

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE — REGULAR SESSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS

PROCEEDINGS

ELEVENTH DAY

(Continued)

(Friday, February 17, 2023)

AFTER RECESS

The Senate met at 10:00 a.m. and was called to order by Senator Hughes.

SENATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

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

SB 451 by Menéndez

Relating to consumer protections for accident and health insurance that excludes coverage for preexisting conditions.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 452 by Menéndez

Relating to step therapy protocols required by health benefit plans for coverage of prescription drugs for serious mental illnesses.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 453 by Menéndez

Relating to the enforcement of certain requirements regarding the transfer of course credit between public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 454 by Menéndez

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Emergency Aid for Public Postsecondary Students (TEAPPS) grant program for students at certain public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 455 by Menéndez

Relating to the measures to encourage eligible students to claim certain tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for students who are or have been in foster or other residential care.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 456 by Menéndez

Relating to the adoption of a healthy and safe school water plan by public schools.

To Committee on Education.

SB 457 by Menéndez

Relating to disclosure requirements for health benefit plans and health expense arrangements marketed to individuals.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 458 by Kolkhorst

Relating to nursing educational programs offered by for-profit entities.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 459 by Paxton

Relating to early registration for parenting students at public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 460 by Zaffirini

Relating to the extension of the period of community supervision for certain defendants who fail to pay a previously assessed fine or cost.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 461 by Parker, Campbell

Relating to the confidentiality of home address information for victims of child abduction and to the administration of the address confidentiality program by the office of the attorney general.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 462 by Parker

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program for certain students enrolled in competency-based baccalaureate degree programs and to formula funding and dropped and repeated course restrictions for students enrolled in those degree programs at public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 463 by Parker

Relating to increasing the criminal punishment for assault committed against a sports participant.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 464 by Parker

Relating to designating October 17 as Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Day.

To Committee on Administration.

SB 465 by Bettencourt

Relating to certain criminal conduct involving a catalytic converter; creating a criminal offense; increasing criminal penalties.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 466 by Bettencourt

Relating to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of trafficking of persons.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 467 by Bettencourt

Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of criminal mischief involving impairment of a motor fuel pump.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 468 by Kolkhorst, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Campbell, Eckhardt, Paxton, Springer

Relating to the authority of a property owners' association to regulate the assembly, association, and speech of property owners or residents.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 469 by Springer

Relating to the eligibility of certain political subdivisions to receive certain financial assistance administered by the Texas Water Development Board.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 470 by Springer

Relating to the enforcement of certain federal laws regulating oil and gas operations within the State of Texas.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 471 by Springer

Relating to the imposition of a fee by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the investigation of certain complaints.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 472 by Hughes

Relating to the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter schools.

To Committee on Education.

SB 473 by Hughes

Relating to providing information to undergraduate students regarding certain fixed or flat tuition rates provided by certain public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 474 by Springer

Relating to the minimum motor vehicle liability insurance coverage requirement for damage to or destruction of property of others.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 475 by Hughes

Relating to the inclusion of a school safety domain for evaluating districts and campuses under the public school accountability system.

To Committee on Education.

SB 476 by Hughes

Relating to the definition of sexually oriented business.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 477 by Zaffirini

Relating to accommodating voters with a disability.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 478 by Zaffirini

Relating to the administration of the motorcycle operator training and safety program; requiring an occupational license; authorizing a fee.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 479 by Eckhardt

Relating to the exemption from registration fees of certain vehicles used by nonprofit disaster relief organizations.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 480 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the eligibility for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by a charitable organization that provides rental housing constructed, rehabilitated, or purchased with money awarded through a program administered by the General Land Office.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 481 by Johnson

Relating to egg grading.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 482 by Johnson

Relating to the provision of certain notices in connection with certain consumer transactions.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 483 by Johnson

Relating to the regulation of massage therapy.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 484 by Johnson

Relating to the licensing and regulation of genetic counselors; requiring an occupational license; authorizing a fee.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 485 by Johnson

Relating to designating the second Saturday in October as Hospice and Palliative Care Day.

To Committee on Administration.

SB 486 by Hinojosa

Relating to the waiting period following the issuance of a marriage license and the annulment of a marriage on grounds relating to that waiting period.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 487 by Springer

Relating to authorizing of any Community College District to offer a baccalaureate degree program in the field of education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 488 by Springer

Relating to imposing a tax on the generation of electricity by certain electric generators to provide revenue for property tax relief.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 489 by Springer

Relating to special reports of political contributions received by candidates for certain offices.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 490 by Hughes

Relating to itemized billing for health care services and supplies provided by health care providers.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 491 by Hughes

Relating to building height restrictions in certain municipalities.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 492 by Hughes

Relating to the sale of eggs in a reused carton.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 493 by Hughes

Relating to qualifications for certain individuals for veterans benefits.

To Committee on Veteran Affairs.

