




Texas 4-H Congress

2024 

BILL BOOK





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The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



PLEDGE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PLEDGE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS FLAG

“Honor the Texas flag;
I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas,
one state under God, one and indivisible.”

4-H PLEDGE AND MOTTO

In support of the 4-H Club Motto
“To Make the Best Better”

I PLEDGE

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to great loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living,
For my club, my community,
my country, and my world.



SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

12 NOON	Unload Buses/Vehicles	Front Drive
12:00 - 5:00 PM	Delegates Arrive at Hotel (Delegates immediately should go to Ballroom area for luggage storage and to meet chaperones)	Capitol Ballroom
12:00 - 5:00 PM	Texas State Capitol Tours as Arranged (more to come later)	Texas Capitol
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Check into Hotel Rooms	Reception Area in Front of Ballrooms
5:00 PM	Governor's Reception (Invitation Only)	16th Floor, #1601
6:00 PM	Dinner	Capitol Ballroom
6:45 PM	Texas 4-H Congress Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Swearing in of Congress Officials 	Capitol Ballroom
7:45 - 10:30 PM	Legislative Workshops	Capitol Ballroom, Capitol View Terrace, Bickler, Barton, Bonnell
10:30 PM	District Meetings	
11:00 PM	Leadership Team Meeting	16th Floor, #1601
11:00 PM	Curfew	

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

7:30 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast Bar in Hotel Lobby (Pay On Your Own)	Hotel Lobby
8:30 AM	Texas State Capitol Tours as Arranged	Texas Capitol
9:00 AM	Walk to Capitol by Districts	Capitol Ballroom
9:45 - 10:15 AM	Opening Joint Session of Texas 4-H Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate • House of Representatives • Press Corps and Lobbyists 	Capitol Extension Auditorium Capitol Extension Auditorium Capitol Extension Auditorium Capitol Extension Auditorium
10:30 - 10:45 AM	House of Representatives Session	Capitol Extension Auditorium
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Senate Session	John H. Reagan Building REJ Conference Center
10:45 - 11:15 AM	House & Senate Public Hearings	Committee Rooms
11:15 - 12:00 Noon	Lunch for House of Representatives	Legislative Conference Center
11:15 AM	Senate Public Hearings (Senate Committee Meetings immediately following hearings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture & Livestock • Education • Energy & Environment • Government, Finance, & Appropriations • Homeland Security & Public Safety • Judiciary & Juvenile Justice • Public Health & Welfare 	
12:00 Noon	House of Representatives Public Hearings (House Committee Meetings immediately following hearings.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture & Livestock • Education • Energy & Environment • Government, Finance, & Appropriations • Homeland Security & Public Safety • Judiciary & Juvenile Justice 	Capitol Extension Auditorium



MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024 CONTINUED

- Public Health & Welfare

12:15 PM	Lunch for Senate, Press Corps & Lobbyists	Legislative Conference Center
1:00 PM	Senate Committees resume	
2:00 PM	Bills passed in committees submitted to House & Senate Calendar Clerks	
2:00 - 2:45 PM	Delegate Break to Prepare Calendars	Texas Capitol
2:45 - 5:00 PM	House of Representatives Session	Capitol Extension Auditorium
2:45 - 5:00 PM	Senate Session	John H. Reagan Building REJ Conference Center
5:45 - 6:15 PM	Lobbyist Reception (Invitation Only)	Capitol View Terrace
6:30 - 8:30 PM	Red, White, and Blue Dinner Theme ***See delegate letter for attire	Capitol Ballroom
8:30 - 10:30 PM	Dance	Capitol Ballroom
10:30 - 11:00 PM	District Meetings	Capitol Ballroom
11:00 PM	Leadership Team Meeting	
11:00 PM	Curfew	Capitol Ballroom

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024

7:00 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast Bar in Hotel Lobby (Pay On Your Own)	Hotel Lobby
8:00 AM	Walk to Capitol by Districts	Capitol Ballroom
9:00 AM	House of Representatives Session	Capitol Extension Auditorium
9:00 AM	Senate Session	John H. Reagan Building REJ Conference Center
11:30 - 12:15 PM	Lunch for Senate	Legislative Conference Center
12:30 - 1:15 PM	Lunch for House of Representatives	Legislative conference Center
12:30 PM	Senate Session Continues	John H. Reagan Building REJ Conference Center
1:30 PM	House of Representative Session Continues	Capitol Extension Auditorium
3:00 PM	House of Representative & Senate End	
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Break	
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Closing Joint Session of Texas 4-H Congress	Capitol Extension Auditorium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate • House of Representatives • Press Corps and Lobbyists 	
4:30 PM	Return Back to Downright Austin Hotel	
7:00 PM	Congress Gala Banquet and Dance	Capitol Ballroom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: John Wayne Walding • Theme: Great Gatsby 	
11:00 PM	District Meetings	Capitol Ballroom
11:00 PM	Leadership Team Meeting	16th Floor, #1601
11:30 PM	Curfew	

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

6:00 - 10:00 AM	Departure of all delegates	Hotel Lobby
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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	TITLE	NAME	COUNTY/DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE BRANCH	Governor	Dylan Wunderlich	Comal County, District 10
	Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court	William Adkison	Ellis County, District 8
	Youth Lobbyist Coordinator	Emily Schooler	Potter County, District 1
	Youth Lobbyist Coordinator	Justin Hill	Moore County, District 1
	Youth Press Corps Coordinator	Anna Magnuson	Collin County, District 4
	Youth Press Corps Coordinator	Cayleigh Coursey	Coryell County, District 8
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	Speaker of the House	Cooper Mau	Fayette County, District 11
	Clerk of the House	Kayson McAfee	Hunt County, District 4
	Governor’s Floor Leaders:		
	Agriculture and Livestock	Brooke Wanjura	Colorado County, District 11
	Education	Audri Poage	Burnet County, District 7
	Energy and Environment	Madison Chaloupka	Lubbock County, District 2
	Government, Finance, and Appropriations	Wes Shaw	Donley County, District 1
	Homeland Security and Public Safety	Travis Barrett	Leon County, District 8
	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice	Makenna Johnson	Brazos County, District 9
	Public Health and Welfare	Cooper Smith	Brazos County, District 9
	Journal Clerk	Lauren Edwards	Galveston County, District 9
	Calendar Clerk	Madison Moran	Washington County, District 11
	Sergeant-at-Arms	Wesley Bocanegra	Travis County, District 10
	SENATE	Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate	Riley Wallis
Secretary of the Senate		McKenna Guevara	Calhoun County, District 11
Governor’s Floor Leaders:			
Agriculture and Livestock		Ella Porter	Montgomery County, District 9
Education		Jasmine Price	Bell County, District 8
Energy and Environment		Texie Ralston	Hansford County, District 1
Government, Finance, and Appropriations		Joseph LeBlanc	Tarrant County, District 4
Homeland Security and Public Safety		Aiden Hunter	Ellis County, District 8
Judiciary and Juvenile Justice		William Adkison	Ellis County, District 8
Public Health and Welfare		Addilyn Reed	Swisher County, District 2
Journal Clerk		Joseph Fisher	Cooke County, District 4
Calendar Clerk		McKenzie Evans	Burnet County, District 7
Sergeant-at-Arms		Dylan Lynch	Jasper County, District 5



LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS TO THE GOVERNOR

Advisors	Julie Gardner	Extension Specialist - Healthy Lifestyles
	Montza Williams	State 4-H Program Director

LOBBYIST

Adult Coordinators	Garry Branham	Extension Program Specialist - 4-H
Youth Coordinators	Justin Hill	Moore County, District 1
	Emily Schooler	Potter County, District 1
Advisors	Grace Marshall	Extension Program Specialist - 4-H
	Thomas Boyle	Erath County, District 8
Lobbyist Members	CW Johnson	Swisher County, District 2
	Kreede Neal	Archer County, District 3
	Isabelle Parkey	Archer County, District 3
	Turner Sanders	Angelina County, District 5
	Brandon White	Johnson County, District 8
	Klaybourne Eschberger	Milam County, District 8
	Kanin Cleere	Madison County, District 9
	Jackson Skelton	Montgomery County, District 9
	Mary Jo Riley	Walker County, District 9
	Kelsey Johnson	Walker County, District 9
	Rebekah Lansford-Adams	Bastrop County, District 10
	Krystal Tondre	Bexar County, District 10
	Rylee Wunderlich	Comal County, District 10
	Miranda Gonzalez	Kleberg County, District 12

PRESS CORPS

Adult Coordinators	Derrick Bruton	Extension Program Specialist - 4-H
	Callie Cline	Extension Program Specialist - 4-H
Youth Coordinators	Anna Magnuson	Collin County, District 4
	Cayleigh Coursey	Coryell County, District 8
Advisors	Vera Bullard	California 4-H
Press Corps Members	Maggie Meeks	Dallam County, District 1
	Spencer Acker	Castro County, District 2
	Katelyn Martin	Lampasas County, District 7
	Allison Gray	Hood County, District 8
	Sincere Banner	Grimes County, District 9
	Lilliana Lange	Bexar County, District 10
	Annabella Sione	Gillespie County, District 10
	Campbell Baron	Medina County, District 10
	Olivia Hanson	Travis County, District 10
	Preston Galvan	Hidalgo County, District 12
	Michaela Beckman	California 4-H
	Laurelyn Roeser	California 4-H
	Malia Sheaffer	California 4-H

GOVERNOR'S STAFF, LOBBYISTS & PRESS CORPS



MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT	NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT
Teresa McDaniel	Dallam	1	Addison Poynter	Franklin	4
Samuel Taylor	Dallam	1	Kayson McAfee	Hunt	4
Johan Grotegut	Deaf Smith	1	Hannah Dreher	Kaufman	4
Wes Shaw	Donley	1	Hannah Hewitt	Kaufman	4
Kinley Shieldknight	Hansford	1	Katie Jouett	Kaufman	4
Kenzi Williams	Lipscomb	1	Jessi Pearson	Kaufman	4
Ryleigh Clark	Potter	1	Eli Stecher	Kaufman	4
Tyler Jennings	Potter	1	Bronc Thompson	Kaufman	4
Kadie Cox	Sherman	1	Ryan Joyce	Rockwall	4
McKinley Tucker	Hockley	2	Jeet Sodhi	Rockwall	4
Garicyn Bigham	Lamb	2	Isaiah Atoe	Tarrant	4
Kauy Carr	Lamb	2	Kaden Gordillo	Tarrant	4
Ty Carr	Lamb	2	Jackson Tyler	Henderson	5
Bonnie Reese	Lamb	2	Abigail Clifton	Rusk	5
Madison Chaloupka	Lubbock	2	Olivia Clifton	Rusk	5
Brynlee Edwards	Lubbock	2	Charles Rodriguez	Rusk	5
Laney Scott	Lynn	2	Macey Rutherford	Rusk	5
Mason Scott	Lynn	2	Jordis Stark	Rusk	5
Annie Watson	Lynn	2	A'Destanee Diggles	San Augustine	5
McKyla Swierc	Parmer	2	Samuel Sparks	Pecos	6
Kannon Flowers	Swisher	2	Abygail Blaylock	Terrell	6
Avery Goss	Swisher	2	Kaleb Thayer	Terrell	6
Lynnea Johnson	Swisher	2	Trevor Hill	Val Verde	6
Tripp Runnels	Swisher	2	Josue Vasquez	Val Verde	6
Avary Wesley	Swisher	2	Madison Moseley	Brown	7
Ava Dora	Archer	3	Mason Meredith	Burnet	7
Brody Frazier	Archer	3	Audri Poage	Burnet	7
Whit Parkey	Archer	3	Allison Martin	Lampasas	7
Kale Cox	Clay	3	Sydney Kuykendall	Llano	7
Rylie LaMar	Clay	3	Emerson Pool	Llano	7
Ryanne Vicars	Clay	3	Koda Wagner	Llano	7
Jeri Holcomb	Dickens	3	Olivia Bean	Runnels	7
Kirby Miller	Kent	3	Ayla Doran	Schleicher	7
Finley Van Dyk	Parker	3	Cade Parker	Schleicher	7
Kolton Scharbrough	Wichita	3	Rylee Barrett	Tom Green	7
Hadley Young	Wichita	3	Eli Felcman	Tom Green	7
Brayden Baird	Wise	3	Makenzie Mikulik	Tom Green	7
Caroline Colten	Wise	3	Ryland Redden	Tom Green	7
Averie Friesenhahn	Collin	4	Colton Payne	Bell	8
Anneka Hansel	Collin	4	Brock Barrett	Bosque	8
James Lane McDonald	Collin	4	Emma Bell	Bosque	8
Miles McDonald	Collin	4	Timothy Murphy	Bosque	8
Ashlyn Trcka	Dallas	4	Sophia Neumann	Bosque	8
Blakely Bland	Denton	4	Rebekah Tyler	Bosque	8
Sullivan Belew	Franklin	4			

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT	NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT
Preslea Elston	Erath	8	Olivia Floyd	Bexar	10
Kenley Pack	Erath	8	joshlyn stover	Bexar	10
Ryder Sims	Erath	8	Caroline Terrill	Bexar	10
Allison Lewis	Hill	8	Addison Engquist	Comal	10
Hannah Lewis	Hill	8	Joseph Haegelin	Comal	10
Kade Davis	Johnson	8	Rayleigh Beyer	Gillespie	10
Anabelle Groom	Johnson	8	Greyson Crenwelge	Gillespie	10
Decara Hemsath	Johnson	8	Addison Hahn	Gillespie	10
Everett Snoddy	Johnson	8	Robert Hattenbach	Gonzales	10
Travis Barrett	Leon	8	Elisabeth Irving	Gonzales	10
John Landry	Leon	8	Grayson Buaas	Hays	10
Makenzi Willard	Leon	8	Parker Buaas	Hays	10
Calee Scoggins	Mclennan	8	Peter Lockwood	Kerr	10
Kenzie Hobbs	Milam	8	Callie Waiser	Kerr	10
Graycie Montfort	Navarro	8	Caydie Castro	Kinney	10
Payton Alexander	Somervell	8	Madeleine Ducharme	Kinney	10
Ashlynn Conner	Somervell	8	Wesley Bocanegra	Travis	10
Charlie Outen	Somervell	8	Alice Moody	Travis	10
Dixie Snodgrass	Somervell	8	Daria Sempsrott	Travis	10
Jillian Gardner	Brazoria	9	Hope Smith	Uvalde	10
Roan Nash	Brazoria	9	Bryce Ferrell	Wilson	10
Anthony Peter Quinn	Brazoria	9	Samantha Butler	Bee	11
Ansley Heifrin	Brazos	9	Brooke Wanjura	Colorado	11
Makenna Johnson	Brazos	9	Gunnar Frank	Dewitt	11
Aubrey Smith	Brazos	9	Andrew Hahn	Dewitt	11
Caitlin Smith	Brazos	9	Ella Jander	Dewitt	11
Cooper Smith	Brazos	9	Cooper Mau	Fayette	11
Lauren Edwards	Galveston	9	Reagan Moreau	Fayette	11
Madyson McAshlan	Galveston	9	Logan Poncik	Fayette	11
Maya Holiday	Grimes	9	McCrae Davidson	Karnes	11
Kaylee Abercrombie	Hardin	9	Brayden Dillingham	Karnes	11
Vallie Deville	Jefferson	9	Makayla Janysek	Karnes	11
Luke Landry	Jefferson	9	Addison Rouse	Karnes	11
Kaylie Perdue	Liberty	9	Kaitlyn Gilbert	Matagorda	11
Lani Duncan	Montgomery	9	Scollie Saha	Matagorda	11
Azalee Porter	Montgomery	9	Mattie Garrett	Victoria	11
Jessica Skelton	Montgomery	9	Madison Moran	Washington	11
Zoe Chick	Walker	9	Audrey Schmidt	Washington	11
Emily Lamb	Walker	9	Emma Cobb	Wharton	11
Adam Shackelford	Walker	9	Abigail Porter	Wharton	11
Lilliana Haddox	Waller	9	Abby Wallis	Wharton	11
Harley Mauldin	Waller	9	Carolina Salas	Hidalgo	12
Elliora Groot	Bandera	10	Diego Salas	Hidalgo	12
Sarah Masur	Bastrop	10	Gabriela Hare	Kleberg	12
Clare Whitaker	Bastrop	10	Julie Jones	Live Oak	12



MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT
Texie Ralston	Hansford	1
Aidan Hill	Moore	1
Katie Littlejohn	Potter	1
Granger Smith	Borden	2
Mason Hart	Hale	2
Jeremy Burt	Lamb	2
Brindle Harper	Lamb	2
Addilyn Reed	Swisher	2
Joseph Fisher	Cooke	4
Trevor Trcka	Dallas	4
RuthEllen Stecher	Kaufman	4
Jind Sodhi	Rockwall	4
Joseph LeBlanc	Tarrant	4
Addisyn Horn	Harrison	5
Robert Jones	Jasper	5
Dylan Lynch	Jasper	5
RaiSheletta Lovell	San Augustine	5
Ella Jensen	Val Verde	6
Rylee Kahler	Val Verde	6
McKenzie Evans	Burnet	7
Seth Wootan	Llano	7
Paysley Branham	Runnels	7
Emersyn Blanek	Tom Green	7
Jasmine Price	Bell	8
Caroline Wood	Bell	8
Piper Boyd	Bosque	8
William Adkison	Ellis	8
Lydia Browne	Ellis	8
Aiden Hunter	Ellis	8
Carly Coker	Leon	8
Liam Miller	Somervell	8
Carson Dodd	Brazos	9
Camryn Skaggs	Brazos	9
Hannah Griffice	Chambers	9
Caitlyn Grange	Lee	9
Ella Porter	Montgomery	9
Hailey Hill	Waller	9
Esther Groot	Bandera	10
Brady Masur	Bastrop	10
Antonie Martinez	Caldwell	10
Addison Wiley	Guadalupe	10
Hayden Dittmar	Kerr	10
Maryanna Tessmann	Travis	10

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT
McKenna Guevara	Calhoun	11
Jacquelyn Finney	Dewitt	11
Harper Mau	Fayette	11
Ansley Kubecka	Matagorda	11
Riley Wallis	Wharton	11
Owen Bryant	Kleberg	12

HOUSE ADVISORS

NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT
Cari Snider	Potter	1
Brandon Cave	Kent	3
Makenzie Banks	San Augustine	5
Tommy Yeater	Val Verde	6
Haley Cowley	Ward	6
Caleb Kott	Sterling	7
Sidney Atchley	Ellis	8
Hendrix Broussard	Brazos	9
Matthew Pfeifer	Brazos	9
Mellanie Mickelson	Bastrop	10
Hector Soto	Webb	12

SENATE ADVISORS

NAME	COUNTY	DISTRICT
Marcus Preuninger	Gray	1
Brandon Albus	Lamb	2
Cory Edwards	Lubbock	2
Katrena Mitchell	Wichita	3
Marlin "Connor" Davis	Cass	4
Carrie Sharp	Kaufman	4
Ryan Merrel	Angelina	5
Hayley Meyer	Tom Green	7
Megan Shaffer	Erath	8
Tonya Poncik	Lee	9
Bret Allen	Uvalde	10
Warner Seidel	Nueces	11
Pearl Jones	Washington	11

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND ADVISORS



TEXAS 4-H LEGISLATIVE ROOMS

- Congress Headquarters
- Governor
- Lobbyists
- Press Corps

TEXAS 4-H LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOMS

Committee	House of Representatives Location	Senate Location
Agriculture and Livestock		
Education	Capitol Extension Auditorium	John H. Reagan Building
Energy & Environment		
Government, Finance, & Appropriations		
Homeland Security and Public Safety		
Judiciary & Juvenile Justice		
Public Health & Welfare		

TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Committee	House of Representatives	Senate
Agriculture and Livestock	Brandon Cave & Cari Snider	Brandon Albus & Carrie Sharp
Education	Hendrix Broussard & Mellanie Mickelson	Connor Davis & Hayley Meyer
Energy & Environment	Sidney Atchley & Hector Soto	Katrena Mitchell & Warner Siedel
Government, Finance, & Appropriations	Haley Cowley & Matthew Pfeifer	Cory Edwards & Marcus Preuninger
Homeland Security and Public Safety	Tommy Yeater	Ryan Merrel
Judiciary & Juvenile Justice	Makenzie Banks	Bret Allen & Pearl Jones
Public Health & Welfare	Caleb Kott	Tonya Poncik



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
1	Dallam	Teresa McDaniel	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
1	Dallam	Maggie Meeks	Press Corps	
1	Dallam	Samuel Taylor	House of Representatives	Education
1	Deaf Smith	Johan Grotegut	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
1	Donley	Wes Shaw	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
1	Hansford	Texie Ralston	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate	Energy and Environment
1	Hansford	Kinley Shieldknight	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
1	Lipscomb	Kenzi Williams	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
1	Moore	Aidan Hill	Senate	Energy and Environment
1	Moore	Justin Hill	Lobbyist Coordinator	
1	Potter	Ryleigh Clark	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
1	Potter	Tyler Jennings	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
1	Potter	Katie Littlejohn	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
1	Potter	Emily Schooler	Lobbyist Coordinator	
1	Sherman	Kadie Cox	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
2	Borden	Granger Smith	Senate	Energy and Environment
2	Castro	Spencer Acker	Press Corps	
2	Hale	Mason Hart	Senate	Homeland Security and Public Safety
2	Hockley	McKinley Tucker	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
2	Lamb	Garicyn Bigham	House of Representatives	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
2	Lamb	Jeremy Burt	Senate	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
2	Lamb	Kauy Carr	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
2	Lamb	Ty Carr	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
2	Lamb	Brindle Harper	Senate	Energy and Environment
2	Lamb	Bonnie Reese	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
2	Lubbock	Madison Chaloupka	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Energy and Environment
2	Lubbock	Brynlee Edwards	House of Representatives	Education
2	Lynn	Laney Scott	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
2	Lynn	Mason Scott	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
2	Lynn	Annie Watson	House of Representatives	Education
2	Parmer	McKyla Swierc	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
2	Swisher	Kannon Flowers	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
2	Swisher	Avery Goss	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
2	Swisher	CW Johnson	Lobbyist	
2	Swisher	Lynnlea Johnson	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
2	Swisher	Addilyn Reed	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate	Public Health and Welfare
2	Swisher	Tripp Runnels	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
2	Swisher	Avary Wesley	House of Representatives	Government, Finance, and Appropriations



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
3	Archer	Ava Dora	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
3	Archer	Brody Frazier	House of Representatives	Education
3	Archer	Kreede Neal	Lobbyist	
3	Archer	Isabelle Parkey	Lobbyist	
3	Archer	Whit Parkey	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
3	Clay	Kale Cox	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
3	Clay	Rylie LaMar	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
3	Clay	Ryanne Vicars	House of Representatives	Education
3	Dickens	Jeri Holcomb	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
3	Kent	Kirby Miller	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
3	Parker	Finley Van Dyk	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
3	Wichita	Kolton Scharbrough	House of Representatives	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
3	Wichita	Hadley Young	House of Representatives	Education
3	Wise	Brayden Baird	House of Representatives	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
3	Wise	Caroline Colten	House of Representatives	Education
4	Collin	Averie Friesenhahn	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
4	Collin	Anneka Hansel	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
4	Collin	Anna Magnuson	Press Corps Coordinator	
4	Collin	James Lane McDonald	House of Representatives	Education
4	Collin	Miles McDonald	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
4	Cooke	Joseph Fisher	Journal Clerk - Senate	
4	Dallas	Ashlyn Trcka	House of Representatives	Education
4	Dallas	Trevor Trcka	Senate	Homeland Security and Public Safety
4	Denton	Blakely Bland	House of Representatives	Education
4	Franklin	Sullivan Belew	House of Representatives	Education
4	Franklin	Addison Poynter	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
4	Hunt	Kayson McAfee	Clerk of the House	
4	Kaufman	Hannah Dreher	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
4	Kaufman	Hannah Hewitt	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
4	Kaufman	Katie Jouett	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
4	Kaufman	Jessi Pearson	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
4	Kaufman	Eli Stecher	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
4	Kaufman	RuthEllen Stecher	Senate	Energy and Environment
4	Kaufman	Bronc Thompson	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
4	Rockwall	Ryan Joyce	House of Representatives	Education
4	Rockwall	Jeet Sodhi	House of Representatives	Education
4	Rockwall	Jind Sodhi	Senate	Education
4	Tarrant	Isaiah Atoe	House of Representatives	Education



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
4	Tarrant	Kaden Gordillo	House of Representatives	Education
4	Tarrant	Joseph LeBlanc	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
5	Angelina	Turner Sanders	Lobbyist	
5	Harrison	Addisyn Horn	Senate	Homeland Security and Public Safety
5	Henderson	Jackson Tyler	House of Representatives	Education
5	Jasper	Robert Jones	Senate	Energy and Environment
5	Jasper	Dylan Lynch	Senate	Sergeant-at-Arms
5	Rusk	Abigail Clifton	House of Representatives	Education
5	Rusk	Olivia Clifton	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
5	Rusk	Charles Rodriguez	House of Representatives	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
5	Rusk	Macey Rutherford	House of Representatives	Education
5	Rusk	Jordis Stark	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
5	San Augustine	A'Destanee Diggles	House of Representatives	Education
5	San Augustine	RaiSheletta Lovell	Senate	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
6	Pecos	Samuel Sparks	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
6	Terrell	Abygail Blaylock	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
6	Terrell	Kaleb Thayer	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
6	Val Verde	Trevor Hill	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
6	Val Verde	Ella Jensen	Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
6	Val Verde	Rylee Kahler	Senate	Homeland Security and Public Safety
6	Val Verde	Josue Vasquez	House of Representatives	Education
7	Brown	Madison Moseley	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
7	Burnet	McKenzie Evans	Senate Calendar Clerk	
7	Burnet	Mason Meredith	House of Representatives	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
7	Burnet	Audri Poage	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Education
7	Lampasas	Allison Martin	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
7	Lampasas	Katelyn Martin	Press Corps	
7	Llano	Sydney Kuykendall	House of Representatives	Education
7	Llano	Emerson Pool	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
7	Llano	Koda Wagner	House of Representatives	Education
7	Llano	Seth Wootan	Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
7	Runnels	Olivia Bean	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
7	Runnels	Paysley Branham	Senate	Education
7	Schleicher	Ayla Doran	House of Representatives	Education
7	Schleicher	Cade Parker	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
7	Tom Green	Rylee Barrett	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
7	Tom Green	Emersyn Blaneck	Senate	Education
7	Tom Green	Eli Felcman	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
7	Tom Green	Makenzie Mikulik	House of Representatives	Education
7	Tom Green	Ryland Redden	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Bell	Colton Payne	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Bell	Jasmine Price	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate	Education
8	Bell	Caroline Wood	Senate	Public Health and Welfare
8	Bosque	Brock Barrett	House of Representatives	Education
8	Bosque	Emma Bell	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
8	Bosque	Piper Boyd	Senate	Public Health and Welfare
8	Bosque	Timothy Murphy	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Bosque	Sophia Neumann	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Bosque	Rebekah Tyler	House of Representatives	Education
8	Coryell	Cayleigh Coursey	Press Corps Coordinator	
8	Ellis	William Adkison	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate/ Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
8	Ellis	Lydia Browne	Senate	Public Health and Welfare
8	Ellis	Aiden Hunter	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Erath	Preslea Elston	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Erath	Kenley Pack	House of Representatives	Education
8	Erath	Ryder Sims	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
8	Hill	Allison Lewis	House of Representatives	Education
8	Hill	Hannah Lewis	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Hood	Allison Gray	Press Corps	
8	Johnson	Kade Davis	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Johnson	Anabelle Groom	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Johnson	Decara Hemsath	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Johnson	Everett Snoddy	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
8	Johnson	Brandon White	Lobbyist	
8	Leon	Travis Barrett	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Leon	Carly Coker	Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Leon	John Landry	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Leon	Makenzi Willard	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	McLennan	Calee Scoggins	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
8	Milam	Kenzie Hobbs	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
8	Navarro	Graycie Montfort	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Somervell	Payton Alexander	House of Representatives	Education
8	Somervell	Ashlynn Conner	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
8	Somervell	Liam Miller	Senate	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
8	Somervell	Charlie Outen	House of Representatives	Education



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
8	Somervell	Dixie Snodgrass	House of Representatives	Education
9	Brazoria	Jillian Gardner	House of Representatives	Education
9	Brazoria	Roan Nash	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
9	Brazoria	Anthony Peter Quinn	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
9	Brazos	Carson Dodd	Senate	Education
9	Brazos	Ansley Heifrin	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
9	Brazos	Makenna Johnson	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
9	Brazos	Camryn Skaggs	Senate	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
9	Brazos	Aubrey Smith	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
9	Brazos	Caitlin Smith	House of Representatives	Education
9	Brazos	Cooper Smith	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Public Health and Welfare
9	Chambers	Hannah Griffice	Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
9	Galveston	Lauren Edwards	Journal Clerk - House	
9	Galveston	Madyson McAshlan	House of Representatives	Education
9	Grimes	Sincere Banner	Press Corps	
9	Grimes	Maya Holiday	House of Representatives	Education
9	Hardin	Kaylee Abercrombie	House of Representatives	Education
9	Jefferson	Vallie Deville	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
9	Jefferson	Luke Landry	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
9	Lee	Caitlyn Grange	Senate	Homeland Security and Public Safety
9	Liberty	Kaylie Perdue	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
9	Madison	Kanin Cleere	Lobbyist	
9	Montgomery	Lani Duncan	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
9	Montgomery	Azalee Porter	House of Representatives	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
9	Montgomery	Ella Porter	Governor's Floor Leader - Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
9	Montgomery	Jackson Skelton	Lobbyist	
9	Montgomery	Jessica Skelton	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
9	Walker	Zoe Chick	House of Representatives	Education
9	Walker	Kelsey Johnson	Lobbyist	
9	Walker	Emily Lamb	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
9	Walker	Mary Jo Riley	Lobbyist	
9	Walker	Adam Shackelford	House of Representatives	Education
9	Waller	Lilliana Haddox	House of Representatives	Education
9	Waller	Hailey Hill	Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
9	Waller	Harley Mauldin	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
10	Bandera	Elliora Groot	House of Representatives	Education
10	Bandera	Esther Groot	Senate	Public Health and Welfare



