

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE — REGULAR SESSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

PROCEEDINGS

FOURTEENTH DAY

(Wednesday, March 24, 2021)

The Senate met at 1:00 p.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

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, Nelson, Nichols, Paxton, Perry, Powell, Schwertner, Seliger, Springer, Taylor, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Miles.

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

Senator Alvarado offered the invocation as follows:

O God, from who all power comes, we thank You for our opportunities and our privileges. We ask You to bless, assist, and enlighten the Senators and leaders of our state as we do the people's work. May we prove worthy of the confidence placed in us by our fellow Texans. May we be just and upright in our thinking, honest in all our actions, and guided by a true conscience of the legislation we propose or vote upon. Dear Christ, our Lord. 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 Miles was granted leave of absence for today on account of illness.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following Message from the Governor was read and was referred to the Committee on Nominations:

March 24, 2021

Austin, Texas

TO THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION:

I ask the advice, consent and confirmation of the Senate with respect to the following appointments:

To be members of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners for terms to expire January 31, 2027:

Harvey D. Aikman
McAllen, Texas

Glenda Clausell
Houston, Texas

Liesl L.S. Olson
Lubbock, Texas

The individuals listed above are being reappointed.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Greg Abbott
Governor

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

The following Message from the Supreme Court of Texas was read and was filed with the Secretary of the Senate:

THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS
March 23, 2021

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session:

I, Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, pursuant to Section 21.004, Government Code, submit the following State of the Judiciary message.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice

THE STATE OF THE TEXAS JUDICIARY
An Address to the People of Texas

The Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chief Justice

The Supreme Court of Texas

March 23, 2021

My fellow Texans:

As Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, I am required by law at the commencement of each regular legislative session to deliver a message on the state of the Texas Judiciary, evaluating the courts' accessibility, future directions, and needs.

This is my fourth occasion to do so. Ordinarily, the State of the Judiciary address is delivered before a joint session of the Legislature in the House Chamber. This year, the continued COVID-19 pandemic prevents that. I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you through video from my chambers in Austin.

Courts Must Remain Open

Texas' first reported case of COVID-19 was on March 4 of last year in Fort Bend County. Just nine days later, a state of emergency was declared by President Trump for the nation and by Governor Abbott for the State. No one knew then the historic challenges that lay ahead, how they would test us, or what we would do to meet them. In the Judiciary, we knew this: justice cannot sit out a crisis. Family friction doesn't disappear in a crisis; sadly, it mounts. Crime doesn't stop in a crisis. Housing and job needs, care for children and the elderly, veterans' appeals for benefits, basic civil legal needs of the poor—all the things courts handle every day in good times are even more critical in a crisis. Closing the courts was not an option. We could limit operations to emergencies for only a few days. Courts, like everyone else, had to adapt.

The first step was to give courts flexibility. The Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals immediately issued their first Emergency Order, invoking authority enacted by the Legislature in 2009 following Hurricane Ike and expanded last session based on what we learned from Hurricane Harvey. That Order authorized courts to change deadlines and procedures, allow those involved in a proceeding to participate remotely, and conduct proceedings in different locations. Courts could adjust routine processes to continue to function in the new reality.

At the same time, courts needed guidance. The Emergency Order also required courts to use their flexibility to avoid exposing court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public to COVID-19. Texas has 3,220 judges in 1,192 court locations, visited every day by some 325,000 people—1% of the population—most of whom don't come by choice. Courts are the busiest convener in the government. Courts should not force people seeking justice to risk their health to get it. In a pandemic of historic ferocity, courts sought the expertise of health officials, state and local, to develop protocols for conducting court proceedings safely.

Remote Proceedings

And courts needed new tools. Just before the disaster declaration, the Office of Court Administration had the foresight to begin acquiring Zoom licenses for all Texas judges. I had never used Zoom; I doubt many judges had. I thought "zoom" meant to hurry. But remote video-conferencing, which started statewide one year ago today, allowed courts to continue to process cases with some efficiency while minimizing health risks to participants.

It's one thing to have a Zoom license; it's another to know how to use it, as the "I am not a cat" hearing in District Judge Roy Ferguson's court showed. Training programs and webinars developed by judges and court staff offered solutions for setting dockets and conducting hearings. Last May, Collin County District Judge Emily Miskel oversaw the first completely virtual jury trial in the country—actually, in the world, as far as we know—for which Chief Justice John Roberts presented her the Rehnquist Award for judicial excellence. Since then, Texas courts have conducted 35 virtual jury

trials. Texas has been a national leader in utilizing remote proceedings, with more than 3.5 million participants so far. Last month Johnson County Court at Law Judge Robert Mayfield conducted the one-millionth Zoom hearing in a Texas court.

Remote proceedings achieve important efficiencies. They save time and money, sparing lawyers, parties, and witnesses from having to go to the courthouse for every hearing. And here's a benefit we didn't expect. Lots of people involved in court proceedings often find it impossible to attend: they can't afford to miss work, arrange for childcare, and get transportation to go downtown and sit at the courthouse waiting for hours to be heard. So they just don't go; they default. But with remote proceedings, "going to court" is as easy as clicking on a link or dialing a number on a smart phone. We've watched participation rates in high-volume dockets like child custody and traffic cases flip from 80% no-shows to 80% appearances. Judges report that few parties are kept from participating by a lack of access to technology—the so-called digital divide. And Texas courts are working to close that divide by providing court participants better access to technology, like iPads to jurors. And there's another plus. You can watch remote proceedings on YouTube, giving the public a ringside seat in every courtroom, increasing transparency and accountability. We must bring lessons learned in this crisis to the "new normal." Not all court proceedings can be conducted remotely, but many can be, and must continue to be. The Supreme Court has convened a working group to identify best practices for remote proceedings going forward. Senator Zaffirini's SB 690 and Chairman Leach's HB 3611 will ensure that scores of statutes on the books, written without technology in mind, will not impede improved access and efficiency in the justice system.

Jury Trials

We've shown that jury trials can be virtual in many cases—like traffic offenses, other simple misdemeanors, and civil cases with few witnesses and issues. Those cases accounted for some 40% of all jury trials in 2019. For parties waiting to be reached for an in-person jury trial, a virtual jury trial offers them their day in court. Virtual trials will continue to play a role in the "new normal" as a more cost-effective and convenient way for parties to present their case to a jury of their peers.

Jury trials in felonies and other serious criminal cases, as well as more complex civil cases, will still be in person. In 2019, Texas courts tried roughly 9,000 cases to verdict; in the past year of the pandemic, we tried 239. We've gone from some 186 jury trials per week to 4. This is not for want of effort by courts. Courtrooms aren't built for social distancing, which requires lots of space to qualify and question scores of potential jurors in each case, and modifications to spread everyone out. Judges have worked very hard to convene juries safely. Participants in state court proceedings have only occasionally tested positive, and there have been no reports of spreading. But the danger is still there. In one federal jury trial in Texas last fall, at least 15 participants became infected, including jurors, attorneys, and court staff. We are working hard to resume in-person jury trials, but we must also work safely.