SB 494 by Hughes

Relating to approval of certain land development applications by a municipality or county.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 495 by Hughes

Relating to the use, possession, delivery, or manufacture of testing equipment that identifies the presence of fentanyl, alpha-methylfentanyl, or any other derivative of fentanyl.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 496 by Zaffirini

Relating to a study on potential improvements to training provided to 9-1-1 emergency service call takers and dispatchers.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 497 by Zaffirini

Relating to the processing and sale of kratom and kratom products; providing civil penalties; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 498 by Johnson

Relating to the operation of statewide technology centers.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 499 by Zaffirini, Perry

Relating to automatic orders of nondisclosure of criminal history record information for certain misdemeanor defendants following successful completion of a period of deferred adjudication community supervision.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 500 by West, Menéndez, Parker

Relating to the value of a residential dwelling offered or awarded as a prize at a charitable raffle.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 501 by Hughes

Relating to a cause of action for the bad faith washout of an overriding royalty interest in an oil and gas lease.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 502 by Hughes

Relating to the treatment, recycling for beneficial use, or disposal of drill cuttings.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 503 by Miles

Relating to the issuance of air quality permits for concrete plants located in certain areas.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 504 by Miles

Relating to a "Texas solution" to reforming and addressing issues related to the Medicaid program, including the creation of an alternative program designed to ensure health benefit plan coverage to certain low-income individuals through the private marketplace; requiring a fee.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 505 by Nichols

Relating to imposing an additional fee for the registration of an electric vehicle.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 506 by Perry

Relating to a limitation on the authority of state agencies to adopt rules that require persons to pay certain fees or taxes.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 507 by Perry

Relating to the designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 87 in Concho County as the Deputy Samuel Leonard Memorial Highway.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 508 by Perry

Relating to the designation of the portion of Farm-to-Market Road 765 in Concho County as the Sergeant Stephen Jones Memorial Highway.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 509 by Perry

Relating to the confidentiality of certain mug shots.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 510 by Perry

Relating to the confidentiality of certain information maintained by state licensing agencies.
To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 511 by Hall

Relating to prohibiting the disbursement of certain economic and tax incentives to entities that assist, refer, or otherwise encourage a woman to obtain an abortion.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 512 by Hall

Relating to the use of paper ballots and certain electronic devices in conducting an election.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 513 by Hall

Relating to the verification of the accuracy of an application for a license to practice medicine in this state.
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 514 by Hall

Relating to investigations and disciplinary action by the Texas Medical Board regarding certain treatments or practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 515 by Hall

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 and Human Services.

SB 516 by Eckhardt

Relating to abolishing the death penalty.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 517 by Eckhardt

Relating to qualifications and registration of certain voters convicted of a felony.
To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 518 by Kolkhorst

Relating to requiring the consideration of standardized test scores as a factor in nonautomatic admissions decisions at certain public institutions of higher education.
To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 519 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 and Economic Development.

SB 520 by West

Relating to the confidentiality of and discovery procedures relating to certain material regarding the protection or security of a witness; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 521 by West

Relating to an employment termination report and other records submitted to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement by a law enforcement agency.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 522 by West

Relating to the authority of an owner of certain residential real property to pay the ad valorem taxes imposed on the property in installments.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 523 by West

Relating to certain criminal offenses concerning the unlawful transfer or purchase of certain weapons; increasing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 524 by West

Relating to the statewide intellectual and developmental disability coordinating council.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 525 by West

Relating to personal assistive mobility device protections for patients receiving emergency medical services.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 526 by West

Relating to requiring prior approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a degree or certificate program to certain persons who are incarcerated or subject to involuntary civil commitment.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 527 by West

Relating to a rebate of the assessment on the gross receipts of electricity for certain providers of retail electric service.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 528 by West

Relating to an exception to the titling requirement for certain motor vehicles; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 529 by West

Relating to extreme risk protective orders; creating criminal offenses.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 530 by West

Relating to a peer support network for law enforcement officers.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 531 by West

Relating to the standard service and disability retirement benefits for members of the employee class of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.
To Committee on Finance.

SB 532 by West

Relating to repayment of certain mental health professional education loans.
To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 533 by Paxton

Relating to training for peace officers on responding to and investigating child fatalities.
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 534 by Paxton

Relating to the administration of certain drugs by a midwife.
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 535 by Paxton

Relating to state agency information technology infrastructure and information security assessments.
To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 536 by Paxton

Relating to the confidentiality of certain information concerning persons licensed by the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council.
To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 537 by King

Relating to the Texas State Guard uniform and insignia fund.
To Committee on Veteran Affairs.

SB 538 by King

Relating to the use of appropriated money by the Texas Military Department or Texas military forces for recruiting and retention purposes.
To Committee on Veteran Affairs.

SB 539 by Campbell

Relating to the manner in which an individual who has elected to defer collection of a tax, abate a suit to collect a delinquent tax, or abate a sale to foreclose a tax lien on the individual's residence homestead is listed on the delinquent tax roll of a taxing unit.
To Committee on Local Government.

SB 540 by Campbell

Relating to the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety standards in certain municipalities.
To Committee on Transportation.

SB 541 by Campbell

Relating to the barring of certain vendors from participation in certain contracts with the state or a political subdivision.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 542 by Blanco

Relating to the delegation of certain authority of a county judge or commissioners court in certain counties.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 543 by Blanco

Relating to the conveyance of property by a municipality for the public purpose of economic development.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 544 by Blanco

Relating to the issuance of a teaching certificate to certain applicants with experience as instructors for the Community College of the Air Force.

