

SECOND DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

PROCEEDINGS

The Senate met at 11:25 a.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Armbrister, Averitt, Barrientos, Brimer, Carona, Deuell, Duncan, Ellis, Eltife, Estes, Gallegos, Hinojosa, Jackson, Janek, Lindsay, Lucio, Madla, Nelson, Ogden, Seliger, Shapiro, Shapleigh, Staples, Van de Putte, West, Whitmire, Williams, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Fraser, Harris, Wentworth.

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

James P. Moore, Jr., former Assistant Secretary of Commerce, offered the invocation as follows:

Bless this great body, O Lord, and Your servants who work within it. Let them understand that they hold a special place among Your people, representing and giving shape, as they do, to the best hopes and dreams of so many. Allow them to realize always that even in the midst of partisanship, they serve a higher purpose in working together for the common good and in finding ways to do honor to the people of Texas and, in turn, to You. Stir within them always the higher notion that when they invoke prayer together as a body, that by that very act alone, they bring down the walls that divide them, they find common ground by which they become one, they come to understand the greater perspective in their lives and in the lives of those they serve, and, most importantly, they acknowledge openly that they hold themselves accountable not only to their individual electorates but to You, who are all knowing, all loving, and all powerful. Dear Lord, as this special session of the Legislature is launched, we also humbly ask that You grant the Members of this Senate tenacious courage to tackle and to persevere in the challenges that face them, boundless creativity to find answers to the most confounding issues they confront, farsighted wisdom to understand fully that their words and their actions in this Chamber and beyond do count and do have consequences, and relentless conviction to settle for nothing less than a personal code of uncompromising ethics, recognizing that in doing so they confer honor upon themselves, upon their families, upon their constituents, upon the future of Texas, and upon You. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Senator Whitmire moved that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday be dispensed with and the Journal be approved as printed.

The motion prevailed without objection.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Fraser was granted leave of absence for today on account of illness.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

HOUSE CHAMBER

Austin, Texas

April 18, 2006

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:

HCR 12, Approving the use of all types of public funding to complete the construction of a statue, monument, or exhibit on the Capitol grounds honoring contributions of Tejanos.

HCR 15, Congratulating the Arp High School 2005-2006 boys' basketball team for winning the UIL 2A State Championship.

HCR 16, Honoring the faculty, staff, and students of Technische Universiteit Eindhoven on their 50th Dies Natalis on April 27, 2006.

Respectfully,

/s/Robert Haney, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

PHYSICIAN OF THE DAY

Senator Armbrister was recognized and presented Dr. Henry Boehm, Jr., of Brenham as the Physician of the Day.

The Senate welcomed Dr. Boehm and thanked him for his participation in the Physician of the Day program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

GUESTS PRESENTED

Senator Van de Putte, joined by Senators Madla and Zaffirini, was recognized and introduced to the Senate students representing City Year San Antonio, accompanied by their development manager, Brad Mayhar.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

SENATE BILLS ON FIRST READING

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

SB 10 by Madla

Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University–San Antonio.
To Subcommittee on Capital Funding for Higher Education.

SB 11 by Madla

Relating to the temporary extension of the deadline for submitting a regional water plan to the Texas Water Development Board for approval and inclusion in the state water plan.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

SB 12 by Hinojosa

Relating to adjusting the "price to beat" for electric utility services to reflect reduced natural gas fuel prices.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 13 by Duncan

Relating to the state retirement contribution for public education employees; making an appropriation.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 14 by Duncan

Relating to prohibiting certain disruptions at a funeral service; creating an offense.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 15 by Ogden

Relating to an appropriation for the Permanent Higher Education Fund under Section 17(i), Article VII, Texas Constitution.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 16 by Ogden

Relating to supplemental state appropriations.

To Committee on Finance.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING CALL

The President at 11:28 a.m. announced the conclusion of morning call.

RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

Memorial Resolutions

SCR 2 by Estes, In memory of Eleanor Goode Brune.

SR 8 by Barrientos, In memory of Arthur Rice of Austin.

Congratulatory Resolutions

SR 6 by Zaffirini, Commending the Texas Exes, the Laredo National Bank/BBVA Group, and the Mexican and Spanish students at The University of Texas at Austin for their contributions to the school and to our state.

SR 7 by Whitmire, Ellis, Gallegos, and Lindsay, Congratulating Richard Andrassy for being selected as the Distinguished Houston Surgeon for 2006 by the Houston Surgical Society.

HCR 16 (Barrientos), Honoring the faculty, staff, and students of Technische Universiteit Eindhoven on their 50th Dies Natalis on April 27, 2006.

RECESS

On motion of Senator Whitmire, the Senate at 11:33 a.m. recessed until 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 20, 2006.

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

April 18, 2006

ADMINISTRATION — **SB 9, SJR 6**