You can choose for yourself whether to risk greater exposure to COVID-19, but courts cannot thrust that increased risk on jurors and others who have no choice about appearing in court and would stay away if they could. As vaccinations increase, so will the number of jury trials, and soon.

Backlogs

The future beckons. Except for jury trials, Texas courts have mostly kept current. Fewer civil cases, small claims, and traffic cases are pending today than before the pandemic. Backlogs have increased somewhat in criminal cases and family cases, but all courts are working hard to reduce them. More backlogs will come, with jury trials that courts must work through, and an expected surge in new case filings held off during the pandemic. With only current resources, we estimate it may take three years to completely catch up. This is unacceptable, and I have asked the Legislature for increased funding for retired and former judges to help us move more quickly.

Access to Justice

Some 5.2 million of our poorest Texans qualify for basic civil legal services—help with things like housing, jobs, children's welfare, guardianships, domestic violence, and sexual assault. The pandemic has only sharpened these needs. Last fall, Governor Abbott designated \$4 million in federal relief funds for legal aid. For the next biennium, the Supreme Court's budget funds basic civil legal services at the same level as in past years and includes \$10 million from dedicated funds for sexual assault victims, as well as \$6 million for legal aid for veterans. The Supreme Court has asked for an additional \$4 million per year, \$1 million per year of which will be designated for veterans' legal aid. We estimate the extra appropriation will help more than 7,000 additional people obtain essential legal services, including some 1,800 veterans. We cannot allow access to justice for the very poor to falter just when they need it most. And we can expect that as criminal jury trials resume, the need for funding indigent criminal defense required by the Constitution will also increase. I urge the Legislature to fully fund all these needs.

Bail Reform

We have a bail crisis in Texas. Governor Abbott has declared reform an emergency. In many Texas courts, a criminal defendant too poor to afford cash bail remains in jail, even if charged with a minor, non-violent offense and no threat to the public. The vast majority of people in jail are awaiting trial and have not been found guilty. In the past 27 years, the percentage of the Texas county jail population awaiting trial has more than doubled, from around 32% to over 83%. Who pays to keep these defendants in jail? Taxpayers.

At the same time, a criminal defendant who can afford cash bail can buy his release, even if he is charged with a serious, violent offense and has several priors, without regard to whether he is a danger to the public. And when he re-offends while on release, who pays? Victims, society, all of us.

Haywire? Yes. But worse, it's wrong to lock up people only because they're poor. It offends basic notions of liberty and humanity. And it's dangerous to release defendants only because they can afford to make bail. There is a straightforward fix. First, give courts validated, pretrial, risk-assessment information for all defendants so judges can make better-informed decisions about bail. Second, ask voters to amend the Texas Constitution to allow judges to hold high-risk, potentially violent defendants without bail. Third, provide pretrial supervision for those released. And fourth, collect data to verify that the system is working as it should. I continue to urge the Legislature to reform the criminal pretrial release system following these four principles.

Eviction Diversion

The inability to pay rent hurts tenants and landlords alike. Twenty percent of Texas' renting households report being behind on rent; 1.5 million of them doubt they can pay next month's rent. Governor Abbott's Eviction Diversion Program, operated through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, is using \$1.2 billion in federal stimulus money to provide Texans rent relief. About 25% has been spent, benefitting landlords, tenants, and whole communities, as well as reducing the burdens on the court system. You can learn about the Program and apply for benefits at this website: texasrentrelief.com. The Supreme Court will continue to provide procedures to encourage landlords and tenants to take advantage of the Program and to facilitate distribution of the funds.

Garnishment

The Texas Constitution of 1876 exempted basic wages paid by cash or check from seizure by creditors to safeguard their use for basic living expenses. Today, because payments are often by direct deposit, they do not have the protection our State's founders believed was important. Threatened seizures of federal stimulus funds paid to cover basic living expenses during the pandemic only called attention to the need to modernize wage protections. The Judicial Council has proposed an update to the basic constitutional exemption. I urge the Legislature to enact HB 3613 by Chairman Leach and SB 644 by Senator Zaffirini to provide this needed modernization.

Mental Health

For years, the Judicial Council and the Legislature have worked together for meaningful reforms in our mental health system. With legislative support, the Judicial Commission on Mental Health has collaborated with stakeholders statewide, including Senator Joan Huffman and Representative Joe Moody, to make further recommendations for ensuring that those with mental health conditions in our justice and municipal courts are mentally competent, that our successful jail competency restoration programs continue to work well, and that those with mental health conditions are placed in the least restrictive facilities to safely receive treatment. Those recommendations are contained in HB 4212 by Representative Moody and SB 1739 by Senator Zaffirini. The Commission has also made recommendations for improving the use of emergency detention in mental health crises. I urge the Legislature to pass these important bills.

Juvenile Justice

Children who commit Class C misdemeanors are in the criminal system, not the juvenile system. If a 12-year-old steals a real car, he is adjudicated as a juvenile in the civil justice system and faces no criminal penalty. But if he steals a \$10 toy car from a general store, he is prosecuted in the criminal system for a Class C misdemeanor. This makes no sense. The juvenile justice system provides judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement many tools to set a child on the right path that the adult criminal justice system does not. A child who breaks the law must certainly face the consequences, but the reason for the juvenile justice system is to keep children from being treated as criminals. The Judicial Council has worked with representatives of the justice and municipal courts, juvenile prosecutors, and defense attorneys to propose statutory changes that will help keep children from spiraling deeper into the criminal justice

system while holding them accountable for their actions. Senator Perry has filed SB 512, and Representative White HB 3660, to enact these recommendations. I urge the Legislature to consider them.

Racial Prejudice

Amidst the pandemic, we have been reminded, again, that the justice system faces a far worse disease than COVID-19, a disease that is not novel but all too chronic and familiar: the disease of racial prejudice. Outcries last summer charged that the justice system is not fair, and just as importantly, not perceived to be fair. The charges cannot be ignored. They demand self-examination and response from all who serve justice. Texas courts are taking a hard, clear look at themselves, and we will keep doing so. We will gather data to determine how the justice system is working in fact. We will encourage better training of judges. We will work to improve the public trust and confidence in the courts that is absolutely essential to the administration of justice.

Challenges Met

I am in my 40th year of judicial service, President of the national Conference of Chief Justices, and Chair of the National Center for State Courts. Every day I work with judges across the country to ensure the justice system is working. I will tell you this: the people of Texas can take deep pride in their judges—municipal judges, justices of the peace, county judges, district judges, the courts of appeals, and my colleagues on the high courts. They have stood to the historic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The courts are open and dispensing justice.

Judges and court staff have served at personal sacrifice. Many have contracted COVID-19 themselves. At least four of my colleagues have died: Lubbock County District Judge Ruben Reyes, Wise County Court at Law Judge Melton Cude, Falls County Justice of the Peace Jack Smith, and Jasper Justice of the Peace Jimmy Miller. All were just and fair jurists, highly regarded in their communities. In addition, several court clerks, court staff, and constables have also succumbed to COVID-19. For them, and for others for whom COVID-19 has been more than a risk, has been a tragic reality, I ask that we observe a moment of silence.