To Committee on Education.

SB 545 by Kolkhorst

Relating to death records maintained and provided by the vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 546 by Blanco

Relating to the authority of the governing body of a taxing unit other than a school district to adopt an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a dollar amount, of the appraised value of an individual's residence homestead and to the authority of the governing body of any taxing unit that has adopted an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a percentage of the appraised value of an individual's residence homestead to reduce the amount of or repeal the exemption.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 547 by Blanco

Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 548 by Blanco

Relating to a limitation on the amount of tuition charged by public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 549 by Eckhardt

Relating to a study on leasing state property for private use.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 550 by Johnson

Relating to implementation of an express lane option for determining eligibility and enrolling certain individuals in Medicaid or the child health plan program.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 551 by Johnson

Relating to the authority of municipalities to prohibit the sale of single-use plastic water bottles at municipal golf courses.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 552 by Campbell, Parker

Relating to prohibiting contracts or other agreements with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with agricultural land.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 553 by West, Creighton

Relating to dedication ceremonies for new state buildings.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 554 by Hughes

Relating to an appraisal procedure for disputed losses under personal automobile insurance policies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 555 by Perry

Relating to the regulation of certain pharmacies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 556 by West

Relating to an exemption from court reporter transcript fees for a county that provides and maintains court reporting equipment.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 557 by West

Relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 558 by Hughes

Relating to parkland dedication for property development by certain municipalities; authorizing a fee.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 559 by Hughes

Relating to discrimination against or burdening certain constitutional rights of an applicant for or holder of a license to practice law in this state.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 560 by Springer

Relating to the time for the issuance of municipal building permits.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 561 by Sparks

Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to issue debt to purchase or lease tangible personal property.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 562 by Sparks

Relating to parental rights regarding a threat assessment of a student conducted by a public school's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team.

To Committee on Education.

SB 563 by Sparks

Relating to the regulation by a municipality or county of certain employment benefits and policies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 564 by Sparks

Relating to the peace officers authorized to operate an authorized emergency vehicle used to conduct a police escort.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 565 by Sparks

Relating to the release of a reversionary interest in certain real property by the Health and Human Services Commission.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 566 by Springer

Relating to the purchase of periodicals by state agencies and certain state officers and to prohibiting state agencies from providing financial support to the news media.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 567 by Springer

Relating to Firefighters Enrolled in Fire Science Courses.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 568 by Springer

Relating to the rules of the road regarding red signals at certain traffic-control signals.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 569 by Springer

Relating to requests to a municipality for production or certification of a record in certain civil actions; authorizing a fee.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 570 by West

Relating to the prohibition of housing discrimination on the basis of a person's source of income and to the enforcement of that prohibition.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 571 by West

Relating to interactions between law enforcement and individuals detained or arrested on suspicion of the commission of criminal offenses, witnesses to the commission of those offenses, and other members of the public, to peace officer liability for those interactions, and to the confinement, conviction, or release of detained or arrested individuals.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 572 by Kolkhorst

Relating to the authority of a general-law municipality or county to regulate certain unlicensed residential facilities.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 573 by Hughes

Relating to municipal requirements for exterior key boxes to provide access to buildings to first responders.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 574 by Gutierrez, Eckhardt, LaMantia, Menéndez

Relating to the creation of the School Violence Victims' Compensation Fund.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 575 by Gutierrez

Relating to the creation of a cause of action for deprivation of rights and the waiver of immunity.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 576 by Menéndez

Relating to the definition of exploitation for purposes of investigating reports of exploitation by certain providers against certain elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities receiving services from those providers.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 577 by Springer

Relating to regulation of food service establishments, retail food stores, mobile food units, roadside food vendors, temporary food service establishments, and food managers.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 578 by Zaffirini

Relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of an applicant for or a person protected by a protective order.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 579 by Zaffirini

Relating to authority to establish, operate, and maintain a foreign trade zone at or adjacent to the Cotulla port of entry.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 580 by Zaffirini

Relating to the authority of certain counties to cancel platted subdivisions that have remained undeveloped.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 581 by Eckhardt

Relating to a veterans suicide prevention campaign.

To Committee on Veteran Affairs.

SB 582 by Eckhardt

Relating to authorization for a county or municipality to establish a local minimum wage.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 583 by Hughes

Relating to a direct payment to a health care provider in lieu of a claim for benefits under a health benefit plan.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 584 by Hughes

Relating to the treatment of a patient by a physical therapist without a referral.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 585 by Alvarado

Relating to the release of a tier two form listing hazardous chemicals that is in the possession of a political subdivision of this state.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 586 by Hughes

Relating to the beneficiaries of trust funds paid or received in connection with an improvement on specific real property.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 587 by Hughes

Relating to a limitation on commercial kitchen requirements for food fundraisers held by a religious institution or nonprofit organization.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 588 by Hughes

Relating to creating a temporary educator certification for certain military service members and first responders.

To Committee on Education.

