Highlights of Legislation Passed
72nd Legislature
Regular Session

SUBJECT  MEASURE  AUTHORS

AGRICULTURE

HB 1184  Rep. Renato Cuellar
          Sen. Eddie Lucio

Grants the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station a
$197,000 emergency appropriation to regulate the
Africanized honey bee.

HB 1826  Rep. Pete Patterson, Tom Cate,
Billy Clemons, Bob Glaze, Troy Fraser, Bill Thomas, A. R.
Ovard, Pete Laney, David Swinford, John Smithee, Layton
Black, Bob Rabuck, Jerry Yost, Henry Cuellar, Jerry Johnson,
Keith Oakley, Harvey Hilderbran, Hugo Berlangea, Robert
Junell, Parker McCollough, M. A. Taylor, Renato Cuellar, Ken
Yarbrough, Mark Stiles, Robert Earley, John Hirschi, Robert
Saunders, John Willy, Barry Telford, David Counts, Charles
Finnell, Dan Kubiaik, Irma Rangel

Sen. Bill Sims

Establishes the Young Farmer Endowment Program, which
will make interest free loans of up to $50,000 to
Texans between 18 and 40 years of age who establish
their first farming or ranching operation.
HB 1979  Rep. Pete Patterson  
Sen. Bill Sims  

Establishes the development of a Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation and Board.

ANIMALS

HB 948  Rep. Debra Danburg  
Sen. Rodney Ellis  

Requires public and private agencies which release dogs and cats for adoption must either have the animal sterilized or require the new owner to sign an agreement promising to have the animal sterilized.

APPROPRIATIONS

HB 2110  Rep. Jim Rudd  
Sen. John Montford  

Appropriates emergency funding to the Department of Human Services due to increased caseload and emergency funding to other state agencies.

ATTORNEYS

HB 1186  Rep. James Hury  
Sen. Gene Green  

Continues the State Bar of Texas and creates a new Commission on Attorney Discipline.

BONDS

HB 493  Rep. John Carona  
Sen. Bill Haley  

Removes the county judge from the textbook bond approval process.

HB 989  Rep. Renato Cuellar  
Sen. Eddie Lucio  

Allows municipalities to pledge additional revenues toward the repayment of bonds.

BUSINESS

HB 42  Rep. Henry Cuellar  
Sen. Judith Zaffirini  

Allows the Texas-Mexico Authority with the approval of
the Texas Department of Commerce to negotiate compact agreements relating to trade and infrastructure and other related matters with the appropriate officials of the United Mexican States.

HB 278 Rep. Steve Wolens
Sen. O. H. Harris

Creates the Limited Liability Corporation which permits businesses to protect themselves from liability while permitting the tax pass-through of a Subchapter S corporation and eliminates the joint and several liability provisions for general partnerships in the state where they are registered.

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Establishes programs to increase the participation of minority businesses in contract awards of certain home-rule municipalities.

HB 546 Rep. Paul Moreno
Sen. Peggy Rosson

Requires employers who have been convicted of two non payment violations of the Texas Pay Day laws to post a bond with the Texas Employment Commission and provides for a third degree felony for employers who fail to pay employees under certain circumstances.

HB 703 Rep. Leticia Van De Putte
Sen. Chet Brooks

Raises fee charged by holder of a returned check from $15 to $25 and allows justices of the peace, county and district attorneys to collect the fees.

HB 799 Rep. Harold Dutton
Sen. John Whitmire

Requires the Texas Department of Commerce to compile and update semiannually a certified list of disadvantaged businesses in Texas, to provide a copy of the list to state agencies and to use the list to assist disadvantaged businesses in receiving at least 10% of all contract awards.

HB 1175 Rep. Gregory Luna
Sen. Chris Harris

Requires scrap metal dealers to keep records of scrap aluminum, copper and bronze purchases.
HB 1906  Rep. Sherri Greenberg
         Sen. Jim Turner

Assures that Texas is in a position to earn federal funding allocated for the small business innovation research (SBIR) program. The Texas SBIR program supplements the federal awards program and makes Texas small businesses more competitive in their pursuit of funding.

HB 2338  Rep. Roman Martinez
         Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Requires employers to provide employees with an earnings statement for each pay period listing all deductions made from the employees pay check.

SB 1520  Sen. Chet Brooks
         Rep. Roman Martinez

Applies a statewide standard for companies which provide unskilled labor to other companies.

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

HB 2850  Rep. Allen Place
         Sen. Eddie Lucio

Includes non-profit chambers of commerce in the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act, which immunizes a volunteer from liability so long as he or she acted within the course and scope of duty and was not willfully negligent.

CHILD ABUSE

HB 897  Rep. Nancy McDonald
         Sen. Bob Glasgow

Creates a new committee in the Governor’s office to design a standard evaluation for those state agencies that contract for programs for the prevention or treatment of child abuse or neglect.

HB 961  Rep. Erwin Barton, Jack Vowell
         Sen. Chet Brooks

Moves management of the Children’s Trust Fund from a council within the Department of Human Services to a newly established independent agency named the Children’s Trust Fund of Texas Council.
HB 2059        Rep. Kevin Brady
               Sen. Chet Brooks

Prohibits any party being investigated for child abuse from leaving the state with the child in their possession until the case is litigated.

HB 2252        Rep. Jim Rudd
               Sen. Buster Brown

Requires the Department of Human Services to adopt voluntary training and investigation standards for child-abuse investigators.

CHILD CARE

HB 1083        Rep. Libby Linebarger
               Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Establishes a child care facility liability pool to enable child care facilities to obtain insurance coverage.