Conclusion

We will defeat the pandemic. We will return to normal. For the Judiciary, it will be a new normal, one with even greater promises of justice for all. My fellow Texans: the state of the Judiciary is strong, resilient, moving ahead, and committed to the innovations a fair, efficient system of justice for all demands.

God bless you, and may God bless Texas.

SENATE RESOLUTION 185

Senator Campbell offered the following resolution:

SR 185, Recognizing Comal County on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

The resolution was read and was adopted without objection.

SENATE RESOLUTION 191

Senator Paxton offered the following resolution:

SR 191, Celebrating March 24, 2021, as Collin County Day.

PAXTON
SPRINGER

The resolution was read and was adopted without objection.

SENATE RESOLUTION 190

Senator Birdwell offered the following resolution:

SR 190, Recognizing March 24, 2021, as Texas Oil and Gas Association and Virtual Texas Energy Day.

The resolution was read and was adopted without objection.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

The President laid before the Senate the following resolution:

HCR 30, In memory of Stephen Henry Perry of Austin.

ALVARADO

On motion of Senator Alvarado, the resolution was read and was adopted by a rising vote of the Senate.

In honor of the memory of Stephen Henry Perry, the text of the resolution is printed at the end of today's *Senate Journal*.

SENATE RESOLUTION 193

Senator Powell offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, March 24, 2021, is Equal Pay Day in the United States, when individuals across the nation are raising awareness of the wage gap that persists despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, nearly 60 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Equal Pay Day represents how far into the current year women must work to earn what men were paid by the end of the previous year; for every dollar that White, non-Hispanic men made by December 31, 2020, women of all races earned, on average, only 82 cents; and

WHEREAS, The annual difference in income between women and men working full-time, year-round, is over \$10,000, which can add up to more than \$400,000 over the course of a career; the disparities are even greater for most women of color; while Asian American women made 85 cents, slightly higher than the average of all women, recent data from the Census Bureau show that African American women made 61 cents, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women made 59 cents, American Indian and Native Alaskan women made 58 cents, and Hispanic women made 53 cents compared to every dollar made by White, non-Hispanic males; moreover, nearly two-thirds of workers who are paid the minimum wage or less are women; and

WHEREAS, A wage gap exists in nearly every occupational field, and women are often paid less than men with lower levels of education; in addition, a majority of private sector workers report that employers either prohibit or discourage them from discussing their pay, which can keep the existence of pay disparity hidden and prevent remedying that discrimination; and

WHEREAS, When women are paid equally, families prosper and the economy is strengthened, and Equal Pay Day highlights the need for policies that address the real causes and consequences of wage inequality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 24, 2021, as Equal Pay Day in Texas and call for all Texans to support the essential goal of equal pay for equal work.

POWELL
ECKHARDT
GUTIERREZ
MENÉNDEZ
WEST
ZAFFIRINI

SR 193 was read and was adopted by a viva voce vote.

SENATE RESOLUTION 186

Senator Blanco offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, For more than four decades, every U.S. president has declared the annual observance of Education and Sharing Day in honor of the birthday of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson and his contributions to education; and

WHEREAS, One of the most celebrated figures in 20th century Judaism, Rabbi Schneerson was born in Ukraine in 1902; he demonstrated a remarkable aptitude for religious scholarship at a young age, mastering the entire Talmud and many of its commentaries by the age of 17; in the 1920s, he became part of the inner circle of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Judaism, and he married the Rebbe's daughter, Chaya Mushka; forced to flee Berlin and later Paris because of Nazi anti-Semitism, the couple settled in New York City in 1941; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, Rabbi Schneerson officially succeeded his father-in-law as the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and over the next 44 years, he built the movement into a worldwide community of 200,000 members; a strong advocate for children and education, he believed that schools should stress both academic achievement and character building, and he established several thousand Orthodox Jewish schools and educational centers around the globe before his passing in 1994; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Rabbi Schneerson's advocacy, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the first Education and Sharing Day in 1978, and the tradition has continued each year since; the rabbi's birthday is celebrated on 11 Nissan of the Jewish liturgical calendar, or four days before Passover, and in 2021 it falls on March 24; his accolades further include a Congressional Gold Medal, which he received posthumously in 1995; and

WHEREAS, In the midst of a global pandemic that has disrupted traditional models of education across the nation, Education and Sharing Day represents an important opportunity for Texans to reflect not just on how to foster academic achievement in young people but also on the core values that should be imparted to children and adults alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas Senate of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 24, 2021, as Education and Sharing Day.

BLANCO
MENÉNDEZ

SR 186 was read and was adopted without objection.

SESSION TO CONSIDER EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

The President announced the time had arrived to consider executive appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions. Notice of submission of these names for consideration was given yesterday by Senator Buckingham.

Senator Buckingham moved confirmation of the nominees reported yesterday by the Committee on Nominations.

The President asked if there were requests to sever nominees.

There were no requests offered.

NOMINEES CONFIRMED

The following nominees, as reported by the Committee on Nominations, were confirmed by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Miles.

Judge, 181st Judicial District Court, Potter and Randall Counties: Titiana Dixon Frausto, Potter County.

Judge, 192nd Judicial District Court, Dallas County: Kristina Marie Williams, Dallas County.

Judge, 303rd Judicial District Court, Dallas County: Rhonda Hunter, Dallas County.

Judge, 358th Judicial District Court, Ector County: John Floyd Shrode, Ector County.

Judge, 44th Judicial District Court, Dallas County: Ashley Elizabeth Wysocki, Dallas County.

Judge, 455th Judicial District Court, Travis County: Dustin Mark Howell, Travis County.

Judge, 466th Judicial District Court, Comal County: Stephanie Strange Bascon, Comal County.

Judge, 467th Judicial District Court, Denton County: Derbha Ann Houston Jones, Denton County.

Judge, 54th Judicial District Court, McLennan County: Susan Neely Kelly, McLennan County.

Judge, 72nd Judicial District Court, Crosby and Lubbock Counties: Ann-Marie Carruth, Lubbock County.

Presiding Judge, Fifth Administrative Judicial Region: Mary Koehler McDonald Medary, Nueces County.

Presiding Judge, Ninth Administrative Judicial Region: Anahid Elizabeth Estevez, Randall County.

Presiding Judge, Sixth Administrative Judicial Region: Stephen Bruce Ables, Kerr County.

Members, Board of Directors, Angelina and Neches River Authority: Joseph Lee Anderson, Angelina County; Kimberly McRae Childs, Nacodoches County; Thomas Richard Murphy, Houston County.

Member, Board of Pardons and Paroles: Linda Garza Molina, Bexar County.

Members, Board of Directors, Brazos River Authority: Thomas Abraham, Fort Bend County; Gary Olin Boren, Lubbock County; Michael Lee Fernandez, Taylor County; James P. Lattimore, Palo Pinto County; Wesley David Lloyd, McLennan County; David Ruiz, Bell County; David Lawrence Savage, Fort Bend County.

Members, Board of Directors, Coastal Water Authority: Thomas Allan Reiser, Harris County; Jon M. Sjolander, Liberty County; Douglas E. Walker, Chambers County.