SB 589 by Johnson, Flores

Relating to a health literacy plan developed by the statewide health coordinating council and the inclusion of health literacy in the state health plan.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 590 by Hughes

Relating to requiring a man determined by adjudication or acknowledgment to be a child's father to pay retroactive child support beginning on the date of the child's conception.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 591 by Zaffirini, Perry

Relating to child water safety requirements for certain organizations; authorizing disciplinary action, including an administrative penalty.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 592 by Alvarado

Relating to the creation of the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund.
To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 593 by Sparks

Relating to licensing and oversight of certain facilities and homes providing substitute care for children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 594 by Zaffirini

Relating to requirements for and charges for service from public drinking water supply systems.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 595 by Kolkhorst

Relating to requiring parental consent for psychological or psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment conducted by a school district employee.

To Committee on Education.

SB 596 by Gutierrez

Relating to term limitation for United States Senators from Texas.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 597 by Eckhardt

Relating to the designation of liaison officers to assist certain students at public institutions of higher education who are parents.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 598 by Birdwell

Relating to enhancing the punishment for certain conduct constituting the criminal offense of aggravated assault.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 599 by Birdwell

Relating to the carrying or possession of a handgun by a district clerk and the issuance of a handgun license to a district clerk.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 600 by Birdwell

Relating to increasing the minimum term of imprisonment for certain criminal offenses involving the smuggling of persons.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 601 by Birdwell

Relating to a campus of the Texas State Technical College System located in Ellis County.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 602 by Birdwell

Relating to the law enforcement authority of federal border patrol agents.

To Committee on Border Security.

SB 603 by Hughes

Relating to the repeal of the authority of political subdivisions to adopt or enforce juvenile curfews.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 604 by King

Relating to land services performed by a landman.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 605 by Springer

Relating to the definition of state-mandated health benefits for the purposes of consumer choice of benefits plans.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 606 by Springer

Relating to the continuation of the Red River Boundary Commission.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 607 by Johnson

Relating to the distribution of funds designated for the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 608 by Johnson

Relating to the designation of Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and Diwali as optional holidays.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 609 by Johnson

Relating to a voluntary home nursing visitation program for newborns.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 610 by Hughes

Relating to an unauthorized vote by a delegate or alternate delegate to a federal Article V convention; creating a criminal offense.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 611 by Johnson, Parker

Relating to the regulation of certain senior living facilities.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 612 by Johnson, Parker

Relating to the municipal sales and use tax for street maintenance.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 613 by Springer

Relating to certain sales or purported sales of homestead property that are classified as loans.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 614 by Perry

Relating to certain procedures relating to children placed under a parental child safety placement.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 615 by Blanco

Relating to the issuance of state parklands passports to and a waiver of certain state park fees for veterans and certain family members of a person who died while serving in the United States armed forces.

To Committee on Veteran Affairs.

SB 616 by Blanco

Relating to motorcycle profiling by peace officers.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 617 by Blanco

Relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in ad valorem tax appraisal records.

To Committee on Border Security.

SB 618 by Johnson

Relating to the public information law.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 619 by Johnson

Relating to newborn and infant hearing screenings.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 620 by Campbell

Relating to prohibiting the investment of state funds in certain companies doing business with significant foreign narcotics traffickers.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 621 by Parker

Relating to the position of chief information security officer in the Department of Information Resources.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 622 by Parker

Relating to the disclosure of certain prescription drug information by a health benefit plan.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 623 by Johnson

Relating to equipment used or intended for use in testing or analyzing a controlled substance.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 624 by Kolkhorst, Middleton

Relating to the permitting of renewable energy generation facilities by the Public Utility Commission of Texas; authorizing fees.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 625 by Campbell

Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 626 by Hall

Relating to the affidavit form provided by the Department of State Health Services for certain immunization exemptions.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 627 by Menéndez

Relating to the entitlement of certain municipalities to certain tax revenue related to a hotel and convention center project.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 628 by Menéndez

Relating to the information that must be included in a school district bond election proposition.

To Committee on Education.

SB 629 by Menéndez

Relating to the use of opioid antagonists on public and private school campuses and at or in transit to or from off-campus school events.

To Committee on Education.

SB 630 by Menéndez

Relating to a public outreach and education campaign for mixed-status families regarding eligibility for Medicaid and the child health plan program.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 631 by Menéndez

Relating to eligibility for unemployment compensation for employees who leave the workplace due to sexual harassment.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 632 by Menéndez

Relating to the eligibility for unemployment compensation of certain employees who leave the workplace to care for a minor child.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 633 by Menéndez

Relating to the provision of information regarding mental health and suicide prevention services to entering students at public institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 634 by Menéndez

Relating to prior authorization for prescription drug benefits related to the treatment of chronic and autoimmune diseases.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 635 by Eckhardt

Relating to the development of a state information technology credential offered by public junior colleges to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 636 by Eckhardt

Relating to voter registration application forms in high schools.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 637 by Eckhardt

Relating to the use of preferential voting in certain elections.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 638 by Springer

Relating to the governance and decision-making of groundwater conservation districts in contested cases.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 639 by Miles

Relating to the continuation of a limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes if the property is acquired by and qualifies as the homestead of an heir of the owner or the owner's spouse or surviving spouse.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 640 by Schwertner

Relating to the maintenance of certain state buildings allocated for legislative use and their grounds.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 641 by Johnson