HB 1873        Rep. Libby Linebarger
               Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Establishes the State Advisory Committee on child care programs within the Department of Human Services to advise the department on use of state and federal child care funds.

HB 2259        Rep. Libby Linebarger
               Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Allows greater flexibility in creation of child care facilities for state employees, subject to appropriations.

SB 610         Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson
               Rep. Libby Linebarger

Creates the work and family policies fund from a $2 increase in birth certificate fees to be used by the TEC Work and Family Policies Clearinghouse in researching and providing technical assistance on employment-related family issues such as child care.
CHILD PROTECTION

SB 253  Sen. John Leedom
         Rep. Jeff Wentworth

Modifies the Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act to allow for timely sanctions on camps deficient in maintaining safety standards and prohibiting license renewal of camps with existing deficiencies.

SB 687  Sen. Chris Harris
         Rep. Toby Goodman

Allows a court to temporarily change the designation of the managing conservator of a child and change the standard of endangerment to the child to allow discretion in modifying the designation of managing conservator.

CHILD SUPPORT

HB 769  Rep. Karyne Conley
         Sen. Chris Harris

Allows for accrual of interest and the enforcement of judgments for unpaid child support.

SB 1509 Sen. Chris Harris
         Rep. Senfronia Thompson

Allows domestic relations offices to obtain records from the DPS and TEC to aid in enforcing child support obligations.

SB 1335 Sen. Cyndi Krier
         Rep. Toby Goodman

Brings the state into compliance with federal mandates in the area of child support and income withholding by setting an order for computing child support.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

HJR 114  Rep. Tom Uher
         Sen. Bob Glasgow

Proposes a constitutional amendment which would amend the home rule charter by a city with a population under 5,000.
SJR 5  Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos  
Rep. Eddie Cavazos

Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue up to $300 million in general obligation bonds to fund certain college student loan programs.

SJR 6  Sen. John Leedom  
Rep. Nolan Robnett

Proposes a constitutional amendment regarding investments by statewide public retirement systems.

SJR 8  Sen. Bob Glasgow  
Rep. Bruce Gibson

Proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas Elections and Ethics Commission to administer laws regulating elections and ethics and determine compensation of legislators and certain elected public officials.

SJR 11  Sen. Bill Sims  
Rep. Edmund Kuempel

Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the commissioner of the General Land Office to issue patents for certain public free school fund land.

SJR 15  Sen. Bill Ratliff  
Rep. Jerry Johnson

Proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by a nonprofit water supply or wastewater service corporation.

SJR 21  Sen. John Montford  
Rep. Bruce Gibson, Ashley Smith, Sherri Greenberg

Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to submit debt questions to Texas voters in proposition form.

SJR 26  Sen. Frank Tejeda  
Rep. David Counts

Proposes a constitutional amendment regarding investments made by the Veterans' Land Board of funds in the Veterans' Land Fund or the Veterans' Housing Assistance Fund.
SJR 39  Sen. Judith Zaffirini
Rep. Rene Oliveira

Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing local
taxing authorities to decide whether or not to grant
tax exemptions to qualified businesses in an enterprise
zone.

SJR 34  Sen. John Montford
Rep. Rene Oliveira

Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing 50% rather
than 20% of the existing $500 million water bond
authorization to be used for water and wastewater
facilities in economically distressed areas.

SJR 42  Sen. Gene Green
Rep. Paul Colbert

Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing voters
within a County Education District to grant themselves
a 20% residential homestead exemption.

COUNTY COURTS

HB 66  Rep. Senfronia Thompson
Sen. Temple Dickson

Creates uniform minimum jurisdiction for county
courts-at-law and provides uniform minimum
qualifications for statutory county court judges.

HB 1431  Rep. Betty Denton
Sen. Bill Ratliff

Increases the jurisdictional limits of constitutional
county courts and justice courts to $5,000 and raises
the jurisdictional limit of small claims courts to
$5,000.

COURT TESTIMONY

HB 1132  Rep. Larry Evans
Sen. Bob Glasgow

Adds a "relay agent" to the list of people who are able
to interpret for the hearing impaired. Provides a
privilege of exemption from court testimony for any
communications that an interpreter or relay agent gives
to the deaf person or speech impaired.
CRIME

HB 9 Rep. Parker McCollough
 Sen. Ted Lyon

Allows the option of waiving a jury trial for a person charged with a capital offense if the state chooses not to seek the death penalty and addresses the punishment, sentencing and availability of parole for a person convicted of a capital offense requiring a minimum flat-time served of 35 years.

HB 37 Rep. Sam Hudson
 Sen. Temple Dickson, Chris
 Harris

Amends the Penal Code to make it a crime to intentionally extend either the distance or time of a taxi cab trip for the purpose of increasing the price of the trip.

HB 263 Rep. Debra Danburg
 Sen. Rodney Ellis

Allows the state to prosecute spousal rape in cases involving bodily injury or the threat of bodily injury.

HB 268 Rep. Kent Grusendorf
 Sen. J. E. Brown

Provides criminal penalties for the manufacture, delivery, possession or use of a substance or device designed to falsify drug test results.

 Sen. Rodney Ellis

 Increases all fines for Class A, B and C misdemeanors with counties to receive the benefits of these funds.

HB 640 Rep. David Counts
 Sen. Eddie Lucio

Authorizes the creation of the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority in the criminal justice division of the governor's office.

HB 816 Rep. Pat Haggerty
 Sen. Buster Brown

Prohibits zip guns, which are devices not originally intended to be firearms which have been converted into weapons that can expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or burning substance.
HB 1354  Rep. Rene Oliveira, Ken Fleuriet
          Sen. Eddie Lucio

 Raises jurisdictional limitation of Cameron County's
 Courts at law from $20,000 to $100,000.

