be made available at least 72 hours prior to the house considers impeachment. The bill disqualified certain house members from voting in an impeachment proceeding if they were related within the third degree of consanguinity, e.g. aunts, uncles, nephews, great-grandparents, or the former spouse of the individual subject to the proceeding. The bill also required both chambers to keep an accounting on the costs of the impeachment proceeding and deliver a report on the costs. The bill also specified that the removal of an official may only occur for acts while elected or appointed to an office.

SJR 38 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have proposed a constitutional amendment that would limit the Texas Governor's authority to veto legislation. Specifically, it would have prohibited the Governor from vetoing any bill that has been passed by at least two-thirds of the votes both the Texas House of Representatives and the Senate. However, the bill would not have restricted the Governor's line-item veto power over appropriation bills.

SJR 39 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have proposed a constitutional amendment that would have allowed the Texas Legislature to override a Governor's veto even after the regular legislative session has ended. Under current law, if the Governor vetoes a bill after the legislature adjourns, lawmakers have no opportunity to override it unless a special session is called. This amendment would have changed that by requiring the Legislature to reconvene automatically at 10 a.m. on the 22nd day after adjournment of a regular session—but only if there are vetoed bills or appropriations items that meet certain criteria. These include having passed during the regular session, receiving at least a two-thirds vote in at least one chamber, and being vetoed within the last 10 days before adjournment without time for reconsideration. The post-session override session would last up to five consecutive weekdays and be strictly limited to reconsidering vetoed bills or items.

SJR 42 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have proposed a constitutional amendment that would have changed certain constitutional restrictions on what the Texas Legislature is permitted to do in the first 30 days of a regular session. The bill would have stipulated that the first 30 days be devoted to the

introduction of and holding committee hearings to consider bills and resolutions. During the remainder of the session, the Legislature would have been able to continue introducing bills and resolutions, hold hearings to consider all legislation, consider the confirmation of the Governor's recess appointees, and act on emergency appropriations.

SJR 43 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

HJR 123 by Rep. Donna Howard (D-Austin): *FAILED*

This bill would have proposed a constitutional amendment to create an independent Redistricting Commission to adopt redistricting plans for the election of U.S. House of Representatives, Texas House of Representatives, and Texas Senate. This bill also provides how members are appointed to the Commission, including eligibility and disqualification criteria. Regarding the redistricting plan, the bill identified eligible criteria and prohibited certain factors from consideration. The bill also required public transparency through comment periods, website publication, and public meetings.

SJR 44 by Sen. Nathan Johnson (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have proposed a constitutional amendment to remove the Governor's line-item veto authority.

SJR 53 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have proposed a constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to add subjects to a special session. The bill required the Legislature to approve by two-thirds vote a resolution to take up the new subject during the special session.

ELECTIONS

ELECTION INTEGRITY & SECURITY

HB 366 by Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Nederland): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required disclosure on political advertising that includes an AI-generated image of a candidate's actions that did not occur.

HB 189 by Rep. Cody Vasut (R-Angleton): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have made changes related to campaign treasurer filings with the Texas Ethics Commission for candidates and political committees. Specifically, it would have repealed several sections from the Elections Code related to campaign treasurers and political reporting to simplify the reporting process and added new requirements for campaign treasurers to update mailing addresses within 10 days, submit reports directly to the commission, and notify the commission if a treasurer is removed or resigned. The bill also would have required specific-purpose committees to appoint a campaign treasurer for candidates for statewide, district, or judicial offices.

HB 672 by Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson (R-Galveston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited the use of political contributions to pay a civil penalty or fine imposed by the Texas Ethics Commission, which would be considered a personal use of the political contributions.

HB 1616 by Rep. Ann Johnson (D-Houston): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required the inclusion of a campaign treasurer's mailing address in the written appointment of the treasurer and other reports submitted to the Texas Ethics Commission.

HB 2285 by Rep. Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

HB 4960 by Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Nederland): *FAILED*

SB 880 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham): *FAILED*

These bills would have required mass text message political advertising campaigns to be included in the definition of political advertising. This would have required mass text message campaigns to be subject to the same disclosure requirements for political advertising. The bills also would have increased the maximum civil penalty from \$4,000 to \$10,000 for a violation of the disclosure laws.

HB 4033 by Rep. Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

HB 4406 by Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Nederland): *FAILED*

These bills would have changed the information a political committee is required to disclose regarding campaign expenditures. Specifically, these bills would have expanded the disclosure requirement for expenditures to include the name of each candidate or officeholder it supported or opposed.

HB 5304 by Rep. James Talarico (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have placed a \$10,000 cap on the amount a person contributes to a candidate's campaign for a statewide office, Legislature, or a specific-purpose committee that supports the candidate or opposes the candidate's opponent. The bill also lowered the limit a statewide judicial candidate may accept from \$25,000 to \$10,000.

HB 5367 by Rep. James Talarico (D-Austin): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have placed a \$999,999 cap on the amount a person contributes to a candidate's campaign for a statewide office, Legislature, or a specific-purpose committee that supports the candidate or opposes the candidate's opponent.

SB 2045 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have created a criminal offense for a foreign national that directly or indirectly make a campaign contribution or other expenditure related to an election. The bill broadly defined foreign national to include a person that is organized under the law of or has a person's principal place of business in a foreign country. The bill would have created a criminal penalty of the greater between \$10,000 or three times the contribution amount.

HB 5138 by Rep. Matt Shaheen (R-Plano): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

SB 1026 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *FAILED*

These bills would have allowed the Texas Attorney General to prosecute criminal offenses under Texas election laws.

SB 16 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have required proof of citizenship to register to vote.

SB 318 by Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have allowed the Texas Attorney General to investigate election fraud.