Relating to the vaccination against bacterial meningitis of public school students.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 642 by Zaffirini

Relating to the issuance of a transcript by a postsecondary educational institution to a student who is in default on certain student loans.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 643 by Zaffirini

Relating to the conduct of charitable bingo.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 644 by Huffman

Relating to the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue by certain municipalities.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 645 by Huffman

Relating to the criminal penalties for certain controlled substance offenses; increasing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 646 by Nichols

Relating to formula funding for certain nonresident students enrolled at Lamar State College–Orange.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 647 by Springer

Relating to authorizing certain political subdivisions to change the date on which their general election for officers is held.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 648 by Middleton

Relating to the procedure for removing certain prosecuting attorneys for their policies on the enforcement of criminal offenses; providing a private cause of action.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 649 by Middleton

Relating to participation in athletic activities based on biological sex; providing a civil right to action for K-12 athletes and college athletes.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 650 by Perry

Relating to the licensing requirements for certain operators of wastewater systems and public water systems.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 651 by Perry

Relating to the repeal of certain contracting requirements under the Medicaid managed care delivery model.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 652 by Schwertner, Perry

Relating to the office of the state long-term care ombudsman.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 653 by Blanco, Campbell

Relating to certain offenses regarding parking privileges of veterans with disabilities.

To Committee on Veteran Affairs.

SB 654 by Hall

Relating to requiring the disclosure of public school curricula and teaching materials.

To Committee on Education.

SB 655 by Hall

Relating to the provision of notice of certain proposed rules by state agencies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 656 by Zaffirini

Relating to an optional health condition or disability designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 657 by Menéndez

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Teacher Recruitment Scholarship Program and the Texas Teacher Retention Incentive Program.

To Committee on Education.

SB 658 by Perry

Relating to the disposition of money from certain attorney accounts delivered to the comptroller as unclaimed property.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

SB 659 by Eckhardt

Relating to the expansion of the territory of an emergency services district into the territory of a municipality.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 660 by Eckhardt

Relating to the election of board members of certain emergency services districts.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 661 by LaMantia

Relating to the notification of a peace officer through an indication associated with vehicle registration that the vehicle owner may be transporting a person with a disability.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 662 by LaMantia

Relating to the implementation of telehealth services programs at certain public primary and secondary schools and the appointment of a telehealth services program task force to conduct a study and issue a report concerning the implementation of those programs.

To Committee on Education.

SB 663 by Perry

Relating to the development of a strategic plan for home and community-based services provided under Medicaid and the child health plan program and the establishment of an advisory committee on home and community-based services.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 664 by Perry

Relating to the labeling of analogue and cell-cultured products.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 665 by Johnson, Parker

Relating to the tracking, reporting, and disposition of proceeds and property from asset forfeiture proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 666 by Hall

Relating to complaint information and disciplinary procedures of the Texas Medical Board.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 667 by West

Relating to establishing a state historical marker program to honor African Americans who served in the Texas Legislature during Reconstruction.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SB 668 by West

Relating to requiring school districts to make available certain school safety training courses to employees of child-care facilities and certain organizations providing out-of-school-time care.

To Committee on Education.

SB 669 by West

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

To Committee on Finance.

SB 670 by West

Relating to the revision of the essential knowledge and skills of the public school social studies curricula to include instruction relating to the history of persons with disabilities.

To Committee on Education.

SB 671 by West

Relating to the expansion of eligibility for Medicaid to certain individuals under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 672 by Zaffirini

Relating to baccalaureate degree programs offered by certain public junior colleges.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 673 by Zaffirini

Relating to the reporting and investigating certain causes of child abuse or neglect involving a pregnant woman's use of a controlled substance.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 674 by Eckhardt

Relating to municipal and county building codes.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 675 by Springer, Perry

Relating to small business recovery funds and insurance tax credits for certain investments in those funds; imposing a monetary penalty; authorizing fees.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 676 by Johnson

Relating to conditions applicable to health benefit plan coverage of in vitro fertilization procedures.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 677 by Johnson

Relating to grand jury proceedings.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 678 by Johnson

Relating to phasing out the tax reduction for certain high-cost gas.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 679 by Johnson

Relating to the use of audiovisual technology during meetings by the Texas Water Development Board and the Water Conservation Advisory Council.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 680 by Johnson

Relating to the disclosure of certain contracting information under the public information law.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

SB 681 by Johnson

Relating to the applicability of certain laws regarding the occupational licensing of individuals with criminal convictions to the licensing of certain long-term health care facility personnel.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 682 by West

Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of the possession, manufacture, transport, repair, or sale of certain devices intended to modify firearms.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 683 by West

Relating to the authorization by a school district or open-enrollment charter school for a person to carry or possess a weapon on school premises for purposes of safety and security.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 684 by Hall

Relating to the inspection periods for certain motor vehicles; increasing certain fees.

To Committee on Transportation.

SB 685 by Johnson

Relating to the procedure for an application for a writ of habeas corpus filed in certain felony cases.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 686 by Johnson

Relating to the procedures for the expunction of arrest records and files for persons who complete certain court programs or pretrial intervention programs.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 687 by Johnson

Relating to the filing of applications for expunction of certain information contained in arrest records and files.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 688 by Johnson, Parker

Relating to the prosecution of the offense of forgery.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

SB 689 by Middleton

Relating to the establishment of a public safety dual credit grant program by the Texas Education Agency.