 HB 1459  Rep. Paul Colbert
          Sen. Rodney Ellis

 Adds any person who is involved in a crime where a
 deadly weapon is used or exhibited to the list of
 offenders who are not eligible for court ordered
 probation.

 HB 2426  Rep. Elton Bomer
          Sen. Bill Haley

 Provides for payment by the judge's county and state to
 a private attorney appointed to defend an inmate in a
 case with multiple inmates as defendants in the same
 alleged crime.

 SB 148  Sen. Chris Harris
          Rep. Kent Grusendorf

 Allows trials for different drug offenses arising out
 of a single criminal episode to be combined into one
 trial.

 SB 259  Sen. Judith Zaffirini
          Rep. Glenn Repp

 Requires persons who have a reportable conviction for
 indecency with a child, sexual assault, aggravated
 sexual assault or incest to register with certain local
 law enforcement authorities to monitor for potential
 repeat offenses.

 SB 275  Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson
          Rep. Tony Goolsby

 Allows relevant evidence to be admitted in cases of
 murder or manslaughter where prior family violence had
 occurred.

 SB 334  Sen. John Whitmire
          Rep. Ken Yarbrough

 Requires criminal histories to follow criminals even
 when they change their names.
SB 853                      Sen. Mike Moncrief
Rep. Bill Carter

Allows courts to require that defendants convicted of unlawful manufacturing of controlled substances be required to reimburse the arresting agency for costs associated with the cleanup and disposal of materials and chemicals used in the operation of the illicit drug lab.

HB 1128                      Rep. Kent Grusendorf
Sen. Chris Harris

Allows local organizations which sponsor child watch programs to work with authorities in performing criminal background checks on participants in those programs.

HB 1801                      Rep. Bill Arnold
Sen. Chris Harris

Creates an offense when a professional thief attempts to set up a false account with the intent to defraud a financial institution.

SB 16                        Sen. Teel Bivins
Rep. Parker McCollough

Provides for suspension of a drivers license of a convicted felon for certain offenses under the Texas Controlled Substances Act.

SB 64                        Sen. Gene Green
Rep. Bill Blackwood

Makes it illegal for a person suspected of unlawful activity to give a false name, address or birth date to a police officer who has lawfully requested it.

CRIME - JUVENILE

HB 434                       Rep. Bob Rabuck
Sen. Jim Turner

Provides additional means for juvenile courts to promote improved behavior through regulation of driving privileges.

SB 1230                      Rep. Bob Hunter
Sen. Temple Dickson

Clarifies the Family Code to allow law enforcement officials the ability to detain children suspected of violating nonserious crimes for interviewing purposes.
in a designated location, such as a police facility or sheriff's office, but not a cell or holding facility used for other criminals not in this category.

SB 1401 Sen. Rodney Ellis
Rep. John Carona

Streamlines and simplifies the warning that must be provided to a child by a juvenile court.

DISABLED PERSONS

HB 2277 Rep. Elliott Naishtat
Sen. Mike Moncrief

Creates a 12 member commission to oversee creation of a plan for textbook publishers to provide computer diskettes to be converted into Braille for the state's functionally blind students.

DRUG ABUSE

SB 837 Rep. Frank Madla
Sen. Chris Harris

Defines "chemical dependency counselor" and prohibits the practice of chemical dependency counseling without a license. The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will administer the licensing.

HB 1185 Rep. Rene Oliveira
Sen. Eddie Lucio

Allows cities and counties to provide up to 10% of their drug forfeiture funds to non-profit drug rehabilitation and prevention programs.

HB 2183 Rep. Dianne Delisi
Sen. Temple Dickson

Creates an Alcohol Awareness course to be taken by minors convicted of Minor in Possession, Consumption or Purchasing Alcohol.

SB 11 Sen. J. E. Brown
Rep. Tim Von Dohnen

Creates procedures for controlled substances and related materials to be confiscated, stored, used in investigations, submitted as evidence and eventually destroyed and expands the definition of a controlled substance to include mixtures containing a controlled substance or analog, a counterfeit controlled substance, drug paraphernalia and a chemical precursor.
HB 173
Rep. Dan Shelley
Sen. Ted Lyon

Places additional restrictions on a petition for an occupational driver’s license for DWI offenders whose driver’s license has been suspended.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 1879
Sen. Eddie Lucio

Expands economic opportunities, institutional and educational contacts and governmental cooperation between Texas and Mexico.

HB 2136
Rep. Ashley Smith
Sen. Temple Dickson

Establishes the Texas Partnership for Economic Development as an advisory board serving the Texas Department of Commerce, corporate CEO’s and select academicians to focus on planning and policy development and to attract special projects to the state.

SB 637
Sen. Chris Harris
Rep. Bill Carter

Expands the Foreign Trade Zone at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and creates a Foreign Trade Zone at Fort Worth Alliance Airport.

ELECTIONS

HB 2395
Rep. John Hirschi
Sen. Steve Carriker

Enables children in kindergarten through grade 12 to enter a polling place to cast an unofficial ballot in any local, state or national election if approved by local option.

SB 1234
Sen. Steve Carriker
Rep. Debra Danburg

Expands the number and hours of voting locations,
making it possible for those locations to be places where voters are likely to vote and eliminates most opportunities for fraud.

ENERGY

HB 531  Rep. Steve Holzheuser  
        Sen. Ken Armbrister

Relating to the location and storage capacity of certain above-ground tanks and to the deregulation of storage and gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, and kerosene at certain aircraft fueling facilities.

