

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE — SECOND CALLED SESSION

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AUSTIN, TEXAS

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PROCEEDINGS

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## SIXTH DAY

(Tuesday, August 26, 2025)

The Senate met at 3:52 p.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by Senator Flores.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Alvarado, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Blanco, Campbell, Cook, Creighton, Flores, Gutierrez, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, J. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, King, Kolkhorst, Menéndez, Middleton, Nichols, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

The Presiding Officer announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Senator King offered the invocation as follows:

Father, I was trying to think what to pray about today, and I know for me, and I think for probably all of us, there's just a lot of anxiety or anxiousness. We've all, a lot of us, have been away from our homes for most of this year and so there's things piling up there. All of us have different family members that have things going on in their life, and we're concerned for that and we're not there as much as we need to be right now to help work through those things. We have in the, where we have office and business affairs, we have things piling up that need to be taken care of. And then even just around our home, we go home and we see all the chores and all of the things that are backed up and then we just have legislation, which is very important and some of it very difficult to work through, and that creates anxiousness for us, too. And all that wears everybody down and it makes us tense and uncomfortable and it just makes things hard. And at the same time that we know that You're a God of peace and You bring peace in to still our hearts, and it's in Philippians, it says that not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. So, Father, we just come to You, we're thankful for all the things that You've put in our life and for those responsibilities that You've given us and for the oversight that You've given us from things from our family to our work to our homes to here in this wonderful opportunity for service. And I just ask

now that You would just pierce through all the anxiety that comes with that. Give us all that peace that surpasses all understanding, peace that we won't understand, but will know that it's not from us but is from You. And I just ask that You would just fill us with that now and really for the rest of this session. And I thank You that You care enough about us to be involved in the things that just bring anxiety to our life. And it's in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Senator Zaffirini moved that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day be dispensed with and the Journal be approved as printed.

The motion prevailed without objection.

### **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

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

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

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

### **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following Message from the Governor was read and was filed with the Secretary of the Senate:

#### **STATE OF TEXAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

#### **MESSAGE**

**TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, SECOND CALLED SESSION:**

WHEREAS, the people of Texas through their state constitution have placed in the hands of the governor the power to call and set the agenda for special sessions of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a gubernatorial proclamation issued on August 15, 2025, the members of the 89th Legislature convened in a Second Called Session to consider the subjects designated in that proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, by the authority vested in me by Article III, Section 40, and Article IV, Section 8(a), of the Texas Constitution, do hereby present the following additional subjects to the 89th Legislature, Second Called Session, for consideration:

Legislation to prohibit same day voter registration in Texas.

Legislation authorizing contracts with sheriffs and constables for the provision of law enforcement services and legislation relating to the appropriation or transfer of funds to or from a law enforcement agency.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/Greg Abbott  
Governor

Austin, Texas  
August 25, 2025

**SENATE RULES SUSPENDED**  
**(Motion In Writing)**

Senator Hughes submitted the following Motion In Writing:

Mr. President: I move to suspend Senate Rules 7.09, 11.10, 11.18, and 11.19 to permit the consideration of the following bills at public hearing held immediately upon recess today, notwithstanding any requests for advance notice pursuant to the rules:

By the Committee on State Affairs in the Betty King Room:

SB 19 by Bettencourt  
SB 53 by Hughes  
SB 54 by Hughes  
HB 16 by Leach (Sponsored by Hughes)

HUGHES

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the adoption of the Motion In Writing except as follows:

Nays: Cook.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

**SENATE RULES SUSPENDED**  
**(Posting Rules)**

Senator Perry moved to suspend Senate Rule 11.10(a) and Senate Rule 11.18(a) in order that the Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding might meet and consider the following bills at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow in Room E1.012:

**HB 1, HB 3, HB 27.**

The motion prevailed without objection.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the motion to suspend posting rules except as follows:

Nays: Cook.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

**SENATE RULES SUSPENDED**  
**(Posting Rules)**

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend Senate Rule 11.10(a) and Senate Rule 11.18(a) in order that the Committee on Local Government might meet and consider the following bills at 4:30 p.m. today: **HB 17, HB 23.**

The motion prevailed without objection.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the motion to suspend posting rules except as follows:

Nays: Cook.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

### **RECESS**

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, the Senate at 4:03 p.m. recessed until 5:15 p.m. today.