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
10	Bastrop	Rebekah Lansford-Adams	Lobbyist	
10	Bastrop	Brady Masur	Senate	Education
10	Bastrop	Sarah Masur	House of Representatives	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
10	Bastrop	Clare Whitaker	House of Representatives	Education
10	Bexar	Olivia Floyd	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
10	Bexar	Lilliana Lange	Press Corps	
10	Bexar	Joshlyn Stover	House of Representatives	Education
10	Bexar	Caroline Terrill	House of Representatives	Education
10	Bexar	Krystal Tondre	Lobbyist	
10	Caldwell	Antonie Martinez	Senate	Agriculture and Livestock
10	Comal	Addison Engquist	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
10	Comal	Joseph Haegelin	House of Representatives	Education
10	Comal	Dylan Wunderlich	Governor	
10	Comal	Rylee Wunderlich	Lobbyist	
10	Gillespie	Rayleigh Beyer	House of Representatives	Education
10	Gillespie	Greyson Crenwelge	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
10	Gillespie	Addison Hahn	House of Representatives	Education
10	Gillespie	Annabella Sione	Press Corps	
10	Gonzales	Robert Hattenbach	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
10	Gonzales	Elisabeth Irving	House of Representatives	Education
10	Guadalupe	Addison Wiley	Senate	Education
10	Hays	Grayson Buaas	House of Representatives	Education
10	Hays	Parker Buaas	House of Representatives	Education
10	Kerr	Hayden Dittmar	Senate	Education
10	Kerr	Peter Lockwood	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
10	Kerr	Callie Waiser	House of Representatives	Education
10	Kinney	Caydie Castro	House of Representatives	Education
10	Kinney	Madeleine Ducharme	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
10	Medina	Campbell Baron	Press Corps	
10	Travis	Wesley Bocanegra	House of Representatives	Sergeant-at-Arms
10	Travis	Olivia Hanson	Press Corps	
10	Travis	Alice Moody	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
10	Travis	Daria Sempstrott	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
10	Travis	Maryanna Tessmann	Senate	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
10	Uvalde	Hope Smith	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
10	Wilson	Bryce Ferrell	House of Representatives	Education
11	Bee	Samantha Butler	House of Representatives	Homeland Security and Public Safety
11	Calhoun	McKenna Guevara	Secretary of the Senate	



DELEGATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DISTRICT	COUNTY	NAME	CHAMBER/ROLE	COMMITTEE/TITLE
11	Colorado	Brooke Wanjura	Governor's Floor Leader - House	Agriculture and Livestock
11	Dewitt	Jacquelyn Finney	Senate	Education
11	Dewitt	Gunnar Frank	House of Representatives	Education
11	Dewitt	Andrew Hahn	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
11	Dewitt	Ella Jander	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
11	Fayette	Cooper Mau	Speaker of the House	
11	Fayette	Harper Mau	Senate	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
11	Fayette	Reagan Moreau	House of Representatives	Judiciary and Juvenile Justice
11	Fayette	Logan Poncik	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
11	Karnes	McCrae Davidson	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
11	Karnes	Brayden Dillingham	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
11	Karnes	Makayla Janysek	House of Representatives	Education
11	Karnes	Addison Rouse	House of Representatives	Education
11	Matagorda	Kaitlyn Gilbert	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
11	Matagorda	Ansley Kubecka	Senate	Public Health and Welfare
11	Matagorda	Scollie Saha	House of Representatives	Energy and Environment
11	Victoria	Mattie Garrett	House of Representatives	Education
11	Washington	Madison Moran	House Calendar Clerk	
11	Washington	Audrey Schmidt	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
11	Wharton	Emma Cobb	House of Representatives	Agriculture and Livestock
11	Wharton	Abigail Porter	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
11	Wharton	Abby Wallis	House of Representatives	Education
11	Wharton	Riley Wallis	Lieutenant Governor/ President of the Senate	
12	Hidalgo	Preston Galvan	Press Corps	
12	Hidalgo	Carolina Salas	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
12	Hidalgo	Diego Salas	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
12	Kleberg	Owen Bryant	Senate	Government, Finance, and Appropriations
12	Kleberg	Miranda Gonzalez	Lobbyist	
12	Kleberg	Gabriela Hare	House of Representatives	Education
12	Live Oak	Julie Jones	House of Representatives	Public Health and Welfare
	California 4-H	Michaela Beckman	Press Corps	
	California 4-H	Laurelyn Roeser	Press Corps	
	California 4-H	Malia Sheaffer	Press Corps	



GOVERNOR

The Governor is responsible for recommending certain bills he/she wishes to be passed, urging defeat of others, and approving or vetoing bills passed by the 4-H Legislature.

Specific duties are:

1. Review all bills in the 4-H Legislature Booklet. Develop “package” or list of bills which he/she would like to see passed.
2. Make a brief (about 10 minutes) address to the joint session on Monday which recommends the Governor’s program. This should be a persuasive address of what the governor would like to see passed and accomplished. May also use this as an opportunity to emphasize opposition to certain bills.
3. During the Legislative session, the Governor should observe the House and Senate sessions and committee meetings. The Governor may request the opportunity to speak briefly to the House and Senate separately on a particular bill. He/she should work closely with his floor leaders.
4. Shortly after the beginning of the Legislative session on Tuesday, the Governor will begin receiving bills which have passed both houses. The Governor shall immediately decide whether to: (a) Approve the bill by signing it or (b) Disapprove the bill by vetoing it.
5. The Governor signs bills which he/she approves and announces those which have been vetoed in the presence of the closing joint session in the House Chambers. The passed bills will be presented to a representative to the Governor’s Office.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE) and SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The presiding officer in each house is very important. He or she should be impartial and familiar with the rules of procedure.

In many ways, the presiding officer is like a “traffic cop” to ensure that there is a smooth flow of legislation. The basic duties are:

1. To maintain order in each house; to call the house to order; announce the business before the house.
2. To state the question before the house and to call for the vote. The presiding officer announces the vote, even though the votes are counted by the clerk of the house or secretary of the senate. It is the chair’s privilege to announce the result.
3. To sign all bills and resolutions which are to be sent to the Governor and which have passed the house.
4. The Speaker is a full member of the House and may vote on any question. The Lieutenant Governor is not a member of the Senate and may vote only in the case of a tie.
5. If the Lieutenant Governor must leave his chair, the President pro tempore assumes it. The Speaker may designate a member to preside if he must leave his chair.

SENATORS AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Every delegate will be a state senator, a state representative, or an appointed official during the 4-H Legislature.

The duties of a state senator and state representative are very similar. Your role is to represent the people of your geographic area, that is, your country, district and your state.

Your job is to:

1. Read the attached bills.
2. Try to decide which bills you feel strongly about. Think of good points to be made in debate for and against these bills.
3. Push hard to get your bill adopted in committee and adopted in the house and senate. Think of ways to get your bill adopted, what arguments to use, the members of the house and senate you need to talk with, and what motions you should make to get your bill considered.
4. Oppose strongly those bills which you think are bad and should be defeated. Oppose them in committees, on the floor, in discussions with individual members, etc.
5. Attend the committee meeting to which you are assigned.
6. Attend the sessions of the house to which you are assigned. Listen, participate, and help the good bills get passed; the bad ones defeated. Every representative or senator may speak only once on a particular bill unless there is no other debate on that bill.
 - 5 minutes - authorship and/or sponsorship speech
 - 3 minutes - regular debate
 - 2 minutes - summation speech by author

Special Note

Members are reminded that the purpose of the 4-H Legislature is to learn how our State Legislature operates through participation in a mock session. We are not meeting to argue over technicalities in parliamentary procedure. Please keep in mind that our time is limited and should be used to discuss the substance of bills, rather than minor details. Total debate time on a bill may also have to be limited. The presiding officer has the final say on all matters. Your cooperation is necessary for a successful 4-H Legislature.



GOVERNOR'S FLOOR LEADERS

The Governor will have floor leaders in each house to communicate the governor's feelings on various bills. A floor leader can vote, make motions, and do everything else a legislator can since he or she is a member of the legislature. In addition, the floor leaders will:

1. Participate in debate on various bills, indicating those bills which are supported strongly or opposed strongly by the governor.
 2. When the governor wishes to speak to one of the houses on some of the legislation, one of the floor leaders will seek recognition and say: "Mr. (or Madam) Speaker (or Mr./Madam President in the Senate), I do hereby move that the House (or Senate) stand in recess to await an address by the Governor."
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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The sergeant-at-arms is responsible for securing the attendance of the representatives/senators, enforcing order on the floor, maintaining the decorum of the House/Senate Chambers and assist all officers in carrying out their administrative functions. The sergeant's office may utilize a staff of assistant sergeants, and House/Senate pages and porters.

The sergeant's office distributes supplies, materials, and mail; assists the senatorial/representative offices with their statewide mailing and maintains an inventory of equipment and supplies.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE and CLERK OF THE HOUSE

While the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House are not members of their respective houses and therefore cannot vote, they are important. They handle the paperwork of each house. They are in charge of all assistant clerks and the reading clerks. Their duties are:

1. To keep the original copies of bills in proper order to be taken up by the house according to the calendar.
 2. To properly mark on the original copy of a bill the action taken by the house.
 3. To sign the messages to the other house.
 4. To inform the presiding officer of the results of a vote so that the presiding officer may announce the result. The announcement of the results is the duty of the presiding officer; the clerk/secretary informs the presiding officer.
 5. To maintain a journal of proceedings of what has happened in the house.
 6. On division of the house votes, to direct the counting of the votes.
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READING CLERK

The Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House in the 4-H Legislature shall also serve as reading clerk. The primary duty is to read the short titles of the bills and resolutions, to read messages from the governor and from the other house, and to call the roll. The reading clerk is not a member of either house and cannot vote.

JOURNAL CLERK

The journal clerk in the house and the senate serves directly under the house clerk and secretary of the senate, respectively. The basic duties are to keep a running record of the actions of each house by noting the motions made, the votes taken, the messages received. A journal will be provided for this purpose. The clerk does not take down the contents of the debate, that is, who expressed this opinion and that opinion. Rather, the journal is a record of the official actions:

- bills introduced
- names of senators or representatives who speak for or against a bill
- messages received from the Senate, House, Governor, etc.
- reports made by committees, etc.

At the close of the session, the journal clerk compiles the permanent journal of the current 4-H legislature including bills considered and action taken.

CALENDAR CLERK

The Calendar Clerk in the house and in the Senate serves directly under the House Clerk and the secretary of the senate, respectively. The primary duty is to prepare and distribute a "calendar" or order of business for each day the House and Senate is in session. The "calendar" includes the chronological order of bills and resolutions reported favorably by standing committees. The Calendar Clerk also acts as custodian of all House/Senate bills after they are introduced and until they are finally passed or failed. After signing by the presiding officers, bills or resolutions are sent to the other house or presented to the Governor.

PAGES

Pages will be assigned to each house for use in transmitting official records and messages. At least one page will be assigned to the House Clerk, and one to the Senate Secretary. They shall carry messages pertaining to the official business of each house.



SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE ON HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

FIRST HOUSE	SECOND HOUSE
1. Introduced (1st reading) and referred to committee.	1. Introduced (1st reading) and referred to committee.
2. Committee studies it and reports (recommends) that it is passed.	2. Committee studies it and reports (recommends) that it is passed.
3. Read, amendments added, debated (2nd reading).	3. Read, amendments added, debated (2nd reading).
4. Read third time - up for debate and passage (3rd reading). It passes and is sent to the second house.	4. Read third time- up for debate and passage (3rd reading). Passed and sent to Governor.

GOVERNOR

1. Signs bill or
2. Vetoes bill and returns it to first house where it originated. Both houses must pass bill again to override the veto.

To become law, the same bill must pass each house in identical form. If the second house in step #4 had changed the bill it would have had to go to the first house for approval again. If the houses cannot agree, they sometimes appoint a conference committee to work out a compromise they both can agree to.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN THE TEXAS 4-H LEGISLATURE

In the 4-H Legislature, we will simplify the process because of time. Here is the basic procedure. Identical bills will be introduced in both Houses by a Senator in the Senate and a Representative in the House. No amendments will be made. The identical bills that pass both the House and Senate by Tuesday will be considered to have passed both houses.

4-H HOUSE	4-H SENATE
3. 1st reading of bill and referral to committee (Monday).	1. 1st reading of bill and referral to committee (Monday).
4. Committee consideration (Monday)	2. Committee consideration (Monday)
5. Final reading - by short title - up for debate passage (Monday afternoon - Tuesday) If passed sent to Governor*	3. Final reading - by short title - up for debate passage (Monday afternoon - Tuesday) If passed sent to Governor*

4-H GOVERNOR

1. Sign bills or
2. Vetoes bill (To become law the same bill must pass each house in identical form.)

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



RULES OF PROCEDURE

PRESIDING OFFICER

1. The presiding officer of the House (Speaker of the House) and of the Senate (President of the Senate) shall preside over all sessions, and shall call the members to order, call for the business to be considered in the proper order, state the motions and questions for vote, and announce the results of the votes.
 2. The presiding officer of the House should be addressed as “Mr. (or Madam) Speaker” and of the Senate as “Mr. (or Madam) President”.
 3. The presiding officer shall preserve the order and decorum of each house and all members shall be orderly and conduct themselves befitting the dignity of the legislature.
-

DECORUM AND DEBATE

1. A member seeking to be recognized to speak in debate or to make a motion shall first rise, address the presiding officer (for example, in the House he or she would say, “Mr. (or Madam) Speaker” and wait for the presiding officer to recognize him or her. The presiding officer says, “For what purpose does the lady/gentleman rise?” The chair has the privilege of deciding if recognition is to be granted.
 2. If two or more members seek recognition at the same time, the presiding officer shall decide which member to recognize.
 3. Immediately upon being recognized, the member shall say, “I am Representative/Senator _____ from _____ County” and proceed to speak or make the appropriate motion.
 - a. To submit a bill “I rise to submit a House/Senate bill on first reading” (File in triplicate with the clerk)
 - b. To speak for or against a bill, “I wish to offer affirmative/negative debate”. (A Representative/Senator may speak only once on a particular bill unless there is no other debate on that bill.)
 - c. To ask a question, “(Madam) (Mr.) (Speaker) (President)? “For what purpose does the lady/gentleman rise?” Representative/Senator _____ from _____ County.
“I rise to a point of personal inquiry.”
State your point
I wish to _____
 - ask a question of the author
 - ask a question of the debater
 - ask a question of the chair
 - d. To make a motion, “(Madam) (Mr.) (Speaker) (President)?” “For what purpose does the lady/gentleman rise?” Representative/Senator _____ from _____ County
“I wish to make a motion.”
(The chair wishes to inquire as to the nature of your motion)
“I wish to move _____
 - a. previous question
 - b. adjournment
 - c. suspend the rules
 4. Other than answering questions or speaking as the chief sponsor of a bill, each person is limited to a three minute debate and no person may speak twice on the same subject.
 5. A member who is speaking on a question must confine his or her remarks to the question at hand, and shall not make a personal references to other members. The presiding officer, on the request of any member or on his own action, shall call any member to order who violates this rule. If member then continues to improperly speak, the presiding officer may direct the member to be seated.
 6. The presiding officer shall attempt to balance debate calling on an affirmative speaker, then a negative one, then affirmative again, etc. The presiding officer may also limit debate because of time constraints.
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VOTING

1. The presiding officer may take any vote, except a vote on final passage of a bill, by voice vote. This is accomplished by the presiding officer asking all in favor to signify by saying “Aye” (pronounced “eye”) and those apposed to signify by saying “No”. If after the vote has been taken, and before the decision is announced, the chair has any doubts as to the outcome, he may proceed to a division vote or roll call. In such a division, all rise and be counted to determine the number in favor and opposed.
 2. A roll call vote shall be taken on final passage of all bills. The roll call shall be by district. Immediately before the roll is called, each district delegation serving in that house shall quickly tally the number of votes in favor and against in that delegation. When the roll call is taken, an individual from that district shall report the number of votes in favor, and the number of votes opposed. A district delegation may not require its members to vote as a block. (Example: If District I has five in favor and three opposed, when the clerk calls the name, “District I” a person from the district shall announce, “Five ayes, and three noes.”)
 3. No member may vote in the place of another member, and only members may vote.
 4. A simple majority of those voting is required for passage of a bill or amendment.
 5. Please see the rules pertaining to motions as to the votes required for motions.
-



MOTIONS: WHAT THEY MEAN AND WHAT THEY DO

MAIN MOTIONS

1. When a motion has been made, the presiding officer shall state it to the membership for consideration, and members shall proceed to consider it and cast votes in favor and opposed. A member may make a motion by being recognized in the usual manner, and stating the motion.

SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

- 2a. Amendment - Any main motion may be amended. Only one amendment can be considered at a time and it must be applicable to the main motion. Motion requires a simple majority of those voting.
- 2b. Previous Question - This motion has the effect of cutting off debate and brings the body to vote, first upon pending amendments, and then on the main question. This motion requires a simple majority of those voting. The chief sponsor of the bill may close debate after passage of this motion.
- 2c. Lay on the Table - This motion has the effect of postponing action of a motion, but it permits the reintroduction of the motion (taking from the table). It is not debatable, but its mover has two minutes to present reasons for its adoption. A majority vote is required of those voting.

INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

- 3a. Suspension of the Rules - This is a motion which allows the rules of order to be suspended to allow consideration a bill or some question out of its usual place or order. A two thirds vote is required.
- 3b. Withdrawing a motion - When a motion is before the Chamber, the maker of the motion may request to withdraw it by moving withdrawal. A simple majority of those voting shall be necessary for withdrawal.
- 3c. Points of Order - A member, rising to a point of order, should say "Mr.(or Madam) Speaker (or Mr./Madam President) I rise to a point of order." A point of order is made that in some form or fashion, the rules are not being followed. No vote is required on such points, as the chair decides the point.

OTHER MOTIONS

4. To Adjourn or Recess - This is a highly privileged motion and is for a certain time. Because of the time schedule, it is expected that the motions for adjournment and recess will be made only as shown on the time schedule. Majority of those voting is necessary.
5. Postpone Indefinitely - This motion has the effect of killing a bill and a majority of those voting is required for its passage.
6. Reconsider a Vote - This motion is made after a bill has been voted on and a person, for some reason, wants the bill to be reconsidered and voted on again. A motion to reconsider will be ruled out of order if a bill passed by the chamber has already been physically forwarded to the Governor. If the motion to reconsider is approved (by a majority vote), then the chamber will proceed to consider the bill as if it had not been considered previously.
7. Suspend the Rules and Consider a Particular Bill Out Of Order - In order to bring a bill up out of order, the motion must be approved by a two-thirds vote of members voting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. When each house shall convene, its regular order of business shall be:
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Call of the roll (may be dispensed with by consent)
 - c. Prayer by chaplain
 - d. Reading of the journal of the preceding day (usually dispensed with)
 - e. Report of Committees
 - f. House bills on first reading
 - g. Introduction of resolutions (concurrent and joint only)
 - h. Unfinished business
 - i. Calendars of the House/Senate bills - 3rd reading
2. The following items shall have special order and take precedence, in the order listed, over existing business:
 - a. Messages from the Governor - which shall be disposed of immediately
 - b. Messages from the Senate

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

1. On questions not addressed by these rules, those of the Texas Legislature shall prevail where practicable.

**ACTION***May it be.....*

Priority	Motion	Debated?	Amended?	Tabled?	Vote Needed	May it be Reconsidered?
1st	Time to adjourn	No		No	Majority	
2nd	Adjourn	No		No	Majority	No
3rd	Indefinitely Postpone		No	No	Majority	
4th	Table	No	No	No	Majority	
5th	Previous Question	No	No	No	Majority	No
6th	To postpone to set time		No	No	Majority	
7th	To send a bill back to committee		No	No	Majority	
8th	To amend		Once		Majority	
In Order Made	Appeal	No	No		2/3's	
In Order Made	Point of Order	No	No	No	No vote	
In Order Made	Personal Privilege	No	No	No	No Vote	No
In Order Made	Withdraw motion		No	No	Majority	No
In Order Made	Suspend rules		No	No	2/3's	
In Order Made	Reconsider			No	Majority	No
In Order Made	Override Veto		No	No	2/3's	No

MOTIONS CHART



COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

The committee hearing and meeting is a very important part of the legislative process in deciding the fate of a bill. Each bill has been referred to a committee for study and recommendations. As a committee member you have the duty to listen carefully to the testimonial given during the public hearings as well as the debate offered during the committee meeting. From these discussions, you will then make a decision to support or oppose the bill. Below are the duties to each committee member:

1. Review each bill referred to your committee. Is it needed? Is it clear? Is it written well? Would it be a good law?
2. Author or sponsor will speak in favor of bill. All members should participate in discussion.
3. Vote to recommend to the full body that the bill:
 - a. to be passed, or
 - b. not be passed
4. Rank bills receiving favorable recommendations.

COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

The Public Hearing is an important part in the legislative process as it allows the public to testify about proposed legislation. During Texas 4-H Congress, the Public Hearing will be held immediately before the Committee Meetings. The hearings are designed for the Lobbyists and member of the Congress (House and Senate members) to address the respective committee to voice an opinion in favor, or against, a certain bill, or subject that may be addressed by the committee during the Committee Meeting. Public hearings also provide an opportunity for the Press Corps to hear the discussions to see if the committee maybe addressing controversial issues that the rest of the Congress delegates should be aware of.

1. Arrive at the committee room for which bill you would like to testify. (All committee hearings and meeting notices will be posted in the lobby of the Hotel on Sunday afternoon)
2. Secure and complete a "Committee Witness Information Sheet" (see box). Once complete return back to committee chairman, advisor, or clerk.
3. Committee is called to order promptly by chairman.
4. Chairman will ask all those in attendance planning to testify to rise for an oath.
5. Once oath has been given, committee chairman will call on each person on the witness list to testify.
6. Twenty minutes are allotted for public hearings. After the close of public hearings, the committee chairman will automatically continue to the committee meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEDURE

1. All committee members wishing to debate a bill in committee must complete a "Committee Witness Information Sheet" (see box) and return to committee chairman, clerk, or advisor before or during committee meeting.
2. Committee is called to order promptly by chairman.
3. The total amount of time for the committee meeting should be divided equally among all bills. Each sponsor should speak no more than three minutes initially in support of the bill. (The committee may informally agree to spend more time on one bill than another if it is necessary.)
4. Because of lack of time, no amendments may be made.
5. The committee, after it considers a bill, votes to do one of two things:
 - a. recommend that the bill pass
 - b. recommend that the bill does not pass
 (A majority - one half plus one - of committee members presented is needed for a bill to pass.)

The committee will vote to rank the bills receiving favorable recommendations. This is important because it will help determine the order in which bills will be considered by the full body. Each member will vote priorities with a point value:

- 1st choice - 1 point
- 2nd choice - 2 points
- 3rd choice - 3 points etc.

A form is provided for individual ranking of the bills. A favorably reported bill with the lowest point total (indicating first choice) will be listed by the chairman as first on the report to the full chamber. The next lowest point total will be considered second priority, etc.

Committee chairman and advisor should take committee report to Calendar Clerk of either House or Senate.

The last portion of the committee meeting should be spent by committee members in preparing both negative and affirmative debate - make assignments for speeches for bills reported out of committee. Remember the author assigned sponsor should prepare an introductory speech in support of the bill (maximum time limit - 5 minutes) and a summation speech (maximum time limit - 2 minutes)

Other members should prepare at least 1 negative and 1 affirmative debate speech on each bill (maximum time limit 3 minutes).

All bills may not be considered and all speeches for and against a bill may not be recognized because of time limits, but members need to be prepared.

Promptly complete the final committee report, sign it and return it with all original bills to Calendar Clerk on House floor or Senate floor by the scheduled time (see agenda).



TYPES OF COMMITTEES

The actual Legislature has many committees. The 4-H Legislature has seven subject area committees. There will be seven committees in the House and in the Senate. These committees are:

AGL	Agriculture and Livestock	agriculture and livestock production, management, policy
EDU	Education	elementary, and post-secondary schools
ENV	Energy & Environment	conservation, environment, resources
GFA	Government, Finance & Appropriations	Matters dealing with state government, taxes, appropriations, constitution, election, general business
HPS	Homeland Security & Public Safety	highway safety, transportation, energy
JJJ	Judiciary & Juvenile Justice	courts, crimes, punishment, legal affairs, contracts
PHW	Public Health & Welfare	sanitation, health care, pensions, relief for underprivileged, social welfare, social relations, public safety.

In the actual Legislature, bills are assigned to the committee which has expertise in that subject. In the 4-H Legislature, bills will be assigned as much as possible to the correct committee, but the major criteria will be the even distribution of bills so that each committee has several bills to consider.

NOTE: ALL un-sponsored bills assigned to a committee must be sponsored by volunteers from that committee, or from committee members assigned by the chairman. Therefore, on the floor, the committee chairman or other committee members will be considered that floor sponsor of such bills.

COMMITTEE WITNESS INFORMATION SHEET

Used by ALL Lobbyists and Legislators that wish to testify in favor or against a proposed bill at the public hearing or in the committee meeting.

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4-H LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE WITNESS INFORMATION SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS:
Public Hearings: All lobbyists will need to complete and submit to the committee clerk prior to testifying on a bill.
Committee Meetings: All Representatives and Senators will need to complete and submit to the committee clerk prior to testifying on a bill.

Name: _____

County _____

Representing: _____

Testifying _____ for _____ against _____ on _____ Bill Number _____

Committee Chairman

Date



PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Committee Witness Information Forms are available at chairman’s desk for people who wish to testify to complete
2. Appoint or ask for volunteer to be clerk of the committee.
3. Agent Advisor and Chairman provide forms and instructions to clerk.

Committee Chairman:

Call committee to order: “The House/Senate Committee on _____ will now come to order.”

Call Roll: “The Clerk of the Committee will now call the roll.

Clerk of the Committee:

“Please answer “present” when I call your name. Representative/Senator _____, etc.
(Call last names).”

Committee Chairman:

“The committee will now hear testimony on pending bills. Anyone who is here to testify, please stand.”

Raise your right hand. “Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

Persons to testify:

“I do”

Committee Chairman:

“The committee will now hear testimony for, against, or on bills pending before this committee.”

(Recognize person who signed in by name).

Mr/Miss _____

Witness

Testimony

Mr/Miss _____)

Witness

Testimony

(repeat until all testimony is complete, and 20 minutes has passed)

Committee Chairman

“The public hearing of the _____ committee is now adjourned.”

“All committee members please remain seated while the persons who participated in the public hearing are excused.”



COMMITTEE MEETING SCRIPT

COMMITTEE MEETING SCRIPT

It is important to remember that today you are a senator representing the young people of your county, district, and state. Your speeches, debate and votes should represent what you think the majority of young people in your area think, the questions, opinions, and concerns they have. Question what consequences each bill would have if it really did, in fact, become a law in Texas.....

- Who would suffer or disagree with the law? (Businesses, farmers, consumers, poor, wealthy, minority, etc).
- Where would the money come from?
- How much would it cost?
- Are there some hidden side-effects that would result if this became a law?
- Who would enforce the law?
- How great would the benefits of the law be?

Committee Chairman	"The _____ Committee is now reconvened."
<i>Chairman conducts Orientation</i>	"The chairman will now recognize committee members for presentation of bills"
<i>Committee members will raise hand for recognition</i>	"The chairman recognizes the representative/senator. Please state your name and county."
Committee Member	"Mr. Chairman, I am Representative/Senator _____ from _____ County. I move that House/Senate Bill Number _____ to _____ (title) be passed."
<i>Provide a reason for the motion</i>	"I believe this bill should be passed because _____." or, "This law is needed because _____." or,
Committee Chairman	"Is there a second to the motion that House/Senate Bill Number _____ to _____ (title) be passed."
Committee Member	"I second the motion."
Committee Chairman	"The chair will now entertain discussion on House/Senate Bill Number _____."
	<i>Chairman and advisor may need to ask leading questions for discussion. If there is a lot of discussion, chairman may ask for affirmative opinions (points for bill) and then negative opinions (points for not passing bill), then affirmative again, etc. If only one or two people are discussing, may limit members to speaking once or twice on bill.</i>
	Committee members will raise hand for recognition.
Committee Chairman	"The chairman recognizes the representative/senator. Please state your name and county."
Committee Member	"Mr. Chairman, I am Representative/Senator _____ from _____ County. (will continue into bill discussion with such statements as:)"
<i>Chairman may limit member's discussion</i>	"I believe that this bill should not be passed because _____." or, "I agree with this bill because _____." or, "I would like to ask a question about the bill." _____.
Committee Chairman	"Hearing no other discussion" or "The time is up for consideration of Bill Number _____."
	"The Committee will now vote"
	"All in favor of passing House/Senate Bill _____ to _____ (title), please raise your hand.
<i>Clerks and advisors count votes</i>	"All opposing to passing Bill Number _____, please raise your hand."
	<i>Clerk records vote on provided form. The real legislature records each member who voted for bill and each member who voted against bill in committee, but all the 4-H legislature will do is record the number for the number against and report results of whether bill passed or failed in committee. A majority (one half plus one) of committee members present is needed to pass.</i>
Committee Chairman	"There were _____ ayes and _____ noes. House/Senate Bill Number passes/fails."
<i>Committee Chairman signs BILL FOLDER forms indicating result of vote.</i>	"The Chairman will now recognize committee members for another presentation of Bills."



