

# HOUSE JOURNAL

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EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST CALLED SESSION

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## PROCEEDINGS

SECOND DAY (CONTINUED) — TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021

The house met at 10:10 a.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The invocation was offered by Representative Sanford as follows:

Father, on a day like today, we wonder how we should pray. And we're reminded by your scripture that this is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. So today, Father, we can rejoice. And we can also, the scripture tells us, to pray without ceasing, we can be in continual prayer for those we serve and those we love. And Father, we're also reminded, as I'm inspired by those in the chamber today and their faithfulness to serve their constituents in this great state, of your relentless pursuit of us and your faithfulness to each and every one of us even when we're not faithful to you, as you relentlessly pursue us, ultimately by sending your son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The chair recognized Representative Stephenson who led the house in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

## **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

The following leaves of absence were requested for today because of important business in the district:

Allison on motion of K. Bell.

Biedermann on motion of Slaton.

Dean on motion of Oliverson.

Herrero on motion of Hunter.

The following leave of absence was requested for today because of family business:

Canales on motion of Metcalf.

The following leave of absence was requested for today because of illness:

Murr on motion of Landgraf.

The following leave of absence was requested for today and tomorrow because of important business:

K. King on motion of Geren.

The following leave of absence was requested for today and the remainder of the week because of important business:

Kuempel on motion of Metcalf.

A record vote was requested by Representative Metcalf.

The requests to grant leave of absence were not granted, a quorum not being present by (Record 3): 80 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Anderson; Ashby; Bailes; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bonnen; Buckley; Burns; Burrows; Button; Cain; Capriglione; Cason; Clardy; Cook; Craddick; Cyrier; Darby; Ellzey; Frank; Frullo; Gates; Geren; Goldman; Guillen; Harless; Harris; Hefner; Holland; Huberty; Hull; Hunter; Jetton; Kacal; King, P.; King, T.; Klick; Krause; Lambert; Landgraf; Larson; Leach; Leman; Lozano; Metcalf; Meyer; Middleton; Morales, E.; Morrison; Murphy; Noble; Oliverson; Paddie; Parker; Patterson; Paul; Price; Raney; Rogers; Sanford; Schaefer; Schofield; Shaheen; Shine; Slaton; Slawson; Smith; Smithee; Spiller; Stephenson; Stucky; Swanson; Thompson, E.; Tinderholt; Toth; Turner, J.; VanDeaver; Vasut; White; Wilson.

Present, not voting — Mr. Speaker(C).

Absent — Allen; Allison; Anchia; Beckley; Bernal; Biedermann; Bowers; Bucy; Campos; Canales; Cole; Coleman; Collier; Cortez; Crockett; Davis; Dean; Deshotel; Dominguez; Dutton; Fierro; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Hernandez; Herrero; Hinojosa; Howard; Israel; Johnson, A.; Johnson, J.D.; Johnson, J.E.; King, K.; Kuempel; Longoria; Lopez; Lucio; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; Meza; Minjarez; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales Shaw; Muñoz; Murr; Neave; Ordaz Perez; Ortega; Pacheco; Perez; Ramos; Raymond; Reynolds; Rodriguez; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Sherman; Talarico; Thierry; Thompson, S.; Turner, C.; Vo; Walle; Wu; Zwiener.

### **POINT OF ORDER**

Representative Metcalf raised a point of order against further proceedings under Rule 5, Section 6, of the House Rules on the grounds that a quorum was not present on the last roll call. The point of order was sustained.

### **CALL OF THE HOUSE ORDERED**

Representative Metcalf moved a call of the house to consider the following class of measures:

Items submitted for consideration by the governor in his July 7 proclamation.

The motion was seconded.

The motion for the call of the house prevailed by (Record 4): 76 Yeas, 4 Nays, 1 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Anderson; Ashby; Bailes; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bonnen; Buckley; Burns; Burrows; Button; Cain; Capriglione; Cason; Clardy; Cook; Craddick; Cyrier; Darby; Ellzey; Frank; Frullo; Gates; Geren; Goldman; Harless; Harris;

Hefner; Holland; Huberty; Hull; Hunter; Jetton; Kacal; King, P.; Klick; Krause; Lambert; Landgraf; Larson; Leach; Leman; Lozano; Metcalf; Meyer; Middleton; Morrison; Murphy; Noble; Oliverson; Paddie; Parker; Patterson; Paul; Price; Raney; Rogers; Sanford; Schaefer; Schofield; Shaheen; Shine; Slaton; Slawson; Smith; Smithee; Spiller; Stephenson; Stucky; Swanson; Thompson, E.; Tinderholt; Toth; VanDeaver; Vasut; White; Wilson.