SB 1103  Sen. Bill Sims  
        Rep. Robert Earley

Prevents pollution from oil and gas exploration, development and production activities, creates an oilfield cleanup fund and imposes certain fees.

SB 1605  Sen. Bill Sims  
        Rep. Tom Craddick

Addresses the definition, content and affect of a division order issued by the oil and gas industry.

ENVIRONMENT

HB 426  Rep. Karyne Conley  
        Sen. Rodney Ellis

Requires notification concerning certain permits issued by the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Water Commission and the Texas Air Control Board.

HB 452  Rep. Ken Brimer  
        Sen. Chris Harris

Provides more stringent regulations for screening auto salvage yards including establishing certain location and distance requirements.

HB 847  Rep. Dan Shelley  
        Sen. Chet Brooks

Creates a waste tire recycling program to clean up an estimated 100 million abandoned tires in Texas and provides for a method of recycling these tires into marketable products.
HB 1135  Rep. Todd Hunter  
Sen. Carlos Truan

Transfers the administration of beach cleaning funds from the Parks and Wildlife Department to the General Land Office.

HB 1214  Rep. Ron Lewis  
Sen. Ken Armbrister

Revises the petroleum storage tank remediation fund so that small operators can more easily access the fund and defines a lender's liability for petroleum storage tanks.

HB 1496  Rep. Nancy McDonald  
Sen. Peggy Rosson

Increases the penalties for illegal dumping from a motor vehicle.

Sen. Chet Brooks

Imposes fees on generators of industrial solid waste and hazardous waste, sets permits for applicants and operators of hazardous waste management facilities and addresses the sale of certain batteries.

SB 14  Sen. Carl Parker  
Rep. Hugo Berlanga

Creates an oil spill response and cleanup fund of up to $50 million, financed by a two cents per barrel fee on crude oil transported by vessel and names the General Land Office the lead agency in responding to oil spills and coordinating cleanup efforts in coastal waters.

SB 587  Rep. Ron Lewis  
Sen. Carlos Truan

Establishes water saving performance standards for plumbing fixtures and appliances.

SB 818  Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos  
Rep. Robert Saunders

Establishes water quality standards and the assessment and management of water quality.
SB 830  Sen. Chet Brooks
        Rep. Robert Saunders
Promotes pollution prevention across all media and
requires reductions in hazardous wastes and releases of
hazardous substances and other contaminants.

SB 981  Sen. Bill Sims
        Rep. Ron Lewis
Mitigates adverse environmental impact from the
construction or maintenance of state highways.

SB 1099 Sen. Steve Carriker
         Rep. Robert Saunders
Establishes stringent new permitting requirements which
the Water Commission must adopt within 120 days. Also
requires state agencies and industries to develop
pollution prevention and waste minimization plans.

SB 1053 Sen. Chet Brooks
         Rep. Mike Martin
Prevents and remediates coastal erosion and addresses
the protection of coastal resources and the public's
common law rights of access to and use of public
beaches and the preservation of sand dunes for storm
protection and conservation purposes.

SB 1054 Sen. Chet Brooks
         Rep. Mike Martin
Protects and enhances state owned coastal wetlands.

SB 1340 Sen. Carl Parker
         Rep. Robert Saunders
Increases recycling by establishing a goal of recycling
40% of municipal solid waste by 1994, promotes
recycling tires, newsprint and used oil and bans
disposal of car batteries in landfills.

ETHICS

SB 1    Sen. Bob Glasgow
        Rep. Pete Laney
Addresses composition, powers and duties of the Texas
Elections and Ethics Commission and details the
registration, reporting and restrictions concerning
expenditures made to influence legislation or
administrative action.
FAMILY VIOLENCE

HB 391 Rep. David Cain
Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Allows the enhancement of misdemeanor A assaults against family members to a third degree felony if the person has two or more convictions for assault against family members and enhancement of repeat protective order violations if the subject has been previously convicted two or more times under Sec. 25.08 of the Texas Penal Code.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

HB 46 Rep. Henry Cuellar
Sen. Ted Lyon

Regulates money exchange businesses and provides penalties.

HB 169 Rep. Jim Tallas
Sen. Carl Parker

Addresses action taken on a deficiency on a debt secured by real property following a foreclosure sale of property.

HB 936 Rep. Curtis Seidlits
Sen. Temple Dickson

Clarifies current interpretations of the Texas Credit Union Act and brings various provisions into conformity with Credit Union Department practices and rules.

HB 2825 Rep. Jim Tallas
Sen. Bob Glasgow

Addresses action on a debt secured by real property sold at a judicial or non-judicial foreclosure sale.

SB 654 Sen. Carl Parker
Rep. Nick Perez

Increases the amount of personal property exempt from seizure.

SB 729 Sen. Temple Dickson
Rep. Jim Tallas

Authorizes a market competitive rate ceiling and implementation of that ceiling and addresses the consumer credit commissioner's publication.
SB 1166    Sen. Steve Carriker  
            Rep. John Carona  

Prohibits a state bank from investing without prior written consent of the banking commissioner more than 60% of its equity, rather than its four primary capital accounts, in fixed assets. 

GEOGRAPHY 

HB 1756    Rep. Sam Hudson  
            Sen. Rodney Ellis  

Renames the geographic features in the state of Texas that bear racially offensive names. 

GOVERNMENT 

HB 2009    Rep. Bruce Gibson  
            Sen. Ken Armbrister  

Establishes a statewide strategic planning process in which the governor and Legislative Budget Board set goals for each functional area of state government, each agency develops a six-year strategic plan, and the governor’s office and LBB compile a long-range strategic plan for the state.  

