

Legislative Update



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Bill Statistics

- Total # of bills (HBs, SBs, HJR, SJRs) filed: 9,014
- Total # of bills that DSHS tracked: 1,102
- Total # of bills sent to/signed by the Governor: 1,183
- Subset of DSHS tracked bills that have be sent to/signed by the Governor: 155

SB 1 – The Budget & Exceptional Items Highlights



Budget Highlights

- Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) (Rider 23)
 - Funded at \$10M to support ongoing programs, exercises, and readiness for the EMTF
 - \$3M of this will go to the replacement of critical emergency medical response equipment statewide including emergency vehicles, trailers, and durable medical equipment
- HIV Injectable Treatment (Rider 31)
 - New pilot program that is funded at \$600K to provide long-lasting HIV injectable treatment for up to 210 clients eligible for ADAP
- Spay and Neuter Pilot Program (Rider 32)
 - DSHS will implement a \$13M pilot program focused on reducing the population of cats and dogs at risk for unplanned breeding

Budget Highlights

- Whole Blood Pilot Program (Rider 35)
 - \$10M from GR to establish a program to support EMS agencies in administering whole blood to patients in the field suffering from extreme blood loss
 - DSHS will consult with Regional Advisory Councils to determine the most cost-effective method
 - Report due on 11/1/26 will detail the list of awardees, areas served by the grant funds, challenges identified, and reported outcomes
- Future Healthcare Workforce Apprenticeship Support (Rider 36)
 - New rider with \$1M in General Revenue to provide grants to hospitals to develop and implement on-site healthcare workforce apprenticeship programs and prepare a report to post on the website that identifies the hospitals that are participating, number of apprenticeships and their specialty area

Selected Bills



HB 1240 – Definition of the Border

- Authored by Rep. Guillen/Sponsored by Sen. Adam Hinojosa
- Creates a standard definition of the Texas/Mexico Border across numerous statutes.
- Government Code is amended to expand the list of counties included in the Texas-Mexico border region
- Changes the composition of the TFBHO to include additional members
- No specific startup costs appropriated in SB 1/HB 500
- Bill is effective 9/1/26 but there is no required implementation date

Large Implementation Bills

- SB 3 by Perry – Hemp
 - Total THC ban for hemp; allows only for CBD to 21+ adults
 - DSHS will test products and maintain a list of acceptable ones that can be sold; DPS will conduct inspections and verifications
- SB 25 by Kolkhorst – Make Texas Healthy Again
 - Food manufacturers must label food if it contains certain banned ingredients from other countries such as Canada and the UK; DSHS would add this to the list of items to check for in inspections
 - Also contains nutrition and metabolic health continuing education requirements for healthcare professionals
 - Mandates recess/physical education for young children

Vaccine/Immunization Bills

- HB 1586 by Hull– Vaccine Exemption Form
 - DSHS will provide a downloadable exemption form online
- HB 4535 by McQueeny – COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet
 - Must receive written consent before administering COVID-19 vaccine
 - Must include with the Vaccine Information Sheet: benefits/risks associated with the vaccine; expedited manner in which it was developed; whether long-term studies have been conducted; whether manufacturers are subject to civil liability for injuries, and reporting instructions for VAERS
- SB 269 by Perry – Reports of Vaccine- or Drug-Related Adverse Events
 - Requires physicians to report to VAERS or FDA's MedWatch any serious adverse effect suffered by a patient
 - Only applies to vaccines or drugs that are experimental/investigational

SB 1188 – Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

- Authored by Sen. Kolkhorst/Sponsored by Rep. Harris
- Requires healthcare entities to ensure that:
 - Minor's health records are accessible to the minor's parents
 - Personal health data is only accessible to those performing their appropriate duties
 - Implement appropriate technical and administrative safeguards to protection EHRs
- Entities may not collect, store, or share info regarding an individual's credit score or voter registration status
- If healthcare practitioners use AI for diagnostic purposes, then they must review all records created with AI to ensure data is accurate

HB 18 – Rural Health Stabilization and Innovation Act

- Authored by Rep. VanDeaver/Sponsored by Sen. Perry
- Creates the State Office of Rural Hospital Finance (housed under HHSC)
 - Will be tasked with creating a needs and vulnerability index and a plan to help stabilize and support rural hospitals
- Establishes grant programs such as the Rural Hospital Support Grant, the Innovation Grant Program, and the Emergency Hardship Grant Program
- Particular focuses include rural mental health and tele-pediatrics