Nays — Guillen; King, T.; Morales, E.; Turner, J.

Present, not voting — Mr. Speaker(C).

Absent — Allen; Allison; Anchia; Beckley; Bernal; Biedermann; Bowers; Bucy; Campos; Canales; Cole; Coleman; Collier; Cortez; Crockett; Davis; Dean; Deshotel; Dominguez; Dutton; Fierro; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Hernandez; Herrero; Hinojosa; Howard; Israel; Johnson, A.; Johnson, J.D.; Johnson, J.E.; King, K.; Kuempel; Longoria; Lopez; Lucio; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; Meza; Minjarez; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales Shaw; Muñoz; Murr; Neave; Ordaz Perez; Ortega; Pacheco; Perez; Ramos; Raymond; Reynolds; Rodriguez; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Sherman; Talarico; Thierry; Thompson, S.; Turner, C.; Vo; Walle; Wu; Zwiener.

### STATEMENTS OF VOTE

When Record No. 4 was taken, I was absent because of a preplanned business strategy meeting. I would have voted yes.

Dean

When Record No. 4 was taken, I was absent because of illness. I would have voted yes.

Murr

Representative Metcalf moved to instruct the sergeant-at-arms or officers appointed by the sergeant-at-arms to send for all absentees whose absence is not excused, for the purpose of securing and maintaining their attendance, under warrant of arrest if necessary.

A record vote was requested by Representative J. Turner.

The motion prevailed by (Record 5): 76 Yeas, 4 Nays, 1 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Anderson; Ashby; Bailes; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bonnen; Buckley; Burns; Burrows; Button; Cain; Capriglione; Cason; Clardy; Cook; Craddick; Cyrier; Darby; Ellzey; Frank; Frullo; Gates; Geren; Goldman; Harless; Harris; Hefner; Holland; Huberty; Hull; Hunter; Jetton; Kacal; King, P.; Klick; Krause; Lambert; Landgraf; Larson; Leach; Leman; Lozano; Metcalf; Meyer; Middleton; Morrison; Murphy; Noble; Oliverson; Paddie; Parker; Patterson; Paul; Price; Raney; Rogers; Sanford; Schaefer; Schofield; Shaheen; Shine; Slaton; Slawson; Smith; Smithee; Spiller; Stephenson; Stucky; Swanson; Thompson, E.; Tinderholt; Toth; VanDeaver; Vasut; White; Wilson.

Nays — Guillen; King, T.; Morales, E.; Turner, J.

Present, not voting — Mr. Speaker(C).

Absent — Allen; Allison; Anchia; Beckley; Bernal; Biedermann; Bowers; Bucy; Campos; Canales; Cole; Coleman; Collier; Cortez; Crockett; Davis; Dean; Deshotel; Dominguez; Dutton; Fierro; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Hernandez; Herrero; Hinojosa; Howard; Israel; Johnson, A.; Johnson, J.D.; Johnson, J.E.; King, K.; Kuempel; Longoria; Lopez; Lucio; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; Meza; Minjarez; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales Shaw; Muñoz; Murr; Neave; Ordaz Perez; Ortega; Pacheco; Perez; Ramos; Raymond; Reynolds; Rodriguez; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Sherman; Talarico; Thierry; Thompson, S.; Turner, C.; Vo; Walle; Wu; Zwiener.

### STATEMENTS OF VOTE

When Record No. 5 was taken, I was absent because of a preplanned business strategy meeting. I would have voted yes.

Dean

When Record No. 5 was taken, I was absent because of illness. I would have voted yes.