HB 571     Rep. Mike Jackson  
            Sen. Chet Brooks  

Requires purchases which are subject to competitive bidding also be subject to the notice requirement for competitive bids and changes the specification requirement for bids and orders of purchase for road work machinery.  

HB 2057    Rep. Anna Mowery  
            Sen. John Leedom  

Requires cross indexing of the Texas Administrative Code to make the rules more accessible, understandable and usable by legislative oversight committees and the general public.  

SB 884     Sen. John Montford  
            Rep. James Hury  

Creates the State Office of Administrative Hearings and establishes requirements for administrative hearings at some state agencies.
GOVERNMENT - LOCAL & COUNTY

HB 552 Rep. Paul Sadler
Sen. Bill Ratliff

Allows a commissioners court to advertise and promote the county without the delay and expense of an election.

HB 676 Rep. Fred Bosse
Sen. Gene Green

Permits Water Control and Improvement Districts within a single county to give notices of meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

HB 846 Rep. Henry Cuellar
Sen. Peggy Rosson

Allows border municipalities or counties the option to contract with a border municipality or state in the Republic of Mexico to provide or receive health services or acquire water or water rights.

HB 914 Rep. Toby Goodman
Sen. Chris Harris

Eliminates population categories for contracts in which a municipality can enter into and raises the contract expenditure level of a municipality subject to competitive bidding requirements.

SB 81 Sen. John Whitmire
Rep. Paul Colbert

Allows municipalities to enforce subdivision restrictions contained in any recorded plat or other instrument.

SB 311 Sen. John Whitmire
Rep. Carolyn Park

Validates governmental acts and proceedings to cure procedural irregularities that may have occurred when a city adopted a home rule charter or incorporation.

SB 376 Sen. Chris Harris
Rep. Kent Grusendorf

Creates an Arlington development corporation for the purpose of financing Ranger Stadium.
SB 862
Sen. Bob Glasgow
Rep. David Cain

Provides an exemption for certain management services for zoos, parks and museums from municipal competitive bidding requirements.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HB 1581
Rep. Mike Jackson
Sen. Chet Brooks

Includes a household hazardous waste collection program in a local or regional solid waste management plan.

HB 1757
Rep. Clyde Alexander
Sen. Chet Brooks

Amends the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority to issue revenue bonds to fund the pre-operational costs of the agency and retire the bonds from the collection of fees from users of the disposal site.

HB 2665
Rep. Dan Shelley
Sen. Chet Brooks

Allows the Texas Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority to select a low-level radioactive waste site in Hudspeth County for the purpose of submitting an application to the Texas Department of Health.

SB 553
Sen. Bill Sims
Rep. Robert Saunders

Deals with contracts and compacts for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste and the acceptance of that waste from other states.

HEALTH CARE

HB 1858
Rep. Jack Vowell
Sen. Peggy Rosson

Gives the Texas Board of Health the authority to obtain rebates from producers of food items purchased by the Women, Infants and Children's program.

HB 2054
Rep. Carolyn Park
Sen. Chris Harris

Permits a survey by the Department of Health under the Texas Hospital Licensing Act to validate the results of an inspection performed by Medicare personnel if there
is a disagreement between the hospital and the inspectors.

SB 195     Sen. Bill Ratliff
           Rep. Jack Vowell

Assesses a fee on speeding, DWI and helmet law violations to establish a comprehensive rehabilitation fund for victims of closed head and spinal cord injuries.

SB 1129     Sen. Frank Tejeda
           Rep. Alan Schoolcraft

Provides that communications between a patient receiving emergency medical services (EMS) and the EMS personnel or physician providing medical direction are confidential.

HEALTH CARE - RURAL

           Sen. Steve Carriker

Allows the Board of Health to waive certain standards in order to facilitate the operation of a rural hospital.

HB 2834     Rep. Tim Von Dohlen
           Sen. Ken Armbrister

Allows a commissioners court of a county with a population of 20,000 or less to establish medical clinics in order to provide needed rural health care services.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 272     Rep. Garfield Thompson
           Sen. Mike Moncrief

Changes the method of elections for members of the governing board of community college districts that contain a city with a population more than 384,500 from election-at-large to election from single-member trustee districts.

HB 277     Rep. Gary Watkins, Tony
           Goolsby
           Sen. John Montford

Authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of
Texas System to establish the University of Texas of the Permian Basin as a general academic teaching institution offering a standard four year undergraduate program.

HB 686/SB 103/SB 104
Rep. Eddie Cavazos
Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue up to $300 million in general obligation bonds to fund certain college student loan programs, subject to voter approval.

HB 1004
Rep. Jeff Wentworth
Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Adds required fees to those funds granted to deserving students under the Texas Tuition Assistance Grant Program.

HB 1477
Rep. Layton Black
Sen. Temple Dickson

Permits certain property to be transferred from the American Education Complex to the Central Texas University upon agreement of the governing boards.

SB 1050
Sen. Eddie Lucio
Rep. Rene Oliveira

Allows the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College to enter into a partnership to create a four year higher education environment with degree granting status.

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

HB 749
Rep. David Cain
Sen. Gene Green

Revises the Texas Turnpike Authority Sunset Bill to include requiring the Attorney General to approve outside counsel, commingling of surplus toll revenues, moving the Authority's headquarters to Austin, allowing the Governor to designate the Chairman and adding new language for private toll corporations and authorizes the Authority to lease or sell right-of-way to private entities and to employ in-house counsel.

HB 1506
Rep. Tony Goolsby
Sen. Ike Harris

Designates portions of U.S. Highway 290 from IH 35 to page 22
State Highway 95, State Highway 95 from U.S. Highway 290 to State Highway 71 and State Highway 71 from State Highway 95 to IH 35 as the 10th Mountain Division Memorial Highway.

