

# SENATE JOURNAL

**EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE — SECOND CALLED SESSION**

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**AUSTIN, TEXAS**

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**PROCEEDINGS**

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## **SEVENTH DAY**

(Wednesday, August 27, 2025)

The Senate met at 7:17 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, Middleton, Nichols, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Sparks, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

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

Senator Campbell offered the invocation as follows:

Gracious, heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings You give us.  
Help us get out of this session quick but do good, God-kingdom policies.  
May we glorify You, God. In Jesus' name. 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 Menéndez 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.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS POSTPONED**

The Presiding Officer 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  
(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:

**HB 8** (Bettencourt), 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.

**HB 25** (Hall), Relating to a pharmacist's authority to dispense ivermectin without a prescription.

**HB 26** (Bettencourt), Relating to contracting with law enforcement agencies in certain counties.

**HB 192** (Bettencourt), Relating to the funding of law enforcement agencies in certain counties.

HALL

The Motion In Writing was read and prevailed without objection.

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

Nays: Cook.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

**CONCLUSION OF MORNING CALL**

The Presiding Officer at 7:25 p.m. announced the conclusion of morning call.

**SENATE BILL 54 ON THIRD READING**

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

**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 7.

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, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 19, Nays 7. (Same as previous roll call)

**(President in Chair)**

### **HOUSE BILL 25 ON SECOND READING**

Senator Hall moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **HB 25** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 25**, Relating to a pharmacist's authority to dispense ivermectin without a prescription.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 6.

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

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

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read second time and was passed to third reading by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 6. (Same as previous roll call)

### **HOUSE BILL 25 ON THIRD READING**

Senator Hall moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **HB 25** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, J. Hinojosa, Johnson.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 6.

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

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

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

### **HOUSE BILL 26 ON SECOND READING**

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **HB 26** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 26**, Relating to contracting with law enforcement agencies in certain counties.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read second time.

Senator Cook offered the following amendment to the bill:

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

Amend **HB 26** (house engrossment) as follows:

(1) On page 2, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

(e) If a cause of action or a settlement from a cause of action arises in relation to a contract entered into under this section, any money used for the action or settlement must be paid from the bond executed under Section 85.001 or money obtained under Article 59.06(a), Code of Criminal Procedure.

(2) On page 3, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

(e) If a cause of action or a settlement from a cause of action arises in relation to a contract entered into under this section, any money used for the action or settlement must be paid from the bond executed under Section 86.002 or money obtained under Article 59.06(a), Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Article 59.06(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (k), all forfeited property shall be administered by the attorney representing the state, acting as the agent of the state, in accordance with accepted accounting practices and with the provisions of any local agreement entered into between the attorney representing the state and law enforcement agencies. If a local agreement has not been executed, the property shall be sold on the 75th day after the date of the final judgment of forfeiture at public auction under the direction of the county sheriff, after notice of public auction as provided by law for other sheriff's sales. The proceeds of the sale shall be distributed as follows:

(1) to any interest holder to the extent of the interest holder's nonforfeitable interest;

(2) after any distributions under Subdivision (1), if the Title IV-D agency has filed a child support lien in the forfeiture proceeding, to the Title IV-D agency in an amount not to exceed the amount of child support arrearages identified in the lien; and

(3) after any distributions under Subdivisions (1) and (2) and ~~the balance, if any,~~ after the deduction of court costs to which a district court clerk is entitled under Article 59.05(f) and ~~then [-after that deduction,]~~ the deduction of storage and disposal costs, any remaining balance to be deposited not later than the 30th day after the date of the sale in:

(A) the state treasury to the credit of the general revenue fund; or  
(B) the general fund of the county in which the property was forfeited,  
to be used as provided by Section 85.025(e) or 86.026(e), Local Government Code.

The amendment to **HB 26** was read and failed of adoption by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 19.

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

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

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

**HB 26** was passed to third reading by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

### **HOUSE BILL 26 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 26** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5. (Same as previous roll)

### **HOUSE BILL 192 ON SECOND READING**

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **HB 192** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 192**, Relating to the funding of law enforcement agencies in certain counties.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read second time and was passed to third reading by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5. (Same as previous roll call)

### HOUSE BILL 192 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 192** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5. (Same as previous roll call)

### HOUSE BILL 8 ON SECOND READING

Senator Bettencourt moved to suspend the regular order of business to take up for consideration **HB 8** at this time on its second reading:

**HB 8**, 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.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read second time.