Murr

At 10:48 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 2:36 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### HOUSE AT EASE

At 2:37 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### Wednesday, July 14

The chair called the house to order at 11:15 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Leman as follows:

Lord, we come to you this morning as members of the Texas House of Representatives during a difficult time in Texas. We come seeking the gift of wisdom. We all need the wisdom to understand the long-term impacts of the choices we make on the tens of millions of Texans we were elected to represent. Lord, we all understand how confusing these choices can be, and we understand our citizens must live with the results of these choices, good or bad. Without the gift of wisdom to clearly see and understand the impacts of our choices, we are destined to fail in our endeavor to protect the citizens we are elected to represent. Lord, we have been called to this special session right here to this room right now because there is more work to be done to protect our citizens. We ask you to bless us with the wisdom to see the benefit of the agenda and, should your will agree, the courage to take it up. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Allison, Biedermann, Dean, K. King, and Murr now present)

At 11:17 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 1:54 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 1:55 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### **Thursday, July 15**

The chair called the house to order at 11:12 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Noble as follows:

Dear Lord Father, today we pray that we would be filled with the wisdom that comes only from you, that we would walk in your path, that our very thoughts would be in line with what you want, that our mouths would be productive and pleasing and show that we are your children. I lift up the work that we do here today, that we would be productive because we are following your leading. I pray that those of us that serve on this mission field of government would be yielded completely to you so that those that we serve today would be better for it and that our posterity will be able to look back and see clearly that your hand was at work in this time and in this place and know that Texas was indeed one state under God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

At 11:15 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

(Herrero now present)

The chair called the house to order at 12:46 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 12:47 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

(Canales and Longoria now present)

### **Friday, July 16**

The chair called the house to order at 10:17 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Middleton as follows:

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Heavenly Father, we pray for our state and nation today and that for every decision we make in this chamber, we do your will. Help us remember: For it is by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not from ourselves—it is a gift from God—and not by works, so that no one may boast. Lord, all of our

freedoms come from you, our creator. You have given us life and liberty and property. Please give us the strength to lead with boldness and conviction in our faith to protect and defend those freedoms. We are one nation under God, and every decision we make in this government must be on your foundation, which is inscribed above this house chamber dais, of "In God We Trust." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

At 10:20 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:46 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:46 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

### **Saturday, July 17**

The chair called the house to order at 2:03 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative K. King as follows:

Heavenly Father, thank you for this day. Thank you for our many blessings. Today, I ask you to be with the members of this body, those present as well as those absent, whether by choice or not. For those that chose to be absent, please grant them travel mercies and healing for those that are in need of it right now. While I'm certain that no fatted calves will be slaughtered when our colleagues come home, I do pray for your guiding hand to be with us as we resume our work. May our actions be worthy of the office we hold. May our actions be worthy of being Texans. Mostly, may our actions be pleasing in your sight and always bring glory to your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

At 2:05 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 2:36 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 2:36 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

### **Sunday, July 18**

The chair called the house to order at 2:08 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Buckley as follows:

Heavenly Father, it is with great humility I stand here today to first praise you but also to ask you for guidance. Several times, I've stood at this podium with the weight of the responsibility given me by citizens of this great state. I've prayed for strength, for wisdom, and for discernment. But Lord, I have failed by assigning the definition of man to the things I have prayed for and fallen short by not understanding the definition you have proclaimed in your word. So today, I pray for strength but not the strength to bring honor to myself but the strength to honor you in all I do. I pray for wisdom, not the wisdom to know the path to victory but the wisdom to know the path forward that honors you. And Lord, I pray for discernment, not man's definition of sorting out facts and figures to make a decision but the definition from your word that tells us to examine everything carefully, hold fast to that which is good, and abstain from every form of evil. Decide truth in error and not be tossed around here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine. Lord, let us seek and profess the truth always. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

At 2:11 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 2:56 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

#### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 2:56 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

#### **Monday, July 19**

The chair called the house to order at 2:07 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Dean as follows:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

At 2:11 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 2:43 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

#### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 2:43 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

**Tuesday, July 20**

The chair called the house to order at 11:07 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Frank as follows:

Heavenly Father, we love you and we praise you. And Father, I just want to pray for every single member of this house. Father, thank you for the speaker, and I just pray for every single member that's here. For every member that's not here, I pray for their health, and I pray for their families in this tense time. Father, I pray that you would help us to love one another when we're not lovable, that we would show the love that you showed to us first. I pray that you would give us wisdom beyond ourselves as we consider issues that are beyond our understanding often. And I pray that you give us humility to consider others better than ourselves. Father, thank you again for each person in here. Thank you for the love that you first showed to us. It's in your son's name we pray. Amen.