Justice, Court of Appeals, Eighth Court of Appeals District: Jeffrey Scott Alley, El Paso County.

Justice, Court of Appeals, Fourteenth Court of Appeals District: Randall William Wilson, Harris County.

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals: Jesse Foster McClure, Harris County.

Criminal District Attorney, Brazoria County: Thomas Joseph Selleck, Brazoria County.

Chief Administrative Law Judge, State Office of Administrative Hearings: Kristofer S. Monson, Hays County.

Commissioners, Texas Animal Health Commission: Jimmie Ruth Evans, Bexar County; Melanie J. Johnson, Harris County; Kenneth Gene Jordan, San Saba County; Barret Jay Klein, Kendall County; Joe Lynn Leathers, King County.

Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management: W. Nim Kidd, Comal County.

Member, Texas Facilities Commission: Eddy Betancourt, Hidalgo County.

Members, Texas Forensic Science Commission: Jeffrey Joseph Barnard, Dallas County; Bruce Budowle, Tarrant County; Patrick Buzzini, Harris County; Michael DeWitt Coble, Tarrant County; Mark G. Daniel, Tarrant County; Nancy Ruth Downing, Brazos County; Jasmine Millican Drake, Harris County; Sarah Kerrigan, Montgomery County; Jarvis Jermaine Parsons, Brazos County.

Members, Texas Judicial Council: Sonia Velasco Clayton, Montgomery County; Jon Richard Gimble, McLennan County.

Members, Texas Military Preparedness Commission: Patrick Kamohoalii Akuna, Bell County; Carol Ann Halliday Bonds, Tom Green County; Garry William Bradford, Nueces County; Darrell Glen Coleman, Wichita County; Dennis Leamon Lewis, Bowie County; Benjamin Miranda, El Paso County; Kevin Earl Pottinger, Tarrant County; Kenneth Francis Sheets, Dallas County; Shannalea Grubb Taylor, Edwards County.

Member, Board of Regents, University of Houston System: Durga D. Agrawal, Harris County.

Member, Board of Regents, University of North Texas System: John Stuart Scott, Tarrant County.

Member, Veterans' Land Board: Grant Austin Moody, Bexar County.

SENATE RULE 11.13 SUSPENDED
(Consideration of Bills in Committees)
(Motion In Writing)

Senator Schwertner submitted the following Motion In Writing:

Mr. President:

I move to suspend Senate Rule 11.13 so that committees may meet during the reading and referral of bills.

SCHWERTNER

The Motion In Writing was read and prevailed without objection.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the Senate at 1:58 p.m. agreed to adjourn, in memory of Stephen Henry Perry and the victims of recent shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, and Boulder, Colorado, upon completion of the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading, until 12:00 p.m. tomorrow.

SENATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

SB 715 by Hall

Relating to the Brazos River Authority, following recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; specifying grounds for the removal of a member of the board of directors.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1443 by Campbell

Relating to restoring electric service to certain vulnerable customers after a power outage and customer communication.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1444 by Taylor

Relating to participation in and rates for coverage provided under the uniform group coverage program for active school employees.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1445 by Seliger

Relating to a parental option to request the return to or retention at a certain grade level for a public school student whose education was disrupted by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1446 by Gutierrez

Relating to the collection of delinquent property taxes.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1447 by Seliger

Relating to the rural veterinarian incentive program.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1448 by Taylor

Relating to the continuation of the windstorm insurance legislative funding and funding structure oversight board and to studies relating to the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1449 by Bettencourt, Creighton, Hancock, Hinojosa, Johnson, Paxton

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of income-producing tangible personal property having a value of less than a certain amount.
To Committee on Finance.

SB 1450 by Birdwell, Hinojosa

Relating to the eligibility of an injured employee for lifetime income benefits under the workers' compensation system.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1451 by Alvarado

Relating to the definition of "closing" for purposes of certain private activity bonds.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1452 by Alvarado

Relating to the licensing and regulation of music therapists; requiring an occupational license; authorizing fees.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1453 by Alvarado

Relating to toll collection and enforcement on state highway toll lanes by entities other than the Texas Department of Transportation.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1454 by Alvarado

Relating to programs established and funded under the Texas emissions reduction plan.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1455 by Nichols

Relating to the issuance of Texas Mobility Fund obligations.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1456 by Nichols

Relating to the dedication to the state highway fund of certain permit fee revenue attributable to oversize or overweight vehicles.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1457 by Zaffirini

Relating to peer specialists for and the provision of peer services to individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability, including the provision of those services under Medicaid.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1458 by Zaffirini

Relating to standardized forms and materials for the issuance of protective orders, magistrate's orders for emergency protection, and temporary ex parte orders.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1459 by Zaffirini

Relating a voter unable to enter a polling place.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1460 by Miles

Relating to the appointment of counsel to represent indigent defendants.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1461 by Springer

Relating to the authority of a municipality to regulate statewide commerce.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1462 by Taylor

Relating to the name of the statewide alert system for certain missing adults.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1463 by Nichols

Relating to a study by the Texas Department of Transportation on the impact of certain classifications of motor vehicle on the roads and bridges of this state.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1464 by Nichols

Relating to a study by the Texas Department of Transportation on future transportation needs for the year 2045.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1465 by Hinojosa

Relating to operation of the Texas small and rural community success fund program administered by the Texas Economic Development Bank as successor to the Texas leverage fund program.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1466 by Hinojosa

Relating to the enterprise zone program.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1467 by Hinojosa

Relating to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, to student fees imposed by the university, and to the elimination of certain obsolete statutory references in relation to the university.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1468 by Hinojosa

Relating to oil and gas liens.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1469 by Buckingham

Relating to the use by certain municipalities of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue for the enhancement and maintenance of public parks.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1470 by Buckingham

Relating to chilled water service and district cooling systems.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1471 by Taylor

Relating to eligibility to establish a multiple employer welfare arrangement.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1472 by Eckhardt, Miles, West

Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and law enforcement agencies regarding law enforcement officers and the use of body cameras; authorizing fees.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1473 by Miles

Relating to emergency services districts.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1474 by Perry

Relating to the I-27 Advisory Committee.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1475 by Hughes

Relating to the issuance of a qualified domestic relations order for the payment of spousal maintenance and child support obligations.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1476 by Hughes

Relating to the admission by a party of a material and substantial change of circumstances in a motion to modify an order in certain family law cases.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1477 by Johnson

Relating to the establishment of a higher education plan for human papillomavirus education and prevention.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1478 by Johnson

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Do-Not-Sell Registry for firearms; creating criminal offenses.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1479 by Johnson

Relating to the participation of distributed energy resources in the ERCOT market.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1480 by Johnson

Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain drug and alcohol related court-ordered educational programs; providing administrative penalties; requiring occupational licenses; authorizing fees; creating criminal offenses.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1481 by Johnson

Relating to the regulation of reroofing contractors; providing administrative and civil penalties; authorizing fees; requiring an occupational registration.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1482 by Zaffirini

Relating to the issuance of a permit for a municipal solid waste landfill facility located in a special flood hazard area.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1483 by Zaffirini

Relating to the review of clemency applications from certain persons who were victims of human trafficking or family violence.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1484 by Paxton, Bettencourt, Buckingham, Creighton, Hall, Nelson, Schwertner

Relating to certain Department of State Health Services procurements for communicable disease data collection and investigations.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1485 by Paxton

Relating to baccalaureate degree programs offered by certain public junior colleges.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1486 by Hughes

Relating to the repeal of the authority of political subdivisions to adopt or enforce juvenile curfews.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1487 by Hughes

Relating to the use of peace officers as attendance officers for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.
To Committee on Education.