### **AFTER RECESS**

The Senate met at 7:14 p.m. and was called to order by the President.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

HOUSE CHAMBER

Austin, Texas

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 - 3

The Honorable President of the Senate  
Senate Chamber  
Austin, Texas

Mr. President:

I am directed by the house to inform the senate that the house has taken the following action:

THE HOUSE HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

#### **HB 8**

Buckley

Relating to public school accountability and transparency, including the implementation of an instructionally supportive assessment program and the adoption and administration of assessment instruments in public schools, indicators of achievement, public school performance ratings, and interventions and sanctions under the public school accountability system, a grant program for school district local accountability plans, and actions challenging Texas Education Agency decisions related to public school accountability.

Respectfully,

/s/Stephen Brown,  
Chief Clerk

House of Representatives

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The President acknowledged the presence of Senator Nichols' daughter, Collynn'rae Nichols Evans.

The Senate welcomed its guest.

**INTRODUCTION OF  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS POSTPONED**

The President announced that the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading would be postponed until the end of today's calendar.

There was no objection.

**SENATE RULE 7.12(a) SUSPENDED  
(Printing of Bills)  
(Motion In Writing)**

Senator Hall offered the following Motion In Writing:

Mr. President:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 7.12(a), the Printing Rule, I move that the Senate order the following bills not printed:

**SB 19** by Bettencourt, Relating to a prohibition on the making and acceptance of political contributions during a special legislative session.

**SB 54** by Hughes, Relating to election procedures regarding accepting a voter with a residence address that is not current and the immediate effect of a voter's registration after the registrar's receipt of certain change of address notices.

**HB 16** (Hughes), Relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government, including court security, court documents and arrest warrants, document delivery, juvenile boards, constitutional amendment election challenges, record retention, youth diversion, court-ordered mental health services, the powers of the Texas Supreme Court, jurors, and the special prosecution unit; increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.

**HB 17** (Bettencourt), Relating to the requirements regarding notice of certain property tax-related information to be provided by taxing units and appraisal districts.

**HB 23** (Bettencourt), Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by certain nonprofit corporations, located in a populous county, and used to promote agriculture, support youth, and provide educational support in the community.

HALL

The Motion In Writing was read and prevailed without objection.

**SENATE BILL 2 WITH HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

Senator Perry called **SB 2** from the President's table for consideration of the House amendments to the bill.

The President laid the bill and the House amendments before the Senate.

**Floor Amendment No. 1**

Amend **SB 2** (house committee printing) on page 14, between lines 7 and 8, by inserting the following:

Sec. 418.464. TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN OR NEAR CERTAIN FLOODPLAINS AND RIPARIAN ZONES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Extra high voltage transmission line" means a transmission line with a voltage equal to or greater than 765 kilovolts.

(2) "Riparian zone" means the transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial habitats along a waterway.

(b) This section applies only to a transmission project for which a certificate of convenience and necessity is required under Chapter 37, Utilities Code, that includes a proposed extra high voltage transmission line:

(1) located in the 100-year floodplain, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, of the Llano River, San Saba River, Devils River, Guadalupe River, or Frio River; or

(2) that would disturb or be located within one mile of a riparian zone of the Llano River, San Saba River, Devils River, Guadalupe River, or Frio River.

(c) An emergency management coordinator designated under Section 418.1015(c) to serve a county in which a transmission project described by Subsection (b) is proposed to be located:

(1) may provide recommendations and comments related to the proposed extra high voltage transmission line in a proceeding filed under Section 37.053, Utilities Code; and

(2) is an interested party for the purposes of Section 37.054, Utilities Code.

### **Floor Amendment No. 3**

Amend **SB 2** (house committee report) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS to the bill and renumbering the SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 140.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 140.015. DISASTER RESPONSE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Disaster" has the meaning assigned by Section 418.004, Government Code.