Senator Bettencourt offered the following amendment to the bill:

#### Floor Amendment No. 1

Amend **HB 8** (senate committee report) as follows:

(1) In SECTION 1.004 of the bill, strike amended Section 39.023(a), Education Code, and substitute the following:

(a) In creating and implementing the instructionally supportive assessment program under Section 39.022, the [The] agency shall adopt or develop appropriate beginning-of-year, middle-of-year, and end-of-year [criterion-referenced] assessment instruments designed to assess essential knowledge and skills in reading language

arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), all students, other than students assessed under Subsection (b) or (l) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

- (1) mathematics, annually in grades three through eight;
- (2) reading language arts, annually in grades three through eight;
- (3) social studies, in grade eight;
- (4) science, in grades five and eight; and
- (5) any other subject and grade required by federal law.

(2) In SECTION 1.004 of the bill, strike amended Section 39.023(c), Education Code, and substitute the following:

(c) The agency shall also adopt or develop end-of-course assessment instruments for secondary-level courses in Algebra I, biology, English I, ~~[English II,~~ and United States history and provide for the availability of optional beginning-of-year and middle-of-year assessment instruments for those courses. The Algebra I end-of-course assessment instrument must be administered with the aid of technology, but may include one or more parts that prohibit the use of technology. The English I ~~[and English II]~~ end-of-course assessment instrument ~~[instruments]~~ must ~~[each]~~ assess essential knowledge and skills in both reading and writing and must provide a single score. ~~[A school district shall comply with State Board of Education rules regarding administration of the assessment instruments listed in this subsection. If a student is in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee shall determine whether any allowable modification is necessary in administering to the student an assessment instrument required under this subsection. The State Board of Education shall administer the assessment instruments. An end of course assessment instrument may be administered in multiple parts over more than one day. The State Board of Education shall adopt a schedule for the administration of end of course assessment instruments that complies with the requirements of Subsection (c-3).]~~

(3) In SECTION 1.005 of the bill, in added Section 39.02301(d)(3)(B), Education Code, strike "under Subsection (d-1)".

(4) In SECTION 1.005 of the bill, in added Section 39.02301(d-1), Education Code:

(A) Between "rescore" and "the writing", insert ", at no cost to a school district or open-enrollment charter school,".

(B) Between "determines" and "the student's", insert "the student would attain the next highest overall performance level on the assessment instrument if".

(5) In SECTION 1.005 of the bill, immediately following added Section 39.02301(d-1), Education Code, insert the following:

(d-2) For a student response submitted for rescoring under Subsection (d)(3)(B), the agency shall pay the costs associated with rescoring if the rescoring results in an increase in the student's score.

(6) In SECTION 1.006 of the bill, in amended Section 39.025(a-2), Education Code, strike "A student may take" and substitute "To the extent authorized by federal law, a student may take".

(7) In SECTION 2.003 of the bill, strike added Section 39.053(c-6), Education Code, and substitute the following:

(c-6) Notwithstanding Subsections (f-1) and (f-3), not later than the 2029-2030 school year, the commissioner shall present the measure described by Subsection (c-5) to the accountability advisory committee established under Section 39.0534 to consider the incorporation of the measure into the indicators described by Subsection (c)(2)(A) and in any other domain or indicator the commissioner considers relevant. Not later than March 15, 2029, the agency shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over public school accountability a report regarding the measure described by Subsection (c-5). This subsection expires September 1, 2030.

(8) In SECTION 2.004 of the bill, immediately following added Section 39.0531(a), Education Code, insert the following:

(a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), the agency's provision of a proposed list or a modified proposed list of industry certifications to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission satisfies the requirement under that subsection to jointly develop a list of industry certifications, unless the board or commission submits to the agency revisions to the proposed list or modified proposed list on or before the 90th day after the date the agency provides the proposed list or modified proposed list to the board or commission.

(9) In SECTION 2.004 of the bill, in added Section 39.0535(a), Education Code:

(A) Strike "educator quality".

(B) Strike "parental engagement, and school climate" and substitute "and parental engagement".

(10) In SECTION 4.005 of the bill, in amended Section 28.0211(a-8), Education Code, strike "Algebra I, English I, or English II," and substitute "Algebra I or[;] English I, [or English II]".

The amendment to **HB 8** was read and was adopted by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.

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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

**HB 8** as amended was passed to third reading by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5. (Same as previous roll call)

### HOUSE BILL 8 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 8** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5.