SB 1488 by Hall

Relating to the regulation of bulk-power system equipment by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1489 by Hall

Relating to the provision of information regarding COVID-19 prevention and treatment to individuals receiving a COVID-19 viral test.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1490 by Creighton

Relating to the authority of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue a certificate of authority or certificate of authorization regarding professional degrees.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1491 by Bettencourt

Relating to the electronic submission of requests for attorney general decisions under the public information law; authorizing a fee.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1492 by Bettencourt

Relating to an expedited response by a governmental body to a request for public information.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1493 by Springer

Relating to prohibiting certain limitations on the operation of certain organizations that benefit veterans during a declared state of disaster.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1494 by Huffman

Relating to the frequency with which the Board of Pardons and Paroles reconsiders inmates for release on parole.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1495 by Huffman

Relating to certain criminal offenses related to highways and motor vehicles; creating a criminal offense; increasing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1496 by Huffman

Relating to removal of certain intimate visual material by a search engine operator of an Internet website; imposing a civil penalty.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1497 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the audiology and speech-language pathology interstate compact; authorizing fees.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1498 by Hinojosa, West

Relating to an exception to the application of the offense of illegal voting.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1499 by Buckingham

Relating to the municipal disannexation of certain areas formerly designated as a census designated place.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1500 by Buckingham

Relating to municipal release of extraterritorial jurisdiction and disannexation involving certain areas.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1501 by Buckingham

Relating to monuments, markers, and medallions controlled by the Texas Historical Commission.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1502 by Buckingham

Relating to a determination by the Texas Medical Board of a physician's specialty board certification.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1503 by Buckingham

Relating to the authority of a physician to provide and dispense and to delegate authority to provide and dispense certain drugs.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1504 by Hughes

Relating to requirements related to refunds and credit provided under terminated debt cancellation agreements.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1505 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue by certain municipalities and the authority of certain municipalities to pledge that revenue, and to receive and pledge certain other revenue, for the payment of obligations related to a hotel and convention center project.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1506 by Springer

Relating to a supreme court rule, practice, or procedure.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1507 by Springer

Relating to the salaries of sheriffs and to state assistance payments to offset the cost of sheriff's salaries in certain counties.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 1508 by Creighton

Relating to the establishment of the election integrity division in the office of the attorney general.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1509 by Creighton

Relating to identification requirements for early voting by mail; providing a penalty.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1510 by Whitmire

Relating to a limitation on the use of a victim's gender identity or sexual orientation as the basis for a defense in the trial of a criminal offense.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1511 by Zaffirini

Relating to the emergency detention of certain persons with a mental illness or cognitive disability and the scope of an order for psychoactive medication for certain patients under court-ordered mental health services.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1512 by Zaffirini

Relating to the affirmative defense to prosecution for a criminal offense for persons acting under duress.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1513 by Zaffirini

Relating to certain reimbursements and discounts allowed for the collection and payment of sales and use taxes.
To Committee on Finance.

SB 1514 by Taylor

Relating to the prevention of fraud in the conduct of an election.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1515 by Gutierrez

Relating to the authority of all governmental bodies to hold open and closed meetings by telephone or videoconference call.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1516 by Gutierrez

Relating to the imposition of administrative, civil, and criminal penalties for violating certain statutes under the jurisdiction of, rules or orders adopted by, or licenses, permits, or certificates issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas; increasing criminal penalties.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1517 by Gutierrez

Relating to broadcasting of athletic competitions sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.
To Committee on Education.

SB 1518 by Gutierrez

Relating to the annexation of Reeves County to the Odessa College District; expanding tax authority.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1519 by Seliger

Relating to the appointment of a judge or magistrate to preside over a regional specialty court program and the authority of that judge or magistrate in cases referred to the program.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1520 by Seliger

Relating to the establishment of the home nursing visitation for newborn caregivers competitive grant program.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1521 by Zaffirini

Relating to creating a mental health task force to study mental health services provided at institutions of higher education.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1522 by Taylor

Relating to the adjustment of the average daily attendance of a school district on the basis of a calamity.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1523 by Hancock

Relating to registered and protected series of domestic limited liability companies; authorizing fees.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1524 by Hughes

Relating to a sales and use tax refund pilot program for certain persons who employ apprentices.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 1525 by Creighton

Relating to the administration of the governor's university research initiative.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1526 by Perry

Relating to restricting the use of personally identifiable student information by an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application used for a school purpose and providing an exemption from certain restrictions for a national assessment provider.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1527 by Perry

Relating to measures to assist small and rural school districts in implementing a collegiate model and expanding broadband access, including the establishment of the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center and a grant program.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1528 by Paxton

Relating to prevention and early intervention services by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1530 by Huffman

Relating to the operation and administration of and practice and procedure related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1531 by West

Relating to formula funding for excess undergraduate credit hours at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate that may be charged for those credit hours.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1532 by West

Relating to simplified certification and recertification requirements for certain persons under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1533 by Buckingham

Relating to the reimbursement of certain urban teaching hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital care under Medicaid.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1534 by Buckingham

Relating to remedial plans issued by the State Board of Dental Examiners to address complaints against dentists and dental hygienists.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1535 by Buckingham

Relating to the practices and procedures related to early voting by mail, including the participation of watchers; modifying and increasing criminal penalties.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1536 by Taylor

Relating to the public school finance system.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1537 by Menéndez

Relating to the creation of a state-administered retirement plan; authorizing administrative penalties.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1538 by Menéndez, Campbell

Relating to insurer restrictions and duties regarding repair of a motor vehicle covered under an insurance policy.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1539 by Menéndez

Relating to health benefit plan coverage for certain tests to detect prostate cancer.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1540 by Menéndez

Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination; authorizing civil penalties.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1541 by Zaffirini

Relating to the definition of business case for major information resources projects.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1542 by Huffman

Relating to county appropriations to historical foundations or organizations.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1543 by Huffman

Relating to inspection requirements for buyer's temporary tags for vehicles sold to nonresident buyers of certain vehicles.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1544 by West

Relating to no-knock warrants.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1545 by West

Relating to the use of force by peace officers and other officer interactions and duties.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1546 by Hughes

Relating to the construction of abortion laws and the waiver of certain requirements for a physician or abortion facility in performing or inducing an abortion.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1547 by Nelson, Birdwell, Hancock, Powell

Relating to the creation of an additional criminal judicial district composed of Tarrant County.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1548 by Nelson, Springer

Relating to the creation of an additional judicial district in Denton County.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1549 by Nelson, Birdwell, Hancock, Powell