(2) "Grant" means a grant authorized to be awarded by the comptroller under the disaster response assistance grant program established by this section.

(b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the disaster response assistance grant program to reimburse municipalities and counties for costs associated with the operation of a helicopter owned by the municipality or county in response to a multi-county disaster.

(c) The comptroller shall establish the eligibility requirements for a grant awarded under this section. The requirements must prohibit a municipality or county from recovering an expense for which the municipality or county otherwise has received or will receive funds from the federal government or the state.

(d) A municipality or county may not receive more than \$750,000 in a calendar year in grants under this section.

(e) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules that establish:

(1) a standardized application process, including the form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the form;

(2) deadlines for:

(A) applying for the grant;

(B) disbursement of grant money; and

(C) spending grant money; and

(3) procedures for:

(A) monitoring the disbursement of grant money to ensure compliance with this section; and

(B) the return of grant money that was not used by a municipality or county for a purpose authorized by this section.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Not later than May 1, 2026, the comptroller of public accounts shall establish and administer the disaster response assistance grant program and adopt the rules necessary to implement the program as required by Section 140.015, Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

### **Floor Amendment No. 1 on Third Reading**

Amend **SB 2** on third reading in the SECTION of the bill adding Section 418.464, Government Code, as amended by Amendment No. 1 by Darby, as follows:

(1) In added Subsection (b)(1), strike "or Frio River" and substitute "Frio River, Lampasas River, or Salado Creek".

(2) In added Subsection (b)(2), strike "or Frio River" and substitute "Frio River, Lampasas River, or Salado Creek".

The amendments were read.

Senator Perry moved that the Senate do not concur in the House amendments, but that a conference committee be appointed to adjust the differences between the two Houses on the bill.

The motion prevailed without objection.

The President asked if there were any motions to instruct the conference committee on **SB 2** before appointment.

There were no motions offered.

The President announced the appointment of the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Perry, Chair; Flores, Schwertner, A. Hinojosa, and Blanco.

### **SENATE BILL 10 WITH HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

Senator Bettencourt called **SB 10** from the President's table for consideration of the House amendments to the bill.

The President laid the bill and the House amendments before the Senate.

### **Floor Amendment No. 1**

Amend **SB 10** (house committee report) as follows:

(1) On page 2, line 1, strike "; [~~or~~]" and substitute "; or".

(2) On page 2, strike lines 2 through 7.

(3) On page 2, line 8, strike "(C)" and substitute "(B)".

(4) On page 2, line 9, strike "or a municipality or county described by Paragraph (B)".

(5) Strike page 2, line 27, through page 3, line 5.

(6) On page 3, lines 7 through 9, strike "OR MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 75,000 THAT IS NOT A SPECIAL TAXING UNIT".

(7) Strike page 3, line 26, through page 4, line 5.

(8) On page 4, lines 7 through 9, strike "OR MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 75,000 THAT IS NOT A SPECIAL TAXING UNIT".

(9) On page 5, strike lines 7 through 13.

(10) On page 5, lines 15 through 17, strike "OR MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 75,000 THAT IS NOT A SPECIAL TAXING UNIT".

(11) On page 6, line 10, strike "applicable".

(12) On page 6, strike lines 11 through 18.

## **Floor Amendment No. 2**

Amend **SB 10** on page 2, line 8 by inserting "a Municipal Utility District or" between the words "for" and "a".

## **Floor Amendment No. 3**

Amend **SB 10** (house committee report) as follows:

(1) Strike "1.025" and substitute "1.01" in each of the following places it appears:

(A) page 2, line 11;

(B) page 3, line 10;

(C) page 4, line 10;

(D) page 5, line 18; and

(E) page 6, line 20.

(2) Add the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumber the subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Chapter 26, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 26.0445 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.0445. TAX RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENDITURES. (a) In this section, "public safety expenditures" for a tax year means the amount of expenditures derived from maintenance and operations tax revenue made by a taxing unit in the period beginning on July 1 of the year preceding the tax year for which a tax is adopted and ending on June 30 of the tax year for which the tax is adopted on costs to equip, train, house, supervise, compensate, and provide other benefits to individuals who provide firefighting services, law enforcement services, jail and detention services, and emergency medical services.