AFTER ALL BILL ARE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND DEBATE

RANK BILLS

At the conclusion of the debate, the Committee Chairman will ask that all committee members rank the PASSED bills in order by their level of importance (1 being the highest importance, 10 being the lowest of importance).

1. Committee Chairman will review list of all passed bills and their House/Senate Number.
2. Each committee member will record their ranking on the Individual Committee Members Voting Record form (see box) provided by the committee chairman or advisor.

Members should rank bills based on:

How important the law would be to the state of Texas? (If the committee could have only one bill passed into law, which one would they choose?)

Which law would have the most positive effect or make the most improvement in Texas?

Which law do they think the majority of 4-H members in their area would think was the most important?

3. Have Clerk take up Committee Ranking Sheet from each member. Tabulate member's ranking and complete Bill Ranking Report to be submitted to Calendar Clerks.

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INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBER VOTING RECORD

INSTRUCTIONS:
After consideration of all bills, each committee member (Representative/Senator) will need to complete and turn into the committee clerk before leaving committee meeting. Rank bills with your highest priority being #1 and lowest being #10.

COMMITTEE NAME: _____

COMMITTEE MEMBER: _____

Ranking Order of Bills	Bill Number
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

PREPARING DEBATE ON BILLS FOR 4-H LEGISLATIVE SESSION

After the bills are ranked, the committee members should begin preparing for their presentation on the floor of the either the House or Senate.

1. Have authors/sponsors prepare both a:
INTRODUCTORY SPEECH (maximum time is 5 minutes, 2-3 is fine).
SUMMATION SPEECH (maximum 2 minutes)
2. Assign members to prepare negative and affirmative debate for each bill (especially top ranking committee bills).
Maximum time limit for debate is 3 minutes.

Members write speeches and be prepared to stand and be recognized and offer debate in House/Senate. (Advisors will help members if needed.) It is the committee's responsibility to help other members of the House/Senate who haven't studied and discussed bill to be aware of pros and cons so they can be informed as they decide how to vote.

Other members may have debate, that is fine, but each of the committee members needs to be prepared to offer informed debate.

RANKING BILLS AND PREPARING FOR CHAMBER DEBATE



**AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
(AGL)**

House Chairperson: **Brooke Wanjura**
 Advisor(s): **Brandon Cave & Cari Snider**

Senate Chairperson: **Ella Porter**
 Advisor(s): **Brandon Albus & Carrie Sharp**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
100	400	Ag Exemption For Small Bee Farms	Emma Cobb	Seth Wootan	Wharton/Llano
101	401	Agricultural Resilience And Recovery For Drought-Affected Regions	Logan Poncik	Antonine Martinez	Fayette/Caldwell
102	402	Agricultural Sales Exemption And Rabbit Classification	Jessica Skelton	Katie Littlejohn	Montgomery/Potter
103	403	Agriculture Equipment Independence	Hannah Lewis	Hailey Hill	Hill/Waller
104	404	Agriculture Taxes To Scholarships	Averie Friesenhahn	Hannah Griffice	Collin/Chambers
105	405	Airing Livestock Animals	John Landry	Carly Coker	Leon/Leon
106	406	Cattle Producers Income Protection	Calee Scoggins	Ella Jensen	McLennan/Val Verde
107	407	Ceasing The Use of Mare Urine to Make Premarin	Addison Poynter	Seth Wootan	Franklin/Llano
108	408	Cull Buck	Ty Carr	Antonine Martinez	Lamb/Caldwell
109	409	Dairy Ethical Treatment Inspections	Kauy Carr	Katie Littlejohn	Lamb/Potter
110	410	Deer Population Reduction	Andrew Hahn	Hailey Hill	Dewitt/Waller
111	411	Eliminating Illegal Livestock Surgeries	Makenzi Willard	Hannah Griffice	Leon/Chambers
112	412	Equity For Small-Scale Ranchers And Farmers	Finley Van Dyk	Carly Coker	Parker/Leon
113	413	Fake Meat On The Livestock Industry	Kaitlyn Gilbert	Antonine Martinez	Matagorda/Caldwell
114	414	Farm And Ranch Finance	Kaylie Perdue	Katie Littlejohn	Liberty/Potter
115	415	Feeding Our Future Through Agricultural Education	Peter Lockwood	Hailey Hill	Kerr/Waller
116	416	Feral Hog Eradication Incentive	Kale Cox	Seth Wootan	Clay/Llano
117	417	Financial Assistance For Livestock Producers	Emerson Pool	Antonine Martinez	Llano/Caldwell
118	418	Groundwater Management Boards	Allison Martin	Katie Littlejohn	Lampasas/Potter
119	419	HIEA Funding Increase	Cale Scoggins	Hailey Hill	McLennan/Waller
120	420	Implementation Of Automatic Sterilization In Texas Animal Shelters	Preslea Elston	Hannah Griffice	Erath/Chambers
121	421	Increasing The Productivity Of Poultry Production In Texas	John Landry	Carly Coker	Leon/Leon
122	422	Keeping The Farm In Solar Farm	Rylan Redden	Ella Jensen	Tom Green/Val Verde
123	423	Legal Truck Gross Weight Increase To 90,000	Kade Davis	Seth Wootan	Johnson/Llano
124	424	Livestock Antibiotic Quality Counts	Olivia Bean	Antonine Martinez	Runnels/Caldwell
125	425	Livestock Safe Crossing	Johan Grotegut	Katie Littlejohn	Deaf Smith/Potter
126	426	Livestock Waste Management	Rylee Barrett	Hailey Hill	Tom Green/Waller
127	427	Lowering The Farmers And Ranchers Carbon Footprint	Kirby Miller	Hannah Griffice	Kent/Chambers
128	428	Make Texas A Pork State	Madeleine Ducharme	Katie Littlejohn	Kinney/Potter
129	429	Pre-Teen Ag Use Driver License	Whit Parkey	Carly Coker	Archer/Leon
130	430	Preservation Of Lands For Agricultural Production	Trevor Hill	Ella Jensen	Val Verde/Val Verde
131	431	Protecting Agricultural Land	Emerson Pool	Seth Wootan	Llano/Llano
132	432	Protecting Cattle Producers And Beef Consumers	Kinley Shieldknight	Antonine Martinez	Hansford/Caldwell
133	433	Protecting Texas Agriculture Against Black Vultures	Kenzi Williams	Katie Littlejohn	Lipscomb/Potter
134	434	Protecting Texas Land From Foreign Buyers/ Citizens	Jeri Holcomb	Hailey Hill	Dickens/Waller
135	435	Public Awareness On Viral Outbreaks In Wildlife	Lynnlea Johnson	Hannah Griffice	Swisher/Chambers
136	436	Pure Raw Honey Of 2024	Eli Felcman	Carly Coker	Tom Green/Leon



HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
137	437	Recharge And Reduce Tax Incentive For Drone Usage In Agriculture	Samuel Sparks	Ella Jensen	Pecos/Val Verde
138	438	Required Electronic Identification Tags	Logan Poncik	Seth Wootan	Fayette/Llano
139	439	Rocky Mountain Elk As Native Game Species	Peter Lockwood	Antonine Martinez	Kerr/Caldwell
140	440	Solar Energy Farms on Active or Viable Farmland Prevention	McCrae Davidson	Katie Littlejohn	Karnes/Potter
141	441	Standards Of Excellence In Labeling Dairy Substitutes	Allison Martin	Hailey Hill	Lampasas/Waller
142	442	Supplemental Forage For Texas Livestock Producers	Ty Carr	Hannah Griffice	Lamb/Chambers
143	443	Sustainability Of Agriculture On Land Developed With Green Energy Systems	Rylee Barrett	Carly Coker	Tom Green/Leon
144	444	Tax Credit For Agriculture Producers	McKyla Swierc	Ella Jensen	Parmer/Val Verde
145	445	Tax Exemption For Stock Show Earnings	Eli Felcman	Seth Wootan	Tom Green/Llano
146	446	Texas Agroforestry And Silvopasture Integration Program	Robert Hattenbach	Antonine Martinez	Gonzales/Caldwell
147	447	Texas Bee Protection	Kenzi Williams	Hailey Hill	Lipscomb/Waller
148	448	Texas Beef School Lunch Enhancement Program	Lynnlea Johnson	Katie Littlejohn	Swisher/Potter
149	449	Texas Import Restrictions For Meat Imports	Bronc Thompson	Hannah Griffice	Kaufman/Chambers
150	450	Theft And Law In Livestock	Madeleine Ducharme	Carly Coker	Kinney/Leon
151	451	Vegetable Garden For Schools	Rylie LaMar	Ella Jensen	Clay/Val Verde
152	452	Water Assessment Usage By County Land Managers	Katie Jouett	Hannah Griffice	Kaufman/Chambers
153	453	Water Consumption And Conservation For Ag Production	Madison Moseley	Ella Jensen	Brown/Val Verde



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Emma Cobb, Wharton County

House Bill: 100

Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County

Senate Bill: 400

Bill Author: Emma Cobb, Wharton County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Ag Exemption For Small Bee Farms

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Ag Exemption For Small Bee Farms Act.
- Section 2. This act is to encourage beekeepers to increase production and more citizens to become beekeepers. Bees have a vital impact in agriculture. As humans we are dependent on bees for survival. Beekeeping is challenging, it takes land space, and we need to have incentives for the beekeepers so they will continue and grow in their efforts of beekeeping. This bill will allow small scale, under 5 acre and urban beekeepers, to be ag exempt for their contributions to agriculture through beekeeping.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Land space: Space of land used.
B. Vital: A need for something.
C. Incentives: Something that motivates an individual to do something.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Beekeeper gets a written warning citation documenting offense. No fines.
2nd Offense: Beekeeper gets a misdemeanor citation and is at risk for losing Ag exemption.
3rd Offense: The privilege of being ag exempt as a beekeeper with acreage under 5 acres will be taken away.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Logan Poncik, Fayette County
Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County
Bill Author: McKenzie Evans, Burnet County

House Bill: 101
Senate Bill: 401

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agricultural Resilience And Recovery For Drought-Affected Regions

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agricultural Resilience And Recovery For Drought-Affected Regions Act.
- Section 2. This bill aims to provide targeted support to farmers in drought-affected regions of Texas to enhance their resilience to climate-related challenges and facilitate their recovery from the impacts of prolonged water scarcity. By offering financial assistance, technical resources, and access to drought-tolerant crop varieties, the bill seeks to mitigate the adverse effects of drought on agricultural productivity, ensure the viability of farming operations, and safeguard the economic well-being of rural communities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Drought-Affected Regions: Geographical areas within Texas experiencing prolonged water scarcity conditions, characterized by below-average precipitation levels and increased risk of agricultural drought.
B. Drought-Tolerant Crop Varieties: Plant cultivars bred or genetically modified to exhibit enhanced tolerance to water stress and other adverse environmental conditions associated with drought.
- Section 4. Non-compliance with the provisions of this act, including the misuse or misappropriation of financial assistance provided to farmers in drought-affected regions, may result in the revocation of eligibility for future support programs, as determined by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Additionally, fraudulent activities or misrepresentation of information related to eligibility criteria or program requirements may lead to legal consequences and financial penalties.
- Section 5. The implementation and administration of this program will be funded through a combination of state appropriations, federal grants, and private sector contributions. A dedicated fund will be established within the Texas Department of Agriculture to support drought resilience and recovery efforts, including but not limited to the provision of grants, loans, technical assistance, and research funding targeted at farmers in affected regions.
- Section 6. The Texas Department of Agriculture shall collaborate with local agricultural extension offices, research institutions, and community organizations to identify priority areas for intervention and determine the most effective strategies for supporting farmers in drought-affected regions. The department shall also establish outreach and education programs to raise awareness about available resources, promote best management practices for drought resilience, and facilitate knowledge sharing among farmers. Furthermore, the department shall conduct regular assessments and evaluations to monitor the impact of the program, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and make adjustments as needed to ensure the continued effectiveness and relevance of the support measures provided to farmers in drought-affected areas.
- Section 7. This bill repeals outdated regulations or restrictions within the Texas Agriculture Code that inhibit the adoption of drought-resilient agricultural practices or impede access to resources and support services for farmers in drought-affected regions.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Jessica Skelton, Montgomery County

House Bill: 102

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Senate Bill: 402

Bill Author: Jessica Skelton, Montgomery County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agricultural Sales Exemption And Rabbit Classification

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agricultural Sales Exemption And Rabbit Classification Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to establish an agricultural sales tax exemption for certain agricultural products and to classify rabbits as livestock, thereby providing them with the same benefits and considerations as other livestock in Texas. Rabbits shall be classified as livestock for all legal and regulatory purposes in the State of Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will update all relevant policies, regulations, and documentation to reflect the classification of rabbits as livestock.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Agricultural Products: Refers to products derived from farming activities, including but not limited to crops, livestock, and horticultural products.
 - B. Livestock: Refers to domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce commodities such as food, fiber, and labor.
 - C. Rabbits: Refers to domesticated animals of the species *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, which are raised for meat, fur, or as pets.
- Section 4. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts will issue guidelines and documentation requirements to ensure compliance with this exemption.
- The Comptroller and TDA will collaborate to ensure the effective application of the agricultural sales tax exemption and the classification of rabbits as livestock.
- An annual report will be submitted to the Texas Legislature detailing the implementation progress, compliance rates, and any issues encountered.
- Section 5. Funding for this program will be allocated from the Texas General Revenue Fund. The Department is authorized to seek additional funding through federal grants, private donations, and partnerships with non-profit organizations.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- A. Sales of agricultural products produced by farmers, ranchers, or agricultural businesses in Texas shall be exempt from state sales tax.
 - B. Purchasers of agricultural products for use in farming or ranching activities shall also be exempt from paying state sales tax on these products. To qualify for this exemption, the seller must provide documentation proving that the products were produced through agricultural activities in Texas, and the purchaser must provide documentation showing the agricultural use of the products.
- Section 7. This is an addition to current policies, regulations, and law regarding agricultural exemptions.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Hannah Lewis, Hill County

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Bill Author: Hannah Lewis, Hill County

House Bill: 103

Senate Bill: 403

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agriculture Equipment Independence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agriculture Equipment Independence Act.
- Section 2. This bill will allow for persons besides the manufacturer to be able to work on their agriculture equipment without the need for them to be taken into a manufacturer shop. This bill will also allow for software and spare parts to be open to the public.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Manufacturer: A person or company that makes goods for sale.
B. Agriculture: The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.
C. Equipment: The necessary items for a particular purpose.
D. Software: The programs and other operating information used by a computer.
E. Parts: A piece or segment of something such as an object.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: A fine of 10 times the Manufacturer Suggest Retail Price (MRSP).
2nd Offense: The prohibiting of business in the State of Texas.
- Section 5. This bill will be funded through the Attorney General of Texas Consumer Protection Division.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Averie Friesenhahn, Collin County

House Bill: 104

Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

Senate Bill: 404

Bill Author: Averie Friesenhahn, Collin County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agriculture Taxes To Scholarships

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agriculture Taxes To Scholarships Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure scholarship funds are available to support exiting senior 4-H/FFA members who participated in a livestock agriculture projects throughout the year. This act shall require 25% of taxes paid on any product purchased from an agriculture or farm store be set aside for scholarships for 4-H and FFA students. Livestock projects provide opportunities for youth to grow in leadership, service, public speaking skills, and entrepreneurship. Agriculture literacy and support will continue to be needed as more of Texas youth reside in urbanized areas. This state advocacy will ensure positive youth development and further citizenship for exiting school aged youth. 4-H and FFA programs have been shown to increase positive factors in all youth development areas; and members have been shown to be more likely to give back to their communities as adults.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. 4-H/FFA Members: School aged youth who hold an active membership in Texas 4-H, Inc and/or Future Farmers of America.
B. Livestock Agriculture Projects: Projects are classified as topics of learning that support youth in their development, and would include any topic that encompasses the agriculture industry as a whole.
C. Agriculture or Farm Store: Any business that sells products who's main purpose is to support an agriculture endeavor.
- Section 4. Sales taxes are already required on non Ag-exempt products. Store compliance is mandatory; failure to comply would hold similar penalties as tax fraud under the law.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the paid sales tax on agriculture products, and supported by the State of Texas.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: John Landry, Leon County

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Bill Author: Carly Coker, Leon County

House Bill: 105

Senate Bill: 405

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Airing Livestock Animals

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Airing Livestock Animals Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure that anyone participating in airing animals will have major consequences. This will ensure that all animals will be kept safe.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Airing: Where you take the animal, use a needle connected to a small air compressor, insert in the skin and it breaks the bind between the skin and muscle layer causing the section to expand to give the animal a more finished appearance.
- Section 4. Anyone participating in airing any show animal at any point in time will receive a fine starting at \$500 depending on the harm to the animal and will get banned from any show event.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. This act can be overseen by all state health inspectors. The state health inspectors can help by checking for airing scars when you take the show animal to get health papers. This will make sure that all animals are not being harmed at home prior to the show event.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Calee Scoggins, McLennan County

House Bill: 106

Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 406

Bill Author: Calee Scoggins, McLennan County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Cattle Producers Income Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Cattle Producers Income Protection Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all cattle producers profit a minimum 50%-60% of all profits from a single head of cattle sold to any commercial packing company. All cattle must be sound and show no defects. The producer must follow the industry standard for producing beef ethically.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Cattle Producers: A person whom is responsible for producing cows, bulls steers, and heifers ect. For the purposes of seed stock, beef or any other marketable product produced from cattle.
B. Packing Company: An establishment for slaughtering livestock and processing and packaging meat, meat products, and by-products to be sold.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Result of a fine of a minimum of \$500 with a maximum of \$2,000.
2nd Offense: Maximum fine of \$10,000.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government in the amount of 4 million dollars.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Addison Poynter, Franklin County

Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County

Bill Author: Addison Poynter, Franklin County

House Bill: 107

Senate Bill: 407

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Ceasing The Use of Mare Urine to Make Premarin

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Ceasing The Use of Mare Urine to Make Premarin Act.
- Section 2. This act shall require a shutdown of all barns where mares that are used for the production of Premarin are kept. In these barns, these pregnant mares are often kept in very tight standing stalls, to limit their movement, and are often left standing over 20 hours a day. The disposal of the foals is alarming- being killed immediately or being starved to death. These mares are repeatedly bred, contributing to an unwanted horse population.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Mare: A female horse especially when fully mature or of breeding age.
B. Premarin: A prescription used for treating menopause in women.
C. HR-Hormone Replacement Therapy: Treatment with estrogens with the aim of alleviating menopausal symptoms or osteoporosis.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$10,000 fine to company.
2nd Offense: \$20,000 fine to company with reprimand.
3rd Offense: \$50,000 fine to company and detainment of product.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government through the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Ty Carr, Lamb County
Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County
Bill Author: Joseph Fisher, Cooke County

House Bill: 108
Senate Bill: 408

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Cull Buck

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Cull Buck Act.
- Section 2. To allow harvest of undesired genetic traits of white tail deer bucks having one main antler and 1 branched small antler that fall outside of the existing 13 spread requirement. This should allow for a better genetic pool.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Legal Buck: Defined as having a hardened antler protruding through the skin; having at least one branched antler, or an inside spread measurement between main beams of 13 inches or greater, or six points or more on one antler.
B. TPWD: Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
C. Genetic: Relating to genes or heredity.
- Section 4. Existing fines governed by current harvest rules with TPWD.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
Option 1: Have a link available on TPWD website to allow Texas hunter to submit application with photo of buck in question that would not qualify under the existing rules. Upon approval, the hunter would purchase a special tag for \$20 for harvest of the particular submitted buck.
Option 2: Hunter would be able to purchase \$10 option with yearly hunting license to allow for 2 special permit submissions per year. This might allow for more hunter participation similar to insurance, and therefore, increased funding.
- Section 6. Hunter will submit application with photo of buck in question. TPWD employee will review and approve or deny request. Upon approval, hunter will print special permit, and will be required to carry permit on his/her person while harvesting approved deer. Permit will be good for current year of application. Permit will have harvest info as on regular deer tag along with digital picture of buck, current hunting year and special permit number. After harvest, hunter will again be required to submit photo of harvested deer with particular info of special permit. TPWD employee will verify harvested deer matches submitted photo.
- Section 7. This will add a variance to the existing law governing antler requirements for legal buck harvest.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kaury Carr, Lamb County

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Bill Author: Kaury Carr, Lamb County

House Bill: 109

Senate Bill: 409

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Dairy Ethical Treatment Inspections

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Dairy Ethical Treatment Inspections Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all large-scale dairy facilities are inspected for ethical treatment twice per year.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Ethical Treatment: The practice of safe and humane treatment of animals.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Warning and additional inspection within three months.
2nd Offense: Fine up to two thousand dollars.
3rd Offense: Fine up to five thousand dollars.
4th Offense: Confined Feeding Area Permit revoked.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of one million one hundred thousand dollars annually to employ thirty additional inspectors for the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Andrew Hahn, Dewitt County

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Bill Author: Andrew Hahn, Dewitt County

House Bill: 110

Senate Bill: 410

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Deer Population Reduction

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Deer Population Reduction Act.
- Section 2. This act shall allow for the shooting and harvesting of deer on one's own property during the growing season. It shall also allow for the shooting and harvesting of deer on one's leased property with the written permission of the property owner. According to the Texas Farm Bureau, deer cause millions of dollars in agricultural damage every year. The purpose of this act is to limit the amount of agricultural damage that deer cause without penalizing property owners from shooting deer outside of season.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Growing Season: The period from when the crops are planted, through when crops are growing, and until the crops are harvested.
B. Harvesting: The ability to kill deer for human consumption or use.
C. Agricultural Damage: Damage to existing crops and interruptions to the planting, growing or harvesting of crops.
- Section 4. Shooting deer on someone else's property or failing to receive written permission to shoot deer on leased property could result in any combination of the following:
A. Criminal Penalty and Civil Value Recovery and Civil Restitution as set forth in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Hunting Laws, Penalties and Restitution.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Makenzi Willard, Leon County

Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

Bill Author: Makenzi Willard, Leon County

House Bill: 111

Senate Bill: 411

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Eliminating Illegal Livestock Surgeries

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Eliminating Illegal Livestock Surgeries Act.
- Section 2. The livestock industry is constantly being ridiculed for illegal surgeries being performed. These illegal practices need to be monitored heavily and fines implemented more strictly. This adds more scrutiny to an already divisive industry. This has greatly affected the perception & reputation of the livestock industry in the State of Texas.
- Section 3. This act is to be funded by the Texas State Government.
- Section 4. The Texas State Government will monitor and fine.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Finley Van Dyk, Parker County

House Bill: 112

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Senate Bill: 412

Bill Author: Finley Van Dyk, Parker County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Equity For Small-Scale Ranchers And Farmers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Equity For Small-Scale Ranchers And Farmers Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to give farmers and ranchers equal opportunity to sell their products. This is to ensure that processors, distributors, and others do not monopolize a certain part of the market for these small farmers and ranchers. This is to ensure that the farmer gets paid the fairest amount for the product they are raising and maintaining and that the retailer does not low-ball the farmer or rancher. The Farmer or Small Rancher will also be compensated if the losses from these dealings are especially egregious.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Processor: Any person (excluding agricultural cooperatives) engaged in the business of handling, preparing, or manufacturing (including slaughtering and food and beverage manufacturing) an agricultural commodity, or the products of such agricultural commodity, for sale or marketing for human consumption, except that no person shall be considered a processor if the only sales of such products are for a value less than \$10,000,000 per year.
B. Distributor: Any entity engaged in the business of distributing agricultural products from producers or manufacturers to consumers, restaurants, or retailers.
C. Small Farmer or Rancher: Someone who sells between \$1,000 and \$250,000 in agricultural products annually and a property of one hundred (100) acres or less.
- Section 4. If fraud has been proven by either party based on an Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) investigation (farmer/rancher or processor/distributor) these punishments are incurred:
1st Offense: \$60,000
2nd Offense: \$80,000
3rd Offense: Fraud charges and possible imprisonment.
- Section 5. Subsidies for those farmers and ranchers will be issued if those farmers are found to have been shorted an egregious amount (more than \$30,000 per earning year), these funds will be provided by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and the decision power will also be the FTC in conjunction with The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- Section 6. Regulations shall be set by The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) working in conjunction to make these processors and distributors as fair in their prices as possible. They will also set regulations as to how many acquisitions one company can make to suppress monopolies as well as regulating eligibility for grants.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kaitlyn Gilbert, Matagorda County
Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County
Bill Author: Kaitlyn Gilbert, Matagorda County

House Bill: 113
Senate Bill: 413

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Fake Meat On The Livestock Industry

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Fake Meat On The Livestock Industry Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to conduct a comprehensive study on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the increasing production and consumption of fake meat on the livestock industry in Texas. The findings will inform policies aimed at supporting the sustainability and competitiveness of the livestock sector, thereby ensuring the well-being of rural economies and communities dependent on livestock farming.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Fake Meat: Plant-based meat substitutes and lab-grown meat products intended to replicate the taste, texture, and nutritional profile of animal meat.
B. Livestock Industry: The economic sector involved in the breeding, raising, and processing of animals for meat, dairy, and other animal-derived products.
C. Impact Assessment: A comprehensive analysis of the economic, social, and environmental effects of fake meat on the livestock industry.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with the provisions or obstruct the investigation will result in:
1st Offense: A warning and a fine of up to \$10,000.
2nd Offense: A fine of up to \$50,000 and mandatory participation in educational programs about the impact of fake meat on the livestock industry.
3rd Offense: A fine of up to \$100,000 and potential revocation of business licenses related to meat production and processing.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
1. A budget of \$5 million is authorized for the execution of this Act, which includes funding for the Task Force, research, and dissemination of findings.
2. Funds will be allocated from the state's general fund and managed by the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
The Texas Department of Agriculture shall oversee the establishment of the Fake Meat Impact Assessment Task Force. The Task Force shall include representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the livestock industry, economists, environmental scientists, public health experts, and consumer advocacy groups. The Task Force will conduct a detailed impact assessment and submit a final report to the Texas Legislature within 18 months of the enactment of this Act, including findings, conclusions, and policy recommendations.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kaylie Perdue, Liberty County

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Bill Author: Kaylie Perdue, Liberty County

House Bill: 114

Senate Bill: 414

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Farm And Ranch Finance

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Farm And Ranch Finance Act.
- Section 2. This bill will let farms and ranches finance land and equipment at a lower rate. This will allow farmers to build more generational wealth. With lower finance rates, this lets debts be paid quicker and can help more farms and ranches stay in operation longer.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Finance: Funding usually of large amounts of money, given and managed by large companies. These must be paid back and usually increased with interest.
- Section 4. Fines at a minimum of a thousand dollars a continuation can result in loss of license.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of one million dollars.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Peter Lockwood, Kerr County

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Bill Author: Kayson McAfee, Hunt County and Isabelle Parkey, Archer County

House Bill: 115

Senate Bill: 415

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Feeding Our Future Through Agricultural Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Feeding Our Future Through Agricultural Education Act.
- Section 2. This bill shall require all students between 9th-12th grade to take one agriculture production class as a requirement for graduation. This class will have additional Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), along with a required class credit adding one additional credit to the original 22 required credits for graduation. Additionally this class will have a required minimum four out of classroom experiences with one each quarter of the school year in an effort to further the agricultural education of high school students and gather an understanding of agricultural production and where food comes from.. Through this class students will have the opportunity to learn a variety about production agriculture and its impacts on food production. One semester of this class shall cover livestock production and the other semester shall cover crop production in an effort to give students a well-rounded education in how their food is produced.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Texas Essential Knowledge And Skills (TEKS): Sets the detailed curriculum requirements for each course. The standards are adopted by the State Board of Education.
 - B. Out Of Classroom Experience: A field trip or other off campus hands-on experience with aspects of agricultural production that can better be absorbed and understood outside of the classroom setting. i). Adjustments to this can be made if approved by regional TEA administrators.
 - C. Grant Compliance And Administration (GCA): The department is responsible for managing all discretionary and formula grants, ensuring the agency's compliance with the fiscal requirements of federal grants, and conducting monitoring and grant reviews of federal grant sub-recipients.
 - D. Texas Education Agency (TEA): The Texas Education Agency oversees primary and secondary public education, and will improve outcomes for all public school students in the state by providing leadership, guidance, and support to school systems.
 - E. Production Agriculture: The use of cultivated plants or animals to produce products for sustaining or enhancing human life.
- Section 4. Compliance will be monitored by the Grant Compliance and Administration (GCA) non-compliance resolution guidelines as stated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and all discrepancies will fall under these guidelines.
- Section 5. Funding will come from the state sales tax revenue. 1% of the annual Texas Sales Tax revenue will be set aside to implement this program. Of that 1%, an amount will be allocated to each school district based on size and need. Funding will also come from Grant Compliance and Administration (GCA). Additional funding may be provided in sponsorship by other government agencies or agricultural companies.
- Section 6. This bill is placed under the Agriculture and Livestock Committee because excess funding will be provided by Agriculture and Livestock agencies and companies.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kale Cox, Clay County

House Bill: 116

Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County

Senate Bill: 416

Bill Author: Kale Cox, Clay County, Ty Carr, Lamb County and Seth Wootan, Llano County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Feral Hog Eradication Incentive

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Feral Hog Eradication Incentive Act.
- Section 2. This bill would immediately impose a ten dollar incentive on all feral pigs in the state of Texas. In order to receive this bounty, all hunters must bring either the entire pig carcass itself, or the pair of the pig's ears to the local game warden or state park. After the proper tally, the officer will pay the hunter(s) the appropriate amount and then notch the ears so that they cannot be turned in more than once. This act should ensure that the Producers that lose profit from wild hog destruction in Texas can still produce for and profit from the market. Wild hogs can be blamed for approximately \$118.8 million in damages in Texas. Ranchers need tools and money to stop wild hogs before they cause long-lasting negative effects.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Feral Pig: Can be defined as any non-domesticated pig or piglet. Ears collected should not be notched prior to being notched by an officer.
B. Damages: Included to but not limited to loss of livestock, destruction of fence, destruction of property, and destruction of crops.
C. Incentive: A payment or concession to stimulate greater output.
- Section 4. Any domesticated pig or other species brought in will not be cashed in.