Relating to a subject matter preference for certain cases in the County Criminal Court No. 6 of Tarrant County.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1550 by Nelson

Relating to airport police forces, including the authority to commission peace officers and the rights, privileges, and duties of those officers.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1551 by Seliger

Relating to court reporter costs incurred in a hearing or proceeding for the involuntary detention of a person with mental illness.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1552 by Hinojosa

Relating to the age of a child at which a juvenile court may exercise jurisdiction over the child, to the age of criminal responsibility, and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to those ages.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1553 by Hinojosa

Relating to weight limitations for over-the-road buses.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1554 by Hinojosa

Relating to energy savings performance contracts.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1555 by Zaffirini

Relating to establishing reimbursement rates for certain child-care providers participating in the subsidized child-care program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1556 by Zaffirini

Relating to the use of executory contracts for the purchase of land to be used as a residence in certain counties.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1557 by Hall

Relating to the authority of a county to regulate condominiums.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1558 by Taylor

Relating to the creation and optional filing of a record of life for an unborn child and the use of a certificate of stillbirth; authorizing fees.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1559 by Nichols

Relating to the Texas emission reductions plan fund and account and certain revenues deposited therein.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1560 by Nichols

Relating to the dedication to the state highway fund of certain permit fee revenue attributable to oversize or overweight vehicles.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1561 by Huffman

Relating to an educational and vocational training pilot program for certain state jail felony defendants and certain inmates released on parole; changing parole eligibility.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1562 by Lucio

Relating to the sanitary transportation of human and animal food.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1563 by Lucio

Relating to state supported living centers.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1564 by Lucio

Relating to a comprehensive plan for increasing and improving the workforce in this state to serve persons with mental health and substance use issues.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1565 by Lucio

Relating to the allocation of low income housing tax credits.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1566 by Lucio

Relating to the continuation of the Trade Agricultural Inspection Grant Program.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1567 by Lucio

Relating to insurance premium tax credits for the construction or rehabilitation of a supportive housing property.
To Committee on Finance.

SB 1568 by Lucio

Relating to exemptions from licensing requirements to operate an end stage renal disease facility.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1569 by Lucio

Relating to the functions of certain urban land bank programs.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1570 by Lucio

Relating to the authority of a county to adopt a land bank program.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1571 by West

Relating to granting limited state law enforcement authority to special agents of the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Homeland Security.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1572 by Paxton

Relating to the numbering and signing of ballots by early voting clerks and deputy early voting clerks.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1573 by Paxton, Campbell, Eckhardt, Zaffirini

Relating to the reporting of sexual assault and other sex offenses and to the collection, analysis, tracking, and preservation of evidence of those offenses.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1574 by West

Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of failure to identify; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1575 by Kolkhorst

Relating to assessment and oversight of children placed by the Department of Family and Protective Services in a residential treatment center.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1576 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the procedures and grounds for taking possession of a child and authorizing a family preservation services pilot program as an alternative to removal in suits affecting the parent-child relationship.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1577 by Kolkhorst

Relating to efficiency audits of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1578 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the use of opinions from medical professionals in making certain determinations relating to the abuse or neglect of a child.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1579 by Hancock

Relating to the recovery and securitization of extraordinary costs incurred by certain gas utilities; authority to issue bonds.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1580 by Hancock

Relating to electric cooperatives' use of securitization to address extraordinary costs and expenses created by Winter Storm Uri.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1581 by Zaffirini

Relating to a public school campus's election under a campus turnaround plan to operate as a community school.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1582 by Hughes

Relating to examinations for applicants for or holders of licenses or registrations to perform certain activities pertaining to compressed natural gas or liquefied natural gas.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1583 by Hughes

Relating to inspections and examinations by the Railroad Commission of Texas of certain sites and facilities conducted using unmanned aircraft.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1584 by Hughes

Relating to the ownership, control, or operation of certain used motor vehicle dealers by certain motor vehicle manufacturers and distributors.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1585 by Hughes

Relating to the designation of a property as a historic landmark by a municipality.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1586 by Birdwell

Relating to the governance and administration of an appraisal district.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1587 by Birdwell

Relating to enhancing the criminal penalties for certain repeat and habitual offenders.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1588 by Hughes

Relating to the powers and duties of property owners' associations; authorizing a fee.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1589 by Bettencourt

Relating to the enforcement of laws relating to elections.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1590 by Bettencourt

Relating to rules by the State Board for Educator Certification regarding virtual observation options for field-based experiences and internships required for educator certification.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1591 by Bettencourt

Relating to election watchers; increasing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1593 by Bettencourt

Relating to ensuring system reliability of electricity generation through use of a compliance monitor and an enforcement division of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1594 by Buckingham

Relating to the release of a judgment lien on homestead property.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1595 by Lucio

Relating to the use of corporal punishment in public schools.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1596 by Lucio

Relating to the membership of a school district's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team and committee and the school safety allotment under the public school finance system.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1597 by Lucio

Relating to requiring school districts to report management fees under certain cooperative purchasing contracts.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1598 by Lucio

Relating to the regional inventory of mental health resources for public schools and the statewide plan for student mental health.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1599 by Lucio

Relating to indemnity agreements between contractors and subcontractors for services pertaining to certain wells or mines.

To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1600 by Huffman

Relating to prohibiting peace officers from using neck restraints during a search or arrest.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1601 by Huffman

Relating to a duty for peace officers to intervene and make a report when a peace officer uses excessive force.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1602 by Taylor

Relating to cancellation of certain property and casualty insurance policies for the insured's failure to cooperate in a claim investigation, settlement, or defense.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1603 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the procedures required before an individual's name is added to the central child abuse or neglect registry.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1604 by Whitmire, Nelson

Relating to an exemption for certain cemeteries from cemetery location restrictions.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1605 by Huffman

Relating to directing payment, after approval, of certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act; making appropriations.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 1606 by Hall, Alvarado, Bettencourt, Blanco, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Gutierrez, Hinojosa, Huffman, Hughes, Johnson, Kolkhorst, Lucio, Miles, Nelson, Paxton, Perry, Powell, Taylor, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini

Relating to protecting the population of Texas, its environment, and its most vulnerable communities, promoting the resilience of the electric grid and certain municipalities.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1607 by Hall

Relating to elections; creating criminal offenses; providing a civil penalty.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1608 by Hall

Relating to elections; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1609 by Hall

Relating to proof of identification presented by a voter.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1610 by Hall

Relating to voter qualification and registration.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1611 by Hall

Relating to the right of the public to observe election activity; providing a civil penalty.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1612 by Hall

Relating to certain suits involving elections and the confidentiality of certain communications with voting systems vendors.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1613 by Hall

Relating to early voting ballots voted by mail; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1614 by Bettencourt

Relating to requiring emergency generators or other power sources in nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1615 by Bettencourt

Relating to the adult high school charter school program.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1616 by Bettencourt

Relating to powers and duties of governmental entities during a public health disaster; providing civil penalties.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1617 by Bettencourt

Relating to the automatic admission of certain students to general academic teaching institutions in The University of Texas System.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1618 by Bettencourt

Relating to in-depth evaluations and reports on certain investments of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 1619 by Bettencourt

Relating to municipal control of certain local public retirement systems.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1620 by Bettencourt

Relating to voter approval of the issuance of certain obligations by municipalities to pay their unfunded liabilities to a public pension fund.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1621 by Bettencourt

Relating to the eligibility for a service retirement annuity of certain members and annuitants of a public retirement system convicted of certain felony offenses.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1622 by Bettencourt

Relating to measures to support workforce development in the state, including the establishment of the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and additional employer workforce data reporting.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1623 by Bettencourt

Relating to good cause for revoking the tenure of or otherwise disciplining a faculty member of a public institution of higher education in this state.