SB 352  Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos
         Rep. David Cain

Revises the Highway Department Sunset Bill to include creating public advisory committees on environmental rules, bicycles and public transportation, requiring the Highway Commission to hold annual hearings on project selection, establishing a Disadvantaged Business Enterprises program and a minority hiring program and creating a minority-student scholarship program.

SB 856  Sen. Chet Brooks, Gene Green,
         Rodney Ellis
         Rep. Kevin Bailey

Encourages use of scrap tires for road construction or repair by political subdivisions.

HOLIDAYS

SB 134  Sen. Frank Tejeda
         Rep. Ron Wilson, Mario
         Gallegos, Wilhelmina Delco,
         Karyne Conley

Establishes a state holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HOSPITALS

SB 1484  Sen. David Sibley
         Rep. Allen Place

Allows for one election to create a hospital district and to issue hospital district bonds.

SB 1531  Sen. Chet Brooks
         Rep. Jack Vowell

Transfers funds from certain state teaching hospitals and hospital districts for use in the Medicaid disproportionate share program which will be dispersed to approximately 108 eligible disproportionate share hospitals providing medical treatment to indigent patients.
HOUSING

HB 142 Rep. Fred Blair
Sen. Gene Green

Allows criminal background history checks to be conducted on job applicants seeking employment at certain multi-occupant residences and creates an offense for misuse of the information by the employer or for failure to disclose information by the applicant.

HB 957 Rep. Fred Hill
Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Provides the enabling statutes so that Texas counties may be authorized to take advantage of federal grants and financial assistance under the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990.

SB 333 Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Rep. Fred Blair

Helps cities enact local fair housing ordinances which are equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

SB 546 Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos
Rep. Sylvester Turner

Merges the Texas Housing Agency and Texas Department of Community Affairs.

SB 663 Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Rep. Karyne Conley

Authorizes a political subdivision to acquire and convey land for the development of low-income or moderate-income housing.

HUMAN SERVICES

HB 2271 Rep. Elliott Naishitat
Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Expands the ability of the Department of Human Services in removing incompetent elderly or disabled persons from life threatening situations of abuse or neglect.

SB 379 Sen. Steve Carriker
Rep. Sue Schecter, Elliott Naishitat

Abolishes the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council and transfers its functions to the governor's office and other state agencies.
INSURANCE

HB 2 Rep. Eddie Cavazos, Mark Stiles
Sen. Carl Parker

Provides for the regulation of the insurance industry by the State Board of Insurance, the Texas Department of Insurance and the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance and creates the Office of Public Insurance Counsel to represent insurance consumers. Also provides for punishment for certain criminal offenses relating to the business of insurance and strengthens the state requirement for proof of financial responsibility under the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act.

HB 384 Rep. Frank Collazo
Sen. Carl Parker

Provides an insurance premium reduction for homeowners protected by an electrical burglar alarm system.

HB 952 Rep. Tony Goolsby
Sen. John Leedom

Provides the State Board of Insurance an alternative to revocation or suspension of an insurance agent's license when that agent has committed an offense as a result of a drug or alcohol disability.

HB 1246 Rep. David Counts, Mike Martin
Sen. Gene Green

Provides for accelerated payment of death benefits in the event of terminal illness or injury.

HB 1392 Rep. Ken Yarbrough
Sen. Steve Carriker

Extends to two years the time injured workers can collect unemployment benefits if they are seriously hurt on the job and their workers' compensation runs out.

SB 1245/SB 1246/SB 1247 Sen. Steve Carriker
Rep. Eddie Cavazos

Requires the Texas Medical Liability Trust to file financial, rate and claims information with the State Board of Insurance and expands state indemnification program to cover health centers.
LAW ENFORCEMENT

HB 154  Rep. M. A. Taylor  
        Sen. Bill Sims

Exempts sheriffs, employees of a sheriff’s department,  
county commissioners, county employees, employees of a  
community corrections department and others from  
personal liability in inmate work programs.

HB 1289  Rep. Fred Bosse  
        Sen. Gene Green

Requires the Harris County Sheriff’s Department to  
standardize its’ personnel record keeping.

HB 2140  Rep. Kevin Bailey  
        Sen. Rodney Ellis

Allows certain investigators appointed by the Attorney  
General to be commissioned as peace officers.

LICENSE PLATES

HB 63  Rep. Doyle Willis  
        Sen. Frank Tejeda

Allows the unmarried spouse of a Purple Heart  
recipient who was killed or died before having a chance  
to apply for a Purple Heart license plate to apply for  
the special license.

HB 225  Rep. Doyle Willis, Henry  
        Cuellar, Harold Dutton,  
        Jeff Wentworth  
        Sen. John Leedom

Moves the location of the vehicle registration  
validation sticker from rear license plate to the  
inside of the windshield.

HB 1494  Rep. Ashley Smith  
        Sen. J. E. Brown

Allows the Texas Space Commission to generate operating  
funds through the sale of space industry automobile  
license plates.

HB 1739  Rep. M. A. Taylor  
        Sen. David Sibley

Allows for 30 day registration as a temporary means of  
legally moving passenger cars and light trucks.
MEDIA
SB 670      Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos
            Rep. Elliott Naishtat

Creates an ad valorem tax exemption category for Public Broadcasting television stations.

MEDICAL CARE
HB 47       Rep. Henry Cuellar
            Sen. Judith Zaffirini

Sets educational requirements and standards for midwives, provides for criminal and civil penalties and restructures the existing Midwifery Board.