Incentive allotment amounts in the range of \$5-50 per head and proper harvest records are to be approved on a county to county basis by county commissioners.
- Section 5. The funding for the bounty program will be jointly paid for by the State of Texas Department of Agriculture and the Federal Parks Department.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Emerson Pool, Llano County
Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County
Bill Author: Brooke Wanjura, Colorado County

House Bill: 117
Senate Bill: 417

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Financial Assistance For Livestock Producers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Financial Assistance For Livestock Producers Act.
- Section 2. This bill is aimed to help those in the Texas Panhandle trying to recover from devastating wildfires that killed more than 15,000 head of cattle, including pregnant cows. The bill aims to create a Livestock Indemnity Program in the State of Texas. The Livestock Indemnity Program is a program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and pays livestock producers for excess deaths from severe weather, disease, or attacks by certain other animals. However, the program doesn't cover the death of unborn livestock and is not in place for the State of Texas. The proposed legislation would add a Livestock Indemnity Program for ranchers in Texas affected by wildfires or other natural disasters.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Livestock Indemnity Program: Offers payments to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather.
 - B. U.S. Department of Agriculture: The federal agency that proposes programs and implements policies and regulations related to American farming, forestry, ranching, food quality, and nutrition.
 - C. Unborn Livestock: Livestock animals that were still in gestation at time of death.
- Section 4. There are no anticipated penalties or punishments for this that will offset this particular bill.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government through the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Allison Martin, Lampasas County

House Bill: 118

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Senate Bill: 418

Bill Author: Allison Martin, Lampasas County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Groundwater Management Boards

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Groundwater Management Boards Act.
- Section 2. Change the current Groundwater Management Areas from being divided by county, into being managed by aquifer as well as subdivided areas for different parts of each aquifer based on the Groundwater Management Area boundaries.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Aquifer: A body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater.
 - B. Management Areas. The board of 11 elected officials that govern and are responsible for the management of the aquifers.
- Section 4. Groundwater Management Areas will be funded by the taxes and fees from the residents and companies that are within each area.
- Section 5. This bill recognizes that the Groundwater Management Areas authority will be authorized and submit under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.
- Section 6. Each board will be composed of 11 elected officials; two member of the board will rotate off every 4 years in correlation with local elections. Each member may serve up to 3 consecutive terms. The boards will be responsible for the management and research that is conducted on the aquifer and should focus on conserving water for the future, as well as ensuring that all people that are relying on the aquifer will have enough water. Each member must be living in within the aquifer region in which they are applying for, and may not be from another region.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Cale Scoggins, McLennan County

House Bill: 119

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Senate Bill: 419

Bill Author: Madison Chaloupka, Lubbock County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

HIEA Funding Increase

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the HIEA Funding Increase Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure the growth of the Texas horse industry and preserve and promote its culture and heritage. It will require up to \$90 million from sales tax on purchased horse-related items to be deposited into the HIEA.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. HIEA: Horse Industry Escrow Account.
- Section 4. This act shall be funded by members of the Texas horse industry in the amount of, up to, \$90 million per year.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Preslea Elston, Erath County

House Bill: 120

Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

Senate Bill: 420

Bill Author: Preslea Elston, Erath County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Implementation Of Automatic Sterilization In Texas Animal Shelters

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Implementation Of Automatic Sterilization In Texas Animal Shelters Act.
- Section 2. Proposition for the consideration of implementing automatic sterilization for all animals that enter animal shelters in the state of Texas. This initiative aims to address the issue of pet and stray animal overpopulation by inhibiting the reproduction of stray dogs and cats, promoting responsible pet ownership, and reducing the burden on animal shelters and taxpayers. Pet overpopulation poses significant challenges to agriculture, animal welfare, public health, and municipal resources in Texas. Each year, thousands of stray dogs and cats enter animal shelters, overwhelming capacity and resulting in euthanasia as a last resort. By implementing automatic sterilization at the point of intake, we can prevent unplanned litters, reduce shelter admissions, prevent agricultural losses, and ultimately save lives.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Stray Dogs and Cats: animals under no care or ownership by an individual.
B. Sterilization: The spaying or neutering of cats or dogs so that they are unable to reproduce.
- Section 4. Monetary Penalties:
1.1. Any individual, organization, or entity found to be in violation of the provisions outlined in the Automatic Animal Spay/Neuter Funding Act shall be subject to monetary penalties as follows:
a. 1st Offense: A fine not exceeding \$1000 per violation.
b. Subsequent Offenses: For repeat violations within 60 days, escalating fines shall be imposed, with each subsequent offense incurring a higher penalty than the previous one, up to a maximum amount of \$1500 per violation.
1.2. In addition to monetary penalties, the Texas Department of State Health Services may impose other corrective measures or sanctions deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the Act, including but not limited to:
a. Suspension or revocation of eligibility for government funding or participation in spay/neuter programs.
b. Injunctions or cease-and-desist orders prohibiting further violations of the Act.
c. Referral of egregious violations to appropriate law enforcement agencies for further investigation and prosecution.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
1.1. The state government shall allocate \$5,000,000 annually to establish and support comprehensive automatic animal spay/neuter programs at animal shelters across the state of Texas.
1.2. Funds allocated under this Act shall be used for:
a. Automatic sterilization of all animals brought to animal shelters.
b. Subsidizing spay/neuter surgeries for low-income pet owners.
c. Supporting low-cost spay/neuter clinics and mobile veterinary services.
d. Implementing public education and outreach campaigns to promote responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying/neutering.
e. Research and data collection to assess the effectiveness of spay/neuter programs and their impact on animal populations, agriculture and public health.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Several special rules and guidelines would be necessary to enforce and manage the law effectively. First and foremost, a comprehensive system for registering and tracking animals subject to automatic sterilization would need to be established, including protocols for verifying compliance and addressing exemptions or special circumstances. Additionally, clear guidelines would need to be developed for the implementation of automatic sterilization procedures, ensuring that they are performed safely, ethically, and in accordance with veterinary standards. Furthermore, mechanisms for oversight, monitoring, and reporting on the outcomes of automatic sterilization efforts would be essential to evaluate the effectiveness of the law and make any necessary adjustments to ensure its success in addressing animal overpopulation and promoting responsible pet ownership. Lastly, public education and outreach campaigns would be crucial to inform pet owners about their obligations under the law, raise awareness about the importance of sterilization, and provide resources and support for compliance.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: John Landry, Leon County

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Bill Author: John Landry, Leon County

House Bill: 121

Senate Bill: 421

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Increasing The Productivity Of Poultry Production In Texas

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Increasing The Productivity Of Poultry Production In Texas Act.
- Section 2. Broiler chickens are extremely susceptible to the toxic effects of aflatoxin B1 in their feed. Decreased growth rate, feed efficiency, enlarged liver, spleen and pancreas, and a regression of the Bursa of Fabricius have been seen in chickens (H. Pettersson). This has greatly affected the productivity of poultry production in the State of Texas.
- Section 3. This act is to be funded by the Texas State Government.
- Section 4. The Texas State Government will have all Aflatoxin in Broiler Chicken feed Removed so that the Productivity of Poultry meat may be fully efficient. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming of a law.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Rylan Redden, Tom Green County

House Bill: 122

Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 422

Bill Author: Ryland Redden, Tom Green County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Keeping The Farm In Solar Farm

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Keeping The Farm In Solar Farm Act.
- Section 2. This act shall require county tax appraisal offices to recognize the 1-d-1 appraisal of land used for solar energy production if such land remains in agricultural production consistent with the county and region. In 2023, Texas ranked number 2 in the nation for solar energy production that is estimated to encompass approximately 170,000 acres of land. In the next 5 years, utility scale solar development is estimated to be developed on another 350,000 acres of land in Texas. Without this act, agricultural production on such land could cease to exist and create a further shortage of land accessible to Texas farmers and ranchers.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Agricultural Production: Any type of livestock or plant farming.
B. 1d1 Appraisal: Texas Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1-d-1, and Tax Code, Chapter 23, Sub chapter D, provide for appraisal of open-space land.
- Section 4. County tax appraisal office whom do not follow this law are subject to fines and penalties equal to tax revenue inappropriately collected.
- Section 5. Texas Comptroller's Office and Texas Department of Ag already over see the tax evaluation of agricultural land.
- Section 6. Time required for development and construction of solar farms may exceed time permitted for land to remain in 1-d-1 land appraisal. Therefore, an exception should be made for these lands to return to 1-d-1 appraisal, as soon as agricultural production resumes on such land.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kade Davis, Johnson County

Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County

Bill Author: Kade Davis, Johnson County

House Bill: 123

Senate Bill: 423

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Legal Truck Gross Weight Increase To 90,000

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Legal Truck Gross Weight Increase To 90,000 Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to increase the legal load limit of trucks in Texas from 80,000 to 90,000. With the massive increase in inflation, diesel prices have gone through the roof, meaning it costs farmers and grain transporters much more to deliver grain to these elevators. For this reason, they should be able to carry more on their trips.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Inflation: The increase in the cost of goods and decrease in the value of currency.
- Section 4. If the truck is found overweight:
1st Offense: \$100-\$150 fine (Misdemeanor)
2nd Offense: \$150-\$250 fine (Misdemeanor)
3rd Offense: \$250-\$500 fine (Misdemeanor)
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the Texas Department of Transportation.
- Section 6. Maximum truck gross weight is 80,000 lbs.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective January 1, 2025, by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Olivia Bean, Runnels County

House Bill: 124

Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County

Senate Bill: 424

Bill Author: Travis Barrett, Leon County, Olivia Bean, Runnels County and Antonie Martinez, Caldwell County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Livestock Antibiotic Quality Counts

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Livestock Antibiotic Quality Counts Act.
- Section 2. This proposed bill aims to balance the need for effective antimicrobial stewardship with the practical realities faced by ranchers in managing livestock health. The proposed law aims to repeal the the Food and Drug Administration’s CVM GFI #263 which is under the oversight of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and went into effect June 2023. This law currently restricts the purchase of livestock antibiotics to only those with a prescription from a licensed veterinarian through a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). This act will allow for the purchase and use of antibiotics affected by GFI #263 with a license in the state of Texas. This license will be granted to livestock producers by the TDA after the completion of a 16-hour course. After this license is granted, it will allow for the purchase and use of the antibiotics affected by GFI #263 without a prescription from a veterinarian. This bill will be beneficial for livestock, producers, and consumers in Texas. Having timely and cost effective treatment options available for Texas producers to keep their herds and flocks healthy will help ensure a safe and affordable food supply for future generations.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship, or VCPR for short: Exists when your veterinarian knows your animal well enough to be able to diagnose and treat any medical conditions your animal develops.
 - B. USDA - United State Department of Agriculture: Provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.
 - C. FDA - Federal Drug Administration: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.
 - D. Rancher: A rancher is someone who owns or manages a large farm, especially one used for raising cattle, horses, or sheep.
 - E. Antibiotics: A medicine (such as penicillin) that inhibits the growth of or destroys bacterial microorganisms.
 - F. GFI #263: Guidance For Industry issued by the FDA. Specifically, GFI #263 outlines the process for animal drug sponsors to voluntarily change the approved marketing status of certain medically important antimicrobial drugs from over the counter (OTC) to prescription (Rx).
 - G. Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs: Antimicrobial drugs that are important for therapeutic use in humans.
 - H. TDA: (Texas Department of Agriculture) A diversified state agency that provides value-added services through regulatory and marketing initiatives. It facilitates trade and market development of agricultural commodities ranging from livestock to crops.
- Section 4. Over-the-Counter Antibiotic Purchases with Annual Training
- a. Ranchers and livestock producers shall be permitted to purchase antibiotics for their livestock over the counter, provided they participate in annual training courses.
 - b. These training courses shall be similar in structure and content to the Continuing Education Courses required for purchasing certain chemicals for weed control.
 - c. The training courses will cover topics including, but not limited to:
 - Proper use and administration of antibiotics in livestock.
 - Understanding and preventing antibiotic resistance.
 - Best practices for maintaining livestock health and preventing disease.
 - d. A reasonable annual fee of \$50 would be incurred by the rancher to attend the training which would cover the cost of materials and other resources provided.
- Section 5. Justification and Re-Evaluation
- a. While it is recognized that the appropriate use of antibiotics is essential and that overuse must be avoided to prevent antimicrobial resistance, the current rule requiring veterinary prescriptions imposes undue financial burdens on ranchers.
 - b. The USDA’s new rule necessitates that ranchers incur additional expenses and logistical challenges by requiring veterinary involvement for all antibiotic purchases, which can be particularly burdensome for routine treatments.
- Section 6. Ensuring Responsible Antibiotic Use
- a. The repeal of the current USDA policy is intended to ease the operational strain on ranchers while maintaining a commitment to responsible antibiotic use.
 - b. By allowing for a license with training, ranchers will be equipped with the knowledge to use antibiotics judiciously, thereby helping to mitigate the risk of antibiotic resistance.



c. The training programs will ensure that ranchers understand the importance of correct dosages, timing, and the selection of appropriate antibiotics, mirroring the benefits provided by veterinary guidance.

Section 7. Implementation and Oversight

a. The USDA, in collaboration with state agricultural agencies such as the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension alongside veterinary associations, shall develop and oversee the training programs required for licensing under this Act

Section 8. Purchasing or administering antibiotics affected by GFI#263 without a license will result in:
1st Offense: \$500.00 fine.
2nd Offense: \$1,000.00 fine.

Section 9. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 10. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Johan Grotegut, Deaf Smith County

House Bill: 125

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Senate Bill: 425

Bill Author: Johan Grotegut, Deaf Smith County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Livestock Safe Crossing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Livestock Safe Crossing Act.
- Section 2. This act shall allow for any unmarked road intersecting two properties owned by a single landowner to be implied as open range for the purpose of crossing if indicated by a livestock crossing sign put up by the landowner.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Open Range: A place in which livestock can roam freely without being required to be fenced in.
B. Unmarked Road: A road that is not marked by paint or some other lane denotation, however signage may be present. An example of such could be a two-lane dirt or gravel county road.
C. Fence-In Regulation: Any regulation forcing livestock to be in an area enclosed by a fence or similar barrier.
D. Livestock Crossing Sign: A yellow diamond sign with reflectors that says Livestock crossing on it.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$1,000 Fine
- Section 5. The county government will collect the fines.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Any section of the unmarked road that does not go between the sections of land is not affected. If fence-in laws are in place within the local jurisdiction landowners do not have to notify those who would enforce such laws as long as crossing a qualifying section of unmarked road at which signage has been put in place by the landowner at the beginning and end of the safe crossing area.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Rylee Barrett, Tom Green County

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Bill Author: Sincere Banner, Grimes County

House Bill: 126

Senate Bill: 426

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Livestock Waste Management

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Livestock Waste Management Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this legislation is to regulate and mitigate the adverse effects of livestock waste on biodiversity, human health, and the environment. Specifically, it aims to address the risks posed by untreated animal waste, particularly from industrial farms, and its impact on bird populations.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Livestock: Refers to all domesticated animals raised for food production, including cattle, poultry, swine, and other farm animals.
B. Animal Waste: Includes feces, urine, and other organic matter produced by livestock.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
A. Fines for non-compliance with waste management standards.
B. Suspension or revocation of permits for chronic violators.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government of three billion dollars.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kirby Miller, Kent County
Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County
Bill Author: Kirby Miller, Kent County

House Bill: 127
Senate Bill: 427

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Lowering The Farmers And Ranchers Carbon Footprint

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Lowering The Farmers And Ranchers Carbon Footprint Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all farmers and ranchers are incentivized to pursue sustainable practices through live-stock, soil, and crop conservation practices. For farmers, this act would incentivize the utilization of no-till practices, cover crops, and minimal-to-no use of synthetic fertilizers, which would ultimately protect the soil microbiome and decrease water runoff. For ranchers, this act would incentivize shorter days on feed with the use of anti metha-nogenic feed additives, growth promotants, and any other factors that would ultimately lead to decreased green-house gas (GHG) emissions.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Sustainability: Farming and/or ranching in such a way to protect the environment and to meet society’s food and textile needs in the present without compromising resources for the future.
 - B. Carbon Footprint: Total amount of greenhouse gasses (GHG) that are generated by our actions.
 - C. Farmer: A person who owns or manages a farm.
 - D. Rancher: A person who owns or manages a ranch.
 - E. Anti-methanogenic Feed Additives: Compounds which are capable of interacting with the rumen microbiome to reduce methane.
 - F. Synthetic Fertilizers: Fertilizers derived from chemicals such as ammonia, natural gas, atmospheric nitrogen, phosphate minerals, and sulfur.
 - G. Soil Microbiome: The community of microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, associated with plants and soil.
 - H. Growth Promotants: Used to help increase the efficiency of animal production by increasing weight gain and product output.
 - I. GHG Emissions: Greenhouse gasses (GHGs) are gasses in the earth’s atmosphere, which are emitted from Earth’s surface.
- Section 4. There is no direct punishment to farmers or ranchers not utilizing these sustainable practices, however, with failure to use these practices, the farmer and/or rancher will not receive the incentives for lowering their carbon footprint.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the USDA NRCS, backed by the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. The funds will be determinant on how many farmers and ranchers partake in this incentive, and how much each farm and ranch lowers their carbon footprint by, which will be measured on a bimonthly basis to ensure accurate records and time to quantify changes.
- Section 6. This bill will not change any current incentive programs, but it will back the USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as it will reward farmers and ranchers for their conservation efforts.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Madeleine Ducharme, Kinney County

House Bill: 128

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Senate Bill: 428

Bill Author: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Make Texas A Pork State

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Make Texas A Pork State Act.
- Section 2. Currently Texas does not rank in the top 10 states in pork production. There is a need to increase pork production and the agriculture economy in Texas. An increase in pork production would also lower the cost of pork, which in return lowers the cost for consumers.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Market Fluctuations: A situation in which share prices go up and down.
B. Texas Pork: Swine that were fed in Texas for at least 180 days before being processed.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in fines up to 100 dollars per head imported from other states or countries.
- Section 5. The Texas Department of Agriculture will oversee first time pork producer grants, Implement and expand for price negotiations for pork products and support farmers for up to five years of production.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Whit Parkey, Archer County

House Bill: 129

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Senate Bill: 429

Bill Author: Whit Parkey, Archer County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Pre-Teen Ag Use Driver License

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Pre-Teen Ag Use Driver License Act.
- Section 2. This bill is to allow pre-teens ages 12 to 15 the ability to take a course, in person and/or online, to access a driver license that permits them to operate farm equipment on all public roads. This will include, but is not limited to, feed trucks, tractors, combines, truck and trailers, etc.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Farm Equipment: Anything that can be used in the benefit of a farm/ranch that otherwise would be limited to certain license.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: If traffic laws are violated, use of the license is restricted to FM or County Roads.
2nd Offense: If traffic laws are violated a second time, your license is suspended until normal age limit, 16, and reevaluated.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. Recipients of this license must show evidence that it is a legitimate claim to be agricultural use.
- Section 7. This act will repeal the current law that restricts the legal age limit to drive at age 16.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Trevor Hill, Val Verde County

House Bill: 130

Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 430

Bill Author: Turner Sanders, Angelina County and Trevor Hill, Val Verde County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Preservation Of Lands For Agricultural Production

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Preservation Of Lands For Agricultural Production Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that land used for agricultural production is preserved by the state. Due to the growth of urban areas, Texas is the leader in annual lost farmland acres in the country. This act will reserve land used for agricultural production and keep the land above a certain amount of acreage. Additionally, this act will ensure a fair price on the sale of agricultural land, thus keeping it available for production.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Agricultural Production: The use of cultivated plants or animals to produce products for sustaining or enhancing human life.
B. Acreage: An area of land, typically used for agricultural purposes, but not necessarily measured in acres.
C. Agriculture Land: Land that is either arable, under permanent crops, or permanent pastures.
- Section 4. This act shall be funded by the state government through the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Emerson Pool, Llano County
Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County
Bill Author: Emerson Pool, Llano County

House Bill: 131
Senate Bill: 431

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Protecting Agricultural Land

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Protecting Agricultural Land Act.
- Section 2. This act shall protect agricultural land by increasing property tax if agricultural land that comes under new ownership does not continue to contribute to production agriculture as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Many new landowners are leaving land barren and unoccupied, which causes environmental destruction and diminishes our state's ability to provide the food, fiber, and products our world needs. Furthermore, if not protected, agricultural land purchases and use by foreign entities can be used as a form of warfare. Because Texas leads the nation in number of farms and ranches, with 230,662 covering 125.5 million acres, we must protect these agricultural lands to protect our state and country's livelihood.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Agricultural Land: Any land the use of which qualifies for special use tax valuation (agricultural use) under Chapter 23, Sub-chapter C of the Texas Tax Code.
- Section 4. If agricultural land comes under new ownership and ceases to qualify as agricultural land at any time under Chapter 23, Sub-chapter C of the Texas Tax Code, a property tax increase beyond 1.5% of the local property tax is to be imposed.
- Section 5. Because Texas has no state property tax and local governments set tax rates and collect property taxes, this act will be enforced by local governments with qualification of agricultural land use being determine by the local United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.
- Section 6. Special Instructions: Tax dollars generated shall be managed by local governments.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kinley Shieldknight, Hansford County

Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County

Bill Author: Kinley Shieldknight, Hansford County

House Bill: 132

Senate Bill: 432

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Protecting Cattle Producers And Beef Consumers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Protecting Cattle Producers And Beef Consumers Act.
- Section 2. Texas is the top beef-producing state in the nation, and raising cattle is the largest part of Texas agriculture. The pandemic and its resulting impact on the Texas economy and the way Texans purchased food wreaked havoc on the food supply chain, particularly the cattle markets. There is a need to offset the dramatic price spread differences caused by the reduction of fat cattle processing and COVID-19. There are only four companies that slaughter 80% of cattle and these packers dominate the marketplace and limit the opportunity for pricing negotiations.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Market Fluctuations: A situation in which share prices go up and down.
B. Price Spreads: Monthly average price values, and the differences among those values at the farm, wholesale, and retail stages of the production.
C. Price Fixing: An agreement (written, verbal, or inferred from conduct) among competitors to raise, lower, maintain, or stabilize prices or price levels.
D. Oligopoly: Market control by a small group of businesses.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
Imprisonment for up to ten years, up to \$1 million for individuals, or up to \$100 million for companies OR twice gain or loss from the offense.
- Section 5. The Texas Department of Agriculture will oversee, implement and expand the opportunity for price negotiations for beef products in Texas. All funding needs will go through the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Create regulatory guidelines to control the law.
- Section 7. The current federal Packers and Stockyards Act is not sufficient, therefore, we must protect our ranchers and consumers at the state level. All state laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kenzi Williams, Lipscomb County

House Bill: 133

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Senate Bill: 433

Bill Author: Katelyn Martin, Lampasas County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Protecting Texas Agriculture Against Black Vultures

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Protecting Texas Agriculture Against Black Vultures Act.
- Section 2. Strike Black Vultures from the list of protected birds within the state of Texas, therefore making farmers and ranchers who attempt to eliminate them from disturbing their livestock not liable to any legal repercussions.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Eliminate: Kill, or capture and re-home Black Vultures.
- Section 4. This law would only apply to farmers and ranchers (people who have livestock, or other Agrilife related plants and animals under their care) who both live outside the city limits, and are legally registered to own a firearm in the state of Texas.
- Section 5. Repeal of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Jeri Holcomb, Dickens County

House Bill: 134

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Senate Bill: 434

Bill Author: Jeri Holcomb, Dickens County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Protecting Texas Land From Foreign Buyers/Citizens

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Protecting Texas Land From Foreign Buyers/Citizens Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that agricultural land in the State of Texas is not available for purchase to foreign buyers.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Foreign: Any being whose permanent residence is outside of the United States of America.
 - B. U.S. Citizen: Those born in the U.S. or its territories.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - Fine: \$100,000 to the person selling land.
 - Fine: \$200,000 to any sign purchase agreement on behalf of foreign industries.
- Section 5. This act is funded by the State of Texas Legislature.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Lynnlea Johnson, Swisher County

House Bill: 135

Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

Senate Bill: 435

Bill Author: Rebekah Lansford-Adams, Bastrop County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Public Awareness On Viral Outbreaks In Wildlife

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Public Awareness On Viral Outbreaks In Wildlife Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Act is to enhance public awareness and knowledge regarding viral outbreaks in wild animals that have the potential to affect domestic pets and livestock, thereby promoting preventive measures, early detection, and appropriate response to protect public health and the economy.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Viral Outbreaks: Incidents where viruses are spreading rapidly among wild animal populations.
 - B. Wild Animals: Animals that live and breed in natural environments without human intervention.
 - C. Domestic Pets: Animals domesticated and kept by humans for companionship or protection, such as dogs and cats.
 - D. Livestock: Farm animals raised for commercial purposes, including but not limited to cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry.
 - E. Public Awareness Campaign: A strategic initiative aimed at educating the public through various media and community engagement activities.
- Section 4. Funding Provisions:
- 1. Appropriations: Allocate necessary funding to the Department of Agriculture to support the implementation and maintenance of the public awareness program.
 - 2. Grants and Financial Assistance: Provide grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and other entities involved in the program to facilitate their participation and outreach efforts.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Eli Felcman, Tom Green County

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Bill Author: Eli Felcman, Tom Green County

House Bill: 136

Senate Bill: 436

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Pure Raw Honey Of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Pure Raw Honey Of 2024 Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to define and establish standards for Pure Raw Honey. Currently there are minimal state or federal regulations that define honey as a substance produced from bees. Furthermore, current labeling standards allows the inclusion of products, such as sugar and syrup, without any labeling requirements. Proper labeling requirements would provide transparency for consumers and would support domestic beekeepers who produce pure raw honey.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Pure Raw Honey: Means honey produced by bees with zero additives.
B. Has not been heated above 95 degrees during processing, and contains no additives or sweeteners.
C. Transparency: Lets the costumer know any ingredients added to the product.
D. Domestic: Made inside of the U.S.A. E. Label: Any written, printed, or graphic on or accompanying a product or its container.
- Section 4. USDA will conduct periodic inspections of producers and their facilities to ensure compliance. Any producers found in violation of the act shall be subject to a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000 per violation.
- Section 5. States will be responsible for testing expenses.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Samuel Sparks, Pecos County

Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

Bill Author: Samuel Sparks, Pecos County

House Bill: 137

Senate Bill: 437

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Recharge And Reduce Tax Incentive For Drone Usage In Agriculture

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Recharge And Reduce Tax Incentive For Drone Usage In Agriculture Act.
- Section 2. This bill will provide a tax credit to agriculture producers for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing drones for crop management. Tax incentives awarded for the use of drones in place of tractors when possible have the potential to spur even more new investments in agriculture drone usage ultimately lowering the overall carbon footprint of the agriculture industry.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Tax Credit: An amount of money that can be offset against a tax liability
B. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The release of gases into the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat and contribute to the greenhouse effect.
C. Carbon Footprint : A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels
- Section 4. No penalties are necessary for this tax incentive.
- Section 5. This act will not require funding as it will come out of tax submissions.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Tax credit amounts will be calculated by utilizing the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) model.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Logan Poncik, Fayette County

Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County

Bill Author: Logan Poncik, Fayette County

House Bill: 138

Senate Bill: 438

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Required Electronic Identification Tags

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Required Electronic Identification Tags Act.
- Section 2. This bill will require all feedlots in the State of Texas to administer Electronic Identification Tags to all animals sold to feedlots. The Cattle Fever Tick outbreak ravaged regions of Southern Texas from the late 1800s to early 1900s. Before the eradication program there was an estimated economic loss of around \$3 Billion dollars in today's money. The introduction of Electronic Identification Tags can allow tracking of animals to help prevent and reduce the quarantine size in case of an outbreak again.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Feedlots: A type of animal feeding operation which increases the quality of meat and gains from the animals.
B. Electronic Identification Tags: A microchip which is located in a standard tag that allows enhanced identification of animals.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$500 Fine
2nd Offense: \$1,000 Fine
3rd Offense: Loss of TCEQ Authorization
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government with the Texas Animal Health Commission regulating and overseeing the implementation of Electronic Identification Tags in all feedlots.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Peter Lockwood, Kerr County
Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County
Bill Author: Peter Lockwood, Kerr County

House Bill: 139
Senate Bill: 439

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Rocky Mountain Elk As Native Game Species

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Rocky Mountain Elk As Native Game Species Act.
- Section 2. This act shall categorize the Rocky Mountain Elk as a native game species rather than an exotic, so that their harvest would be restricted to a designated annual season for the purpose of protecting the species.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Native: A species indigenous to a particular region
 - B. Exotic: A species introduced into an area outside its normal distribution
 - C. Harvest: To gather, hunt, catch, or kill
- Section 4. Fines for misdemeanors:
 - Class C - \$25-\$500
 - Class B - \$200-\$2,000
 - Class A - \$500-\$4,000; Fines for state jail felonies: \$1,500-\$10,000 and/or up to 2 years in jail; Automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to five years; Forfeiture of hunting gear, including firearms, used to commit a violation.
- Section 5. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will be responsible for managing changes resulting from the passage of this act. If passed, this bill will require no funding.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: McCrae Davidson, Karnes County

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Bill Author: McCrae Davidson, Karnes County

House Bill: 140

Senate Bill: 440

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Solar Energy Farms on Active or Viable Farmland Prevention