To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1624 by Miles

Relating to the governing body of the independent organization certified to manage the ERCOT power region.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1625 by Miles, Huffman

Relating to minimum standards for end stage renal disease facilities regarding treatment provided during certain disasters.

To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1626 by Miles

Relating to law enforcement policies regarding the issuance of citations for misdemeanors punishable by fine only and to a limitation on the authority to arrest a person for certain fine-only misdemeanors.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1627 by Miles

Relating to the deadline to begin a county fire code inspection in certain counties.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1628 by Miles

Relating to the authority of the division of the ombudsman for children and youth in foster care.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1629 by Miles

Relating to failure to report assault, neglect, or omission of care in certain group homes; creating a criminal offense.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1630 by Miles

Relating to criminal history record information checks for applicants for employment and employees of group homes; creating a criminal offense.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1631 by Miles

Relating to the documentation of child abuse; creating a criminal offense.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1632 by Miles

Relating to the eligibility of certain criminal defendants for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 1633 by Miles

Relating to the eligibility requirements for a public elective office.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1634 by Miles

Relating to requiring female representation on the boards of directors of certain publicly traded corporations; authorizing administrative penalties.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1635 by Miles

Relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the feasibility of establishing a divinity program at Texas Southern University.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1636 by Miles

Relating to the creation of the Texas African American Heritage Commission.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1637 by Miles

Relating to the delivery of a deed to a grantee and to the recording of a deed.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1638 by Miles

Relating to the jurisdiction of justice courts.
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1639 by Miles

Relating to remedies for fraud and duress in the conveyance of real property.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1640 by Miles

Relating to requiring witnesses to sign an instrument conveying real property interest.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1641 by Zaffirini

Relating to the composition of the port commission of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority of Nueces County, Texas.
To Committee on Ports.

SB 1642 by Creighton, Hinojosa, Nichols

Relating to the administration of navigation districts.
To Committee on Ports.

SB 1643 by Creighton, Nichols

Relating to special purpose territory of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District of Jefferson County, Texas.
To Committee on Ports.

SB 1644 by Creighton

Relating to the determination of the market value of property for ad valorem tax purposes.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1645 by Taylor

Relating to public school accountability ratings, including interventions and sanctions administered to a school district or campus assigned a needs improvement rating.
To Committee on Education.

SB 1646 by Perry, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Campbell, Creighton, Hall, Hancock, Hughes, Paxton, Schwertner, Springer, Taylor

Relating to the protection of children, including the definition of child abuse and the prosecution of the criminal offense of abandoning or endangering a child.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1648 by Perry

Relating to the provision of certain benefits under Medicaid, including the coordination of private health benefits, and to reimbursement for some of those benefits.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1649 by Perry

Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to receive certain tax revenue derived from certain establishments related to a hotel and convention center project and to pledge certain tax revenue for the payment of obligations related to the project.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1650 by Perry, Lucio

Relating to middle mile broadband service provided by an electric utility.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1651 by Perry

Relating to the availability under the public information law of certain information related to a tax audit.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1652 by Seliger

Relating to the release of a reversionary interest in certain real property by the Health and Human Services Commission and conditions related to that release.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1653 by Hinojosa, Lucio

Relating to the university advisory committee of and procedure for making awards by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1654 by Lucio

Relating to a franchise or insurance tax credit for certain housing developments.
To Committee on Finance.

SB 1655 by Birdwell

Relating to an annual report submitted to the comptroller by a county that imposes certain hotel occupancy taxes.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1656 by Bettencourt

Relating to the requirements for filing an annual financial statement by a municipality.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1657 by Bettencourt

Relating to notice of proposed changes to municipal zoning classifications.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1658 by Bettencourt

Relating to limited-purpose annexation under strategic partnership agreements for certain districts.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1659 by Bettencourt

Relating to clarifying the law regarding municipal voting rights and eligibility for municipal office of residents of areas subject to limited-purpose annexation under strategic partnership agreements.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1660 by Bettencourt

Relating to payroll deductions for state and local government employee organizations.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1661 by Bettencourt

Relating to the date on which a city may hold a general election.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1662 by Bettencourt

Relating to the appointment, suspension, and termination of a county elections administrator.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1663 by Bettencourt

Relating to the administration of the countywide polling place program.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1664 by Bettencourt

Relating to ballots voted by mail.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1665 by Bettencourt

Relating to courses offered jointly by public junior colleges and independent school districts.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1666 by Hughes

Relating to energy efficiency building standards.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1667 by Hughes

Relating to the procedure for approval of certain land development applications by a political subdivision.
To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1668 by Hughes

Relating to liquefied petroleum gas cylinder licensing.
To Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.

SB 1669 by Hall

Relating to prohibited discrimination regarding vaccination status and mandates for receiving or participating in the administration of vaccines; authorizing administrative penalties.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1670 by Hall

Relating to immunization requirements for admission to public schools.
To Committee on Education.

SB 1671 by Hall

Relating to declaring void certain federal court decisions related to abortion and prohibiting cooperation with the enforcement of those decisions; creating a private cause of action; creating a criminal offense.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1672 by Hall, Kolkhorst

Relating to investigations of child abuse and neglect and the procedures for adding names to or removing names from the central registry of child abuse and neglect.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1673 by Hall

Relating to limitations on public health directives issued during a state of disaster or outbreak of a communicable disease.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1674 by Hall, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Perry

Relating to protection of individuals from participation in a health care service for reasons of conscience; providing a civil remedy; authorizing disciplinary action.
To Committee on Health & Human Services.

SB 1675 by Campbell, Bettencourt, Buckingham, Hall, Hancock, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Springer

Relating to procedures for early voting by mail and voting by mail.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1676 by Zaffirini

Relating to certain rates and fees charged by water supply corporations.
To Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs.

SB 1677 by Buckingham

Relating to eliminating reporting requirements for public institutions of higher education and the requirement for a plan by certain school districts to increase enrollment in public institutions of higher educations.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1678 by Campbell

Relating to the prohibited release by a public agency of information regarding the members, supporters, or volunteers of or donors to certain nonprofit organizations; creating a criminal offense.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1679 by Alvarado

Relating to the creation of an urban land bank by certain municipalities.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1680 by Miles

Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects at certain public institutions of higher education.
To Committee on Higher Education.

SB 1681 by Hancock

Relating to the protection of religious organizations.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 1682 by Hancock

Relating to the funding of utility reliability projects by the Texas Water Development Board and other entities; authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds, granting rulemaking authority, and making an appropriation.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs.