At 11:09 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

(Dutton now present)

The chair called the house to order at 11:58 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

**HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:58 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

**Wednesday, July 21**

The chair called the house to order at 11:11 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Bailes as follows:

Dear heavenly Father, as we gather here today, let us not forget the reasons for which we are here. We've been called into a work that we cannot yet understand the magnitude of. Still, we trust your guidance, the one who has called us. Abundantly bless the work before us, Father. May our efforts here not be in vain but be invested toward hopeful eternal ends. You alone by your mercy have the power to unite this imperfect body, our weaknesses and our strengths and our differences to one another. Unify this chamber and multiply our humbling offerings that we might use the power and influence for the good of our communities and for your glory. For it's in your name we pray. Amen.

At 11:13 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

(Cortez now present)

The chair called the house to order at 1:48 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.



### HOUSE AT EASE

At 1:49 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

(Pacheco now present)

### Thursday, July 22

The chair called the house to order at 11:08 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Stucky as follows:

Lord, I thank you for another day that you have made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. You are in control of all things, and we thank you for watching over us. I pray, Lord, that we all work together to glorify you in the position that we have been elected to do. Watch over those that are not here today and heal those who are not well. Lord, you know our heart is to serve in the best way we can for our districts and for this great state. Help us all to come together and work to better this world to glorify you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

At 11:12 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 12:06 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### HOUSE AT EASE

At 12:06 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### Friday, July 23

The chair called the house to order at 11:18 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Cook as follows:

Lord, let us as a community lift up Representative Toby Goodman and his family as we all remember and celebrate his life as he goes to dwell in the house you, our Lord, have prepared for him in heaven. Lord, we thank you for this time we have with you, and we pray that we glorify you with our service to the citizens of this great State of Texas. Thank you for your wisdom and for the courage to do what is right. Thank you for the blessing, all of those who serve, and for all of those that have gone before us.

Lord, we lift up the family of Representative Toby Goodman. We pray for comfort and peace in their hearts, knowing that he is with you and knowing the impact Representative Goodman had on this State of Texas and every person who had the pleasure of knowing him. Lord, we pray that we honor those we serve and those who have served before us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

At 11:25 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:46 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:46 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

#### **Saturday, July 24**

The chair called the house to order at 10:06 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Klick as follows:

Heavenly Father, as we pray together for our nation, we realize the need to pray for our own hearts. We ask you to open our eyes to areas that need your touch and change. We desire to grow more like your son, Jesus, so that we will represent him well into our world. God, in a world full of noise and rhetoric, may we move beyond lofty words to quiet ourselves and hear your will. Give us boldness to act on your call to justice, especially when no one is watching or applauding. Show us ways we can serve in our churches, our local communities, and wherever you would send us. Give us eyes to see the needs of others. Father, give us your light, truth, and love. Give us the courage to shine for you. Show us where our hearts need to change to better reflect who you are in the world around us for your kingdom. We pray, for Christ has taught us, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is heaven. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

At 10:09 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 10:14 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 10:15 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

#### **Sunday, July 25**

The chair called the house to order at 2:03 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Murphy as follows:

Colleagues, I just ask we join in a very brief prayer to ask that the Lord continue to bless our mission and our work here. We recognize, with respect to all faiths and traditions, there is but one God. And we pray in the most holy name of Jesus. Amen.

At 2:11 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 2:26 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 2:26 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 3 p.m. tomorrow.

### **Monday, July 26**

The chair called the house to order at 3:07 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Toth as follows:

Father God, thank you for your goodness and your kindness, that you call us into freedom, that you give us the opportunity to live in this place, this state called Texas, that you've endowed freedom and liberty to us like no other place in the world. And God, we don't take that for granted. We thank you for what you've given us here today. We pray that you bring us back together to get the work of the people of Texas done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

At 3:09 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 3:23 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 3:23 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### **Tuesday, July 27**

The chair called the house to order at 11:09 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Huberty as follows:

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. And members, as we welcome some of our colleagues back and as we pray for our colleagues that are not with us today, I would also like to pray for those that are sick and suffering of not only COVID but of addiction throughout the country and the State of Texas. Some of you may know this prayer as we end today. It's called the Serenity Prayer, and it goes like this: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can. And the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

(Kuempel now present)

At 11:11 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:32 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:33 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### **Wednesday, July 28**

The chair called the house to order at 11:18 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Ashby as follows:

Father God, we humbly bow before you today with a grateful heart. We're thankful for your mercy, your unconditional love, but mostly for your son who you sent to die for the sins of man so that any person who confesses their sins and calls upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ can and will be saved. Father, I pray for our speaker and each member of this body as we seek to do your will. Bless our beloved state, Lord, and continue to show your favor upon us. Bless us with your blessings and we'll give you all the honor and glory. We ask all this in your name. And all of God's people said, amen.