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

Nays: Alvarado, Cook, Gutierrez, Johnson, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Eckhardt, Menéndez, Miles, West.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 5. (Same as previous roll call)

### REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED

On motion of Senator Middleton and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Bettencourt and Middleton regarding **HB 8** were ordered reduced to writing and printed in the *Senate Journal* as follows:

**President:** Senator Middleton, for what purpose?

**Senator Middleton:** Does the gentleman yield?

**Senator Bettencourt:** Certainly.

**Senator Middleton:** Well, thank you, Senator Bettencourt. You know, getting rid of the STAAR test has been a longtime priority of mine. This is, what, our third try or fourth or—

**Senator Bettencourt:** Well, there's been so many tries on so many subjects, I'm just glad it looks like we're very close to the end at this point—

**Senator Middleton:** We are.

**Senator Bettencourt:** —replacing the STAAR test.

**Senator Middleton:** Thank goodness. So, I had just one clarifying question. So, one of the national norm-referenced instruments, it's got a list in there that's the national norm test. Right? And that's an option that's in the bill. And I wanted to make sure, you know, just for clarification, that the contents of this national norm test that the state, so TEA or ISDs choose, complies with state law.

**Senator Bettencourt:** It's actually a, the last test is a criteria test based on Texas TEKS. This is a Texas test, it's based upon Texas TEKS, Texas law. There is no other law that applies to this test, and there won't be as an author's intent.

**Senator Middleton:** Very good.

**Senator Bettencourt:** Would you, would you move to put that into the record, please?

**Senator Middleton:** Well, I'll wait for the President here.

**Senator Bettencourt:** We have a motion.

**President:** Sorry, I missed that motion.

**Senator Middleton:** I'm going to move that our comments be reduced to writing and placed in the Journal.

**President:** Is there any objection? Hearing none, motion adopted.

**PERSONAL PRIVILEGE STATEMENT ORDERED PRINTED**

On motion of Senator Bettencourt and by unanimous consent, the personal privilege statement by Senator Birdwell was ordered reduced to writing and printed in the *Senate Journal* as follows:

**Senator Birdwell:** Thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity. I'm going to try not to have my voice break a bit. It does remind me that, you know, back in 1993, when I walked off the parade field in Bamberg, Germany, having just turned over command and I retired from the military and walked out of the Pentagon.

**President:** Can you speak up a little bit?

**Senator Birdwell:** I'm sorry, Mr. President. When I stepped off the parade field in Bamberg, Germany, having just given up command of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, or when I retired from the service, walked out of the Pentagon one last time in uniform, and the emotions that hit you. You know, I hadn't done the mathematical calculations so without the Governor's attention, usual attention to detail, I would not have thought about doing this tonight. I thought I'd take from my announcement that I would not run again because I think it's most, the best way for me to summarize what's on my heart, it's on my mind. To the citizens of Senate District 22, today I inform you of my decision not to seek reelection for another term as your State Senator. It has been the high honor of my life on par with commanding United States soldiers to serve my fellow Texans for over 15 years. At my swearing in ceremony in Hillsboro, after prevailing in the 2010 special election, I made clear that I was not elected to a position of authority over the citizens of District 22, but rather elected to a position subordinate to them so that I could steward their seat in the State Senate. The honor and privilege of the last 15 years did not come of my own talents. There are many to thank for the opportunities and challenges of serving you. First and foremost, my lord and savior, Jesus Christ. His direction in my life is the central reason for all the blessings that I've received and, in fact, He's given me my life three times. Second, my wife, Mel, she has supported me both during my military career and my political service, selflessly sacrificed her career to encourage me, raise our son, and do everything a wife does to see her husband succeed. She has done so faithfully for nearly 40 years, and I'm exceedingly proud of her. Third, the numerous citizens in that first special election campaign that shared my vision of the proper role and function of government and those in elections since that have supported my candidacy, you believed in my abilities and most of all you prayed for wisdom for me. Those prayers were felt daily and are greatly appreciated. Fourth, the staff members who currently serve and have previously served me and the constituents of District 22 so well. Your subordinate success is your success. And my subordinate staff members, both in district and at the Capitol, have performed brilliantly. I have a fabulous team in the office now and a large number of former staff serving elsewhere in positions of varied responsibility. Thank you all for what each of you did to assist me in being effective for our constituents and for the State of Texas. And while not all my staff is here, but JW Galloway, Hunter, Nicole are here tonight and those that are watching, my committee staff, my district staff, thank you. Next, let me thank my current and past Senate colleagues for the wisdom they imparted me, the friendships we developed and remain, and will maintain, and for doing their part to keep Texas great