SB 1683 by Powell

Relating to the use of the school safety allotment for a school district's disaster or pandemic preparation and response.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1684 by Powell

Relating to the cost, payment, and collection of health care expenses.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1685 by Powell

Relating to a study on comprehensive development agreements entered into for transportation projects in this state.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 1686 by Powell

Relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system, the career and technology allotment under the public school finance system, and enrollment in the Teacher Retirement System.

To Committee on Education.

SB 1687 by Gutierrez

Relating to the use of water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer by certain entities.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs.

SB 1688 by Gutierrez

Relating to the jurisdiction of the County Court at Law of Reeves County.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 1689 by Gutierrez

Relating to third-party debt collection of traffic fines in certain counties.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 1690 by Gutierrez

Relating to rates charged for wholesale or retail electric service; authorizing a civil penalty.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SB 1822 by Huffman

Relating to the postponement of certain dates relating to elections to be held in 2022.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SJR 55 by Creighton

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the right to own, hold, and use any mutually agreed upon medium of exchange.

To Committee on Business & Commerce.

SJR 56 by Creighton

Proposing a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of county treasurer of Galveston County.

To Committee on Local Government.

SJR 58 by Campbell

Proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit a person from being placed on a ballot as a candidate for public office if the person has an outstanding financial obligation payable to the Texas Ethics Commission.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 59 by Nichols

Proposing a constitutional amendment to constitutionally dedicate certain revenue directed to the state highway fund for the purposes of acquiring, constructing, and maintaining public roadways.

To Committee on Transportation.

SJR 60 by Hall

Proposing a constitutional amendment regarding certain actions involving the conduct of elections and the powers of the legislature to file certain actions against the governor and other state officials.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 61 by Campbell, Bettencourt, Buckingham, Hall, Hancock, Hughes, Kolkhorst, Paxton, Perry, Schwertner, Springer

Proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting temporary suspension of absentee voting procedures and fixing deadlines for absentee voting.

To Committee on State Affairs.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 9

On motion of Senator Paxton, Senators Birdwell and Kolkhorst will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 9**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 26

On motion of Senator Paxton, Senator Nichols will be shown as Co-author of **SB 26**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 39

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, Senator West will be shown as Co-author of **SB 39**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 64

On motion of Senator Nelson, Senators Blanco and Campbell will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 64**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 114

On motion of Senator Lucio, Senator Blanco will be shown as Co-author of **SB 114**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 115

On motion of Senator Lucio, Senator Blanco will be shown as Co-author of **SB 115**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 116

On motion of Senator Lucio, Senator Blanco will be shown as Co-author of **SB 116**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 157

On motion of Senator Perry, Senator Seliger will be shown as Co-author of **SB 157**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 171

On motion of Senator Blanco, Senator West will be shown as Co-author of **SB 171**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 224

On motion of Senator Perry, Senators Blanco and Lucio will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 224**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 231

On motion of Senator Seliger, Senator Schwertner will be shown as Co-author of **SB 231**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 250

On motion of Senator Alvarado, Senator Eckhardt will be shown as Co-author of **SB 250**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 270

On motion of Senator Perry, Senator Zaffirini will be shown as Co-author of **SB 270**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 279

On motion of Senator Hinojosa, Senator West will be shown as Co-author of **SB 279**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 343

On motion of Senator Kolkhorst, Senators Creighton and Johnson will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 343**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 383

On motion of Senator Powell, Senator Campbell will be shown as Co-author of **SB 383**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 394

On motion of Senator Lucio, Senator Campbell will be shown as Co-author of **SB 394**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 405

On motion of Senator Menéndez, Senator West will be shown as Co-author of **SB 405**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 516

On motion of Senator Huffman, Senator Hughes will be shown as Co-author of **SB 516**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 650

On motion of Senator Campbell, Senator Bettencourt will be shown as Co-author of **SB 650**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 672

On motion of Senator Buckingham, Senators Blanco and West will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 672**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 709

On motion of Senator Hall, Senator Bettencourt will be shown as Co-author of **SB 709**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 710

On motion of Senator Hall, Senator Bettencourt will be shown as Co-author of **SB 710**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 798

On motion of Senator Nelson, Senator Zaffirini will be shown as Co-author of **SB 798**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 802

On motion of Senator Paxton, Senator Birdwell will be shown as Co-author of **SB 802**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 897

On motion of Senator Paxton, Senator Springer will be shown as Co-author of **SB 897**.

CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 1173

On motion of Senator Hancock, Senators Hughes and Paxton will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 1173**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1284

On motion of Senator Hancock, Senator West will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1284**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 2084

On motion of Senator Menéndez, Senator Eckhardt will be shown as Co-author of **SB 2084**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 2154

On motion of Senator Schwertner, Senator Bettencourt will be shown as Co-author of **SB 2154**.

CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4

On motion of Senator Powell, Senator Blanco will be shown as Co-author of **SCR 4**.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

The following resolution was adopted by the Senate:

Congratulatory Resolution

SR 189 by Campbell, Recognizing the Hidden Heroes campaign and the state's military and veteran caregivers.

ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate at 2:36 p.m. adjourned, in memory of Stephen Henry Perry and the victims of recent shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, and Boulder, Colorado, until 12:00 p.m. tomorrow.

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

March 24, 2021

STATE AFFAIRS — **CSSB 808, CSSB 219**

TRANSPORTATION — **SB 160, SB 445, SB 901**

RESOLUTIONS ENROLLED

March 24, 2021

SR 185, SR 186, SR 189, SR 190, SR 191, SR 193

In Memory
of
Stephen Henry Perry
House Concurrent Resolution 30

WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and many friends of Stephen Henry Perry of Austin, who passed away on May 11, 2020, at the age of 62; and

WHEREAS, The son of Gayle and O. V. Perry, Steve Perry was born in Lubbock on August 28, 1957, and he grew up with a sister, Camille; he attended Texas Tech University and completed his bachelor's degree in government at The University of Texas at Austin; after working at the Capitol for then-state representative George Pierce, he was hired by Texaco as a state government affairs representative; he went on to lead government affairs for Altura Energy and then represented Texaco again as head of his own firm, Perry and Associates; following Texaco's merger with the Chevron Corporation in 2004, he became Chevron's state government affairs manager and guided a team advocating for the company in New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma, as well as Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perry took on leadership roles in charitable endeavors, as well as trade associations; his affable manner and thoughtful, caring nature brought him numerous warm friendships in professional circles and with people he met from all walks of life; an attentive listener, he always stood ready to provide encouragement, consolation, or sage advice; following the death of his sister, he stepped in to help his niece, Katherine, and he continued to play a significant role in her life; he was an enthusiastic music fan and patron, and he loved to include friends in his fun at music festivals, *Austin City Limits* tapings, the opera, and other events; in addition, he was an avid golfer for more than 45 years; and

WHEREAS, Steve Perry possessed a generosity of spirit that expressed itself in myriad ways, and he enriched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to share in his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to the memory of Stephen Henry Perry and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of Stephen Henry Perry.

ALVARADO