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Solar Energy Farms on Active or Viable Farmland Prevention Act.
- Section 2. This bill will prevent any new solar farms from being established on any active or potentially viable farmland. This bill will ensure that all farmers will have the ability to use their land to its fullest potential without the worry of government corporations establishing solar energy farms. Solar farms take a considerable number of acres away from food production.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Active or Viable Farmland : Any piece of land that is qualified for Agriculture Exemptions.
B. Solar Energy Farms: Any piece of land larger than one acre that is devoted to generating electricity using solar panels.
- Section 4. Illegal setup of a solar farm will result in:
1st Offense: \$10,000 Fine and removal of Solar Farm.
2nd Offense: \$25,000 Fine and revocation of all necessary permits.
- Section 5. As this act is for prevention of new solar farms being built, no funding will be necessary.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Allison Martin, Lampasas County

House Bill: 141

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Senate Bill: 441

Bill Author: Madison Moran, Washington County and Makenna Johnson, Brazos County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Standards Of Excellence In Labeling Dairy Substitutes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Standards Of Excellence In Labeling Dairy Substitutes Act.
- Section 2. This act will properly display the standards of identity in dairy products, assisting the consumer in fully understanding the product that is being purchased and the benefits associated. Only dairy products produced by livestock species shall be labeled as milk, with other agricultural dairy substitutes displaying a name appropriate to the product that corresponds with the SOL's in dairy production. Products such as almond, coconut, soy, or oat products shall not be labeled as milk as this would be considered false advertising to the consumer. Any product that is not produced by a livestock species that is labeled as milk will be considered as misbranded.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Standards of Identity: A set of food regulations put into place by the FDA to ensure that the characteristics, ingredients, and production processes of specific foods are consistent with what the consumer expects. SOL's were created to maintain the integrity of foods and describe the basic principles of what a food product must contain. Milk products, breads, peanut butter, and even ketchup all have set Standard of Identities outlined by the FDA.
 - B. Dairy Substitute: Any non-dairy beverage that provides similar nutritional benefits, taste, and serves similar functions as milk. Nut and grain products are examples of dairy substitutes that are commonly labeled as milk products.
 - C. Milk: An opaque, rich, white fluid protein that is also rich in fat. A product that is secreted by female mammals for the nourishment of their offspring.
 - D. Mis-branding: Branding a product in a way that is false to the composition of the product or misleading to the consumer in violation to set standards and requirements.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: \$25,000 Fine to company with assistance in fixing product labeling.
 - 2nd Offense: \$40,000 Fine to company with temporary removal of product(s) from store shelves.
 - 3rd Offense: \$70,000 Fine to company, permanent removal of product(s) from store shelves, and immediate shut-down of plant.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government through the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Ty Carr, Lamb County

Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

Bill Author: Audri Poage, Burnet County

House Bill: 142

Senate Bill: 442

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Supplemental Forage For Texas Livestock Producers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Supplemental Forage For Texas Livestock Producers Act.
- Section 2. Although current law allows for the baling of hay in state highway rights-of-way (often referred to as bar ditches) for personal use, ranchers and farmers in the state of Texas should be allowed to be compensated for hay that they cut and bale from the bar ditches adjacent to their land. As drought conditions persist and increase throughout the state, this amendment would incentivize the practice of haying the bar ditches, providing Texas producers with another source of supplemental hay to feed their livestock with and saving the state the expense of mowing.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. State Highway: A public road maintained by the State of Texas
B. Highway Right-of-Way: A strip of property, owned by the State, within which a highway exists or is planned to be built.
- Section 4. Funding necessary for this bill would be very minimal as it would be at the discretion and cost of the producers whether they choose to allocate their personal resources towards baling the rights-of-way. It is likely that the increased savings in mowing would easily cover any costs that might arise from this bill. Further, it is proposed that anytime 2 or more individuals desire to utilize the same area of right-of-way for haying, and neither is the adjacent landowner, the right to hay that shall go to the highest bidder, said bid having been given by sealed bid. The funds generated from this shall go to the implementation of this program and any excess funds shall go to pre-existing drought relief programs in Texas. The Department of Agriculture and/or Transportation would be involved in the creation of this program.
- Section 5. Amending (or repeal and replace) current Texas Transportation Code 202.059.
- Section 6. There are no special instructions. Because this bill specifies the bar ditch adjacent to the producer's property, the only other necessary provision would be the use of public roads to get to the ditch. However, in the State of Texas, it is already legal to drive farming equipment on the roads. So, as long as the producer follows traffic laws, no special provisions need to be put into place.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Rylee Barrett, Tom Green County

House Bill: 143

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Senate Bill: 443

Bill Author: Rylee Barrett, Tom Green County and Dylan Wunderlich, Comal County

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Sustainability Of Agriculture On Land Developed With Green Energy Systems

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Sustainability Of Agriculture On Land Developed With Green Energy Systems Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that agricultural land being used for the development of green energy systems (wind turbines, solar panels, etc.) must have the ability to remain in agricultural production once the site is established. This can be done by planting a cover or row crop in the available space, and or by using the land for some other form of agricultural entity including but not limited to: livestock production, agricultural education, or some other means that can still be economically profitable for the owner but does not derive the land from being beneficial to the rest of the population. Fewer acres of land are devoted to agricultural production each year. Land used for green energy systems are going into rural areas and are taking land out of production. The ability to have continued agricultural production at these green energy sites is vital to continue to feed the growing population of our world. This act will include the regulation of systems and equipment used to allow for agricultural production to continue.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Solar Farming: A solar farm, also known as a solar park or solar field, is a large area of land with interconnected solar panels that generate electricity from the sun. The panels are usually mounted on the ground and can be different sizes and shapes. Solar farms are designed to capture large amounts of solar energy at once and send it directly to the power grid for distribution to customers.
 - B. Viable Farm/Ranch Land: Describes the ability of a farmer or Rancher to maintain a business that is economically viable.
 - C. Cover Crop: A crop grown for the protection and enrichment of the soil.
 - D. Agricultural Education: Agricultural education is the instruction, teaching, and training surrounding agriculture as well as the management of land and natural resources. Agricultural education is frequently geared toward those preparing for careers in farming and agriculture.
 - E. Green Energy: Energy type that is generated from natural resources, such as sunlight, wind, biomass or water. Examples of different green energy systems are wind turbine farms, solar farms, and biomass energy production sites.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: Immediate shutdown of green energy site. Loss and/or claw back of incentives provided by state government along with any state income tax breaks. Potential for up to \$5,000 fine.
 - 2nd Offense: Civil money penalties payable to the state for continued noncompliance. Potential for up to \$20,000 fine.
- Section 5. This act requires no state funding. Tax incentives available for green energy will be withheld if companies do not ensure agricultural sustainability. Funding could actually be available to the state if legislation would require penalties for noncompliance. The Texas General Land Office will work in conjunction with the Texas Department of Agriculture will work alongside one another to ensure that all requirements are upheld through quarterly inspections ran by each group.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Current solar farms will be given a 90 day grace period to become compliant while all new solar farms must be constructed to meet compliance.
- Section 7. This bill will be supplemental to Texas Property Code Section 202.010.
- Section 8. Legislation in this area of concern is new, and no laws would have to be repealed.
- Section 9. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 10. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: McKyla Swierc, Parmer County

Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

Bill Author: McKyla Swierc, Parmer County

House Bill: 144

Senate Bill: 444

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Tax Credit For Agriculture Producers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Tax Credit For Agriculture Producers Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is for people who receive income from agricultural businesses to receive a \$10,000 tax credit. Agricultural producers who implement AI technologies to optimize crop and animal management will receive this credit. This tax credit would also help farmers and ranchers with the uncertainty for agriculture production.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Tax Credit: An amount of money that can be offset against a tax liability.
B. Agriculture Businesses: Industries that are engaged in farming or that produce farm inputs.
- Section 4. Government credits will not be given out without proper documentation use.
- Section 5. This act will not require funding as it will come out of income tax submissions.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Eli Felcman, Tom Green County

Senate Sponsor: Seth Wootan, Llano County

Bill Author: Kelsey Johnson, Walker County

House Bill: 145

Senate Bill: 445

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Tax Exemption For Stock Show Earnings

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Tax Exemption For Stock Show Earnings Act.
- Section 2. Stock Show participants that receive payment as an award from a buyer at the stock show will not pay taxes. This will ensure that the money the buyer has used to purchase the animal goes directly to the participant in full.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Participant: The individual that is showing or competing in a livestock show.
B. Award: Any money received as premiums for a livestock show.
- Section 4. If this bill becomes law, the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code would need to be amended to fit the requirements of the bill.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Robert Hattenbach, Gonzales County

Senate Sponsor: Antonine Martinez, Caldwell County

Bill Author: Robert Hattenbach, Gonzales County

House Bill: 146

Senate Bill: 446

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Agroforestry And Silvopasture Integration Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Agroforestry And Silvopasture Integration Program Act.
- Section 2. To promote the integration of trees and shrubs into agricultural and livestock systems in Texas to enhance sustainability, boost productivity, and improve environmental health.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Agroforestry: A land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland.
B. Silvopasture: The practice of combining forestry and grazing of domesticated animals in a mutually beneficial way.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense \$50.00 Fine
2nd Offense \$75.00 Fine
- Section 5. Funding for this Act shall be appropriated from the state's general fund and may also include federal grants and private donations. The TDA shall seek additional funding sources to ensure the sustainability of the program.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
A. The state shall provide grants or subsidies to farmers and ranchers for the establishment and maintenance of agroforestry and silvopasture systems.
B. Priority shall be given to projects that demonstrate significant environmental benefits and economic viability.
C. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) shall offer expert advice and resources on best practices for integrating trees and shrubs with crops and livestock.
D. The TDA shall establish a dedicated team to assist farmers and ranchers in planning and implementing these systems. E. The TDA shall establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress and impact of funded projects. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Legislature summarizing the outcomes and effectiveness of the program.
F. If needed, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension will send representatives to help evaluate projects.
- Section 7. Repeal of Zoning and Land-Use Regulations; Property Tax Implications.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Kenzi Williams, Lipscomb County

House Bill: 147

Senate Sponsor: Hailey Hill, Waller County

Senate Bill: 447

Bill Author: Kenzi Williams, Lipscomb County and Hailey Hill, Waller County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Bee Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Bee Protection Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to protect and preserve the population of bees in the state of Texas by regulating the use of pesticides, particularly neonicotinoids, which have been shown to have detrimental effects on bee populations. This act shall ensure that no individuals and businesses use harmful pesticides that directly impact the bee population. Additionally, this act states that no one in the state of Texas shall harm a live bee hive. Instead, they must have the hive safely removed.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Neonicotinoids: Refers to a class of neuro-active insecticides modeled after nicotine.
B. Bee: Refers to any member of the insect genus *Apis*, including honey bees and native bees.
C. Pesticide: Refers to any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
D. Live Bee Hive: A dome-shaped or boxlike structure in which bees are kept.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: A fine of up to \$500 for individuals and up to \$2,500 for businesses.
2nd Offense: A fine of up to \$1,000 for individuals and up to \$5,000 for businesses, and suspension of any relevant licenses or permits for a period of up to one year.
3rd Offense: A fine of up to \$5,000 for individuals and up to \$25,000 for businesses, and revocation of any relevant licenses or permits.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Lynnlea Johnson, Swisher County

Senate Sponsor: Katie Littlejohn, Potter County

Bill Author: Lynnlea Johnson, Swisher County

House Bill: 148

Senate Bill: 448

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Beef School Lunch Enhancement Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Beef School Lunch Enhancement Program Act.
- Section 2. This act shall be instated to increase the amount of Texas Beef served in school lunch programs. It is well known that beef provides many essential nutrients for children. Texas is a leading state in beef cattle production. The TDA shall work with public school districts in Texas to increase the amount of Texas produced beef served in school lunch programs to provide the vital nutrients needed by Texas students. This shall be accomplished by initiating a beef purchase program that: a) purchases more beef from Texas packing plants, b) provides this beef to Texas public schools at a price to increase use in school lunch programs. This act shall work under the Agriculture Code, Title 2, Chapter 12, Section 12.0025 Nutrition Programs. Additionally, Section 12.0026 shall be amended to provide oversight of the Texas Beef Lunch Program to the INTER-AGENCY FARM-TO-SCHOOL COORDINATION TASK FORCE.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. TDA: Texas Department of Agriculture
B. Commissioner: Means the Commissioner of Agriculture.
C. Department: Means the Department of Agriculture.
- Section 4. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts shall work with the Texas Legislature to increase the funding for Texas Public School lunch programs. Funding for this program shall be made permanent and shall be adjusted for inflation.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Bronc Thompson, Kaufman County
Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County
Bill Author: Bronc Thompson, Kaufman County

House Bill: 149
Senate Bill: 449

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Import Restrictions For Meat Imports

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Import Restrictions For Meat Imports Act.
- Section 2. This act shall apply a restriction on imports of infected meat goods into Texas. We shall do this to greatly reduce the chance of infected meat products from other countries getting into our meat supply. This Bill will help outline the key reasons why and the punishments.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Imports: Bringing of goods into a country.
- Section 4. If found to be bringing infected meat into Texas, punishments will result as follows:
1st Offense: 5,000 dollars.
2nd Offense: 10,000 dollars.
3rd Offense: barred from importing into Texas.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Any money earned from offense shall also be given to The Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. Repeal of Health and Safety Code Chapter 433. Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Madeleine Ducharme, Kinney County

House Bill: 150

Senate Sponsor: Carly Coker, Leon County

Senate Bill: 450

Bill Author: Madeleine Ducharme, Kinney County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Theft And Law In Livestock

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Theft And Law In Livestock Act.
- Section 2. Throughout the state of Texas, there are millions of heads of cattle. Ranchers and farmers struggle with the problem of theft with their animals when it comes to large areas. This act is put into play to help ranchers and farmers keep their livestock safe.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Livestock: Domesticated animals raised for agricultural purposes.
- Section 4. Failure to Comply will Result In:
1st Offense: A third degree felony, including a fine of \$10,000 or less and two to ten years in prison.
- Section 5. This act is funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety, as special rangers for Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Rylie LaMar, Clay County
Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County
Bill Author: Rylie LaMar, Clay County

House Bill: 151
Senate Bill: 451

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Vegetable Garden For Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Vegetable Garden For Schools Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure that the state funded cafeterias use fresh grown produce raised by the students, and will help with cost and quality of vegetables in school cafeterias as well as educate the students on how to grow their own food.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Fresh Vegetables: Grown at schools gardens for lunches.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Issue of warning by the state to the school.
 - 2nd Offense: Loose part of their state funding for a period of time until they are compliant.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the USDA until the garden would be able to pay for itself.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Katie Jouett, Kaufman County

House Bill: 152

Senate Sponsor: Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

Senate Bill: 452

Bill Author: Katie Jouett, Kaufman County and Hannah Griffice, Chambers County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Water Assessment Usage By County Land Managers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Water Assessment Usage By County Land Managers Act.
- Section 2. Whereas Texas is one of the fastest growing states in the United States, and whereas the Texas Water and Development Board only meets every four years, additional resources and attention is needed to help combat water scarcity, especially in counties where population far exceeds their projected growth. As many facets of water use concerns exist: from viability of drinking water, accessibility to clean water, recreation, contaminated water, and agricultural use, and because the projected future reservoirs fail to include some of the counties in need (especially those with much growth), the creation of land managers in such counties can help assess water issues case-by-case. Such managers can determine if water collection, irrigation systems, or other water conservation efforts are needed. This would include assistance to ranchers concerning grazing and hay baling needs and provisions, as they require water, as well as assistance to farmers who can better increase their crops' yield by planting ground cover, dry farming, utilizing crop rotation, landscaping, drip irrigation, gravity irrigation, pressurized irrigation, etc. – whatever needs suit the landowner and best conserves water. Such a liaison would work with the county to ensure that agriculture flourishes and is included in all water planning and delegation while keeping in mind issues such as water pollution, consumption, and recreation. The land manager would also serve as an advocate for water use and rights for farmers and ranchers. This act shall ensure that all counties in the state of Texas have water conservation districts, which the county land manager will work under.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Water Pollutants: Nitrate compounds (which make up about 90% of pollutants, heavy metals, methanol, ammonia, etc.
B. Dry Farming: Growing crops without irrigation during dry seasons.
C. Water Conservation Districts: A district created that has the authority to regulate the spacing of water wells, the production from water wells, or both.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Refusal to work with the county land manager, would result in a fine that will vary based upon needs assessment.
2nd Offense: Potential removal of water access for landowners who fail to attempt to better their water usage based upon the needs assessment. Compliance with the land manager's assessment could result in a reduction of taxes as a reward.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government – the Texas Water Development Board (possibly obtained as a grant from the United States' government Land and Water Conservation Fund) and the United States Department of Agriculture.
- Section 6. Land managers will work within the boundaries of the current legislation, report to the Texas Water Development Board, and strive to enact legislation based upon the best interests of those in their county while considering the unique characteristics and needs of their county itself. Each county will build a Water Conservation District building and hire employees for each district to ensure the law is being upheld and maintained.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

House Sponsor: Madison Moseley, Brown County

House Bill: 153

Senate Sponsor: Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 453

Bill Author: Madison Moseley, Brown County and Ella Jensen, Val Verde County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Water Consumption And Conservation For Ag Production

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Water Consumption And Conservation For Ag Production Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure the availability and longevity of local water supplies for current and future agriculture production. This production to include, crop, livestock, grassland, and forestry by requiring consumption limits and mandatory conservation practices. Additionally, it will ensure that any property with more than 5 livestock animals has their own water well and does not use city or county water source.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Conservation: Prevention of a wasteful use of a resource.
 - B. Consumption: The using up of a resource.
 - C. Livestock: The domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting in order to provide labor and produce diversified products for consumption.
 - D. Water Well: A hole drilled into the ground to access water.
- Section 4. Failure to comply of conservation efforts by property owners will result in:
- 1st Offense: Immediate shut down of the agriculture operation until corrective action has been taken to conserve water and reduce consumption and has been inspected.
 - 2nd Offense: Will result in loss of government grants and funding until operation complies.
- Failure to comply by city or county in establishing wells will result in:
- 1st Offense: \$1,000 fine
 - 2nd Offense: \$2,000 fine
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of five million dollars, and by county or city grants.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



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**EDUCATION
(EDU)**

House Chairperson: **Audri Poage**

Senate Chairperson: **Jasmine Price**

Advisor(s): **Hendrix Broussard & Mellanie Mickelson**

Advisor(s): **Connor Davis & Hayley Meyer**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
154	454	4-H Excused Absence	Lane McDonald	Jind Sodhi	Collin/Rockwall
155	455	4-H Excused School Days	Jack Tyler	Hayden Dittmar	Henderson/Kerr
156	456	4-H For College Course Credit	Rayleigh Beyer	Carson Dodd	Gillespie/Brazos
157	457	4-H Introduction As A Class	Gunnar Frank	Emersyn Blanek	Dewitt/Tom Green
158	458	4-H Secondary Education Savings Fund	Josue Vasquez	Paysley Branham	Val Verde/Runnels
159	459	Adequate Pay For Agricultural Educators	Jeet Sodhi	Jacquelyn Finney	Rockwall/Dewitt
160	460	Agricultural Education Classes	Clinton Frazier	Addisyn Wiley	Archer/Guadalupe
161	461	Agriculture Curriculum And Certificate Of Completion For Private Schools	Joseph Haegelin	Brady Masur	Comal/Bastrop
162	462	Agriculture Education For Graduation	Caitlin Smith	Jind Sodhi	Brazos/Rockwall
163	463	Agriculture Education For Students In Public Schools In Grades K-5	Madysen McAshlan	Hayden Dittmar	Galveston/Kerr
164	464	All inclusive Outdoor Education	Isaiah Atoe	Carson Dodd	Tarrant/Brazos
165	465	Alternate School Property Tax Exemption	Clare Whitaker	Brady Masur	Bastrop/Bastrop
166	466	Class Credit For Agricultural Project Experience	Caroline Colten	Emersyn Blanek	Wise/Tom Green
167	467	Classroom Protection	Kenley Pack	Paysley Branham	Erath/Runnels
168	468	Completion Of Mental Health And Disciplinary Guidelines	Adam Shackelford	Jacquelyn Finney	Walker/Dewitt
169	469	Dyslexia Versus Special Education	Koda Wagner	Addisyn Wiley	Llano/Guadalupe
170	470	Educational Freedom For Privately Schooled Students	Elliora Groot	Jind Sodhi	Bandera/Rockwall
171	471	Educational Tracking For Success (EFTS)	Mattie Garrett	Hayden Dittmar	Victoria/Kerr
172	472	Establishing A Financial Literary Class	Bryce Ferrell	Carson Dodd	Wilson/Brazos
173	473	Excused Absences For Extracurricular Activities	Makayla Janysek	Emersyn Blanek	Karnes/Tom Green
174	474	Extended Excused Absences	Makenzie Mikulik	Paysley Branham	Tom Green/Runnels
175	475	First Day of School	Blakely Bland	Jacquelyn Finney	Denton/Dewitt
176	476	Funding For Public Education	Ryanne Vicars	Addisyn Wiley	Clay/Guadalupe
177	477	Grades 6-12 Human Trafficking Education	Dixie Snodgrass	Brady Masur	Somervell/Bastrop
178	478	High School Mandatory Life Skills Preparation Class	Rayleigh Beyer	Jind Sodhi	Gillespie/Rockwall
179	479	High School Safety/Self-defense For Juniors And Seniors	Charlie Outen	Hayden Dittmar	Somervell/Kerr
180	480	Homeschool Participation For All	Kaylee Abercrombie	Carson Dodd	Hardin/Brazos
181	481	Homework Eradication	Sydney Kuykendall	Emersyn Blanek	Llano/Tom Green
182	482	Human Trafficking Prevention Education	Lilliana Haddox	Paysley Branham	Waller/Runnels
183	483	Increase Physical Education Credits For High School Students	Sullivan Belew	Jacquelyn Finney	Franklin/Dewitt
184	484	Increased Spanish Education	Macey Rutherford	Addisyn Wiley	Rusk/Guadalupe
185	485	Intro Level Agricultural Course	Payton Alexander	Brady Masur	Somervell/Bastrop
186	486	Large Animal Vet Loan Repayment Program	Brock Barrett	Jind Sodhi	Bosque/Rockwall
187	487	Library Maximum Overdue Book Fine	Ryan Britton Joyce	Hayden Dittmar	Rockwall/Kerr



HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
188	488	Mandating Completion Of Hunters Education And Gun Safety	Abby Wallis	Carson Dodd	Wharton/Brazos
189	489	Mandatory Agriculture Education	Caitlin Smith	Addison Wiley	Brazos/Guadalupe
190	490	Mental Health And Well-Being School Absence	Joshlyn Stover	Emersyn Blaneck	Bexar/Tom Green
191	491	Metal Detectors In Public Schools	Charlie Outen	Paysley Branham	Somervell/Runnels
192	492	Natural Resource Appreciation Class	Isaiah Atoe	Jacquelyn Finney	Tarrant/Dewitt
193	493	Performance-based Assessments	Ryanne Vicars	Brady Masur	Clay/Bastrop
194	494	Physical Health And Nutrition For Students	Jeet Sodhi	Jind Sodhi	Rockwall/Rockwall
195	495	Prohibit Undocumented Children Attending Public Schools	Rebekah Tyler	Hayden Dittmar	Bosque/Kerr
196	496	Psychologists In Schools	Gabriela Hare	Carson Dodd	Kenedy/Kleberg/Brazos
197	497	Public Schools To Provide Driver Education Course	Lilliana Haddox	Paysley Branham	Waller/Runnels
198	498	Remove State Standardized Testing For Texas Students	Annie Watson	Jacquelyn Finney	Lynn/Dewitt
199	499	Required Agricultural Classes For Grades 6th Through 12th	Elisabeth Irving	Emersyn Blaneck	Gonzales/Tom Green
200	500	Required Mental Health Course For Graduation	Jillian Gardner	Addisyn Wiley	Brazoria/Guadalupe
201	501	Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion	A'Destanee Diggles	Brady Masur	San Augustine/Bastrop
202	502	Rural Library Initiative	Abigail Clifton	Jind Sodhi	Rusk/Rockwall
203	503	School Districts Funding 4-H Enrollment	Elisabeth Irving	Hayden Dittmar	Gonzales/Kerr
204	504	Secondary School Phone And Device Ban	Sydney Kuykendall	Carson Dodd	Llano/Brazos
205	505	Special Education Enhancement	Clare Whitaker	Emersyn Blaneck	Bastrop/Tom Green
206	506	STAAR Test Elimination	Abby Wallis	Paysley Branham	Wharton/Runnels
207	507	STAAR Testing Removal	Zoe Chick	Jacquelyn Finney	Walker/Dewitt
208	508	Standardized Driver Education Of 2024	Brynlee Edwards	Addisyn Wiley	Lubbock/Guadalupe
209	509	Standardized Testing	Callie Waiser	Brady Masur	Kerr/Bastrop
210	510	Student Opportunities For Teaching Assistants	Jeet Sodhi	Jind Sodhi	Rockwall/Rockwall
211	511	Summer Special Education Services	Ashlyn Trcka	Hayden Dittmar	Dallas/Kerr
212	512	Sustained-Silent Reading And Read-Aloud Programs In The Classroom	Jack Tyler	Carson Dodd	Henderson/Brazos
213	513	Teacher Pay Cap Set at 30 Years	Ayla Doran	Emersyn Blaneck	Schleicher/Tom Green
214	514	Teacher's Minimum Salary	Brynlee Edwards	Paysley Branham	Lubbock/Runnels
215	515	Teaching Agricultural Practices	Samuel Taylor	Jacquelyn Finney	Dallam/Hartley/Dewitt
216	516	Texas Casino Gaming Education Support	Addison Rouse	Addisyn Wiley	Karnes/Guadalupe
217	517	Texas Public School Safety	Caroline Terrill	Brady Masur	Bexar/Bastrop
218	518	Texas Safe School Zone	Kaden Gordillo	Jind Sodhi	Tarrant/Rockwall
219	519	Texas Student Mental Wellness	Caydie Castro	Hayden Dittmar	Kinney/Kerr
220	520	Texas Teacher Incentive	Allison Lewis	Carson Dodd	Hill/Brazos
221	521	Texas Teacher Salary Enhancement	Maya Holiday	Emersyn Blaneck	Grimes/Tom Green
222	522	Texas Youth Agriculture Education Requirement	A'Destanee Diggles	Hayden Dittmar	San Augustine/Kerr
223	523	Three-fifty Or Less	Hadley Young	Paysley Branham	Wichita/Runnels
224	524	Uniform Admission System	Grayson Buaas	Jacquelyn Finney	Hays/Dewitt
225	525	United Sound For All	Addison Hahn	Addisyn Wiley	Gillespie/Guadalupe
226	526	University Interscholastic League Electronic Sports	Parker Buaas	Brady Masur	Hays/Bastrop



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Lane McDonald, Collin County
Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County
Bill Author: Lane McDonald, Collin County

House Bill: 154
Senate Bill: 454

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

4-H Excused Absence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the 4-H Excused Absence Act.
- Section 2. This act requires schools to excuse a student’s absence if that student is participating in a scheduled 4-H activity approved by the County 4-H Extension Agent/Educator. A school principal or administrator may require proof of student participation. A student must be given time to make up any missed work during this time and may not have their grades adversely affected for this participation.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Excused: To release, dismiss, or overlook from a duty or requirement.
 - B. 4-H: A community-based organization that empowers kids, under the age of 18, to learn by participating in various topics such as STEM, health, and civic engagement.
 - C. Extension Agent: An employed individual by a land-grant university who serve the citizens of that particular state as an expert in economics, agriculture, community development, family, nutrition, and animal production.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: A warning will be issued to the school that, if they don’t comply, they will lose government funding.
 - 2nd Offense: The school will lose government funding.
- Section 5. There are no funds needed or generated from this bill.
- Section 6. This bill would mandate that local school boards give 4-H the same status as UIL academic and athletic events, FFA, and FCCLA in regards to excused absences.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Jack Tyler, Henderson County

Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County

Bill Author: Jack Tyler, Henderson County

House Bill: 155

Senate Bill: 455

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

4-H Excused School Days

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the 4-H Excused School Days Act.
- Section 2. An Act relating to schools; which relates to school days; requiring students be given excused absences for participating in approved 4-H activities; subjecting excused absences to certain policies; directing 4-H Agents/educators to provide proof of participation upon request; requiring student be given opportunity to make up missed schoolwork; prohibiting class grades from being adversely affected; and providing exception for certain absences.
- Section 3. School Day and School Year Defined by Texas Education Agency: Except as otherwise provided for by law, a school day shall consist of not less than FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) minutes devoted to school activities. A district board of education may elect to extend the length of one (1) or more school days to more than FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) hours and reduce the number of school days as long as the total amount of classroom instruction time is not less than SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED (75,600) minutes per year as required by the Texas Education Agency.
- Section 4. School Districts found in contempt of the law will be placed under review of the Texas Education Agency.
- Section 5. Special Instructions:
- A. Except as provided in subsection D of this section, students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for such absence is to participate in scheduled school activities under the direction and supervision of a regular member of the faculty or to participate in an online course approved by the district board of education.
1. Student participation in extracurricular activities in accordance with school district eligibility rules and policies and any rules and policies of a private organization or association which provides the coordination, supervision, and regulation of the interscholastic activities and contests of schools;
- B. Except as provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection, students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled shall be given an excused absence if the reason for such absence is to participate in scheduled 4-H activities or programs as approved by the County Extension Agent/Educator. The number of excused absences allowed pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the attendance policy of the school district board of education.
1. Upon request from a school principal or attendance officer, a 4-H educator shall provide documentation as proof of student participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H.
 2. Students shall be given the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed while they are participating in activities or programs sponsored by 4-H. Students shall not have their class grades adversely affected for lack of attendance or participation due to their participation in activities or programs sponsored by 4-H.
 3. A school principal or his or her designee shall not credit a student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H with an excused absence if the participation occurs during:
 - a. The schedule established by the State Board of Education for the administration of statewide student assessments, or
 - b. The schedule established by the State Board of Education for the administration of statewide student assessments, or
 - c. Any period of time for which the student has been disciplined, suspended, or expelled, if the terms of punishment would preclude the student from participating in an educational field trip or extracurricular activity.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Rayleigh Beyer, Gillespie County

Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

Bill Author: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

House Bill: 156

Senate Bill: 456

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

4-H For College Course Credit

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the 4-H For College Course Credit Act.
- Section 2. This act shall establish a “4-H for Credit” program that gives senior 4-H members enrolled in the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program the opportunity to earn college course credit for their participation in the 4-H program while enrolled in the 11th and 12th grades. 4-H members may earn up to six hours of college course credit at any Texas public college or university. College course credit must be granted for participating in a 4-H project and completing the necessary requirements including: evidence of meeting project goals and objectives, contributing a minimum number of hours to the project, completion of a project portfolio, and successful participation in an interview. The college/university and Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Leadership shall work together to fine tune details of the requirements. The college course credits received through 4-H participation must be included on a student’s official transcript upon enrollment in the college or university. The college course credit must be granted at no cost to the student.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Senior 4-H Member: A youth enrolled in 9th–12th grade that completes online program enrollment and is a member of a chartered 4-H club.
 - B. Texas 4-H Youth Development Program: This is the positive youth development program facilitated in each Texas county by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and open to youth in the third through twelfth grade.
 - C. Project Portfolio: Similar to a 4-H record book, the components of a project portfolio shall be determined by Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Leadership.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in: Loss of funding to the institute of higher education.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in funding provided to public colleges and universities.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Gunnar Frank, Dewitt County

Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County

Bill Author: Gunnar Frank, Dewitt County

House Bill: 157

Senate Bill: 457

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

4-H Introduction As A Class

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the 4-H Introduction As A Class Act.
- Section 2. The 4-H Introduction As A Class Act seeks to implement a class into the Texas schools that students can take to give them an idea of what 4-H is and what it has to offer.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Implementation: The process of putting a decision or plan into effect; execution.
- Section 4. The penalties or punishments shall be none, as schools may not have enough faculty to have this class
- Section 5. This class shall have no funds needed, as it may not need anything for the class in the curriculum. However, if funds are needed, the school of which the class is will be responsible for the management of the funds, as the teachers, who work for the school, will be the one spending the money for the class.
- Section 6. To manage the law, schools must give the option to students to take the class.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Josue Vasquez, Val Verde County
Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County
Bill Author: Josue Vasquez, Val Verde County

House Bill: 158
Senate Bill: 458

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

4-H Secondary Education Savings Fund

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the 4-H Secondary Education Savings Fund Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure all 4-H members are provided with financial resources to attend post-secondary education. These accounts are funded through the participation of 4-H projects. For each year a member enrolls, a percentage of the annual enrollment fee will go toward the creation and fulfillment of the individual member's account. Throughout the year the members can deposit additional funds in their account through donations or awards. Upon completion of the member's secondary education, the funds shall become available to the member to use in the post-secondary education setting.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Savings Fund: An account that accumulates based on participation in 4-H projects.
B. 4-H Projects: Any project defined within the 4H charter.
C. Post-Secondary Education: Any technical or accredited school furthering post-secondary graduation.
D. Secondary Education Graduation: High School Diploma or GED
- Section 4. Failure to graduate from secondary education or choosing not to attend post-secondary education forfeits the member's funds. Funds must be used within 3 years of graduating from secondary education. Forfeited funds shall be dispersed between other 4-H members.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the 4-H members through enrollment fees, awards, and donations.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Jeet Sodhi, Rockwall County

House Bill: 159

Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County

Senate Bill: 459

Bill Author: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Adequate Pay For Agricultural Educators

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Adequate Pay For Agricultural Educators Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that teachers in agricultural education field are given adequate pay for their time spent on learning activities that take place outside of the classroom. Agricultural educators spend, on average, an extra four hours a day outside of their contracted hours on educational experiences without any increase in pay.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Learning Activity: Tasks or exercises that teachers design to help students learn new concepts, build knowledge, and engage in the learning process.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$200.00 Fine.
2nd Offense: \$500.00 Fine.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of one point five million dollars.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Clinton Frazier, Archer County
Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Clinton Frazier, Archer County

House Bill: 160
Senate Bill: 460

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agricultural Education Classes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agricultural Education Classes Act.
- Section 2. To teach every kid where their food and clothes come from and open their eyes to the wonderful world of agriculture. This will also allow students to get involved early and have new opportunities to act upon.
- Section 3. Failure to comply will result in the school district receiving a fine not to exceed \$500.
- Section 4. This should be enforced by the commissioner of education and the Texas education agency. Funding will be worked into the Texas state budget in the amount of \$5 million yearly for all primary and secondary public and private school in the state of Texas.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall be effective on September 1, 2024 upon the passage of legislation and approval by the governor.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Joseph Haegelin, Comal County

Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County

Bill Author: Joseph Haegelin, Comal County

House Bill: 161

Senate Bill: 461

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agriculture Curriculum And Certificate Of Completion For Private Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agriculture Curriculum And Certificate Of Completion For Private Schools Act.
- Section 2. This act shall insure that Private high school students in the State of Texas have an increase in awareness of agriculture and how it serves the State of Texas. This awareness would be accomplished by requiring Private schools to subscribe to an educational program and curriculum to educate their students on topics such as animal science, food/nutrition, plants and resources and agriculture products made in the State of Texas. Schools that are private would be provided the resources and online videos to share with students about the industry and a certificate would be given that serves as the concluding step in high school accreditation, encouraging personal growth and achievement toward establishing oneself in an agricultural career. It's a testament for a student's dedication to their community and their State while being issued high school credit. This certificate would be submitted with college applications and such to demonstrate knowledge in the field of Agriculture.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. High School Students: Students 9th grade through 12th grade.
 - B. Private School: A non public school, tuition paid program not funded by government.
 - C. Class credit: Credit given as completion for subject mastered.
 - D. Certificate: Documentation showing completion.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in the student not obtaining a required school credit to apply for Texas state colleges.
- Section 5. The Texas Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Texas Agrilife Division will be responsible for developing, funding, and distributing the curriculum. Curriculum will be an online platform so that a certified teacher can access the material for a student subscription.
- Section 6. The Texas Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Texas Agrilife Division will be responsible for oversight and data collection to evaluate the success of this bill and will make modifications as needed after the first year.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Caitlin Smith, Brazos County
Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County
Bill Author: Caitlin Smith, Brazos County

House Bill: 162
Senate Bill: 462

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agriculture Education For Graduation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agriculture Education For Graduation Act.
- Section 2. In the state of Texas one out of seven employees are in an agriculture related job. By adding an agriculture class into the graduation requirements by the SBOE you can help gives kids not only a education about agriculture but about life skills such as (a) Parliamentary Procedure or (b) about what powers the Texas economy.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. SBOE: The State Board of Education in the educational agency for Texas that sets the graduation requirements.
 - B. TEA: Texas Education Agency the agency that overseas primary and secondary education in the state of Texas.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Loss of 10% State Funding.
 - 2nd Offense: Loss of 20% of State Funding.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Madyson McAshlan, Galveston County

House Bill: 163

Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County

Senate Bill: 463

Bill Author: Madyson McAshlan, Galveston County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Agriculture Education For Students In Public Schools In Grades K-5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Agriculture Education For Students In Public Schools In Grades K-5 Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to ensure the further education of agriculture to the youth of Texas. Students shall be able to demonstrate knowledge of where food and clothes is resourced from.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Agriculture Education: A systematic program of instruction for the learning about the science, business, technology of plant and animal production and/or about the environmental and natural resources systems.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Warning sent to administrators, school board, teachers, as well as agriculture education groups used for resources.
2nd Offense: Result in the loss of government support and decline in funding.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Isaiah Atoe, Tarrant County
Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County
Bill Author: Isaiah Atoe, Tarrant County

House Bill: 164
Senate Bill: 464

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

All inclusive Outdoor Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the All inclusive Outdoor Education Act.
- Section 2. The All Inclusive Outdoor Education (AIO) will help disabled and disadvantaged youth experience outdoors and nature as part of there school curriculum (while attending school during the spring and fall semester). This act will allow the youth to experience nature hands on and outdoor activities. These activities include: fishing, animal identification, and outdoor conservation.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Disadvantaged Youth: A youth lacking in basic resources or conditions (such as standard housing, medical and educational facilities, and civil rights) believed to be necessary for an equal position in society.
B. Participants: Identified and documented as being physically, cognitively, or emotionally impaired.
C. Inclusive Education: The integration or inclusion of all students in the same classrooms and in the same schools, without exception. This includes the integration or inclusion of students with special needs or disadvantages.
- Section 4. If the school district or school system does not allow the youth on at least three outdoor educational activities the school will lose the equivalent amount they would if 5 - 10% of youth enrolled in there school and/or school district where not to attend class. This amount varies based on school size and/or enrollment.
- Section 5. The funding per semester shall required \$7,000. This includes money for the admission of the youth into the area if it is a field trip and the rest covers supplies and activities to accommodate up to 60 youth who may qualify for the program
- Section 6. The youth affected by the AIOE bill will be required to have at least three outdoor experiences per semester they attend school during the spring and fall semester, with the three covering the following three categories:
1. Hand on in nature/outdoors
2. In field demonstration that shows the youth how to do a outdoor skill or activity.
3. A field trip to a nature center, park, or a type of outdoor facility/recreation area.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Clare Whitaker, Bastrop County

Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County

Bill Author: Brady Masur, Bastrop County

House Bill: 165

Senate Bill: 465

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Alternate School Property Tax Exemption

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Alternate School Property Tax Exemption Act.
- Section 2. This act shall provide an exemption from Maintenance and Operations taxes that funds public schools to families that have at least one of their children in an alternate form of schooling and have no children in public school.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Maintenance and Operations Taxes: A part of property tax that covers the expenses of a public school district. These taxes account for about half of all property taxes.
B. Alternative School: Educating children with a different option than public school. Some examples include charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling.
- Section 4. Failure for public school district to comply will result in reduction of state funding equivalent to amount that is unlawfully taxed and a tax refund to residents of district which are exempted from the tax by having a child in an alternate form of schooling.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by slightly increasing the property tax rate on those that do not meet the exemption.
- Section 6. This law will be enforced by the Texas Education Agency.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Caroline Colten, Wise County
Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County
Bill Author: Caroline Colten, Wise County

House Bill: 166
Senate Bill: 466

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Class Credit For Agricultural Project Experience

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Class Credit For Agricultural Project Experience Act.
- Section 2. This act shall allow 11th and 12th graders in Texas public schools who raise livestock as a SAE or 4-H Project to get class credit for the hours spent raising and/or exhibiting the animals in the second semester of each school year, and thus can end their school day either 2 hours or 4 hours early. Student must maintain an overall grade average of 85; set goals at the start of each semester; have a AST or CEA sponsor them; keep a daily log of activities and learnings; submit a monthly report of work completed and meet monthly with the AST or CEA.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Overall Grade Average means all enrolled classes are included in the calculation.
B. 2 or 4 hours means two or four classroom periods.
C. Second Semester means the last 3 six-weeks grading periods, or an equivalent time frame if the ISD is on a different grading schedule.
D. AST means Agriculture Science Teacher; CEA means County 4-H Extension Agent or equivalent.
- Section 4. Texas school districts are expected to implement the program even if they do not offer Ag Science classes. Schools must implement the program by June 2026 or TEA personnel specializing in the program's administration will office on school grounds for one month to assist with implementation. After June 2027, any ISDs that have not implemented the program will face annual reduction of per-student funds by 1% until the program is implemented.
- Section 5. Funding for implementation and oversight will be taken from the Texas lottery funds and distributed to ISDs as 10% of the per-student funding from the state of Texas for each student participating in the program. As of 2022, average per-student funding was approximately \$12,500 annually. The Texas Education Association will be responsible for managing funds and the program.
- Section 6. Special provisions of the bill require parents and students participating in the program to annually attend a mandatory orientation prior to the start of the program. Both must read and sign a description of the eligibility requirements and animals and projects that are considered livestock for purposes of the program. The program also requires students, parents, AST/CEA to complete an annual survey that seeks to determine the success of the program.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Kenley Pack, Erath County

Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County

Bill Author: Kenley Pack, Erath County

House Bill: 167

Senate Bill: 467

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Classroom Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Classroom Protection Act.
- Section 2. This bill will protect students and teachers in the classroom from other students. This will include but not limited to actions such as: throwing items, physically or mentally abusing students or teachers, and any other disruptions to classroom activities. This bill will keep disruptions out of the classroom and in turn make it a safe learning environment.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Disruptions: The action of causing disorder.
B. Abuse: Treat (a person or an animal) with cruelty or violence, especially regularly or repeatedly.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with classroom instruction will result in the student being assigned to alternative school for a time based on what the school sees fit. This must be completed within one week of the incident. Continuous behavior can result in suspension. Schools that fail to protect its students and teachers will be fined:
1st Offense: \$50.00
2nd Offense: \$100.00 And increasing accordingly.
Schools must pay fine to state from school budget.
- Section 5. Funding for this bill will not be provided by State government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Adam Shackelford, Walker County

Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County

Bill Author: Adam Shackelford, Walker County

House Bill: 168

Senate Bill: 468

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Completion Of Mental Health And Disciplinary Guidelines

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Completion Of Mental Health And Disciplinary Guidelines Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that Counselors and Administrators in public or private education institutions, once reporting protocols are initiated for an individual student, follow any mental health and disciplinary actions or guidelines that are in place to completion and are not disregarded or neglected.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Reporting Protocols: The specification and requirements for reporting the actions or incidents in approved guidelines.
B. Disregarded: Pay no attention to; ignore.
C. Neglected: Not receiving proper attention; forgotten.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Reprimand letter and \$500 fine paid by each offender.
2nd Offense: Two week suspension without pay and \$1000 fine paid by each offender.
3rd Offense: Teaching, Counseling and/or Administrative credentials permanently revoked and/or six month incarceration.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the individual school districts and the Texas Education Agency in the amount of \$1.5 million for administrative and training costs.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
This bill encompasses laws § 21.462, § 37.115, § 37.220, § 38.0591, § 38.251, § 38.252, § 38.253, § 38.254, § 38.255, § 38.256, § 38.302, § 38.303, § 38.307, § 38.308, § 38.310 and §38.351.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Koda Wagner, Llano County

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County

Bill Author: Koda Wagner, Llano County

House Bill: 169

Senate Bill: 469

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Dyslexia Versus Special Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Dyslexia Versus Special Education Act.
- Section 2. This act should clarify that Section 504 students should not be classified as special education because Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 focuses on providing accommodations and supports to ensure equal access and opportunities for students with disabilities, while special education typically involves specialized instruction tailored to students with specific learning needs.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Child With A Disability: A child evaluated as having at least one of the 13 disabilities, and by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.
 - B. Dyslexia Handbook: One component of how the SBOE complies with its statutory authority to adopt rules and standards for screening, testing, and serving students with dyslexia. All LEAs are required to follow the Handbook.
 - C. Evidence-based Dyslexia Program: One or more evidence-based reading programs for dyslexia or curriculums purchased or developed by an LEA, that is/are aligned with all instruction methods and components for dyslexia instruction as described in the Dyslexia Handbook. Evidence-based dyslexia programs must address all the required critical, evidence-based components of dyslexia instruction.
 - D. Local Educational Agency: This term applies to both school districts and open enrollment charter schools. Questions and answers do not pertain to open enrollment charter schools, but instead will specifically refer to school districts.
 - E. Parent: A term that generally means the child's biological or adoptive parent but may also include another person who is included in the definition of the term "parent".
 - F. Specially Designed Instruction: As an element of the term special education, IDEA defines SDI as adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child with a disability, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child that result from the child's disability and ensure access of the child to the general curriculum.
- Section 4. This act will follow the same provisions of HB 3928 sections 8, 9 and 10.
- Section 5. This bill would require the same funding as HB 3928 Section 14.
- Section 6. This bill will repeal section 7 of HB 3928 placing 504 students into the blanket Special Education program. An argument in favor of changing Section 504 students out of the special education program and into a program of their own could be that it allows for more tailored support and accommodations specifically designed to meet the needs of Section 504 students. By having a program dedicated to addressing the unique requirements of Section 504 students, it can ensure that their individual accommodations and services are more effectively implemented and monitored, leading to better academic and social outcomes. Additionally, a separate program can help reduce any stigma associated with being classified under special education, emphasizing the focus on accessibility and inclusive for all students.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Elliora Groot, Bandera County

Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County

Bill Author: Elliora Groot, Bandera County

House Bill: 170

Senate Bill: 470

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Educational Freedom For Privately Schooled Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Educational Freedom For Privately Schooled Students Act.
- Section 2. This act shall provide educational freedom for students attending private schools by establishing ESAs. It allows every student the opportunity to afford a customized education. The establishment of the Empowerment Scholarship Account Program will create more Texas jobs.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs): Publicly-funded, government-authorized accounts created to provide educational choice for families.
 - B. Private School: Any school that is not supported by state funds including home schools and private institutions, but excluding charter schools.
 - C. Public School: A free tax-supported school controlled by a governmental authority.
 - D. Education Expenses: Include, but are not limited to: educational literature, school supplies, home school curriculum, private school tuition, tutoring, speech therapy, and other educational materials as adjudicated by the Texas Department of Education.
- Section 4. There are no anticipated penalties or punishments anticipated for this act.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
The ESAs will be funded by public tax money appropriated to the Texas Department of Education. Each account will contain fifty percent of the funds allocated annually to each Texas student, with the remaining fifty percent of the funds supporting the public school system as previously enacted. ESA funds will be available in the form of a debit card which will allow educational purchases from pre-approved organizations and businesses. Purchases of educational materials or experiences from other organizations and businesses may be submitted to the Texas Department of Education's Empowerment Scholarship Account Program for possible reimbursement. To avoid burdening the public schools of Texas, the state funds budgeted for education will need to be increased proportionally.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Only legal residents of Texas who are between the ages of four and eighteen will be eligible to utilize these funds. Only students not enrolled in public school will be eligible for these funds. Enrollment in a public school will result in the loss of eligibility for ESAs. These funds may only be used for educational expenses. Applicants will be required to provide their certified birth certificate, proof of United States citizenship, and proof of Texas residency. There shall be no further restrictions to the use of this money. No individual shall be required to partake in an ESA. Implementing this act will require the establishment of an Empowerment Scholarship Account Program.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: **Mattie Garrett, Victoria County**

Senate Sponsor: **Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County**

Bill Author: **Mattie Garrett, Victoria County**

House Bill: **171**

Senate Bill: **471**

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Educational Tracking For Success (EFTS)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Educational Tracking For Success (EFTS) Act.
- Section 2. This act will provide a more comprehensive/relevant education which today's student are lacking. Furthermore, it will address the need for all students to be prepared for their life after high school. Parents and students will choose an educational track which is best suited for that student's desires, abilities and potential. The expected outcomes are
1. Higher Graduations rates.
 2. Students better prepared to enter the work force.
 3. Students better prepared for college.
 4. Strengthened middle class with higher earning potential.
 5. Better local economies.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Tracking: The division of the education system based on future careers.
 - B. Academic Training: The process of preparing students for college and beyond using traditional methods.
 - C. Vocational Training: Serves to provide the labor market entry of young people and mediate the demand for skilled laborers as required by the economy and would include integrated studies in math, science, English and history.
 - D. Middle Class: People who are neither at the top nor the bottom of their societies in terms of income.
- Section 4. While there are no penalties for this program there are underlying consequences when the education system is failing. The middle class is vital to a healthy society and when vocational works as well as college educated members of society are not adequately prepared the middle will slowly perish and with it the democracy.
- Section 5. Currently the Texas Education Agency as well as the local school districts fund the education system. These entities will need to continue to utilize the current funding. In addition, approximately 100 million dollars each year which the State of Texas uses for the STARR TEST could be utilized to implement vocational tracking as well partnerships with industry.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Bryce Ferrell, Wilson County
Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County
Bill Author: Bryce Ferrell, Wilson County

House Bill: 172
Senate Bill: 472

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Establishing A Financial Literacy Class

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Establishing A Financial Literacy Class Act.
- Section 2. This Act shall ensure that all school districts have a financial literacy class that solely focuses on that subject for a half semester credit, to prepare students for the financial decisions they will face in their day-to-day lives. The coursework will cover basic to more complex personal finance concepts to ensure better financial choices.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Financial Literacy: The ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Will result in a fine based on how you have neglected the course or will result in the loss of state funding based on the way the class was ran.
- Section 5. This act would be funded by the state government and also by taxpayer money.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Makayla Janysek, Karnes County

House Bill: 173

Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County

Senate Bill: 473

Bill Author: Makayla Janysek, Karnes County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Excused Absences For Extracurricular Activities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Excused Absences For Extracurricular Activities Act.
- Section 2. This act will prevent school districts placing a limit on the number on the excused absences that a student is allowed for extracurricular activities. As long as the student is eligible by UIL standards.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. UIL: University Interscholastic League
B. Excused Absences: When a student is not at school, but it is not counted towards their attendance
C. Extracurricular Activities: Community service, Sports, FFA, 4-H, etc.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$1,000 Fine
2nd Offense: On probation
- Section 5. This act will start being enforced the school year after being passed.
- Section 6. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Makenzie Mikulik, Tom Green County

House Bill: 174

Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County

Senate Bill: 474

Bill Author: Makenzie Mikulik, Tom Green County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Extended Excused Absences

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Extended Excused Absences Act.
- Section 2. Extending the amount of excused absences in school will allow the kids involved in 4-H, FFA, sports, and UIL activities to not fall behind on school work. Students participating in these activities seek a lot of benefits and should not be penalized for it. Extending the rule to 80 percent would allow students to miss more and not have to see the principal to be allowed to miss more than 90 percent. Additionally, half of the 20 percent of absences you would have, would need to be excused to not get the credit for that class.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Excused Absence: A temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal, or superintendent of the school which the person is enrolled.
- Section 4. Special Instructions:
With this new bill, the TEA (Texas Education Agency) will have to make new rules and guidelines for schools on how to report absences and what activities can be counted as an excused absence.
- Section 5. Repeal of Section 25.092 or the 90 percent rule.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Blakely Bland, Denton County
Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County
Bill Author: Blakely Bland, Denton County

House Bill: 175
Senate Bill: 475

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

First Day of School

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the First Day of School Act.
- Section 2. This act will make it so that schools in Texas may not start before the 4th Monday in August.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. T.E.A.: Stands for Texas Education Agency
- Section 4. Failure to comply will results in:
1st Offense: Fine on school
2nd Offense: Lessened funding of school
- Section 5. Repeal Education Code Section 25.0811.
- Section 6. All districts calendars must be approved by the T.E.A.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Ryanne Vicars, Clay County
Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Ryanne Vicars, Clay County

House Bill: 176
Senate Bill: 476

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Funding For Public Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Funding For Public Education Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all public tax dollars collected for public education be allocated to public schools.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Public Schools: A school supported by public funds.
- Section 4. No state funding will be given to private, charter or for-profit institutions.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Dixie Snodgrass, Somervell County

Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County

Bill Author: Dixie Snodgrass, Somervell County

House Bill: 177

Senate Bill: 477

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Grades 6-12 Human Trafficking Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Grades 6-12 Human Trafficking Education Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all students beginning in grade 6 in Texas schools will receive an educational awareness presentation each year concerning human trafficking. The educational presentation will provide students with the legal definitions of human trafficking, warning signs and risk factors, victim vulnerabilities, and common patterns of traffickers. Texas ranks second in the nation for reported cases of human trafficking. 79,000 of 234,000 people are victims of labor trafficking each year in the state of Texas. Current laws only require awareness training for adults such as educators and law enforcement. Since school age children are the majority of victims, this bill would require the training of students and thus be a proactive initiative.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Educational Presentation: An assembly that goes over when, where, how, who, and why human trafficking happens.
 - B. Human Trafficking: The unlawful act of transporting or coercing people in order to benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation.
 - C. Proactive: Acting in anticipation of future problems, needs, or changes.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: Report to the district's school board with a corrective action plan.
 - 2nd Offense: Citation from TEA with a state imposed corrective action plan.
- Section 5. The act will be funded by the Texas Office of the Attorney General who presides over the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and Coordinating Council. Established to increase collaborative efforts across the state, the Task Force and Coordinating Council bring together local, state, and federal agencies and nongovernmental partners to bring an end to human trafficking in Texas and address its impact.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Rayleigh Beyer, Gillespie County
Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County
Bill Author: Rayleigh Beyer, Gillespie County

House Bill: 178
Senate Bill: 478

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

High School Mandatory Life Skills Preparation Class

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the High School Mandatory Life Skills Preparation Class Act.
- Section 2. This act shall require a mandatory life skills preparation class for all Texas high school students. A mandatory curriculum class to graduate High School in Texas. All high school students are taught how to properly maintain a home in adulthood. This would include cooking meals, grocery shopping, cleaning, washing clothes, home maintenance, and financial management.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Mandatory: Required by law or rule, obligatory.
 - B. Preparation: The action or process of making something ready for use or service or of getting ready for some occasion, test, or duty.
- Section 4. Failure of student’s compliance to take the Life Skills Class will result in:
1st Offense: Missing credit for graduation.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government and the Texas Education Agency.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
Texas Education Agency requirements for a Foundation High School Program include 5 elective credits to include the Mandatory Life Skills Preparation class. One of the five required electives would need to be changed to the Life Skills Preparation class for every student to complete to graduate High School.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Charlie Outen, Somervell County

Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County

Bill Author: Charlie Outen, Somervell County

House Bill: 179

Senate Bill: 479

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

High School Safety/Self-defense For Juniors And Seniors

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the High School Safety/Self-defense For Juniors And Seniors Act.
- Section 2. This class will cover social media safety, drug (prescription and illegal) and alcohol abuse, robbery response, human trafficking, firearm safety, and self defense. Young adults who are about to graduate high school should be educated on safety in many areas. About 50% of teenagers experience cyberbullying. (3rd.mil.com) In Texas, about 7% of teens use drugs and 9% drink alcohol. (National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics) The robbery rate in Texas is 98 robberies per 100,000. (covesmart.com) About 234,000 people are victims of human trafficking's, in Texas. In the U.S., there are 27,000 unintentional firearm injuries in a year. People who have completed a self defense course are 50-60% more likely to escape. (johnsgymatx.com)
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Self Defense: Involves defending the health and well-being of oneself from harm.
 - B. Firearm: Any type of gun that uses an explosive charge and is designed to be readily carried and used by an individual.
 - C. Prescription Drug: A pharmaceutical drug that is permitted to be dispensed only to those with a medical prescription.
 - D. Illegal Drug: Drugs that are not prescribed by a doctor or bought at a drug store. EX- Heroin, cocaine, meth.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: Loss of 1% of TEA funding.
 - 2nd Offense: Loss of 10% of TEA funding.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Kaylee Abercrombie, Hardin County

House Bill: 180

Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

Senate Bill: 480

Bill Author: Kaylee Abercrombie, Hardin County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Homeschool Participation For All

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Homeschool Participation For All Act.
- Section 2. As of now, there is no state mandate requiring all Texas school districts to allow home-school students to participate in University Interscholastic League competitions. In the 2022-2023 school year local districts allowed only about 2.3% of non-enrolled students to participate. This bill will ensure that all Texas children have equal opportunity to participate in UIL activities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Non-enrolled: A student who is not formally registered or attending a particular educational institution on a full-time basis.
B. Homeschooled: Meaning their primary education occurs at home under the supervision of parents or private tutors rather than in a public or private school setting.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$1,500.00 fine
2nd Offense: \$1,500 fine per non-enrolled student being denied access.
- Section 5. Continue with current allocation in HB 3708; \$1,500 per home-school student to school districts that permit these students to participate in UIL activities. This funding is intended to cover the costs associated with their participation, such as equipment, facilities, and administrative expenses.
- Collaborative Funding: Home-school associations and advocacy groups can partner with school districts to provide additional funding and resources. These partnerships can help bridge any financial gaps and ensure that homeschool students have access to the same opportunities as their public school peers.
- Education Grants: School districts might seek federal grants designed to enhance educational opportunities and extracurricular activities. Programs such as Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) can provide additional resources for after-school and extracurricular programs.
- Section 6. The TEA and local school districts will need to establish monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure that funds are used appropriately and that homeschool students are benefiting from the allocated resources. Regular audits and financial reviews can help maintain transparency and ensure that the funds provided for home-school participation in UIL activities are used effectively.
- Section 7. Repeal Current HB 547 that grants Texas school districts the ability to opt-out.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Sydney Kuykendall, Llano County

Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County

Bill Author: Riley Wallis, Wharton County

House Bill: 181

Senate Bill: 481

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Homework Eradication

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Homework Eradication Act.
- Section 2. This act will eradicate the use of graded homework in Kindergarten through 12th grade public school curriculum.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Graded Homework: This refers to any additional classwork sent home to be independently completed by the student and brought back to class to then be graded by the instructor as part of the required course curriculum.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Warning from the state to comply.
2nd Offense: Decrease in state funding.
3rd Offense: Accreditation loss.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Lilliana Haddox, Waller County
Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County
Bill Author: Lilliana Haddox, Waller County

House Bill: 182
Senate Bill: 482

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Human Trafficking Prevention Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Human Trafficking Prevention Education Act.
- Section 2. This act is to mandate a module about Human Trafficking Education in all Texas state funded schools in Health, Physical Education or General Assemblies, to ensure students are introduced to more information in prevention and awareness on this topic. This education is a proactive initiative aimed to give students more information to understand risks, and to learn tools to avoid the dangerous possibility of being trafficked.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Human Trafficking: The action or practice of illegally transporting people from one area, state or country for the purpose of sexual or physical exploitation.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Warning From the State to comply.
2nd Offense: Will result in the loss of government funding.
3rd Offense: Lost in the school's accreditation.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Sullivan Belew, Franklin County
Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County
Bill Author: Sullivan Belew, Franklin County