(b) This section applies only to:

(1) a municipality or county with a population of 75,000 or more that is not a special taxing unit; or

(2) an emergency services district created under Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code, that is not a special taxing unit.



(c) If the public safety expenditures of a taxing unit to which this section applies exceed the amount of those expenditures for the preceding tax year, the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for the taxing unit is increased by the rate computed according to the following formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Current Tax Year's Public Safety Expenditures} - \text{Preceding Tax Year's Public Safety Expenditures})}{(\text{Current Total Value} - \text{New Property Value})}$$

(d) The taxing unit shall include a notice of the increase in the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate provided by this section, including a description and amount of public safety expenditures, in the information published under Section 26.04(e) and, as applicable, in the notice prescribed by Section 26.06 or 26.061.

The amendments were read.

Senator Bettencourt moved that the Senate do not concur in the House amendments, but that a conference committee be appointed to adjust the differences between the two Houses on the bill.

The motion prevailed without objection.

The President asked if there were any motions to instruct the conference committee on **SB 10** before appointment.

There were no motions offered.

The President announced the appointment of the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Bettencourt, Chair; Nichols, Birdwell, Paxton, and Hagenbuch.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING CALL

The President at 7:17 p.m. announced the conclusion of morning call.

### HOUSE BILL 16 ON SECOND READING

On motion of Senator Hughes and by unanimous consent, the regular order of business was suspended to take up for consideration **HB 16** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 16**, Relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government, including court security, court documents and arrest warrants, document delivery, juvenile boards, constitutional amendment election challenges, record retention, youth diversion, court-ordered mental health services, the powers of the Texas Supreme Court, jurors, and the special prosecution unit; increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.

The bill was read second time and was passed to third reading without objection.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the passage to third reading except as follows:

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

**HOUSE BILL 16 ON THIRD READING**

Senator Hughes moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **HB 16** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 0. (Same as previous roll call)

**SENATE BILL 54 ON SECOND READING**

Senator Hughes moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **SB 54** at this time on its second reading:

**SB 54**, Relating to election procedures regarding accepting a voter with a residence address that is not current and the immediate effect of a voter's registration after the registrar's receipt of certain change of address notices.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 19, Nays 8.

Yeas: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Creighton, Flores, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Nichols, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks.

Nays: Alvarado, Blanco, Cook, Gutierrez, J. Hinojosa, Johnson, Menéndez, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

The bill was read second time and was passed to engrossment by the following vote: Yeas 19, Nays 8. (Same as previous roll call)

**HOUSE BILL 23 ON SECOND READING**

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **HB 23** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 23**, Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by certain nonprofit corporations, located in a populous county, and used to promote agriculture, support youth, and provide educational support in the community.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Schwertner asked to be recorded as voting "Nay" on suspension of the regular order of business.

The bill was read second time and was passed to third reading without objection.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the passage to third reading except as follows:

Nays: Schwertner.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

**HOUSE BILL 23 ON THIRD READING**

Senator Bettencourt moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **HB 23** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 26, Nays 1.

Nays: Schwertner.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 26, Nays 1. (Same as previous roll call)

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following Message from the Governor was read and was filed with the Secretary of the Senate:

STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MESSAGE

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, SECOND CALLED SESSION:

WHEREAS, the people of Texas through their state constitution have placed in the hands of the governor the power to call and set the agenda for special sessions of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a gubernatorial proclamation issued on August 15, 2025, the members of the 89th Legislature convened in a Second Called Session to consider the subjects designated in that proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, by the authority vested in me by Article III, Section 40, and Article IV, Section 8(a), of the Texas Constitution, do hereby present the following additional subjects to the 89th Legislature, Second Called Session, for consideration:

Legislation that protects law enforcement officers from public disclosure of unsubstantiated complaints and other information maintained in a law enforcement agency files.

