

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

House Bill 20 has been certified by the Comptroller of Public Accounts at a total of \$37.2 billion for the next two years, all funds included. This budget includes \$26.3 billion in major state revenues which provides a 12.5% increase over the 1984-85 biennium or approximately 6% above our 1985 budget levels. Passage of House Bill 20 represents the second consecutive biennium in which our state budget has reversed the trend of the 1970's and early 1980's in which Texas experienced extraordinary budget increases averaging 21% over the 1968-1983 period.

The growth in state revenues due to oil and gas production is, for the most part, now history. Texas' leaders and Texans in general have two basic responsibilities to prepare for the future.

First, we must live within our means. This budget is within available revenues and thus is in accordance with the Texas Constitution, a good management principle for which we can thank our founding fathers. The leadership of Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby and Speaker Gib Lewis cannot be overstated in accomplishing this task during the Regular Session of the Sixty-ninth Legislature. Particular credit is due to Representative Jim Rudd and Senator Grant Jones who had leadership roles in preparing the House and Senate appropriations bills and, finally, fulfilling the difficult task of reconciling the differences between the two bills so the conduct of Texas state government may proceed in an orderly fashion for the next two years. The Conference Committee on House Bill 20, including Senator John Traeger, Senator Ray Farabee, Senator Ed Howard, Senator Kent Caperton, Representative Bill Hollowell, Representative Frank Madla, Representative Jim McWilliams, and Representative Mike Toomey, is to be commended and should be remembered for the many hours of deliberation devoted to the successful passage of House Bill 20.

There are many actions in House Bill 20 of which we should be proud. First, we have maintained our commitment to Public Education Reform and Highway Financing which were set in motion in the Special Session of 1984. Second, we have provided increased funding to make necessary improvements in the delivery of services to the mentally ill and mentally retarded, and in our prison system. We have increased the grant for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, expanded protective services for abused children, and increased health care services at the Department of Human Services, effective September 1, 1985. We have provided a much deserved 3% per year pay raise for our state employees for the biennium. Additionally, with the speedy and deliberate passage of Senate Bill 1, First Called Session of the Sixty-ninth Legislature, Texas now has made history in clarifying the state and local responsibility for the health care of indigents, and in providing a real funding mechanism to meet those responsibilities.

Finally, and very importantly, House Bill 20 has sufficiently maintained Texas' long-standing commitment to our system of higher education to assure that the vision we all have for our future can be realized.

And that leads to the second responsibility we have--that is, to have a vision for our future and work steadfastly so that we may realize that vision. By living within our means and addressing our most critical human needs in this budget, we have placed ourselves in an enviable position for the future. By maintaining excellence and promoting additional advancements in the endeavor of higher learning, particularly in the area of organized research, we have laid paths toward the more diverse and dynamic economy which we will need as we work to become less reliant on the oil and gas industry as the central element of our economy.

I am very excited about our opportunities to influence our future. Certainly the Select Committee on Higher Education will help us assess our needs, set our priorities, and focus our efforts in this area of state government. Additionally, the establishment of the new Commission on Economy and Efficiency will provide new opportunities to improve management and delivery of state services to assure Texas citizens that state government is being managed well and that every dollar is carefully spent.

There are several items of appropriation contained in House Bill 20 that are unnecessary or do not, in my opinion, represent good public spending policy. Therefore, by authority granted me in Article IV, Section 14 of the Texas Constitution, I hereby veto the following items from House Bill 20, Sixty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 1985, and am attaching a statement of my objections to each of those items:

Summary of Items Vetoed

	Fiscal Year 1986	Fiscal Year 1987
Article I - Executive and Administrative Departments and Agencies.	\$	\$
 <u>Office of the Governor - Page I-91</u>		
Item 8.b. Grant to Department of Public Safety	1,878,979	1,878,979
Item 8.c. Grant to Commission on Jail Standards	125,000	122,200
Item 8.d. Grant to Department of Corrections	2,024,239	2,027,039
Item 8.e. Grant to Prosecutors Council	384,582	384,582
Item 8.f. Grant to Supreme Court	94,944	94,944
	Criminal Justice Planning Fund 421	
 <u>State Department of Highways and Public Transportation - Page I-96-</u>		
Item 1.a. Commissioners (3)	\$ 102,300	\$ 102,300
		State Highway Fund 6
 Article III - Agencies of Public Education		
 <u>Stephen F. Austin State University - Page III-83</u>		
Item 8.e. Contingency for Carpenter Judgment	\$ 325,000	U.B. General Revenue
Total	\$4,935,044 =====	\$4,610,044 =====

Statement of Objections to Items and Reasons for Veto

Office of the Governor
Items 8.b., c., d., e., and f.

The Criminal Justice Planning Fund was created for the purpose of providing assistance to state and local law enforcement, judicial, prosecutorial, criminal defense, and adult and juvenile correctional and rehabilitative agencies. The Criminal Justice Division in the Office of the Governor is designated to administer the Fund, develop a Statewide Plan, and to receive applications and award grants, in accordance with a statutory formula, based on the merits of the various grant applications, and considering priorities established in the Plan.

By appropriating specific amounts to certain state agencies in this appropriations bill, the legislature has utilized virtually all the funding available for statewide projects pursuant to the statutory formula. The specific itemization of these funds will jeopardize several currently funded criminal justice projects, restrict the funding of new projects and severely limit Texas' ability to provide matching funds to receive federal funds available under the federal Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (PL 98-473).

The veto of these items will allow all applications for grant funding, including any submitted by the agencies listed above, to be evaluated and prioritized based on the relative merits of the proposals.

State Department of Highways and Public Transportation
Item 1.a.

This is the only agency in state government in which the equivalent of a full-time salary is appropriated for the services of part-time citizen board members. I understand this is a long-standing practice and is not a recent action of the current Commission. Nevertheless, members of the Highway Commission and all other similar boards and commissions are volunteers lending their most capable services to state government and should not be paid a full-time salary. My veto of this item is not a reflection on the members of the Highway Commission; I simply am opposed to this appropriation as a matter of policy. The members will still be entitled to payment of compensatory per diem, actual expenses for meals and lodging, and transportation in accordance with the provision of Article V of House Bill 20.

Stephen F. Austin State University
Item 8.e.

This item is intended to pay anticipated claims against the state relative to litigation brought against the university. There are currently no monetary claims to be paid and this contingency may not be necessary. Moreover, as a matter of policy, payments of this kind more appropriately should be handled through the claims fund administered by the Comptroller's Office, during the legislative interim. Since no claims have been presented or awarded at this time, it is inappropriate to identify a certain sum of money for the parties' consideration in pursuing their monetary claims, if any. If certain claims are not eligible for payment from the fund and cannot be paid prior to January 1987, this matter can be appropriately reviewed by the Seventieth Legislature.

House Bill 20 was received in the Governor's Office less than ten (10) days prior to the adjournment of the Regular Session of the Sixty-ninth Legislature, and in accordance with Article IV, Section 14, the Constitution of the State of Texas, House Bill 20, together with this Proclamation, is filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Texas.



By the Governor


Myra A. McDaniel
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the seal of the State of Texas to be affixed hereto at Austin, Texas, on this 16th day of June 1985.


Mark White
Governor of Texas

Filed in the Office of
Secretary of State

JUN 16 1985

Statutory Filings Division
Statutory Documents