To Committee on Education.

SB 690 by Middleton

Relating to the appointment of an inspector general for education and the creation of a division of inspector general for education in the governor's office to investigate the administration of public education.

To Committee on Education.

SB 691 by Kolkhorst

Relating to an animal share exemption for certain meat and meat food products; providing a civil penalty.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SB 692 by Zaffirini, Hinojosa

Relating to baccalaureate degree programs offered by certain public junior colleges.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 693 by LaMantia

Relating to the salary and wages paid to public school employees.

To Committee on Education.

SB 694 by Hughes

Relating to liability of a religious organization or an employee or volunteer of a religious organization for security services provided to the organization.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 695 by Hughes

Relating to funding for The University of Texas at Tyler's school of pharmacy.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 696 by West

Relating to student buildings fees at The University of Texas at Dallas.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

SB 697 by Alvarado

Relating to authorizing school districts to provide funding using money received under the Foundation School Program to community-based organizations for purposes of reimbursing private employers for paid internships provided to certain students in career and technology education programs in the district.

To Committee on Education.

SB 698 by Eckhardt

Relating to the prosecution of the offense of unlawful transfer of a firearm.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 699 by Eckhardt

Relating to the continuation of a health care provider participation program by a certain hospital district.

To Committee on Local Government.

SB 700 by Eckhardt

Relating to the implementation by public schools of certain communicable disease public health orders issued by a health authority.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SCR 11 by Gutierrez, Alvarado, Eckhardt, Johnson, LaMantia, Menéndez

Memorializing Congress to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA).

To Committee on State Affairs.

SCR 12 by Gutierrez, Eckhardt, Menéndez

Granting the victims of the Robb Elementary attack permission to sue the State of Texas.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SCR 13 by West

Recognizing the Texas Black Reconstruction Legislators Recognition Act.

To Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

SCR 15 by Gutierrez, Eckhardt

Approving the construction of a statue or monument in the place of the Confederate Soldiers Monument that pays tribute to Texans lost in mass shootings.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SCR 16 by Parker

Designating November as Ukrainian Genocide Remembrance Month for a 10-year period beginning in 2023.

To Committee on Administration.

SCR 17 by Hughes

Urging Congress to propose and submit to the states for ratification the "Keep Nine" amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 29 by Paxton

Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing a parent's right to direct a child's education.

To Committee on Education.

SJR 30 by Gutierrez

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas to conduct gaming by executing a gaming compact with this state; providing for occupational licensing under the compact; limiting certain taxes and fees.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 31 by Blanco

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the governing body of a political subdivision other than a school district to adopt an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a dollar amount, of the market value of an individual's residence homestead.

To Committee on Local Government.

SJR 32 by Blanco

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the authority of the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

To Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

SJR 33 by Hall

Proposing a constitutional amendment to require that future constitutional amendments become effective only if approved by a majority of the voters in at least three-fourths of the counties of the state.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 34 by Blanco

Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to set a lower limit on the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes.

To Committee on Local Government.

SJR 35 by Birdwell

Proposing a constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 36 by Birdwell

Rescinding the automatic rescission of certain applications made by the Texas Legislature to the United States Congress to call a national convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for proposing any amendment to that constitution.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SJR 37 by Miles

Proposing a constitutional amendment to permit additional uses of certain dedicated general revenue transferred each fiscal year to the state highway fund.

To Committee on Transportation.

SJR 38 by Miles

Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for the continuation of a limitation on the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes if the property is acquired by and qualifies as the homestead of an heir of the owner or the owner's spouse or surviving spouse.

To Committee on Local Government.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following Message from the Governor was read and was filed with the Secretary of the Senate:

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MESSAGE

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
EIGHTY-EIGHTH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION:

I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, pursuant to Article IV, Section 9, of the Texas Constitution, do hereby submit the following message to the Senate and House of Representatives of the 88th Legislature, now convened:

Information concerning the condition of the state (text attached).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Greg Abbott
Governor

Austin, Texas

February 16, 2023

Good evening to members of the Texas Legislature, members of the Texas Supreme Court, state officials, and to my fellow Texans. As we gather tonight in San Marcos, the state of our state has never been more exceptional.

Texans have inherited a legendary pedigree. A state first settled by brave pioneers willing to risk everything for the promise of freedom and opportunity. Texas is fulfilling that promise.

I'm speaking to you from the manufacturing floor of Noveon. It is a cutting-edge business in the critical field of Rare Earth Elements. They provide essential materials for things used every day like refrigerators, trucks, MRI machines, oil rigs, even materials for ballistic missiles for America to defend itself.

Most rare earth materials now come from China. If that supply is ever disrupted, many of the things we do every day would come to a halt. The future of Texas and the United States should not depend on China. We must embrace innovation like Noveon to make Texas more self-reliant to create our own products, and to secure the Texas of tomorrow.

With the help of businesses like Noveon, Texas is number one in the United States for new jobs. In fact, since I became Governor, Texas has added more than 1.9 million new jobs. We're also number one for economic development, number one for exports, and number one for Fortune 500 headquarters.