as she is. Members, I don't want to offend those of you that I don't name because you are all friends, you're all colleagues. Sometimes we've battled with each other and sometimes we've been in the same foxhole fighting the same opponent. But let me acknowledge a few specifically, if I may. First, big sis, Senator Huffman. When I first came in as a freshman, you know we vote in alphabetical order and since I replaced Senator Averitt, before Senator Bettencourt and Senator Alvarado got here, you know, I was first up. And you didn't know what to expect of the rookie freshman so you and Senator Nichols, you know, sitting next to me, made sure I didn't, you know, I don't think I needed as much adult supervision as you provided, but you're my big sis. Senator Nichols, you as well. Having you cover my 6 with that 308 magnum was always a good thing. Senator Nichols and I are the only two Senators that did our undergraduate work at Lamar, so to my fellow Cardinal, thank you, Sir. Senator Bettencourt, they're breaking up the band. You're Frick, I'm Frack. I don't know if the people that don't know that inside baseball, but they're breaking up the band, but I wish I had your brain. The numbers and the, I don't know how you do it, but it's been an honor to serve with you and beside you, my friend. To Senator Nelson, who's now our Secretary of State, and so many of the others that are no longer here on the floor, the wisdom that you imparted, as my statement said, I'm grateful for your friendship and all that you taught me. Dean Zaffirini, teaching me how to handle the gavel, maybe sometimes a little more aggressively than you wanted. But when you were my Chair and I was your Vice, when I first arrived, you're technically and tactically proficient, and there's no one with your expertise. So, thank you. Senator Hinojosa, there's a bond that's shared with fellow military members, particularly in, as we worked on border things. We didn't always agree on everything, but the Marine Corps is the men's department of the Navy. And so, hooah. So, I wanted to make sure that I said thank you to you for being my Vice on Border and your friendship and knowing the, we served under different time, we had different, we had same uniform on of our nation, you Marine Corps, me Army, but you served at a more difficult time in our nation's history. God bless you. Senator King, first person in the Legislature I ever met, in 2007, with a dear friend, David Barton. To some degree, you're responsible for me getting into this gig. So, either you're to blame or you're to congratulate, one of the two, but thank you. The rest of you are all close friends and I cherish each of you. Like I said, I, not just the friendships we've had but the ones that we'll maintain. Let me continue for just a bit, if I may. Let me thank my friend, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, for his leadership, friendship, and trust. Your State Senate is well led by him as our presiding officer. His keen instincts, political courage, and vision setting is unrivaled. He has trusted me with committee assignments of great rigor that have been exceedingly difficult and sometimes exceedingly delicate, as he's done with many of you. And for you newer Members, that call's going to come. Members, I'm not really sure how to conclude, and I'm not known for brevity. I know I'm, you know, I tend to go the long way around the barn when I explain things, I'm sorry, but I, whatever blessings the Lord has for me I'm, you will know when it's time. And for the Birdwells, it's time. Whatever assignments may come to me, whatever missions the Lord has, He's been the blessing of our family. That could just be simply being a grandfather, it could be something not quite as important as being a grandfather, but maybe serving the state in some way. I'll close with this final thought. In 1951,

General MacArthur addressed Congress having been relieved by President Truman, and in addressing Congress, he closed with the final statement. He said, Old soldiers never die, they just fade away. I'll fade away from the State Senate, I'm going to do my best General MacArthur impersonation, but I'm not going to fade away from life. The Lord's still got battles for me until He calls me home. God bless each and every one of you. It's been my privilege and honor to be among you for the last 15 years. God bless you. Hooah.

#### **CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 54**

On motion of Senator Hughes, Senators Campbell and Sparks will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 54**.

#### **CO-SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 8**

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Birdwell, Campbell, Hagenbuch, Hall, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, King, Kolkhorst, Parker, Paxton, Perry, and Sparks will be shown as Co-sponsors of **HB 8**.

#### **CO-SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 25**

On motion of Senator Hall, Senators Bettencourt, Blanco, Campbell, Creighton, Flores, Hagenbuch, A. Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, King, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, and Sparks will be shown as Co-sponsors of **HB 25**.

#### **CO-SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 26**

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Huffman and Middleton will be shown as Co-sponsors of **HB 26**.

#### **CO-SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 192**

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Huffman and Middleton will be shown as Co-sponsors of **HB 192**.

#### **RECESS**

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, the Senate at 8:54 p.m. recessed until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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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 27, 2025

FINANCE — **HB 8**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES — **HB 25**

FINANCE — **HB 26, HB 192**

**BILL ENGROSSED**

August 27, 2025

**SB 54**

**BILLS ENROLLED**

August 27, 2025

**SB 3, SB 16**