At 11:20 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:48 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:48 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### **Thursday, July 29**

The chair called the house to order at 11:12 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Allison as follows:

Heavenly Father, we come to you again today, asking your blessing and guidance through these difficult times. You have blessed each of us with the privilege to serve in this body. Keep us ever mindful of the favor from you and to always remember that to you goes all the glory. Please stand beside us, walk with us, hold us together, and provide us each the grace to listen, to set aside egos and agendas, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect to address the well-being of all we represent, ever reminding each of us of the sacred importance of truth, righteousness, and understanding. And keep us ever mindful of our sole calling to serve and please you. All this in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

At 11:17 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:50 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### HOUSE AT EASE

At 11:50 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### Friday, July 30

The chair called the house to order at 11:12 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Patterson as follows:

Heavenly Father, thank you. Thank you for this day. Thank you for the countless blessings that you've given us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this body to serve the people that we represent in a government that you ordained here. God, thank you for those that serve on our staffs. Thank you for the DPS officers and the National Guardsmen that protect our Capitol every day. God, thank you for the first responders that are protecting our communities. God, we lift them up and just ask that you continue to protect them. God, please give us the wisdom and the discernment and the thoughtfulness to eventually be able to represent our constituents. God, I pray for healing for this body. I pray that those that are gone are healthy and make it back safely as quickly as possible. God, thank you for all these things, and in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

At 11:22 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:31 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### HOUSE AT EASE

At 11:32 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 4 p.m. Monday, August 2.

### Monday, August 2

The chair called the house to order at 4:04 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Burns as follows:

Our most gracious heavenly Father Lord, we praise your name. We come to you thankful, thankful for our circumstances, thankful for our loved ones. Lord, I'm thankful for my wife and my kids. We're thankful for all of the loved ones we have back home and the undergirding of support that we have. Lord, when we see our circumstances, those we come in contact with, in the light of Jesus, it ain't hard for us to count our blessings. And Lord, we are blessed, and we thank you. Lord, I humbly pray for your wisdom. I humbly pray for divine discernment. And Lord, I would pray that you would light our path in a way that we can't help but follow it. Help us to be the children and servants that you wish us to be. It's in Christ's name that I pray. Amen.

At 4:22 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 4:37 p.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 4:37 p.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### **Tuesday, August 3**

The chair called the house to order at 11:12 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Darby as follows:

Gracious and patient Lord, God of promise and God of fulfillment, we come to you asking that your spirit of wisdom and revelation show us the way. Lord, every day we are troubled by disastrous news and dangerous tidings. We feel that the world is collapsing around us and arrayed against us. We try to be strong, but we are weak. We let our fears get the better of us. In our minds, we divide people into us versus them. In our hearts, we blame others for our ills. Instead of engaging, we withdraw. Instead of sharing, we hoard. Instead of forgiving, we begrudge. Instead of loving, we hate. Your promises are not on our lips. Our tongues do not confess your praise.

We simply and humbly ask for your forgiveness, Lord. In the midst of our darkness, remind us that your light has come. In the midst of our doubt, convince us that your truth is here. In the midst of our confusion when we can't find our way, show us your way, that we might follow. In the name of Emmanuel, God who is with us, Jesus Christ, our Lord, I pray. And the people said, amen.

At 11:16 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:28 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:28 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

### **Wednesday, August 4**

The chair called the house to order at 11:06 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Paul as follows:

Dear Lord, please bless us today. Bless our governor to help lead him in his decisions. Bless our speaker as he leads us all through these difficult times. Bless us all to make sure we get through the trials that we have today, the trials of the COVID increases, the trials of COVID strain on our state. I also want to say a

special blessing for Scott Apley, who was our state republican executive committee member for Senate District 11 and a city council member in our district that just died of COVID. I ask you to please bless this body and the work that we do. Bless us, that we will be able to get through these strains and the work that we are asked by the people of Texas to get done. That we will get our work done—in spite of obstacles presented to us—that we will get the work done that we need to get done.

