

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE — FOURTH CALLED SESSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

PROCEEDINGS

FIRST DAY

(Tuesday, November 7, 2023)

In obedience to the Proclamation of the Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, the Senate met in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol at Austin, Texas, on the 7th day of November, 2023, at 6:23 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Charles Schwertner President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The President Pro Tempore directed the Secretary of the Senate to call the roll of the Senate.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Alvarado, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Blanco, Campbell, Creighton, Eckhardt, Flores, Gutierrez, Hall, Hancock, Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, King, Kolkhorst, LaMantia, Menéndez, Middleton, Miles, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks, Springer, West, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Nichols, Whitmire.

The President Pro Tempore announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Patsy Spaw, Secretary of the Senate, offered the invocation as follows:

O holy Father, as we come before Your throne of mercy, we give You thanks for the many blessings You have bestowed upon our great state. As we begin this fourth called session, I ask a special blessing on our Lieutenant Governor and the Members of the Texas Senate. Give them good health and knowledge of Your tender loving watch-care over them and their families. Give them wisdom in their decision making, confidence in those decisions, and resolve to do what's right for Texas. Thank You for allowing them to serve our state and its people. Protect them, Father, from all harm. Father, again, thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon all of us. And it is in Your precious name I pray. Amen.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, Senator Nichols was granted leave of absence for today on account of family business.

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, Senator Whitmire was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business in the district.

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

The following Proclamation by the Governor was read and was filed with the Secretary of the Senate:

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, by the authority vested in me by Article III, Sections 5 and 40, and Article IV, Section 8, of the Texas Constitution, do hereby call the fourth extraordinary session of the 88th Legislature, to convene in the City of Austin, commencing at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, for the following purposes:

To consider and act upon the following:

Legislation relating to primary and secondary education, including the establishment of an education savings account program, the certification, compensation, and health coverage of certain public school employees, the public school finance system, special education in public schools, measures to support the education of public school students that include certain educational grant programs, reading instruction, and early childhood education, the provision of virtual education, and public school accountability.

Legislation related to school safety measures and related state funding mechanisms.

Legislation to do more to reduce illegal immigration by creating criminal offenses for illegal entry into this state from a foreign nation and illegal reentry or presence following denial of admission, exclusion, deportation, or removal; authorizing the removal of illegal immigrants from Texas; and providing indemnification and immunity for public officials, employees, or contractors in connection with the foregoing.

Legislation to impede illegal entry into Texas by providing more funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of border barrier infrastructure, and additional funding for the Department of Public Safety for border security operations, including additional overtime expenses and costs due to an increased law enforcement presence to preserve public safety and security in the Colony Ridge development in Liberty County, Texas.

The Secretary of State will take notice of this action and will notify the members of the legislature of my action.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 7th day of November, 2023.

(Seal)

/s/Greg Abbott
Governor

Attested by:

/s/Jane Nelson
Secretary of State

SENATE BILLS ON FIRST READING

The following bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to the committees indicated:

SB 1 by Creighton

Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.
To Committee on Education.

SB 2 by Creighton, Huffman

Relating to a local optional teacher designation system implemented by a school district, the basic allotment and guaranteed yield under the public school finance system, and certain allotments under the Foundation School Program; making an appropriation.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 3 by Huffman

Relating to an appropriation to provide funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of border barrier infrastructure and border security operations, including funding for additional overtime expenses and costs due to certain increased law enforcement presence.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 4 by Perry

Relating to prohibitions on the illegal entry into or illegal presence in this state by a person who is an alien, the enforcement of those prohibitions and certain related orders, including immunity from liability and indemnification for enforcement actions, and authorizing or requiring under certain circumstances the removal of persons who violate those prohibitions; creating criminal offenses.

To Committee on State Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, the Senate at 6:29 p.m. adjourned until 3:00 p.m. tomorrow.