Our \$2 trillion economy makes Texas the ninth largest economy in the world.

All across our state business is booming. From our large metros to rural Texas, and everywhere in between, businesses large and, small have led Texas to be ranked the number one state for business every year that I've been Governor.

That success has been driven by hardworking Texans. It has been aided by strategic economic development tools. To keep Texas the best state for business our local communities need new economic development tools this session. And local businesses will flourish even more if we reduce the gridlock in our courts by creating specialized courts with the expertise to deal with complex commercial litigation.

One thing that the Texas of tomorrow needs is a highly skilled workforce. I was at Odessa College two weeks ago with Senator Sparks and Representative Landgraaf to see first-hand how community colleges are training the workforce of tomorrow.

I met Ariel Aguilar a young graduate who was so grateful for the program. We're proud to have him here tonight. Instead of studying subjects irrelevant to his career, the job skill program gave him the ability to study what he needed. It also quickly landed him a good paying career.

Our goal is to ensure that every Texan is prepared to succeed in high-demand industries like, technology, healthcare, and energy. That's why this session we will reward community colleges that produce skilled, employable Texans.

As I travel across Texas, there's one thing I hear loud and clear. Property taxes are suffocating Texans. We must fix that this session.

Hard-working Texans produced the largest budget surplus in Texas history. That money belongs to the taxpayers. We should return it to you with the largest property tax cut in the history of Texas.

Working with Senator Huffman and Representative Bonnen, we have all proposed using \$15 billion to cut property taxes. Now we must ensure that it provides lasting property tax relief. To get that done, cutting property taxes will be an emergency item this session.

Our booming economy and growing population means we must bolster our infrastructure. We began preparing for this over the past decade. Tonight, I'm proud to tell you, we will soon announce a \$100 billion plan to build transportation infrastructure in Texas. I want to thank Senator Nichols and Representative Canales for their leadership on this issue.

Also, we ALREADY passed fourteen bi-partisan laws that strengthened the power grid. Since then, no Texan has lost power because of the state grid.

But we all know that increased demand will be placed on the grid as Texas continues to grow. So, we will build a grid strong enough to power Texas for the next century. In fact, in just the last month, multiple electric generation projects have been announced, adding reliable power to our grid.

People have been coming to Texas in search of liberty for almost 200 years. We must protect that liberty.

That's why I'm announcing an emergency item to end COVID restrictions forever. We must prohibit any government from imposing, COVID mask mandates, COVID vaccine mandates, and from closing any business or school because of COVID. These actions will help Texas close the door on COVID restrictions. Also, we must change how government responds to future pandemics, including requiring the Legislature to convene if another pandemic is ever declared.

We must also protect the freedom and rights of parents who have children in school.

Public Schools play an essential role in our state. They educate our future entrepreneurs, scientists, and leaders. We must ensure that our education system works for every child. Thanks to Legislators, per student funding is at an all-time high. We've provided more funding for public education, and more funding for teacher pay raises than ever in the history of our state. And this session we'll do even more.

Many public schools in Texas are excellent. In fact, we are number one for National Blue Ribbon Schools, and we have one of the best high school graduation rates in America.

When I grew up in Longview and Duncanville, we were taught the basics – reading, writing, math, and science. We were inspired by our country's founding and how it stands apart from the rest of the world as the beacon of liberty and opportunity.

Many children today are not educated like you and I were. I hear frustrations from many parents, some are with us here tonight.

The Aly Family grew frustrated watching their child fall behind because she was forced to learn from home.

Eric Richerson was astonished that his child's teacher would not work with him to address the specific needs of his child.

Hillary Hickland was angry to learn that a woke agenda was being forced on her daughter in school.

Let's be clear, schools are for education, not indoctrination. Schools should not push woke agendas. Period.

We must reform curriculum, get kids back to the basics of learning, and we must empower parents. Parents deserve access to curriculum, school libraries, and what their children are taught. We will do that with our Parental Bill of Rights.

Parents also deserve education freedom. Without it, some parents are hindered in helping their child succeed. That must change this year.

The way to do that is with school choice through state-funded Education Savings Accounts. We've seen them work in other states, and here in Texas. I created Education Savings Accounts for special needs students. It worked so well that a bi-partisan super-majority passed it into law and now wants to increase funding for it. Now it's time to provide every parent with the ability to choose the best education option for their child.

To be clear, under this school choice program, all public schools will be fully funded for every student. This is so vital to the future of our state, I am making Education Freedom an emergency item this session.

Children must also have safe schools. We must establish the safest standards, and then use the newly created Chief of School Safety to mandate compliance with those standards, and we must provide more mental health professionals in our schools.

We cannot let another school year go by without making our schools safer. That is why I am making school safety an emergency item this session.

In addition to protecting our children in schools, we must also help our seniors in nursing homes by providing a pay increase for those who care for them.

One of the most dangerous places is one you would least expect: a courtroom where activist judges are using low bail to let dangerous criminals back on the streets.

Last September, a law enforcement officer in Harris County was murdered by a criminal let out on bail from a prior murder charge.

Harris County's revolving door bail practice is literally killing people. In just two years, more than 100 people were murdered in Houston by criminals who were let out on multiple felony bonds.