Legislation relating to election procedures regarding accepting a voter with a residence address that is not current and the immediate effect of a voter's registration after the registrar's receipt of certain change of address notices.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Greg Abbott  
Governor

Austin, Texas  
August 26, 2025

**SENATE BILL 19 ON SECOND READING**

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **SB 19** at this time on its second reading:

**SB 19**, Relating to a prohibition on the making and acceptance of political contributions during a special legislative session.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 6.

Yeas: Alvarado, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Creighton, Flores, Gutierrez, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks.

Nays: Blanco, Cook, J. Hinojosa, Menéndez, Nichols, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

The bill was read second time.

Question: Shall **SB 19** be passed to engrossment?

**POINT OF ORDER**

Senator Zaffirini raised a point of order that **SB 19** violates Article III, Section 40 of the Texas Constitution, which restricts legislation during special sessions to only those topics designated in the Governor's proclamation calling the session or subsequently presented by the Governor.

**POINT OF ORDER RULING**

The President stated that the point of order was respectfully overruled.

Question: Shall **SB 19** be passed to engrossment?

Senator Bettencourt offered the following amendment to the bill:

**Floor Amendment No. 1**

Amend **SB 19** (introduced version) in added Section 253.034 (a-1), Election Code (page 1, line 12), between "(a-1)" and "During", by inserting "This subsection applies only to a special legislative session that begins before September 1 in an odd-numbered year."

The amendment to **SB 19** was read and was adopted without objection.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the adoption of Floor Amendment No. 1 except as follows:

Nays: Cook, Nichols.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

Senator Zaffirini offered the following amendment to the bill:

**Floor Amendment No. 2**

Amend **SB 19** (senate committee report) as follows:

(1) Amend the recital to SECTION 2 of the bill by striking "is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsections (b) and (c)" and substituting "is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (a-1)".

(2) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in amended Section 253.034, Election Code, insert the following:

(a) During the period beginning on the 30th day before the date a regular legislative session convenes and continuing through the 20th day after the date of final adjournment, a person may not knowingly make a political contribution to:

(1) a statewide officeholder;

(2) a member of the legislature; [~~or~~]

(3) a specific-purpose committee for supporting, opposing, or assisting a statewide officeholder or member of the legislature; or

(4) a candidate for statewide office or the legislature.

(3) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in added Section 253.034(a-1)(2), strike "or".

(4) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in added Section 253.034(a-1)(3), strike the underlined period and substitute "; or".

(5) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in added Section 253.034(a-1), Election Code, insert the following appropriately numbered subdivision to that subsection and renumber the subdivisions of that subsection accordingly:

(    ) a candidate for statewide office or the legislature.

(6) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in amended Section 253.034(b), Election Code, in the first sentence of that subsection, between "a member of the legislature," and "or a specific-purpose committee", insert "a candidate for statewide office or the legislature,".

The amendment to **SB 19** was read and failed of adoption by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 20.

Yeas: Alvarado, Blanco, Gutierrez, J. Hinojosa, Johnson, Menéndez, Zaffirini.

Nays: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Cook, Creighton, Flores, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Nichols, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

**SB 19** as amended was passed to engrossment by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 6.

Yeas: Alvarado, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Creighton, Flores, Gutierrez, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks.

Nays: Blanco, Cook, J. Hinojosa, Menéndez, Nichols, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

### SENATE BILL 19 ON THIRD READING

Senator Bettencourt moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **SB 19** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 22, Nays 5.

Yeas: Alvarado, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Creighton, Flores, Gutierrez, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, J. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks.

Nays: Blanco, Cook, Menéndez, Nichols, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 6.

Yeas: Alvarado, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Creighton, Flores, Gutierrez, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks.

Nays: Blanco, Cook, J. Hinojosa, Menéndez, Nichols, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Miles, West.

### REASON FOR VOTE

Senator Cook submitted the following reason for vote on **SB 19**:

Today I voted no on SB 19, a bill that attempts to rein in officeholder fundraising, but falls woefully short of that stated goal. While I wanted to register in support of this legislation as policy that would align the fundraising rules for a regular session with those of a special session, broader concerns remain. This legislation does nothing to prevent big donors from simply delaying when they send out their checks, and with no limits on campaign contributions in Texas, the bill does nothing to prevent egregious amounts of money from continuing to flow into Texas politics. The intention of the bill became further muddled with a last minute amendment by Senator Bettencourt only to prohibit fundraising in a special session to the summer months following a regular session. If this bill was truly about preventing undue influence in the political process, it would not distinguish between a special session called in July and a special session called in November. Instead, the state should focus on instituting campaign contribution limits, increasing transparency and disclosure in campaign contributions, and leveling the playing field for candidates of all economic backgrounds.

