

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE — FIRST CALLED SESSION

---

---

AUSTIN, TEXAS

---

---

PROCEEDINGS

---

**EIGHTH DAY**

(Monday, August 7, 2017)

The Senate met at 4:50 p.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Estes, Garcia, Hall, Hancock, Hinojosa, Huffines, Huffman, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Lucio, Menéndez, Miles, Nelson, Nichols, Perry, Rodríguez, Schwertner, Seliger, Taylor of Galveston, Taylor of Collin, Uresti, Watson, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Burton.

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

Senator Perry offered the invocation as follows:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today, and we thank You for the mercy that You've shown to us so unconditionally and so undeserved. We thank You for the God that You are, that You've given us peace and comfort knowing that You've got us in the palm of Your hand, in our first and last breath. We also thank You that You are a God of clarity and Your expectations are clear that we are to be obedient and with a repentant spirit in which we live. At the end of the day, we answer to one authority and that would be You. And I just pray that we'll keep that in mind as we go about this legislative process You've granted us as a country, as a people, and as a nation that Your will be in our thoughts and Your will will be done. I pray these things in Your Son, Jesus', name. Amen.

Senator Whitmire 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.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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

**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 session.

There was no objection.

**CONCLUSION OF MORNING CALL**

The President at 4:52 p.m. announced the conclusion of morning call.

**SENATE BILL 28 ON THIRD READING**

The President laid before the Senate **SB 28** by Senator Taylor of Collin at this time on its third reading and final passage:

**SB 28**, Relating to certain governmental entities subject to the sunset review process.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Burton.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

Senator Birdwell submitted the following report from the Committee on Nominations:

We, your Committee on Nominations, to which were referred the following appointments, have had same under consideration and report them back to the Senate with a recommendation that they be confirmed:

Administrator, Texas Bullion Depository: Tom Smelker, Travis County.

Members, Board of Directors, State Bar of Texas: Michael E. Dokupil, Harris County; Jarrod T. Foerster, Harris County.

**NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS**

Senator Birdwell gave notice that he would submit to the Senate for consideration nominations to agencies, boards, and commissions of the state.

**RECESS AND MOTION TO RECESS**

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the Senate at 4:54 p.m. recessed, pending the receipt of messages and committee reports and the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading.

The Senate further agreed to recess, upon receipt of messages and committee reports and the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading, until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 10, 2017.

**EIGHTH DAY**

(Continued)

(Tuesday, August 8, 2017)

**AFTER RECESS**

The Senate met at 2:01 p.m. and was called to order by Senator Taylor of Galveston.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

HOUSE CHAMBER

Austin, Texas

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 - 1

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 21** Huberty  
Relating to the public school finance system.

**HB 23** Huberty  
Relating to a grant program to fund innovative programs for public school students with autism.

**HB 30** Zerwas  
Relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction and making adjustments regarding appropriations for public school finance.

**HJR 30** Roberts  
Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homesteads of certain disabled first responders and their surviving spouses.

Respectfully,

/s/Robert Haney, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**HOUSE BILL ON FIRST READING**

The following bill received from the House was read first time and referred to the committee indicated:

**HB 21** to Committee on Education.

**RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

### Memorial Resolution

**SR 110** by Schwertner, In memory of George Garver.

### Congratulatory Resolutions

**SR 111** by Lucio, Recognizing Steve Ahlenius for his service to chambers of commerce in the Rio Grande Valley.

**SR 112** by Lucio, Recognizing Jose A. Bernal Sr. for his service to the Brownsville community.

### RECESS AND MOTION TO RECESS

The Senate at 2:03 p.m. again recessed, pending the receipt of messages and committee reports and the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading.

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate again agreed to recess, upon receipt of messages and committee reports and the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading, until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 10, 2017.

### EIGHTH DAY

(Continued)

(Wednesday, August 9, 2017)

### AFTER RECESS

The Senate met at 3:05 p.m. and was called to order by Senator Hancock.

### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

HOUSE CHAMBER

Austin, Texas

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 - 1

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 115** Bonnen, Greg

Relating to deferred payment of ad valorem taxes for certain persons serving in the United States armed forces.

**HB 129** Leach

Relating to a study of property tax exemptions and other property tax benefits for certain veterans and military service members and their families.

**HB 179** Roberts

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain disabled first responders and their surviving spouses.

**HB 214** Smithee  
Relating to health plan and health benefit plan coverage for elective abortion.

**HCR 26** Shine  
Congratulating Margana Wood on being crowned Miss Texas 2017.

Respectfully,

/s/Robert Haney, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

### **HOUSE BILL ON FIRST READING**

The following bill received from the House was read first time and referred to the committee indicated:

**HB 214** to Committee on Business and Commerce.

### **RECESS**

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate at 3:06 p.m. recessed, pending the receipt of messages and committee reports and the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading, until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

---

## **APPENDIX**

---

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following committee report was received by the Secretary of the Senate:

August 8, 2017

**BUSINESS AND COMMERCE — CSHB 7**

### **BILL ENGROSSED**

August 7, 2017

**SB 28**

### **RESOLUTIONS ENROLLED**

August 7, 2017

**SR 101, SR 102, SR 103, SR 104, SR 105, SR 106, SR 107, SR 108, SR 109**

August 8, 2017

**SR 110, SR 111, SR 112**