We did a lot last session with Senator Huffman and Representatives Murr and Smith to impose tougher bail, but this session we must shut and lock that revolving door by passing laws that keep dangerous criminals behind bars, and holding accountable the judges who let them out.

To get that done, I am making ending revolving door bail an emergency item this session.

Another public safety issue is gun crime. Some want more gun laws, but too many local officials won't even enforce the gun laws that are already on the books. Most gun crimes are committed by criminals who possess guns illegally. We need to leave prosecutors and judges with no choice but to punish those criminals and remove them and their guns from our streets.

I want a mandatory minimum sentence for criminals who illegally possess guns of 10 years behind bars.

Guns, drugs, cartel gangs. All kinds of illegal activities are assailing our border, all while Washington has abandoned its duty.

Texans are furious about the lawlessness caused by Biden's open border policy, and they should be.

During the prior administration we had the lowest illegal crossings in decades, but this past year, the United States set a record for the most illegal crossings ever.

Working with Speaker Phelan and Lt. Gov Patrick, Texas has done more than any state ever to secure our border. We deployed the National Guard to turn back illegal immigrants. DPS has arrested more than 24,000 criminals, and seized enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States.

I also designated Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations. To relieve border communities from over-crowded conditions, I bussed migrants to sanctuary cities in other states, and Texas is the only state in the history of America, to build its own border wall.

To coordinate these efforts, I hired a former Border Patrol leader named Mike Banks to be the first Texas Border Czar. Texans should be proud of their National Guard soldiers and DPS Troopers who are working around the clock under the leadership of Major General Suelzer and Colonel McCraw.

Let's also thank our Texas Sheriffs who are on the front-line battling Biden's border crisis. Members of the National Border Patrol Council, including their president Brandon Judd work with us every day, and they join us here tonight.

We know that more must be done. That's why the House and Senate are proposing another \$4.6 billion to strengthen our border security efforts.

But know this, illegal smuggling is being aided and abetted by U.S. residents. That must stop. We must impose a mandatory minimum jail sentence of at least 10 years for anyone caught smuggling illegal immigrants in Texas.

Doing more to secure our border is an emergency item this session. I look forward to working with Senator Birdwell and Representative Guillen to get this done.

Our porous border has tragic side effects. Fentanyl poisoning has now become the leading killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. This travesty must end.

I've met Texans whose families were ripped apart by fentanyl. With us here tonight is Veronica Kaprosy from San Antonio. Last year she told me about her daughter Danica, a bright, young woman lost in her prime because she took a pill, not knowing that it was laced with fentanyl. The story of Danica and too many others inspired us to start the #One-Pill-Kills awareness campaign.

Mexican drug cartels make fentanyl look like legitimate medicine – even candy. But that one pill can kill.

To end cartel killings of Texans, we must do two things, call fentanyl deaths what they are – poisonings, and prosecute them as murders. We must also increase the supply of lifesaving Narcan so we can save more Texans who are ambushed by fentanyl.

Addressing the fentanyl crisis is an emergency item this session.

No doubt we have work ahead of us, but we're building on a storied legacy. One hundred and eighty-seven years after Texas was founded it has never been a better time to be a Texan.

Texas is America's economic juggernaut. Where a small family business can aspire to employ hundreds and become leaders in their local community. Where all Texans can chart their own destiny.

Texas is the seat of knowledge where children will have safer schools to master the skills that will prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow.

Texas is the energy capital of the world where we will strengthen our electric grid to power us for generations to come.

Texas is the home of justice, where dangerous criminals will stay locked behind bars, and law-abiding Texans will have their liberty protected.

This session we will ensure Texas remains the leader of this nation, an unflinching force in this world. Together we will build a Texas for the next generation – the Texas of Tomorrow

The First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in saying thank you to our fellow Texans. We pray that God blesses you and that God will forever bless the great State of Texas.

(Note: Prepared text)

ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate at 10:43 a.m. adjourned, in memory of the life of Jose Angel Martinez, until 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

In Memory
of
Jose Angel Martinez
Senate Resolution 173

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Jose Angel Martinez, who died on December 16, 2019, at the age of 67; and

WHEREAS, Jose Angel Martinez was born on August 2, 1952, in El Palmarito, Nuevo León, Mexico; he attended elementary school through the third grade before immigrating with his family to the United States; and

WHEREAS, A man of determination and strength, Mr. Martinez served as a foreman in the Central Valley of California and was employed with the same farmer for nearly 50 years; he was blessed with four children and nine grandchildren, who were a source of great pride and joy in his life; and

WHEREAS, A devoted father, Mr. Martinez instilled in his children the values of hard work, self-reliance, and the importance of contributing to one's community; he helped his children achieve their dreams and found great reward in their successes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Martinez cherished time spent with family, and he enjoyed his visits during the holidays with family members in the Rio Grande Valley; he resided in Mission while being cared for by family, and he returned to his native Mexico, where he spent his final days; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Martinez was a source of strength and inspiration in the lives of those who knew him, and he leaves behind memories that will be forever treasured by his family and friends and by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Jose Angel Martinez; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jose Angel Martinez.

HINOJOSA