SB 774      Rep. Frank Madla
            Sen. Bob Glasgow

Permits qualified optometrists to treat certain eye disorders using certain prescription medications and non-surgical procedures.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION
SB 112      Sen. Mike Moncrief
            Rep. Robert Junell

Clarifies the relationship between state government and local mental health and mental retardation authorities and strengthens accountability in community MHMR center operations.

NURSING HOMES
HB 1976     Rep. Erwin Barton
            Sen. Chet Brooks

Requires the Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services, the Department of Health and the Office of the Attorney General to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding to respond to complaints and develop a plan to correct violations in substandard board and care homes.

SB 865      Rep. Erwin Barton
            Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Places the inspection and licensing of board and care homes under the Texas Department of Health and establishes a bill of rights for personal care home residents.
ORGAN DONATIONS

HB 271 Rep. Ron Lewis
       Sen. Chet Brooks

Requires the Department of Public Safety to place a
symbol on the face of a driver’s license or ID card
issued to a person who desires to be an eye, tissue or
organ donor.

PARIMUTUEL WAGERING

HB 2263 Rep. Hugo Berlanga, George
        Pierce
        Sen. O. H. Harris

Reduces the state percentage share of the takeout on
live horseracing, permits simulcasting, postpones
sunset review of the Racing Commission, imposes annual
fees on racetrack licensees and sets penalties for
violations of the Texas Racing Act.

PARKS AND WILDLIFE

HB 1207 Rep. Edmund Kuempel
       Sen. Chet Brooks

Requires a conservation permit to use land under the
control of the Parks and Wildlife Department.

HB 1770 Rep. Keith Oakley
       Sen. Eddie Lucio

Promotes the use of volunteers to assist in park
operations with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
and for outreach programs.

HB 1809 Rep. Clyde Alexander
       Sen. Bill Sims

Establishes additional permit fees by the Parks and
Wildlife Commission to provide funds for departmental
programs.

HB 2153 Rep. Elton Bomer
       Sen. Temple Dickson

Indemnifies Texas Parks and Wildlife commission
members, director and employees for damages arising
from official acts or omissions.
PAWNSHOPS


Expands powers of the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner to include regulation of pawnshop operations.

PRISONS


Sen. J. E. Brown

Increases capacity for housing inmates in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice above the current 95% cap and sets up a regulatory mechanism for capacity and conditions to persuade the federal court to end its jurisdiction in the Ruiz litigation.


Requires evaluation of all persons arrested on drug related charges for mandatory treatment and creates a drug treatment program in the prison system.


Establishes procedures to reduce the backlog of convicted felons confined in county jails awaiting transfer to the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

PUBLIC EDUCATION


Requires school districts to admit children who are classified as homeless under federal statutes into the
public schools.

HB 891 Rep. Kent Grusendorf
Sen. Carl Parker

Improves education for all schoolchildren, sets time limits for the State Board of Education to make a nomination to the Governor and for the Governor to approve or reject the nomination for the office of Commissioner of Education.

HB 1143 Rep. Robert Puente
Sen. Frank Tejeda

Clarifies the disposition of vacancies in certain school district trustee vacancies.

HB 1314 Rep. Ciro Rodriguez
Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Addresses grade level retention of public school students including requiring school districts to develop a standardized retention criteria applicable to all campuses in the district, recommending alternatives to retention be considered whenever possible, requiring school districts to base numerical grades for dyslexic students on a scale adapted to the student’s potential and requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules for dyslexic students that allow the use of oral exams and the time, material or technology necessary to demonstrate mastery.

HB 1777 Rep. Hugo Berlanga
Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Provides comprehensive guidance and counseling programs with local school districts.

HB 2144 Rep. Roman Martinez
Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Provides school districts more latitude in setting the starting date for summer bilingual education programs.

HB 2885 Rep. Gregory Luna
Rep. Kent Grusendorf
Sen. Carl Parker

Provides health insurance for teachers and site-based management programs, establishes school intervention teams, clarifies implementation of county education districts and requires all students to be sitting on a school bus rather than have some students standing.

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Addresses inequities in the school funding system within the constitutional limitations set forth by the Texas Supreme Court in Edgewood v. Kirby.


Provides funds for opening 72 new campuses for the Communities In Schools Program, a dropout prevention program.

PUBLIC EDUCATION EMPLOYEES


Allows qualified teachers to teach in Texas regardless of national citizenship.


Allows teachers to apply accumulated sick leave to their retirement plan with the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.


Requires school districts to deduct professional dues from an employee's monthly pay upon the request of the employee.


Requires large cities in Texas to fund their local school crossing guard programs and provides revenue options.

SB 532 Sen. Rodney Ellis Rep. Fred Bosse

Provides school districts the means to obtain the criminal records of contract school bus drivers and allows school districts to obtain criminal records of contract school bus driver job applicants who are offered employment by the district.
PUBLIC HEALTH

SB 307 Sen. Steve Carriker
       Rep. Bob Glaze

Removes the requirement that the Commissioner of Health
be a medical doctor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 451 Rep. Ken Brimer, Eddie de la
       Garza
       Sen. Bill Sims

Places the regulation of sand and gravel pits under the
Texas Railroad Commission and requires the construction
of berms and barriers around open pits adjacent to
roadways.

REDISTRICTING

HB 150/SB 31 Rep. Tom Uher
       Sen. Bob Glasgow

Redraws the boundaries of all state House, Senate,
Congressional and State Board of Education districts to
meet one-person one-vote standards and state and
federal constitutional requirements.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HB 2542 Rep. Ashley Smith
       Sen. J. E. Brown

Authorizes all cities and counties within a five mile
radius of a major space and aeronautics center to
establish, operate and maintain a foreign trade zone
called "Star Port" adjacent to or near NASA facilities.

