89ᵗʰ Legislative Session Update

Item# 25-299, March 4, 2025

Session by the numbers

- Day 50 of 140
  - Bills cannot pass either Chamber until the 60th day of session unless it's a Governor's emergency item.
- 3,196 bills filed in the House
- 1,625 bills filed in the Senate
- 256 bills tracked by the City
- 27 bills related to the City's Legislative Program
- 1,127 bills tracked by Texas Municipal League

Governor's Emergency Items

Property tax relief

Historic investments in Texas' water supply

Increasing teacher pay

Expanding career training

Education savings accounts

Bail reform

Creating the Texas Cyber Command to protect critical infrastructure

Lt. Governor's Priority Items (Highlights)

- **Senate Bill 2 – Providing School Choice**
- Senate Bill 3 – Banning THC in Texas
- **Senate Bill 4 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to $140,000 ($150,000 for seniors)**
- Senate Bill 6 – Increasing Texas' Electric Grid Reliability
- Senate Bill 7 – Increasing Investments in Texas' Water Supply
- Senate Bill 8 – Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government's Deportation Efforts
- **Senate Bill 9 – Reforming Bail – Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets**
- Senate Bill 19 – Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists

Speaker's Priority Items (Highlights)

- House Bill 2 – Public school funding and public school finance
- House Bill 3 – Education Savings Account Program
- House Bill 4 – Public school accountability and operations
- House Bill 6 – Discipline in public schools
- House Bill 20 – Creating the Applied Sciences Pathway Program

Texas Budget

- The Legislature's only constitutional duty is to pass a budget.
- At the beginning of Session, the Comptroller provides the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) to the Legislature.
  - 2025-26 BRE estimated $195 billion in available revenue for general purpose spending
- SB 1 / HB 1: Texas Budget Bills
  - $330 billion in all funds
  - $150 billion in general revenue
    - $6.5 billion in new property tax cuts
    - $6.5 billion for border security
    - $4.9 billion in additional spending for schools
    - $2.5 billion for water infrastructure projects

Bill Tracking & Engagement

- Hance Scarborough is tracking legislation related to the City's Legislative Program and other city business.

- All tracked bills have been reviewed by the consultant and staff for initial analysis.

- Once bills are scheduled for committee hearings, relevant department staff will review and provide feedback on how the bill impacts the City.

- Bills that align with the City's Legislative Program will be prioritized for potential action.

Advocacy Efforts

- Mayor Hudspeth and staff met with Denton delegation members in Austin on January 28 to review and discuss the City's Legislative Program and priorities.

- Staff engaged Representative Richard Hayes to file a resolution recognizing Denton as the Halloween Capital of Texas.

- Staff invited delegation members to meet with Council Members and take a staff-led tour of Denton's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

- **Upcoming: Denton County Days on April 2 and 3.**

Session Outlook

- House and Senate Committees will begin hearing bills in the upcoming weeks.
  - Relevant bills will be flagged by our consultant for action and staff will provide written and/or oral testimony on key legislation.
  - Staff will continue to provide updates via email each week.
- Bill filing deadline: Friday, March 14, 2025
  - After the bill filing deadline, committees will work quickly to hear legislation and refer bills to the House and Senate Floor.
    - We can expect floor calendars to begin growing on in late March and early April.
- Last day of session (sine die): June 2, 2025
  - Unless it's a Governor's emergency item, if it hasn't passed, it's dead.

Next Steps

- Staff will continue to provide updates via email each week.

- Staff will present updates at upcoming Work Sessions in April and May.

- Council Members will have the opportunity to engage with state delegation members at Denton County Days and other meetings.