COOK

### REASON FOR VOTE

Senator Nichols submitted the following reason for vote on **SB 19**:

There are several reasons I voted "No" on Senate Bill 19, relating to a prohibition on the making and accepting of political contributions during a special legislative session, and voted "No" on the amendment by the author.

I agree that it is immoral to collect campaign contributions while voting on legislation. Therefore, I agree with the principle. I have always worked to build the public's trust in our democratic processes by creating clear lines when it comes to political fundraising purposes. For example, I realized in 2013 that Texas Railroad Commission officeholders could accept contributions and vote on contested matters the day before, the day of, or the day after a Commission meeting. I filed a bill prohibiting that practice, which ultimately failed to pass.

However, it was the stated intent by the author of Senate Bill 19 to restrict the making or accepting of political contributions during a period in which a special session was called before September 1st of an odd-numbered year, and for 30 days thereafter.

This would allow the acceptance or contribution of political funds at any time after that period, until 30 days before the next regular session, including during subsequent special legislative sessions.

I do not believe it is right to have it both ways—accepting political contributions while legislating should either be completely legal or completely illegal. I believe it should be the latter.

The result of this bill is the creation of two classes of candidates: those in office running again and candidates not in office. An incumbent running for re-election stands to be materially affected, therefore creating disadvantages in their election. Furthermore, the legislation is likely to be used as a tool or weapon against candidates in certain situations.

I am concerned this bill was not properly vetted. It was filed today, heard in committee today, and voted out of the Senate today. The Senate even voted not to print the bill, meaning the public had very little opportunity for input.

Public input and participation are critical parts of our democratic process. For these reasons, I voted no on Senate Bill 19 and its amendment.

NICHOLS

### HOUSE BILL 17 ON SECOND READING

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **HB 17** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 17**, Relating to the requirements regarding notice of certain property tax-related information to be provided by taxing units and appraisal districts.

Senator Bettencourt withdrew further consideration of **HB 17**.

### CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 17

On motion of Senator Hughes, Senator Kolkhorst will be shown as Co-author of **SB 17**.

### CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 19

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Alvarado, Campbell, A. Hinojosa, King, and Kolkhorst will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 19**.

### CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 54

On motion of Senator Hughes, Senators Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, King, Middleton, Parker, and Schwertner will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 54**.

### CO-SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 16

On motion of Senator Hughes, Senators Bettencourt, Campbell, Hagenbuch, A. Hinojosa, J. Hinojosa, King, Parker, Sparks, and Zaffirini will be shown as Co-sponsors of **HB 16**.

**CO-SPONSOR OF HOUSE BILL 17**

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senator Campbell will be shown as Co-sponsor of **HB 17**.

**CO-SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 23**

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Campbell and King will be shown as Co-sponsors of **HB 23**.

**CO-SPONSOR OF HOUSE BILL 27**

On motion of Senator Nichols, Senator King will be shown as Co-sponsor of **HB 27**.

**MOTION TO RECESS**

On motion of Senator Zaffirini and by unanimous consent, the Senate at 9:38 p.m. agreed to recess, upon completion of the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading and the receipt of committee reports and messages from the House, until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

**RECESS**

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate at 1:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, 2025, recessed until 2:00 p.m. today.

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**APPENDIX**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following committee reports were received by the Secretary of the Senate in the order listed:

August 26, 2025

STATE AFFAIRS — **SB 19, SB 54**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — **HB 23, HB 17**

STATE AFFAIRS — **HB 16**

**BILL ENGROSSED**

August 26, 2025

**SB 19**

**BILLS ENROLLED**

August 26, 2025

**SB 11, SB 12, SB 14, SB 18**