

TCCE Special Session Update Wrap-Up Report

Special Session Adjourned *Sine Die* - The House adjourned the Special Session *Sine Die* shortly before 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, one day before the 30-day session was set to expire. Before adjourning, the House adopted:

- (HB 7) the Senate versions of the tree ordinance bill;
- (HB 21) public school finance reform;
- (HB 30) the school finance and TRS-Care funding mechanism. But, the House did not appoint conferees on the property tax reform bill (SB 1).

Two hours later, the Senate adjourned *Sine Die* after adopting the House versions:

- (SB 11) the do-not-resuscitate orders bill;
- (SB 17) the bill expanding the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force. They did not agree to House changes on the property tax reform bill (SB 1).

Special Session Issues that **Passed**:

- Texas Medical Board and behavioral health licensing agency sunset extension;
- Teacher Retirement System TRS-Care funding;
- School finance reform, establishing a statewide commission to recommend public school finance improvements and extending additional state aid for tax reduction (ASATR);
- Restricting local regulation of trees on private land;
- Prohibiting health insurance plan coverage for elective abortions;
- Requiring additional reporting by health care providers on abortion complications;
- Requiring additional reporting by health care providers on abortions provided to minors;
- Instituting patient protections on do-not-resuscitate orders;
- Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud;
- Extending the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force; and
- Municipal annexation reform.

Special Session Issues the **DID NOT Pass**:

- Teacher pay increase;
- School choice for special needs students;
- Property tax reform;
- Caps on state and local spending;
- Expedited local permitting;
- Preventing local governments from changing rules midway through construction projects;
- State pre-emption of local regulation of mobile communication devices while driving;
- Privacy/prohibiting local regulation of multi-occupancy showers, locker rooms, restrooms, and changing rooms;
- Prohibiting public entities from collecting union dues; and
- Prohibiting local taxpayer funding for abortion providers.

GOVERNOR:

Municipal Annexation – Tuesday, Governor Abbott signed **SB 6**, which will reform and restrict the municipal annexation process.

Prohibiting Insurance Coverage for Elective Abortion – Also on Tuesday, Governor Abbott signed **HB 214**, which limits insurance coverage for abortion procedures.

BUDGET:

Comptroller's Revised Revenue Estimate – On Tuesday, Comptroller Glenn Hegar sent a letter to the governor and legislators revising his revenue estimate upward by **\$196 million**.

Final status of special session issues that passed:

Sunset legislation:

Bills/Status

Texas Medical Board, the **Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists**, the **Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists**, the **Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors**, and the **Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners**.

SB 20 by Van Taylor (R-Plano) and Larry Gonzales (R-Round Rock), which extends the sunset dates to September 1, 2019, ***was signed by the governor on August 11, 2017 and took immediate effect.***

SB 60 by Van Taylor (R-Plano) and Larry Gonzales (R-Round Rock), which repeals appropriations contingency riders for Texas Medical Board and Board of Examiners of Psychologists and allowing continued funding for those agencies, ***was signed by the governor on August 11, 2017 and took immediate effect.***

Teacher pay increase of \$1,000 – The specific call said, “Legislation to increase the average salary and benefits (including TRS-Care) of Texas teachers; and legislation to provide a more flexible and rewarding salary and benefit system for Texas teachers.”

Bills/Status:

Note: The teacher pay raise issue is dead; however, provisions addressing the Teacher Retirement System and TRS-Care are included in HB 21.

School finance reform – The specific call said, “Legislation establishing a statewide commission to study and recommend improvements to the current public school finance system; and other legislation relating to school finance, including Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR).”

Bills/Status:

HB 21 by Dan Huberty (R-Humble) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood), which is the school finance reform bill, ***passed the House and Senate. The House concurred in Senate amendments and it is on its way to the governor.***

HB 30 by John Zerwas (R-Fulshear) and Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), which appropriates money to implement HB 21, *passed the House and Senate. The House concurred in Senate amendments and it has been sent to the governor.*

Note: HB 21 contains additional funding for supplemental programs for students with autism and dyslexia in public schools.

Property tax reform – The specific call said, “Legislation reforming the laws governing ad valorem property taxes.”

Bills/Status:

SB 1 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) and Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton), which is the Texas Property Tax Reform and Relief Act of 2017, *passed the Senate and House and the Senate appointed conferees. The House did not appoint conferees.*

Caps on state and local spending – The specific call said, “Legislation using population growth and inflation to establish a spending limit for state government; and legislation using population growth and inflation to establish a spending limit for political subdivisions.”

Bills/Status:

SB 18 by Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls), which sets a spending limit for local governmental entities, *was on the Senate calendar on Thursday, July 26, 2017, but was not been taken up by the full Senate.*

Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with trees on private land – The specific call said, “Legislation protecting the private property rights of land owners from political subdivision rules, regulations, or ordinances that interfere with, delay, or restrict private property owners’ ability to use or enjoy their property.”

Bills/Status:

HB 7 by Dade Phelan (R-Port Neches) and Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brehnam), which would require a municipality that imposes a fee for tree removal to allow the person to apply for a credit for tree planting to offset the amount of the fee, *passed the House and the Senate and the House concurred in Senate amendments. It has been sent to the governor.*

Pro-life insurance reform – The specific call said, “Legislation restricting health plan and health benefit plan coverage for abortions.”

Bills/Status:

HB 214 by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) and Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe), the House companion to SB 8, *passed the House and Senate. It was signed by the governor and takes effect on December 1, 2017.*

Strengthening abortion reporting requirements when health complications arise –

The specific call said, “Legislation strengthening the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications to the Department of State Health Services.”

HB 13 by Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller) and Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels), the House companion to SB 10, *passed the House and Senate. It was signed by the governor and takes effect on November 15, 2017.*

HB 215 by Jim Murphy (R-Houston) and Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), which requires physicians who perform an abortion on a woman younger than 18 years old to report information in her medical record regarding whether the woman obtained parental consent, was granted a judicial bypass, or was in an emergency situation, *passed the House and Senate and has been sent to the governor.*

Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders – The specific call said, “Legislation enhancing patient protections contained in the procedures and requirements for do-not-resuscitate orders.”

Bills/Status:

SB 11 by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood), which would revise procedures and requirements for do-not-resuscitate orders, *passed the Senate and the House. The Senate concurred with House amendments and it has been sent to the governor.*

Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud – The specific call said, “Legislation enhancing the detection, prosecution, and elimination of mail-in ballot fraud.”

Bills/Status:

SB 5 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) and Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth), which would increase the criminal penalties for election fraud, *passed the Senate and House. It has been signed by the governor and takes effect December 1, 2017.*

Extending maternal mortality task force – The specific call said, “Legislation continuing the operation and expanding the duties of the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force to ensure action is taken to reduce the maternal mortality rate in Texas.”

Bills/Status – SB 17 by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and Cindy Burkett (R-Sunnyvale), which expands the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, *passed the Senate and House. The Senate concurred with House amendments and it has been sent to the governor.*

Municipal annexation reform – The specific call said, “Legislation reforming the authority of municipalities to annex territory, to exert control over territory, or to regulate the use of annexed land or land in a municipality’s extraterritorial jurisdiction.”

Bills/Status:

SB 6 by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) and Dan Huberty (R-Humble), which is the Texas Annexation Right to Vote Act, *passed the Senate and the House. It was signed by the governor and takes effect on December 1, 2017.*