SB 2216 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *PASSED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill will strengthen the maintenance, storage, and security of election system equipment.

SB 2742 by Sen. Brent Hagenbuch (R-Denton): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have prohibited electioneering by political subdivisions to ensure public funds and other resources are not used to support or oppose candidates or political measures.

SB 2858 by Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill would have allowed the Texas Attorney General to take action against local entities that fail to enforce election laws.

SJR 37 by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): *PASSED* ***TCC Neutral***

This constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, will require that only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in Texas.

MAIL-IN-BALLOTS

SB 2964 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): *PASSED* ***TCC Neutral***

This bill will require clerks that discover a defect in a mail-in ballot to provide the voter the opportunity to correct the defect.

HB 417 by Rep. John Bucy (D-Austin): *FAILED* ***TCC Neutral***

HB 628 by Rep. Terry Meza (D-Irving): *FAILED*

SB 145 by Sen. Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio): *FAILED*

These bills would have expanded early voting by mail to encompass all qualified voters and would have removed the requirement to provide a reason for requesting a mail-in ballot. These bills

would also have repealed criminal offenses related to the solicitation and distribution of mail-in ballot applications.

HB 1091 by Rep. Dennis Paul (R-Webster): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have adjusted the application deadline for voters requesting mail-in ballots from the 11th day to the 15th day before election day. The bill would have eliminated the allowance for late-arriving mail ballots requiring them to arrive by the close of polls on election day to be counted.

HB 2442 by Rep. John Bucy (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have modified the mail-in ballot application process by allowing a single application to serve for both the main election and any subsequent runoff elections.

EARLY VOTING

HB 633 by Rep. John Bucy (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required the registrar's office to remain open for voter registration during the hours of early voting at the main polling place. The bill would have also instituted "extended voting", allowing voting on one or more Saturdays or Sundays during the early voting period and extending the period up to the day before election day.

HB 1857 by Rep. Sheryl Cole (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have changed the start date for the early voting period in Texas to begin on the first business day after the last day a voter registration becomes effective. Currently, early voting begins 17 days before election day.

HB 1858 by Rep. Sheryl Cole (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have expanded access to early voting in Texas by allowing more flexibility and extended hours for early voting by personal appearance.

HB 4508 by Rep. John Smithee (R-Amarillo): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

SB 1805 by Sen. Kevin Sparks (R-Midland): *FAILED*

This bill would have lowered the population threshold from 55,000 to 10,000 for certain early voting requirements to apply. Specifically, in counties with populations of 10,000 or more, early voting at the main polling place must be available for at least 12 consecutive hours each weekday during the final week of early voting for primary and general elections, and for at least 12 hours on the last Saturday and 6 hours on the last Sunday of the early voting period. Additionally, the bill would have allowed counties over 10,000 to use state funds to help cover the cost of early voting polling places.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

HB 332 By Rep. John Bucy (D-Austin): *FAILED*

TCC Neutral

This bill would have added three new options for voter photo identification: a Native American identification card or tribal document that includes the voter's photograph and is issued by a federally recognized tribal organization, a photo identification issued by a public or private institution of higher education located in Texas, and a photo identification issued by a state agency.

HB 1003 by Rep. Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed a photo identification card issued by a public institution of higher education in Texas that is currently valid or was valid within 4 years of the date being presented to suffice as proof of identification for voting purposes.

HB 1312 by Rep. Hillary Hickland (R-Belton): FAILED

TCC Neutral

HB 1670 by Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Allen): FAILED

SB 309 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola): FAILED

These bills would have required proof of citizenship at registration in order to qualify to vote.

HB 2424 by Rep. Richard Hays (R-Denton): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have prohibited the use of an expired driver's license as a form of photo identification required to vote.

HB 2714 by Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have required a public school to issue photo identifications to enrolled students to be used to fulfill the photo identification requirement to vote.

HB 2738 by Rep. Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have removed a personal identification card, a copy of a current utility bill, a bank statement, or a paycheck as a valid form of identification to vote.

HB 4030 by Rep. Penny Morales Shaw (D-Houston): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have allowed the use of a Transportation Worker Identification Credential card issued by the Transportation Security Administration as a valid form of photo identification to vote.

HB 4475 by Rep. Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill attempted to make several changes relating to acceptable declarations by voters of impediment to vote.

SB 144 by Sen. Jose Menendez (D-San Antonio): FAILED

TCC Neutral

This bill would have introduced significant revisions to the voter identification requirements in Texas. Notably, it would have tightened the regulations under which voters can present identification at polling places, significantly expanding the list of acceptable forms of ID to include additional government documents, health insurance cards, and specific identification types from various official entities.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On November 4, 2025, Texas voters will consider 17 constitutional amendments, tying the 2007 election for the most ballot propositions in Texas history. Below are the proposed amendments as they will appear on the November ballot:

Proposition 1

(SJR 59) "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."

Proposition 2

(SJR 18) "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."

Proposition 3

(SJR 5) "The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

Proposition 4

(HJR 7) "The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."

Proposition 5

(HJR 99) "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."

Proposition 6

(HJR 4) "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions."

Proposition 7

(HJR 133) "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected."

Proposition 8

(HJR 2) "The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."

Proposition 9

(HJR 1) "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income."

Proposition 10

(SJR 84) "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire."

Proposition 11

(SJR 85) "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."

Proposition 12

(SJR 27) "The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct."

Proposition 13

(SJR 2) "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000."

Proposition 14

(SJR 3) "The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue."

Proposition 15

(SJR 34) "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

Proposition 16

(SJR 37) "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

Proposition 17

(HJR 34) "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."

The last day to register for the November 4 Election is Monday, October 6. Early voting in person will be October 20-31.



TEXAS CHEMISTRY COUNCIL

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