SB 582 Sen. Jim Turner
       Rep. Christine Hernandez

Continues existence of Texas Innovation Information
Network System, a comprehensive database of technology
resources in Texas.

SECURITIES

SB 310 Sen. John Leedom
       Rep. Jim Tallas

Allows lending institutions to use mortgage backed
securities to pledge against state deposits.
STATE EMPLOYEES

HB 683 Rep. Curtis Soileau
Sen. Bill Haley

Amends the Texas Employees Uniform Group Insurance Benefits Act by requiring the state to provide life, accident and health coverage on all state employees and their dependents if a Health Maintenance Organization is not available.

SB 603 Sen. John Leedom
Rep. Kenny Marchant

Requires the Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission to consider state employee suggestions that increase state agency productivity and revenues, as well as savings.

SB 1331 Sen. Bob Glasgow
Rep. Nolan Robnett

Addresses membership, credit in, benefits and administration of programs administered by the Employees Retirement System of Texas for officers, employees and annuitants of the state.

TAXATION

HB 651 Rep. Ken Fleuriet
Sen. Bill Sims

Grants municipalities and counties the power of successor liability in collecting delinquent hotel/motel occupancy taxes.

SB 689 Sen. Teel Bivins
Rep. James Hury

Changes the administration, collection and enforcement of cigarette and tobacco tax laws.

SB 772 Sen. Don Henderson
Rep. Mark Stiles

Addresses the appraisal and assessment of property for property taxes and property that is omitted from a property tax appraisal roll, valuation notification, appraisal district and appraisal review boards.

SB 876 Sen. John Leedom
Rep. Bill Blackwood

Allows cities located in regional transportation
authorities to adopt an additional one-half cent sales tax.

TAXATION - PROPERTY

HB 201 Rep. Doyle Willis
Sen. Bob Glasgow

Requires appraisal districts to furnish protesting property owner with all of the information it will use against the property owner 14 days before the hearing.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

SB 470 Sen. Frank Tejeda
Rep. Frank Madla

Prohibits signs advertising tobacco products within 500 feet of a church or school.

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

SB 645 Sen. Mike Moncrief
Rep. Elton Bomer

Revises unclaimed property procedures for the State Treasury and simplifies the process banks use to report and remit unclaimed funds to the Treasury.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HB 670 Rep. Nancy McDonald
Sen. John Leedom

Allows the Texas Employment Commission to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states to collect overpayments of unemployment benefits.

HB 894 Rep. Curtis Soileau
Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos

Insures that a partially employed individual will not be disqualified from receiving benefits if they resign employment to accept a better paying job.

HB 1204 Rep. Curtis Soileau
Sen. Carl Parker

Insures that parents will not be disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits if they lose work due to the verifiable illness of a minor child.
UTILITIES - TELEPHONE

SB 1169         Sen. John Leedom
     Rep. Anita Hill
Regulates when telephone solicitors can place calls and what information must be given to the called party, places restrictions on the practice of charging telephone solicitation sales to a consumer’s credit card, requires solicitors to develop a system to avoid calling people who ask they not be called.

SB 1262         Sen. Ike Harris
     Rep. Anita Hill
Regulates use of automatic dial announcing devices, restricts hours of calls, requires certain information to be included in the recorded message and disconnection when called party hangs up.

VEHICLES - ACCIDENTS

HB 922          Rep. Bill Carter
     Sen. Chris Harris
Protects persons involved in automobile accidents from solicitation of business.

VETERANS

HB 1629         Rep. Kent Grusendorf
     Sen. Mike Moncrief
Allows military personnel serving in the Persian Gulf Crisis to pay delinquent property taxes without penalty and/or interest.

HB 2138         Rep. Kevin Bailey
     Sen. Gene Green
Provides for salary payments to county employees who are called to active military duty.

HCR 234         Rep. Doyle Willis
     Sen. Chet Brooks
Requests the U.S. Congress to resolve questions regarding American military prisoners of war and personnel missing in action.
SB 262  Sen. Temple Dickson  
Rep. Layton Black

Provides for motor vehicle insurance premium reduction for military on duty for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

SB 648  Sen. Frank Tejeda  
Rep. David Counts

Raises the amount of money a veteran can borrow from $20,000 to $40,000 for the purchase of real property.

SB 669  Sen. Temple Dickson  
Rep. Layton Black

Exempts requirement that students stationed with U.S. military overseas or within U.S. must take TASP test prior to taking coursework at American Education Complex campuses.

WATER

HB 529  Rep. Ron Lewis  
Sen. Bill Sims

Addresses cancellation for non-use of water rights permits, certified filings and certificates of adjudication.

HB 827  Rep. Bill Thomas  
Sen. Ted Lyon

Gives the Texas Water Commission added enforcement powers to protect consumers from unscrupulous or incompetent water companies and help to ensure the delivery of potable water at reasonable prices.

HB 1192  Rep. Fred Bosse  
Sen. J. E. Brown

Permits the Texas Water Commission to give notice of changes in water quality standards to statewide water appropriators through the Federal Register.

SB 1058  Sen. Bill Sims  
Rep. Tom Cate

Validates the election held by Medina County creating Medina County underground Water Conservation District, giving them the powers and duties as stated in the Water Code.
SB 1189  Sen. John Montford
         Rep. Rene Oliveira

Strengthens and tightens the Model Rules and platting
requirements regarding the regulation of the water
supply, wastewater and sewer services in economically
distressed areas.

SB 1193  Sen. John Montford
         Rep. Rene Oliveira

Increases the bond authorization for the colonias
program and streamlines the program so that
construction can begin and water can begin flowing to
families in these areas as quickly as possible.