I continue to thank you for the blessings that we have all received—the blessings of our health, the blessings of us to be able to serve in this body, the blessings of the joys of our families and our businesses and faith in you, Lord. Thank you, again. I appreciate everything you've done. Thanks for your blessing. And above all, thanks for the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ to allow us to return to be with you. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

At 11:19 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:43 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

#### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:43 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

#### **Thursday, August 5**

The chair called the house to order at 11:10 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Cook as follows:

Lord, we come to you this morning humbly and ask for your guidance, direction, words, knowledge, wisdom—all the above, Lord. As this special session comes to an end, we ask that you guide all the members of the legislature in the steps to move forward, the lamppost in front of us so that we know the way that you would have us go. Lord, I ask that you give us all the strength, knowledge, guidance, and wisdom to make the decisions that are honoring to you. We ask all these things in your son's name. Amen.

At 11:12 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease.

The chair called the house to order at 11:30 a.m.

The chair announced that pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, the chair signed a form granting permission to each member in attendance today to leave the chamber and return at an appointed time.

#### **HOUSE AT EASE**

At 11:30 a.m., the chair announced that the house would stand at ease until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

**Friday, August 6**

The chair called the house to order at 11:06 a.m.

The invocation was offered by Representative Landgraf as follows:

Our heavenly Father, as your daughters and sons, we come to you on this day with hearts filled with gratitude. We pray in thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve our fellow Texans through this house. We are grateful, Lord, for your blessings, especially the blessing of family—the blessing of our families, our families who steadfastly support us and who quietly sacrifice because of us as we endeavor to do your will and to serve all of your children in this state. We pray that you continue to watch over our speaker, our staff, and all who toil in this Capitol with very little recognition for their efforts.

Lord, you have shown us that you are compassionate, you are just, and you are abounding in love. In the coming days, we expect strife, but we pray that you guard us from our anger and guide us with your grace as we continue determined in our mission to serve others. In the name of Christ our holy redeemer we pray. Amen.

**ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE**

Representative Landgraf moved that the house stand adjourned sine die.

The motion prevailed.

Speaker Phelan, at 11:08 a.m. Friday, August 6, pronounced the House of Representatives of the First Called Session of the Eighty-Seventh Legislature adjourned sine die.

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**ADDENDUM**

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**ORDERS BY THE SPEAKER**

The speaker submitted the following order on Thursday, July 15, for inclusion in the journal:

To the Chief Clerk of the House:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 1, Section 10, I have relieved Representative Joe Moody from his position as Speaker Pro Tempore for the 87th Legislature, effective immediately.

/s/Dade Phelan

Speaker of the House



The speaker submitted the following warrant for inclusion in the journal:

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WARRANT**

*To the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, or any officer appointed by him:*

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to take The Honorable **Philip Cortez**, a Member of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, who is now absent from the House, wherever said Member may be found in the State into your custody and safekeeping and bring said Member before the bar of the House instanter, this writ being issued under a duly-adopted order of the House pursuant to Article III, Section 10, Texas Constitution, made in exercise of its lawful powers to compel the attendance of absent members in the manner provided under the House Rules of Procedure.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but make due return hereof to this House.

WITNESS MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE this 25th day of July, 2021.

/s/Dade Phelan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

*Attest:*

/s/Robert Haney  
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives

**LETTER REGARDING  
HOUSE DISTRICT 10**

The following letter of resignation was submitted for inclusion in the journal:

July 29, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

As a result of being elected to represent Texas Congressional District 6 in the United States House of Representatives, I am informing you that I am resigning my seat representing District 10 in the Texas House of Representatives, effective 7:00 A.M. Central Daylight Time, Friday, July 30, 2021.

Sincerely,  
/s/Jake Ellzey  
State Representative, District 10

cc: The Honorable Dade Phelan, Speaker of the Texas House

**SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE JAKE ELLZEY  
TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
6th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

On July 30, 2021, The Honorable Jake Ellzey appeared at the bar of the United States House of Representatives and took the oath of office as a member of the 117th Congress of the United States of America. See 167 Cong. Rec. 4299 (2021).

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**APPENDIX**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Favorable reports have been filed by committees as follows:

**July 9**

Appropriations - **HB 1**

Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services - **HB 85**

**July 12**

Constitutional Rights and Remedies, Select - **HB 2, HB 3, HJR 1**