

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE — FIRST CALLED SESSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

PROCEEDINGS

FIRST DAY

(Thursday, July 8, 2021)

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 8th day of July, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate.

The President 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, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Hall, Hancock, Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, Kolkhorst, Lucio, Menéndez, Miles, Nelson, Nichols, Paxton, Perry, Powell, Schwertner, Seliger, Springer, Taylor, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

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

Senator Campbell offered the invocation as follows:

Heavenly Father, O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the one God almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, we ask Your blessings over our work here. I ask Your favor of all the Senators, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 an extraordinary session of the 87th Legislature, to convene in the City of Austin, commencing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021, for the following purposes:

To consider and act upon the following:

Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.

Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas.

Legislation providing funding to support law-enforcement agencies, counties, and other strategies as part of Texas' comprehensive border security plan.

Legislation safeguarding the freedom of speech by protecting social-media users from being censored by social-media companies based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.

Legislation providing appropriations to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.

Legislation similar to Senate Bill 1109 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuse, but that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.

Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

Legislation similar to Senate Bill 394 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.

Legislation similar to House Bill 3507 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to a "thirteenth check" or one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Legislation similar to House Bill 3979 concerning critical race theory as originally passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

Legislation providing appropriations from additional available general revenue for the following purposes:

- property-tax relief;

- enhanced protection for the safety of children in Texas' foster-care system by attracting and retaining private providers for the system; and

- to better safeguard the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

To consider and act upon such other subjects as may be submitted by the Governor from time to time after the session convenes.

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 hereto 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 July, 2021.

(Seal)

/s/Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

Attested by:

/s/Joe A. Esparza
Deputy 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 Hughes

Relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses; providing civil penalties.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 4 by Lucio

Relating to abortion complication reporting and the regulation of drug-induced abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; creating a criminal offense.
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 5 by Hughes

Relating to complaint procedures and disclosure requirements for, and to the censorship of users' expressions by, social media platforms.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 6 by Huffman

Relating to rules for setting the amount of bail, to the release of certain defendants on a monetary bond or personal bond, to related duties of certain officers taking bail bonds and of a magistrate in a criminal case, to charitable bail organizations, and to the reporting of information pertaining to bail bonds.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 8 by Bettencourt

Relating to the authority of a person who acquires a residence homestead to receive an ad valorem tax exemption for the homestead in the year in which the property is acquired.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 10 by Nelson

Relating to making appropriations for the legislature and legislative agencies.
To Committee on Finance.

AT EASE

The President at 10:24 a.m. announced the Senate would stand At Ease subject to the call of the Chair.

IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The President at 10:53 a.m. called the Senate to order as In Legislative Session.

SENATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

SB 2 by Perry

Relating to requiring public school and public institution of higher education students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 7 by Huffman

Relating to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 12 by Bettencourt, Kolkhorst

Relating to the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed by a school district on the residence homestead of an individual who is elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction from the preceding tax year in the district's maximum compressed rate.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 24 by Kolkhorst

Relating to state investments in social media companies that censor political speech.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 31 by Perry

Relating to the use of certain information regarding voter qualification.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 32 by Perry

Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 33 by Perry

Relating to abortion reporting and exemptions to abortion facility licensing; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SJR 3 by Huffman

Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring a judge or magistrate to impose the least restrictive conditions of bail that may be necessary and authorizing the denial of bail under some circumstances to a person accused of a violent or sexual offense or of continuous trafficking of persons.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SJR 4 by Bettencourt, Kolkhorst

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead.

To Committee on Local Government.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1

On motion of Senator Hughes, Senator Springer will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 2

On motion of Senator Perry, Senator Springer will be shown as Co-author of **SB 2**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 4

On motion of Senator Lucio, Senators Bettencourt, Campbell, Hall, Hancock, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Perry, Springer, and Taylor will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 4**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 8

On motion of Senator Bettencourt, Senators Campbell, Creighton, Hall, Hancock, Hinojosa, Kolkhorst, Lucio, Nichols, Perry, Springer, and Taylor will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 8**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 32

On motion of Senator Perry, Senator Springer will be shown as Co-author of **SB 32**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 33

On motion of Senator Perry, Senator Springer will be shown as Co-author of **SB 33**.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

The following resolution was adopted by the Senate:

Official Designation Resolution

SR 1 by Nichols, Recognizing November 23, 2021, as Texas Association of Builders Day.

RECESS

On motion of Senator Whitmire, the Senate at 11:03 a.m. recessed until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.