House Bill: 183
Senate Bill: 483

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Increase Physical Education Credits For High School Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Increase Physical Education Credits For High School Students Act.
- Section 2. This act will increase the physical education credit requirement for Texas public high school students from one (1) credit hour to four (4) credit hours.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Physical Education: Instruction of physical exercise in a school setting.
B. Credit: A point given for successful completion of a course in a school term.
C. Public School: Educational institution supported in whole or in part by state tax funds.
D. TEA: Texas Education Agency
- Section 4. Penalties:
A. Failure to complete four (4) physical education credits while in high school will result in student not earning a high school diploma.
B. Failure on the part of the school district to enforce the credit requirement will be found in noncompliance with the Texas Education Agency and will incur fines and penalties in accordance with the agency's statutes and bylaws.
- Section 5. Any funds collected through noncompliance will be collected and redistributed per the TEA's rules and regulations.
- Section 6. This act only applies to students starting high school on or after, August 1, 2024.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Macey Rutherford, Rusk County
Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Macey Rutherford, Rusk County

House Bill: 184
Senate Bill: 484

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Increased Spanish Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Increased Spanish Education Act.
- Section 2. This would increase require Spanish classes be taught from kindergarten to 12th grade. With the increasing amount of Spanish speaking people coming to Texas, this would help to bridge the gap of communication, and prepare students to give them an extra skill set as they become adults.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Spanish Language: Language spoken in most of the countries south of Texas.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will fall under traditional Educational Code.
- Section 5. Initial Cost would come from the state to develop curriculum. Funding for the education would fall on the Public-School Districts.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
 - Would add to the current TEKS of public education.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Payton Alexander, Somervell County

Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County

Bill Author: Payton Alexander, Somervell County

House Bill: 185

Senate Bill: 485

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Intro Level Agricultural Course

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Intro Level Agricultural Course Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure the requirement of introductory level agricultural courses for all public universities and colleges. This act will provide all enrolled students basic understanding if agricultural and food production, create a well-informed consumer, and sustainable agricultural market. This requirement will also give consumers a real world view of world-wide agricultural issues.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Consumers: One that relies on the production of agriculture activities such as using land for the production or raising of crops, poultry or livestock.
B. Sustainable Agricultural Market: Meeting the needs if the present while improving the ability future generations to meet their own needs.
- Section 4. Fines as a result of not offering course, the schools will be deducted:
1st Offense: \$100,000
2nd Offense: \$300,000
3rd Offense: \$500,000 with suspension of funding from state
- Section 5. Funded by the cost of tuition of that course.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Brock Barrett, Bosque County
Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County
Bill Author: Brock Barrett, Bosque County

House Bill: 186
Senate Bill: 486

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Large Animal Vet Loan Repayment Program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Large Animal Vet Loan Repayment Program Act.
- Section 2. The average cost of vet school is \$200,000, an amount of money that likely discourages people from becoming large animal vets in rural communities. This bill would allow large animal vets to sign up for a program that would repay their student loans.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Student Loan: A loan used to pay for post secondary education subsidized by the federal government.
- Section 4. Failure to complete the 5 consecutive years or lying about their completion will result in disqualification of repayment and the possibility of a \$25,000 fine for any false statements.
- Section 5. Amounts provided for loan repayment are incorporated into student loan subsidy costs.
- Section 6. This act will require program applicants to work as a large animal veterinarian in a rural area for 5 consecutive years. After the time is completed the applicant is eligible for up to \$60,000 in loan repayment.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Ryan Britton Joyce, Rockwall County

House Bill: 187

Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County

Senate Bill: 487

Bill Author: Ryan Britton Joyce, Rockwall County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Library Maximum Overdue Book Fine

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Library Maximum Overdue Book Fine Act.
- Section 2. The fine for overdue books has become a problem for some people who have had to pay hundreds of dollars in fines for a book whose actual cost is much lower. There should be limits to these fines. I propose that this act should limit the fines paid to a library to the amount of the actual replacement cost of the book.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Overdue: A book that is borrowed is kept past its due date.
B. Book Fine: Small daily or weekly fees that libraries in many countries charge borrowers after a book or other borrowed item is kept past its due date.
C. Replacement Cost: The cost to replace a library book matching the condition of the previous book.
- Section 4. The penalty for an overdue library book shall not exceed the replacement cost of the library book.
- Section 5. This bill requires no funding from the state.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Abby Wallis, Wharton County

House Bill: 188

Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

Senate Bill: 488

Bill Author: Dylan Lynch, Jasper County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Mandating Completion Of Hunters Education And Gun Safety

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Mandating Completion Of Hunters Education And Gun Safety Act.
- Section 2. This act establishes a mandate for a Texas Hunters Education and Basic Gun Safety unit/course. Such a course can be either made a rule to be adopted in Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), under the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Chapter 74, Sub-chapter C known as Other Provisions, or, be included into the Texas Foundation Graduation Plan as a free-standing unit/course in all Texas Public High Schools and added to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) of the TEA. The curriculum and student must complete the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Hunters Education Classroom Course as well as a Firearm Safety and Handling course compliant, similar, or more in depth than House Bill 1927, the Firearm Carry Act of 2021 safety course to graduate from a Texas Public School. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that high school students are given the knowledge of how to hunt safely and legally, be safe when around and using firearms, and be able to recognize unsafe range or weapon manners.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Texas Hunters Education: 6 hours of basic instruction in firearm and hunting safety, legal and ethical hunting practices, nomenclature, and a final exam. Class hours may be extended to cover added topics.
 - B. Gun Safety Course: Gun safety courses typically cover fundamental knowledge on safe handling practices, general firearm education, responsible gun ownership as well as an overall legal topic as they pertain to Texas.
 - C. Texas Administrative Code: The Texas Administrative Code (TAC) is a compilation of all state agency rules in Texas. There are 17 titles in the TAC. Each title represents a subject category and related agencies are assigned to the appropriate title.
 - D. Texas Education Agency: The Texas Education Agency is the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education.
 - E. Texas Foundation Graduation Plan: The Foundation Program is a base graduation plan consisting of 22 credits.
 - F. Public High School: Schools are funded through local and state taxes that allow for statewide free education, typically students are in 9th-12th grades.
 - G. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS): The current standards that outline what students are to learn in each course or grade. The standards are adopted by the State Board of Education TEA.
 - H. State Board of Education: Sets policies and standards for Texas public schools.
 - I. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) is a Texas state agency that oversees and protects wildlife and their habitats.
 - J. House Bill 1927: House Bill 1927, enacted as the Firearm Carry Act of 2021, allows individuals who are 21 years of age or older and who can legally possess a firearm to carry a handgun without first obtaining a license. Section in question: Sec. 411.02097. FIREARM SAFETY. The department shall develop and post on the department's Internet website a course on firearm safety and handling. The course must be accessible to the public free of charge.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: After one scholastic year established by each public school after bill passes, failure to comply results in loss of 1% of TEA funding.
 - 2nd Offense: After two scholastic years established by each public school after bill passes, failure to comply results in loss of 5% of TEA funding.
 - 3rd Offense: After three scholastic years established by each public school after bill passes, failure to comply results in loss of 10% of TEA funding.
- Upon sufficient compliance of the Hunters Education and Gun Safety for Agriculture Students Act, TEA funding is re-established immediately.
- Section 5. Courses will be administered through a partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife and local school districts. TPWD will waive fees for the instruction and costs will be funded through establishing a biennial budget item to fund this program.
- Section 6. This act would be established, executed, and continued as a graduation requirement for high school students during and after the 2026-2027 scholastic year.



Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Caitlin Smith, Brazos County
Senate Sponsor: Addison Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Addison Wiley, Guadalupe County

House Bill: 189
Senate Bill: 489

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Mandatory Agriculture Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Mandatory Agriculture Education Act.
- Section 2. The act shall ensure that all high school students must take an agricultural education class as a graduation requirement in order to educate all Texas students about the impact of agriculture on their lives directly and indirectly, the world's economy, agricultural practices, and career opportunities post graduation.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Graduation Requirements: The specific criteria required one must complete to fully achieve an academic program to receive their degree.
B. Agricultural Education: Classes centered around the future of agriculture, growing leaders, and promoting the agricultural industry.
C. Agricultural Practices: Methods that when applied to agriculture production and processing, create food for consumers that is safe and wholesome as determined by the board of Agriculture education professionals appointed by the Governor.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: The school will be placed under probation and a letter detailing their infraction and corrective actions required.
2nd Offense: The school will have to pay a fine of \$1,000 USD and will be marked on the teacher's and/or administrator's employment record.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the State Education Agency and school district's local property taxes.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective within two years upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law. School districts would have two years to comply and starting with their current seventh grade co-hart.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Joshlyn Stover, Bexar County

Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County

Bill Author: Joshlyn Stover, Bexar County

House Bill: 190

Senate Bill: 490

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Mental Health And Well-Being School Absence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Mental Health And Well-Being School Absence Act.
- Section 2. Allow children and youth with significant mental health concerns to use mental or behavioral health as a valid excuse for a school absence so that schools can protect the mental well-being of their students and discover mental health issues in students.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Absence or Absent: The failure of a school-age child assigned to a class or class period to attend a class or class period.
 - B. Minor: A person under the age of 18 years.
 - C. School Day: The portion of a day that school is in session in which a school-age child is required to be in school for purposes of receiving instruction.
 - D. School Year: The period of time designated by a local school board or charter school governing board as the school year for the school where the school-age child: a. is enrolled; or b. should be enrolled, if the school-age child is not enrolled in school
 - E. School-Age Child: A minor who: a. is at least six years old but younger than 18 years old; and b. is not emancipated.
 - F. Valid Excuse: a. An illness, which may be either mental or physical; b. mental or behavioral health of the school-age child; c. a family death; d. Religious holy days; e. Required court appearances; f. Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship or taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony (for the student); g. Service as an election clerk; h. Documented healthcare appointments for the student or a child of the student (a note from the healthcare provider must be submitted upon the student's return to campus); i. Students in the custody of the state; j. Mental Health or therapy appointments; k. any other excuse established as valid by a local school board, charter school governing board, or school district.
- Section 4. Parents who contribute to a student's non-attendance will result in a misdemeanor and:
- A. A citation and if convicted, A fine of up to \$500 for each unexcused absence.
- Students between 12-17 with three or more unexcused absences will result in a misdemeanor and:
- A. A \$500 fine for each unexcused absence.
- Section 5. Under § 25.087 (b)(1), a statement must be added that allows parents to allow absences to students who wish to take 1-2 days off every 3 months for mental health concerns and well-being of the student.
- Section 6. Students must provide a letter from a parent or guardian that explains the purpose of the absence within three days of the absence to be considered excused. Otherwise, the absence will be considered unexcused. Students will not be able to use mental health absences for more than 2 days every three months.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Charlie Outen, Somervell County
Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County
Bill Author: Cooper Smith, Brazos County

House Bill: 191
Senate Bill: 491

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Metal Detectors In Public Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Metal Detectors In Public Schools Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that public schools have a walk-through metal detector continuously manned during school hours at one point of entry of every school. All other doors would be required to be locked thus forcing entry of any visitors, students, staff to be at the main point of entry. Each school should have one walk-through metal detector per five-hundred students.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Walk-through Metal Detector: Walk-through Metal Detector is a kind of fixed installed detection equipment. It is also called metal detection door and can be called as security door for short. It is mainly used to detect metal objects hidden on human body.
B. Continuously Manned: Shall be staffed with either an ISD Police Officer or by an ISD Office Personnel during operational hours. A locked door can be used as well as a first stop to allow personnel to arrive at the metal detector for visitor to walk through.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Fines to the ISD to be paid for each day (\$1000) that the school is not in compliance.
2nd Offense: Will result in disciplinary actions against the Principal and Superintendent along with the ISD being required to pay the additional cost of local jurisdiction correction officers.
3rd Offense: Will result in closure of the school until school is in full compliance.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded to each school through the funds donated to Foundation School Fund by the Texas Lottery.
- Section 6. This act will go into effect mandating that schools be in compliance by the beginning of the Fall semester.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Isaiah Atoe, Tarrant County

Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County

Bill Author: McKenna Guevara, Calhoun County

House Bill: 192

Senate Bill: 492

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Natural Resource Appreciation Class

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Natural Resource Appreciation Class Act.
- Section 2. Natural resources are the foundation of our world; all the children in the state of Texas shall take a course to learn and appreciate the foundation of our world. This course will expose students to the importance of our infrastructure, how the foundation started, and where most of our everyday needs such as gas, comes from. As the population increases everyday, it is imperative that our society understands the importance of natural resources. The future of our environment and economy depends on well-informed and responsible citizens that value sustainable practices and resource management.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Infrastructure: The basic facilities and system serving a country, region, or community. Examples: roads, water systems, gas supplies.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: The school district will receive written notification from the Commissioner of Education and receive a fine not to exceed \$1000.
2nd Offense: The school district will be put on official record of refusal to follow the law and be investigated by the Texas Education Agency as well as receive a fine not to exceed \$10,000.
- Section 5. This act shall be enforced by the Commissioner of Education and the Texas Education Agency. Funding for the materials, training, and teachers shall be provided in the Texas State Budget in the amount of \$2 million yearly to all secondary public and private schools in the State of Texas.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Ryanne Vicars, Clay County
Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County
Bill Author: Garicyn Bigham, Lamb County

House Bill: 193
Senate Bill: 493

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Performance-based Assessments

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Performance-based Assessments Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all standardized testing will be replaced with performance-based assessments, so that students are allowed to choose how they show their learning, rather than not accurately measuring learning and growth.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Performance-based Assessment: An approach to educational assessment that requires students to directly demonstrate what they know and are able to do through open-ended tasks such as constructing an answer, producing a project, or performing an activity.
B. Standardized Testing: A method of assessment built on the principle of consistency, designed in such a way that the questions and interpretations are persistent and are administered and scored in a predetermined, standard manner.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Will result in the reduction of government funding.
2nd Offense: Closing of the school.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Jeet Sodhi, Rockwall County

Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County

Bill Author: Jeet Sodhi, Rockwall County

House Bill: 194

Senate Bill: 494

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Physical Health And Nutrition For Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Physical Health And Nutrition For Students Act.
- Section 2. This act shall mandate all Texas High schools to require 4 physical education credits, with a maximum of 1 credit earned each year, as a graduation requirement for high school students. The 4 PE credits will also include 40 hours of attending mandatory nutritional coaching provided by a qualified health science faculty member or licensed school nutritionist. Students with disabilities or restrictions that will prevent them from participating in the school-led physical activity can be exempt from this requirement and must provide a physical activity waiver signed by a licensed medical doctor. The waiver will not exempt students from 40 hours of mandatory nutritional coaching requirement. The purpose of this bill is to promote a foundation for healthy living among youth and teach skills to make healthy food choices.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. School Nutritionist: Licensed expert or qualified nutrition educator who will teach students about nutrition and food choices to encourage health and reduce disease.
 - B. Physical Activity Waiver: Written form signed by a licensed medical doctor that exempts a student from participating in physical activity only.
 - C. PE (physical education): Class involving the instruction of physical activities, exercise, or sports.
 - D. Credit: Documentation that proves a student has completed and fulfilled all of a course's requirements for graduation.
- Section 4. Failure to meet the requirements for graduation established by this act will result in a student's delayed graduation until the physical education credits are met.
- Section 5. The funding for this act shall be provided by the state and school district in order to ensure appropriate infrastructure and qualified mentorship.
- Section 6. The TAC §74, Subchapters (B) and (G), which states that students must earn 1.0 PE credit to meet graduation requirements, will be repealed. This act only applies to students starting high school on or after, August 1, 2024.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Rebekah Tyler, Bosque County
Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County
Bill Author: Rebekah Tyler, Bosque County

House Bill: 195
Senate Bill: 495

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Prohibit Undocumented Children Attending Public Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Prohibit Undocumented Children Attending Public Schools Act.
- Section 2. To prevent undocumented children from benefiting from public schools their families do not contribute towards. This is to eliminate the burden of undocumented children on public school funds.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Undocumented Child: Person under the age of 26 who lives in the United States without U.S. citizenship or other legal immigration status
 - B. Public School: Any elementary or secondary educational institution supported by taxes and regulated by federal, state, and local law.
- Section 4. School Districts that allow an undocumented child to attend school must return any federal or state funds on received on behalf of the undocumented child to the appropriate government agency.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Gabriela Hare, Kenedy/Kleberg County

House Bill: 196

Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

Senate Bill: 496

Bill Author: Gabriela Hare, Kenedy/Kleberg County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Psychologists In Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Psychologists In Schools Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure all schools are required to hire a psychologist, so that all children can have access to a therapist.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Psychologist: A trained mental health professional who helps people learn healthy ways to handle mental health challenges.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: If at beginning of school year a psychologist is not hired. TEA gives school board warning and is given until next semester to hire one.
2nd Offense: If failed to do so, TEA will fine school district \$1,000 every other month until psychologist is hired.
- Section 5. TEA will provide for 1/2 of cost of psychologists of choice.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Lilliana Haddox, Waller County
Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County
Bill Author: Paysley Branham, Runnels County

House Bill: 197
Senate Bill: 497

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Public Schools To Provide Driver Education Course

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Public Schools To Provide Driver Education Course Act.
- Section 2. This bill would require public schools to provide a complete driver education course to eligible students enrolled at that school. This bill will ensure that students have a convenient driver education option available to them as part of their public education. This bill would ensure that students are provided consistent and uniform training across the state of Texas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Public School: Learning institutions that are funded by local, state and/or federal governments.
B. Driver's Education Course: Course required to complete licensing of prospective drivers. Course trains students on traffic laws, safe driving habits, and driving skills.
- Section 4. Funding would be provided through 2 sources:
A. Supplementary funding by the state government for course instructors to mirror funding provided to teachers that provide additional services to schools (ie. bus drivers, school organization sponsors, etc.)
B. Additional funding provided through course registration fee paid by student participants in the amount of \$150. This would cover classroom education and driving instruction utilizing a school instructor and vehicle.
- Section 5. The Texas Education Agency in the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education which is overseen by the Commissioner of Education. If this bill becomes law, the Texas Education Agency would be responsible for the enforcement of this course availability requirement.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Annie Watson, Lynn County

Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County

Bill Author: Annie Watson, Lynn County

House Bill: 198

Senate Bill: 498

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Remove State Standardized Testing For Texas Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Remove State Standardized Testing For Texas Students Act.
- Section 2. The main purpose of this bill is to eliminate state-mandated standardized testing for Texas students, and replace it with alternative assessments organized by the districts to better reflect each individual students learning and abilities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Standardized Testing: Tests administered and scored in a consistent manner; for example, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)
B. Alternative Assessments: Several methods of evaluating students learning; some examples are teacher assessments, district evaluation of students, and individual project-based assessments.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Written warning from the Texas Education Agency.
2nd Offense: Decreased funding from the State Government.
- Section 5. This act shall receive funds that were previously funding the creation, administration, and scoring of the standardized testing, by relocating to support the districts development of the alternative assessments.
- Section 6. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall be responsible for enforcement and administration of this Act. Which will include:
A. Develop a guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the alternative assessments
B. Provide a clear communication to all public schools, including regular updates and resources.
C. Create a helpline and service for schools to assist with any issues related to the implementation of this Act.
- Section 7. Repeal of House Bill (HB) 3261.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Elisabeth Irving, Gonzales County
Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blaneck, Tom Green County
Bill Author: Emersyn Blaneck, Tom Green County

House Bill: 199
Senate Bill: 499

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Required Agricultural Classes For Grades 6th Through 12th

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Required Agricultural Classes For Grades 6th Through 12th Act.
- Section 2. The intent of this act is to mandate sixth (6th) through twelfth (12th) grade students are enrolled in basic agricultural production classes. Texas students shall be required to take one (1) agriculture credit within their duration of sixth (6th) through eighth (8th) grade and an additional agriculture credit class throughout their period of ninth (9th) through twelfth (12) grade. This act will ensure that all Texas public school children have a basic understanding of general agriculture practices. Upon graduating high school they will have a basic understanding of the importance of production agriculture and how it affects their everyday lives. It shall be the school district's responsibility to provide these classes led by a certified in-structure.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Agriculture Production: Cultivating soil, planting, raising and harvesting crops, rearing, feeding, and managing livestock. Aquaculture – raising private aquatic animals (fish) Floriculture – growing flowering plants.
 - B. Agriculture: Is the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, fiber, and other textile goods.
 - C. Core Class: A mandatory course a student is required to take and complete in order to meet the requirement of their program.
- Section 4. Failure to comply results in:
 - 1st Offense: A written warning will be sent to the school district from the Texas Education Agency stating that they will be under an Administrative Review for the remainder of the year.
 - 2nd Offense: If a school district has failed to bring their school into compliance, they will be subject to reimbursement funds withheld by the Texas Education Agency.
- Section 5. Funding for this bill's initial year will come from the Independent School District. Upon completion of this class the school district will be reimbursed by the Texas Education Agency. Upon each student's certified completion, TEA will reimburse the independent school district one thousand (1,000) dollars for teaching expenses. These funds must be spent on Production Ag Education classes and not used elsewhere.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Jillian Gardner, Brazoria County
Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Bonnie Reese, Lamb County

House Bill: 200
Senate Bill: 500

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Required Mental Health Course For Graduation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Required Mental Health Course For Graduation Act.
- Section 2. This act would ensure that students have education on mental health issues, signs and symptoms of mental issues, and coping mechanisms for those conditions. This course can be offered as a stand-alone course or as a health credit.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Mental Health: A person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being.
B. Coping Mechanism: The thoughts and behaviors mobilized to manage internal and external stressful situations.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Warning from state to school requiring course, with a set timeline for compliance.
2nd Offense: Schools will be put on probation and lose accreditation for failure to comply.
3rd Offense: School will face reduced school-sanctioned state funds.
- Section 5. Funding for this act will come out of the state general education fund and district taxes.
- Section 6. This act will amend TEC 38.013. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: A'Destanee Diggles, San Augustine County

House Bill: 201

Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County

Senate Bill: 501

Bill Author: A'Destanee Diggles, San Augustine County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act.
- Section 2. The Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act is designed to enhance educational opportunities for students in rural areas by increasing access to dual-credit courses. The main purpose of this bill is to bridge the educational gap between rural and urban students, providing equitable access to advanced coursework that can lead to college credit while still in high school. This initiative not only aims to improve academic outcomes but also supports the economic health of rural communities by fostering a well-educated workforce. By investing in the education of rural students, the state strengthens its overall well-being and future prosperity.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Dual-Credit Course: A course of study that is available to high school students for which successful completion results in the awarding of both high school and post secondary education credits.
 - B. Rural Area: A geographic area that is located outside of towns and cities, typically characterized by smaller populations and greater distances from urban centers.
 - C. Educational Equity: The principle that all students have access to the resources, opportunities, and educational rigor they need at the right moment in their education, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, family background, or family income.
- Section 4. Regarding penalties and punishments, the bill stipulates that any educational institution that fails to comply with the standards and requirements set forth for the dual-credit program will face consequences.

Levels of Penalties and Punishments:
 1st Offense: A fine of \$250.00 will be imposed.
 2nd Offense: Increased fines and may escalate to misdemeanors, depending on the severity and frequency of the violations.

The structure of these penalties is in line with existing educational laws and regulations, ensuring consistency and fairness in enforcement. The goal is not to be punitive but to ensure compliance and the integrity of the dual-credit program.
- Section 5. The act will be funded through a combination of state government allocations and targeted educational grants. The state's Department of Education will be responsible for the initial distribution and oversight of funds, ensuring that they are allocated efficiently and equitably to participating rural schools. A portion of the funding will be earmarked specifically for the development of course materials and training of high school teachers who will be delivering the college-level curriculum.

The act will establish a dedicated fund within the state treasury to support the program's ongoing costs, such as tuition subsidies for dual-credit courses. This fund will be managed by a newly created office within the Department of Education, the Office of Rural Education Advancement, which will have the authority to disburse funds according to the program's needs and ensure compliance with the act's provisions.

In addition to state funding, the act will strive to leverage federal education grants that are accessible for rural education initiatives. By aligning the program's objectives with federal funding criteria, the act will optimize the potential for additional financial support. The pivotal role of the Office of Rural Education Advancement in applying for these grants and managing any funds received will ensure a robust financial management system, providing reassurance to all stakeholders.

Furthermore, the act will include a mechanism for reinvesting any funds generated by the program, such as fees collected from participating colleges and universities. These funds will be reinvested into the program in a structured manner, with clear guidelines or priorities, to cover administrative costs, provide scholarships for students in need, and expand the program to more rural schools. This ensures that the program remains financially sustainable and continues to benefit rural students in the long run.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the act will require annual reporting on the program's financial status,



including a detailed account of all expenditures and revenues. This report will be made publicly available and submitted to the state legislature for review. The reporting process will involve specific steps and procedures, ensuring that all financial activities of the program are fully disclosed and can be audited for transparency and accountability.

The Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act signifies a substantial commitment to the future of rural education. With meticulous planning and management of its funding provisions, the act will create priceless opportunities for rural students to enhance their education and lay the groundwork for prosperous futures. The strategic funding approach will guarantee that the program is not just effective, but also sustainable for the long haul, instilling a sense of hope and optimism in all stakeholders.

Section 6. The Texas Education Agency provides updates on dual credit legislative changes, which are crucial to consider in this process. For instance, House Bill 1638, enacted by the 85th Texas Legislature, mandates that all dual credit programs establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) detailing the partnership terms between higher education institutions and public-school districts. This includes alignment with statewide goals, course equivalency crosswalks, academic support for students, roles and responsibilities of institutions, and funding sources for dual credit courses.

Additionally, House Bill 3650, passed by the 86th Texas Legislature, encourages the use of open education resources to reduce costs for students enrolled in dual credit courses. These statutes are designed to support and regulate dual credit programs, ensuring their quality and accessibility. If the Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act aims to further expand access to dual credit programs in rural areas, it may not necessarily require the repeal of these existing laws but rather could build upon them, enhancing the provisions for rural communities.

However, if any aspect of the proposed bill directly conflicts with these statutes, such as funding mechanisms or program requirements that differ from the current MOU stipulations, then those specific sections of the existing laws might need to be amended or repealed to accommodate the new legislation.

Therefore, the language of the proposed Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act will be carefully crafted to ensure it aligns with existing statutes and does not necessitate the repeal of other bills. The act will be structured to complement the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stipulations by explicitly stating that the grant program it establishes will operate within the framework and funding mechanisms already outlined by current laws. This emphasis on alignment provides reassurance about the continuity and stability of the dual credit system.

For instance, the act may include a clause that the grants provided under the new program will supplement, not supplant, the funding sources designated for dual credit programs under House Bill 1638. It could also stipulate that the eligibility criteria for the grants will mirror the academic support provisions and course equivalency frameworks established by the MOU.

Furthermore, the act could mandate that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in administering the grants, must prioritize students who are already eligible for dual credit opportunities under existing statutes but lack the financial resources to participate. This would ensure that the new program expands access without altering the intent or requirements of the current system. This emphasis on prioritizing students' needs highlights the act's consideration for the most vulnerable students.

Additionally, the act could require that any new funding sources introduced for the grant program must be approved by the state legislature as amendments to the Education Code, thereby avoiding any direct conflict with existing funding mechanisms.

The act might also include a provision for periodic review of the program's alignment with statewide educational objectives and a requirement for public junior colleges to report on the use of open educational resources in accordance with House Bill 3650.

By including such provisions, the Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act not only fulfills its goal of expanding dual credit opportunities for rural students but also integrates seamlessly with the current legal and educational framework, negating the need for repealing or amending existing statutes. This approach demonstrates a commitment to enhancing educational opportunities while respecting the legislative process and the established dual credit system. The careful drafting of the act, with attention to legal compatibility and collaborative input from various stakeholders, will be key to its successful implementation and the realization of its benefits for the target rural student population, fostering a sense of optimism and progress.

Section 7. Upon the enactment of the Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act, the following special instructions are established for its enforcement and administration:



1. The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of the program, ensuring that rural high schools have the necessary resources to offer dual-credit courses.
2. To maintain consistency across educational institutions, a standardized framework for course content, credit transfer, and teacher qualification will be developed.
3. An annual audit will be conducted to assess program effectiveness, with results reported to the state education committee.
4. Schools must demonstrate a commitment to expanding dual-credit opportunities, including providing support for teacher training and curriculum development.
5. A dedicated fund will be established to provide financial assistance to rural schools seeking to develop or enhance dual-credit programs.
6. Compliance with the act will be monitored through a combination of self-reporting by schools and random inspections by state officials.
7. Incentives will be provided for schools that show significant progress in increasing dual-credit enrollment and retention.
8. Penalties for non-compliance may include a reduction in state funding or exclusion from future educational grants.
9. Collaboration with local community colleges and universities will be encouraged to facilitate smooth credit transfers and broaden course offerings.
10. The act will be reviewed every five years to determine if adjustments are necessary to better serve the needs of rural students.

These instructions aim to ensure that the Rural Dual-Credit Program Expansion Act is effectively administered and enforced, providing equitable educational opportunities for students in rural areas.

Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Abigail Clifton, Rusk County

Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County

Bill Author: Abigail Clifton, Rusk County

House Bill: 202

Senate Bill: 502

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Rural Library Initiative

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Rural Library Initiative Act.
- Section 2. This bill aims to allocate educational funding for rural libraries in Texas. Rural communities in the state often face challenges in accessing educational resources, including books and internet access. This initiative seeks to provide funding to libraries to improve their ability to serve the communities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Library: A building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to.
 - B. Rural Communities: Communities outside of a city or town with sparse population and low housing density.
 - C. Educational Resources: Tools used in a learning environment to help and assist with people's development and learning.
- Section 4. Funding would be allocated from educational funds.
- Section 5. Rural Libraries will apply for this money through grants.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Elisabeth Irving, Gonzales County
Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County
Bill Author: Elisabeth Irving, Gonzales County

House Bill: 203
Senate Bill: 503

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

School Districts Funding 4-H Enrollment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the School Districts Funding 4-H Enrollment Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that every school district will provide funding for 4-H enrollment fees, registration and event fees and travel expenses. Unfortunately in many cases, the cost of registration, travel and lodging prohibits students from being able to participate and compete. 4-H should be supported by school districts, as it trains students for college, offers solid life skills and introduces and prepares them for future career opportunities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Travel Expenses: Gas and hotel fees.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Warning
 - 2nd Offense: Loss of funding
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the school districts, which are funded by the state/government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Sydney Kuykendall, Llano County

Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

Bill Author: Sydney Kuykendall, Llano County

House Bill: 204

Senate Bill: 504

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Secondary School Phone And Device Ban

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Secondary School Phone And Device Ban Act.
- Section 2. This bill will improve the educational experience for both students and teachers in Texas school districts as it will require public secondary school students to lock up their cell phones and electronic devices during school hours which will remove the constant distractions that cell phones often create during the school day. The bill will require that all students in Texas public secondary schools be provided with a magnetic pouch that will secure their cell phones during school hours. Other electronic devices such as smart watches and wireless headphones will also be placed in the pouch. Students will be allowed to keep the magnetic pouches with them, but the pouches will not be opened until the end of the school day. Unlocking bases will be strategically placed around the school building that can be utilized to unlock the pouches once school is out. In a survey of 900 schools across the country that have utilized the magnetic pouches, the districts surveyed reported a 65% increase in academic performance and a 74% improvement in student behavior after cell phones and electronic devices were removed during school hours. Student engagement improved tremendously and cyber bullying and cyber safety issues became non-existent. This bill will improve the education and focus of students by removing the distraction of cell phones and smart devices from the classroom.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Secondary School Student: Any student currently enrolled in a Texas public school, grades 6-12.
 - B. Cell Phone: This can include any type of smart phone such as I-phones, Androids, and smart watches.
 - C. Electronic Device: This includes personal devices such as I-Pads, tablets and wireless headphones. It does not include electronic devices that are issued or approved by the school for student use such as Chrome books or lap-tops.
- Section 4. School districts will continue to set their own enforcement guidelines for those students that are caught utilizing their cell phones or electronic devices during school hours.
- Section 5. The bill will be funded by the state government to pay for one magnetic pouch per public secondary school student per school year. The state has a budget surplus of \$32.7 billion which can be utilized if necessary to make the initial investment for the purchase of the magnetic pouches. The cost of the magnetic pouches will be capped at \$20 per pouch and any amount spent above this cap amount will be funded by the local school district. Pouches are re-usable each year, so once the initial investment is made, the follow-up purchases each year should be substantially less.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Clare Whitaker, Bastrop County
Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County
Bill Author: Clare Whitaker, Bastrop County

House Bill: 205
Senate Bill: 505

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Special Education Enhancement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Special Education Enhancement Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Act is to improve the quality and accessibility of special education services in public and private schools to ensure that all students with disabilities receive the support they need to succeed academically and socially. To enhance special education services, ensure appropriate staffing and training, involve parents in the educational process, and provide necessary funding and accountability mechanisms.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. School: Refers to any public elementary, middle, or high school.
B. Special Education Services: Include individualized education programs (IEPs), specialized instructional support, therapy services, and accommodations.
C. Qualified Special Education Professional: Refers to licensed special education teachers, therapists, counselors, and support staff.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: A warning will be issued if a school or school district is found to be non-compliant with any provision of this Act, the Department of Education shall issue a formal warning and require the submission of a corrective action plan within 30 days.
2nd Offense: If schools or school districts fail to submit an acceptable corrective action plan or do not implement the approved plan within the specified time frame shall be subject to financial penalties, the school will be fined a total of \$3,000
3rd Offense: The school will be fined up to \$10,000 and the school and the teachers will be put on probation.
- Section 5. Special Instructions:
Schools shall provide resources and training for parents to understand their rights and advocate effectively for their children. Schools must submit an annual report on the status and effectiveness of their special education programs to the Department of Education. The Department of Education shall publish a yearly review of the program's nationwide impact. Schools must track and report academic progress and outcomes for students with disabilities to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.
- Section 6. The federal government shall allocate grants to states to support the implementation and enhancement of special education programs in schools. Schools must submit a detailed plan outlining the use of funds to receive grant approval. Additional funding shall be provided for assistive technology and resources necessary to support students with disabilities.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Abby Wallis, Wharton County
Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County
Bill Author: Abby Wallis, Wharton County

House Bill: 206
Senate Bill: 506

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

STAAR Test Elimination

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the STAAR Test Elimination Act.
- Section 2. This act will eliminate the use of the STAAR test in all Texas Public Schools. Students will no longer be required to take the tests and teachers will use their own measures to monitor progress based on their professional opinion.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. STAAR: State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness.
- Section 4. If a school district is caught using the STAAR test they will be punished by:
1st Offense: Written warning from the Texas Education Agency.
2nd Offense: Decreased funding from the State Government.
- Section 5. This bill requires no funding from the state.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Zoe Chick, Walker County
Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County
Bill Author: Zoe Chick, Walker County

House Bill: 207
Senate Bill: 507

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

STAAR Testing Removal

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the STAAR Testing Removal Act.
- Section 2. This act will remove all STAAR testing prior to the 9th grade. However, students will be required to meet an average grade percentage decided on by the school district.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. STAAR Testing: State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness.
- Section 4. Failure of student to meet required average grade percentage will result in:
 - 1st Offense: The student will be required to participate in tutoring until grade average is raised.
 - 2nd Offense: The school will contact the students parents to discuss retaking problematic classes or the grade level.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government. Funding will go towards the hiring of additional staff to assist with tutoring.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Brynlee Edwards, Lubbock County

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County

Bill Author: Brynlee Edwards, Lubbock County

House Bill: 208

Senate Bill: 508

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Standardized Driver Education Of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Standardized Driver Education Of 2024 Act.
- Section 2. This act shall reintegrate Driver Education into Texas Public Schools and eliminate parent-taught Driver Education. This act shall ensure standardized and comprehensive driver education for all students in Texas by reintegrating driver's education into public school curriculum and eliminating the option for parent-taught driver education.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Driver Education: Refers to the instructional program that prepares individuals to obtain a driver license, including both classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training.
 - B. Parent-Taught Driver Education: Refers to a program where a parent or guardian is the primary instructor for the student driver, as currently allowed under Texas Transportation Code § 521.205.
 - C. Public School: Refers to any state-funded institutions providing primary or secondary education that are funded by local, state and/or federal governments.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: School placed on review and plan/timeline developed to implement course.
 - 2nd Offense: Loss of status as recognized public-school/ Loss of public-school funding.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
- 1. The state shall allocate necessary funding to support the reinstatement of driver education in public schools, including costs for instructor training, vehicle procurement, and maintenance.
 - 2. Grants shall be available to schools to cover additional expenses related to implementing the driver education program.
 - 3. Schools may charge a nominal fee for participation in the driver's education program, with provisions for fee waivers or reductions for students from low-income families.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- 1. All public high schools in Texas shall offer a standardized driver education program as part of their curriculum starting in the 2025-2026 academic year.
 - 2. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall develop and implement a comprehensive driver's education curriculum that meets state standards and includes both classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training.
 - 3. The curriculum shall be designed to ensure all students receive consistent and thorough training, covering key aspects of driving safety, rules of the road, and practical driving skills.
 - 4. Public schools may partner with local driving schools or other certified instructors to provide the behind-the-wheel component of the program, ensuring adequate resources and expertise.
- Section 7. Repeal of:
- 1. Texas Transportation Code § 521.205, which allows for parent-taught driver education, is hereby repealed.
 - 2. No new parent-taught driver education programs shall be authorized after the effective date of this act.
 - 3. Students currently enrolled in parent-taught driver's education programs will have until December 31, 2024, to complete their instruction under the current guidelines.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Callie Waiser, Kerr County
Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County
Bill Author: Callie Waiser, Kerr County

House Bill: 209
Senate Bill: 509

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Standardized Testing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Standardized Testing Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that standardized tests will be conducted more frequently and will be shorter in duration, so that the tests will be more accurate, and provides teachers with prompt feedback, enabling them to adjust their teaching strategies based on the results obtained.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Standardized Tests: Any form of test that requires all test takers to answer the same questions, or a selection of questions from a common bank of questions, in the same way, and that is scored in a standard or consistent manner, which makes it possible to compare the relative performance of individual students or groups of students.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: The government will establish managing control over the campus.
2nd Offense: Will result in the loss of government funding.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of \$350 million.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Jeet Sodhi, Rockwall County

Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County

Bill Author: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County

House Bill: 210

Senate Bill: 510

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Student Opportunities For Teaching Assistants

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Student Opportunities For Teaching Assistants Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to provide paid teaching assistant job opportunities to juniors and seniors in high school. Students will get the opportunity to be a teacher assistant and help with tutoring peers who struggle with certain classes. This will give students the chance to work on their leadership and job skills as they will be paid the state approved minimum wage. Students who get selected for these teaching assistant jobs must have demonstrated academic excellence in the respective subject of job interest. The long-term benefit of this bill would be to encourage student interest in the field of education as they pursue future careers. This would help prevent a shortage of teachers in the future and allow for struggling students to get the help they need. Tutoring sessions are normally short and have lots of students with one teacher who can't give one on one time to all of them, and a teaching assistant would help by decreasing the student to teacher ratio, which would allow for more one on one time.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Academic Excellence: An award or achievement that proves the student's specialty and understanding of the subject. The minimum grade percentage that the student must have maintained in the subject has to have been an A.
 - B. Respective Subject: The class/subject that a student specializes in.
- Section 4. If a student is selected for the role of teacher assistant and is not qualified or has been chosen based on something other than merit, it should result in a disciplinary action or replacement of the selection committee.
- Section 5. This bill requires funding from the state and school district.
- Section 6. There should be an application and interview process to apply for this job. There should also be a selection board or committee of school faculty to select candidates.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Ashlyn Trcka, Dallas County
Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County
Bill Author: Ashlyn Trcka, Dallas County

House Bill: 211
Senate Bill: 511

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Summer Special Education Services

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Summer Special Education Services Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that Special Education Students have the option to continue their schooling and any school-provided therapy services over the summer to continue advancing their education to a grade appropriate level and minimize the stress of return to school on these students. Just as there are summer programs for students without disabilities to bring their performance up to grade level, there shall be summer services to continue advancing the education for Special Education Students to bring their performance up to grade level, or as close to grade level as possible, regardless of if the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals differ from that of the on grade level student. Parents will be able to opt in for Summer Special Education Services each year.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Individualized Education Program (IEP): A legal document under United States law that is developed for each public-school child in the U.S. who needs special education. It is created through the child's parent(s) and district personnel who are knowledgeable about the child's needs.
B. Special Education Student: A student who 1) has a disability and 2) because of the disability, would have an IEP.
C. Summer: Weekdays between the end of one school year and the start of the next, excepting up to 9 school days at the end of the school year in May, up to 5 school days prior to the start of the next school year, and up to 5 school days the week during, before, or after July 4.
- Section 4. Failure to comply shall result in a 2% reduction of state funds to the school district.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded as part of the Texas Education Agency annual budget.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Jack Tyler, Henderson County

Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County

Bill Author: Justin Hill, Moore County

House Bill: 212

Senate Bill: 512

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Sustained-Silent Reading And Read-Aloud Programs In The Classroom

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Sustained-Silent Reading And Read-Aloud Programs In The Classroom Act.
- Section 2. This act shall establish sustained-silent reading and improved read-aloud programs on a state wide level in schools grade K-12 for a minimum of 30 minutes combined time to help improve classroom performance and interpersonal skills.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Sustained-Silent Reading: A period of time when students and teachers spend quiet time and are allowed to read any book of their choosing.
B. Read-Aloud Programs: A time when someone, (usually the teacher), will read out of a book for a period of time to the students.
- Section 4. Rewards:
When implementing these programs, schools will receive \$100 per student for the purpose of improving libraries and reading selections within the school.
- Penalties: If a school is receiving the funding stated above but is not implementing the reading programs or using the funds for their intended purpose they will immediately lose all funding and will be on probation until remedied.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded out of the lottery fund in an amount of up to \$550,000,000.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Ayla Doran, Schleicher County
Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County
Bill Author: Ayla Doran, Schleicher County

House Bill: 213
Senate Bill: 513

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Teacher Pay Cap Set at 30 Years

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Teacher Pay Cap Set at 30 Years Act.
- Section 2. This bill will require the State of Texas to set the pay cap for teachers at 30 years of experience. Majority of teachers cannot get full retirement benefits unless they work for at least 30 years. This bill ensures teachers continue to get increased pay for up to 30 years.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Pay Cap: The legal limit on how much an employee can earn.
 - B. Teacher Retirement Benefits: Teachers have to be at least 65 (or 62 depending on their membership tier structure) to get full retirement benefits and for most that is 30 or more years of teaching.
 - C. Membership Tiers: Identified by the TRS to understand the requirements and reductions that apply to teachers; determined by the year teachers enter TRS membership.
- Section 4. This act would be funded by the state government.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Brynlee Edwards, Lubbock County

Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County

Bill Author: Aiden Hunter, Ellis County

House Bill: 214

Senate Bill: 514

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Teacher's Minimum Salary

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Teacher's Minimum Salary Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to establish a minimum salary of \$54,000 for public school teachers in Texas. This would ensure the financial stability of educators statewide along with alleviating the current teacher shortage.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Teacher: A professional who teaches in a public school in the state and certified by TEA. Must also work a minimum of 9 months out of the year.
B. Minimum Salary: The basic salary established by this act set at \$54,000.
C. Public School: A K-12 public institution for education that received funding through local tax dollars.
- Section 4. Local school districts not compliant after six months will endure the following penalties:
One Month Non-Complaint: \$10,000 Fine
Two Months Non Compliant: Revocation of state funds and general allotment from schools.
Three Months Non Compliant: TEA Investigation and possible revocation of accreditation.
- Section 5. Funding for this plan will be paid through local school districts budgets. No state assistance will be provided to meet this salary requirement.
- Section 6. Repeal of Section 153.1021 of the Texas Administrative Code, the Texas Public Teacher Salary Schedule, will be amended to reflect the \$54,000 minimum.
- Section 7. This law will be implemented by every public school district in Texas and enforcement will fall under the role of Commissioner Mike Mortath.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Samuel Taylor, Dallam/Hartley County

House Bill: 215

Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County

Senate Bill: 515

Bill Author: Samuel Taylor, Dallam/Hartley County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Teaching Agricultural Practices

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Teaching Agricultural Practices Act.
- Section 2. This act shall require schools to teach about the purpose of agricultural practices.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Good Agricultural Practices: Methods that when applied to agriculture production and processing, create food for consumers that is safe and wholesome as determined by the board of Agriculture education professionals appointed by the Governor.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: The school will be placed under probation and a letter detailing their infraction and corrective actions required.
2nd Offense: The school will have to pay a fine of \$1,000 USD and will be marked on the teacher's and/or administrator's employment record.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state in the sum of \$5.00 USD per student.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Addison Rouse, Karnes County
Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Addison Rouse, Karnes County

House Bill: 216
Senate Bill: 516

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Casino Gaming Education Support

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Casino Gaming Education Support Act.
- Section 2. This act shall legalize state sanctioned casino/gaming in the state of Texas. A tax will be set on the casinos/gaming, the funds collected will be used to fund a statewide teacher grant program. Tax rate shall be set to twelve percent. Five percent will be designated for administration, leaving the remaining seven percent to fund the grant program.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Casino/Gaming: Includes all card tables and other games of chance including without limitations slot machines, blackjack, poker, dice, roulette, baccarat, and money wheels and video facsimiles of all such games.
B. Grant program: A grant is a way the government funds to support teachers with classroom resources and projects.
C. Administrative: Relating to the running of a business, organization, etc.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with gaming license regulations will result in:
1st Offense: \$5,000 fine
2nd Offense: \$10,000 fine and license status changed to a probationary period of 1 year.
3rd Offense: License revoked and punishable to up to 5 years.
- Section 5. This act shall be over seen by the existing Texas Lottery Commission. Long term funds will be provided by the five perfect administration fee.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Caroline Terrill, Bexar County
Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County
Bill Author: Caroline Terrill, Bexar County

House Bill: 217
Senate Bill: 517

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Public School Safety

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Public School Safety Act.
- Section 2. This act shall mandate all Texas state public schools with two (2) teachers per every hallway and every other teacher in a portable that shall retain a firearm. Teachers and administration will need to go through extensive training and licensing and renew it every 3 years to ensure safety for all. Those with firearms in their classroom or learning spaces should undergo proficiency training every 6 months. Schools have continued to become more unsafe as days pass, but that does not mean we have to stop learning and become scared of the unknown.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Firearm: A rifle, pistol, or other portable gun.
B. Proficiency: A high degree of competence in skill; firearm safety.
C. Portable: A classroom building of one or more stories that is designed and constructed to be relocated and transportable over public streets.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Distract loses 50% of state funding and a reminder.
2nd Offense: Distract loses 75% of state funding as well as pay a fine of \$70,000 per school in the district for non-compliance.
- Section 5. This act shall make the state government provide the purchase of the firearms, licenses, and training. It will come from an increase .01% in state sales tax.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Kaden Gordillo, Tarrant County

Senate Sponsor: Jind Sodhi, Rockwall County

Bill Author: Kaden Gordillo, Tarrant County

House Bill: 218

Senate Bill: 518

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Safe School Zone

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Safe School Zone Act.
- Section 2. The main purpose of the Texas Safe School Zone Act is to prohibit hotel construction within a two-mile radius of public schools in Texas. It will enhance the safety and welfare of students by preventing the establishment of any hotels or overnight lodging within a two mile radius of public schools, thereby reducing potential risks associated with transient populations and ensuring a secure learning environment.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Hotel: An establishment that provides overnight lodging to guests in exchange for payment.
B. Public School: A school supported by public funds.
C. Transient Population: Individuals in a location in which they do not normally reside.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in political repercussions. City officials responsible for approving banned construction will face removal of office. Establishment will face an injunction to halt construction as well as be fined:
1st Violation: Reprimand to \$1,000
2nd Violation: \$500-\$2,000
3rd Violation: \$1,000-\$4,000 per day for failure to halt construction
- Section 5. This bill requires no funding from the state.
- Section 6. Upon passage and approval of this bill it will become effective for all Texas public school properties, requiring implementation by January 1, 2025.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Caydie Castro, Kinney County
Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County
Bill Author: Caydie Castro, Kinney County

House Bill: 219
Senate Bill: 519

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Student Mental Wellness

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Student Mental Wellness Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to better the mental being of students by increasing the number of qualified professionals that have experience/training in the mental health department.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Mental Health Professional: A person licensed in the state of Texas to provide mental health services including counselors, social workers, or a school physiologist.
 - B. Qualified Mental Health Professional: A mental health professional with training and experiences with, but nit limited to young children, special needs, or kids ranging from k-12 in a school setting.
 - C. TEA: Texas Education Agency.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: School districts will be placed in a corrective form of action that would require them to send in a document of descriptions to the TEA on how improvements will be made in a set timeframe determined by the TEA.
 - 2nd Offense: School districts will lose a partiality of their state funding or a required participation in a TEA taught program on how to improve their mental health services, based on how serious the matter is.
- Section 5. The Texas state government should fund the TEA a total of 500 million dollars over the course of a couple of years. The TEA will then distribute the funds to provide grants to the school districts for hiring more qualified mental health workers.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Allison Lewis, Hill County
Senate Sponsor: Carson Dodd, Brazos County
Bill Author: Allison Lewis, Hill County

House Bill: 220
Senate Bill: 520

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Teacher Incentive

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Teacher Incentive Act.
- Section 2. In an effort to improve teacher retention and to encourage college graduates to become teachers to alleviate the teacher shortage, this act will grant certified teachers a signing bonus of 10,000 dollars for teachers new to the profession that have completed their certification process and have been teaching for three consecutive school years in a Texas public school.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Teacher: A Texas educator who has passed their certification requirements and completed three years as an educator with a single Texas primary or secondary school.
B. Signing Bonus: A one time payment paid to a teacher after three years of service in a Texas public primary or secondary school
- Section 4. Failure to comply with this Act will result in the Texas Education Agency losing funding from State Appropriations. Teachers that fail to complete three years of employment within their chosen Texas public primary or secondary school will forfeit their signing bonus or, if previously paid, will have to return those funds to the State Comptroller. People that fail to return funds to the State Comptroller will lose their teaching certification until repayment is made.
- Section 5. The funding for this act will come from the Texas Rainy Day fund through a grant to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). TEA will distribute the signing bonuses to eligible teachers.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Maya Holiday, Grimes County
Senate Sponsor: Emersyn Blanek, Tom Green County
Bill Author: Annabella Sione, Gillespie County

House Bill: 221
Senate Bill: 521

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Teacher Salary Enhancement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Teacher Salary Enhancement Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Act is to increase salaries for teachers to reflect the importance of their role in society. This will also deliver better compensation to attract and retain talented educators. It will also enhance the overall quality of education by investing in the teaching workforce.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Teacher: Refers to a certified educator who is employed in a public or charter school to teach students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.
 - B. Minimum Teacher Salary: Refers to the lowest annual wage that a teacher can be paid, as established by this Act.
- Section 4. The act will be funded by the state government. There should also be a committee formed to examine the cost of living of areas around Texas as well as the size of each school and establish the wage increase in the different areas of the state.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: A'Destanee Diggles, San Augustine County

Senate Sponsor: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County

Bill Author: Hayden Dittmar, Kerr County

House Bill: 222

Senate Bill: 522

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Youth Agriculture Education Requirement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Youth Agriculture Education Requirement Act.
- Section 2. This act shall require that Agriculture Education be a state mandated course for all middle school and high school students enrolled in the Texas Public Education System to be eligible to graduate. The purpose of the Texas Youth Agriculture Education Requirements Act is to expose students to the impact and importance of agriculture in our daily lives, how it impacts our future, and the role it plays in our health and safety. Agriculture education will make sure all graduating students understand where their food, clothing, and shelter come from, so that they can make educated decisions on all matters associated with that, which is crucial to our states sustainability, and the demand for agriculture to keep up with the needs of our growing state.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. State Mandated Course: A class that is mandated by the state, for at least one semester or 18 weeks, in all public middle schools and high schools.
- Section 4. Students who do not complete the required agricultural education courses will be withheld from graduating until course requirements are completed.

Schools that fail to comply with education requirements will be subject to loss of government funding and accreditation.
- Section 5. Texas Middle Schools and High Schools shall be funded by the state government to provide agriculture education courses to Middle School Students grades 7th-8th and High School students grades 9th-12th. The state government shall fund the amount of \$50,000 to each Middle School and High School plus an additional \$500 for each student fulfilling their agriculture education requirement each year, up to and not to exceed \$250,000.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Hadley Young, Wichita County
Senate Sponsor: Paysley Branham, Runnels County
Bill Author: Hadley Young, Wichita County

House Bill: 223
Senate Bill: 523

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Three-fifty Or Less

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Three-fifty Or Less Act.
- Section 2. There are many recommendations from Texas educational associations concerning the ratio of school counselors to students in public school districts. Most of these associations only recommend a ratio for school districts to follow, for example TASB recommends a 1 to 350 ratio; however, this is just a guideline to use. The purpose of this bill is to require school districts to provide a school counselor to student ratio not exceed 350 students per counselor. This will give school counselors the opportunity to serve and meet the needs of his/her assigned students.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. TASB: Texas Association of School Boards.
B. Recommend: to suggest an act or course of action as advisable.
C. Require: to demand as necessary or essential.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with the Three-fifty or Less Act include:
1st Offense: The school district will be given 90 days to hire additional staff to meet the required guidelines.
2nd Offense: The school must comply within 90 days, and will lose 10% funding from the state government.
3rd Offense: The school district must comply within 90 days and will lose 20% funding from the state government.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. Special Provisions: Private and home school programs will not be affected by the Three-fifty or Less Act.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Grayson Buaas, Hays County
Senate Sponsor: Jacquelyn Finney, Dewitt County
Bill Author: Grayson Buaas, Hays County

House Bill: 224
Senate Bill: 524

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Uniform Admission System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Uniform Admission System Act.
- Section 2. This Act shall amend the uniform admission system, sec 51.803, by adding section 1.C: The applicant, having a condition that is defined and covered by Section 7.102(c)(28), Education Code, shall be qualified for uniform admission by consideration of the applicants standing within a grouping of all applicants subject to Section 7.102(c)(28) for each participating public institution and not as a member of the general population of applicants.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Applicants: Students seeking admission to a public institute of higher education. B. General Population: The collective group of students seeking admission to a public institute of higher education that are not subject to Section 7.102(c)(28).
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Will be memorialized with a written warning and requirement for corrective action planning.
2nd Offense: A 5% decrease in state funding.
3rd Offense: A 25% decrease in state funding.
- Section 5. This Act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of \$125,000.00 (one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars) to fund one administrative resource at Texas Education Agency.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Addison Hahn, Gillespie County
Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Wiley, Guadalupe County
Bill Author: Addison Hahn, Gillespie County

House Bill: 225
Senate Bill: 525

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

United Sound For All

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the United Sound For All Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to provide immersive fine arts education through the use of the United Sound Peer Mentorship Program for special needs students. To participate, schools must maintain a 1:3 ratio of special needs to general education students. This bill allows special needs students to make connections with general education students and learn the skills needed play an instrument.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. United Sound: A program that works to promote social involvement for special needs students by giving the experience to work alongside fine arts students to learn an instrument.
B. Fine Arts: The study of dance, music, theater, and visual arts. For the purpose of this bill, fine arts will be used to refer to band/music studies.
C. Special Needs: A student with a physical or emotional difficulty that requires special assistance.
D. General Education Student: A student without physical or emotional disabilities who does not need special assistance for day-to-day tasks.
E: TEA: Texas Education Agency
- Section 4. Failure to maintain a proper student ratio will result in the loss of TEA funding for the program until the ratio can be maintained.
- Schools found to be lying about using TEA funding toward United Sound curriculum will have a \$1,000 fine and be expected to pay back all money given by the TEA.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). For schools to gain funding, a report must be sent to the TEA office outlining the amount of students participating (special needs and general education) with signatures from the main teacher, high school principal, and district superintendent.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
To ensure proper ratios are in place, a council of TEA members will be required to check in on schools at least twice during the program.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



EDUCATION

House Sponsor: Parker Buaas, Hays County
Senate Sponsor: Brady Masur, Bastrop County
Bill Author: Parker Buaas, Hays County

House Bill: 226
Senate Bill: 526

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

University Interscholastic League Electronic Sports

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the University Interscholastic League Electronic Sports Act.
- Section 2. This Act shall require the UIL to include identified electronic sports as a competitive Fall sport and public school districts to treat identified electronic sports in the same manner as approved physical sports.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Identified Electronic Sports: Digitally created multiple participant programs that provide individual and or team scored results for a single competitive match in the following sport categories: Football, Baseball, Fishing, Rodeo, aerial and land Vehicle Operations.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in fines of \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) payable to the Comptroller of Texas.
- Section 5. This Act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 to fund development of the UIL programming and administration of licensed electronic sports programs.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

(EEV)

House Chairperson: **Madison Chaloupka**
Advisor(s): **Sidney Atchley & Hector Soto**

Senate Chairperson: **Texie Ralston**
Advisor(s): **Katrena Mitchell & Warner Siedel**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
227	527	Avian Migration Preservation And Light Pollution Control	Greyson Crenwelge	Granger Smith	Gillespie/Borden
228	528	Balloon Release Ban	Eli Stetcher	Aidan Hill	Kaufman/Moore
229	529	Certification For Basic Utility Workforce Training	Jessi Mae Pearson	Brindle Harper	Kaufman/Lamb
230	530	Climate Relief During Extreme Temperatures	Laney Scott	Robert Jones	Lynn/Jasper
231	531	Combating Oak Wilt From The Roots Up	Luke Landry	RuthEllen Stetcher	Jefferson/Kaufman
232	532	Diesel Exhaust Fluid Exemption	Brayden Dillingham	Granger Smith	Karnes/Borden
233	533	Ethanol Subsidy Removal And Fuel Tax Amendment	Hannah Hewitt	Aidan Hill	Kaufman/Moore
234	534	Exotic Pets Ban	Jordis Stark	Brindle Harper	Rusk/Lamb
235	535	Increase in White Tailed Deer Hunting Limits	Olivia Floyd	Robert Jones	Bexar/Jasper
236	536	Marine Conservation And Protection	Abygail Blaylock	RuthEllen Stetcher	Terrell/Kaufman
237	537	Not In My Backyard	Tyler Jennings	Granger Smith	Potter/Borden
238	538	Power On Demand	Teresa McDaniel	Robert Jones	Dallam/Jasper
239	539	Prohibiting Potable Water In Texas Hydraulic Fracturing	McKinley Tucker	Aidan Hill	Hockley/Moore
240	540	Reducing Food Waste Through Incentives	Eli Stetcher	Brindle Harper	Kaufman/Lamb
241	541	Renewable Energy In Government Buildings	Jordis Stark	RuthEllen Stetcher	Rusk/Kaufman
242	542	Residential Landscape Irrigation Conservation	Tripp Runnels	Brindle Harper	Swisher/Lamb
243	543	Solar Panels for the Sake of Texas Soil	Emma Bell	Granger Smith	Bosque/Borden
244	544	Texas Electric Generation Capacity Reform	Ella Jander	Robert Jones	Dewitt/Jasper
245	545	Texas Lake Initiative & Restoration Act	Olivia Clifton	Aidan Hill	Rusk/Moore
246	546	Texas Lone Star Night Plan	Luke Landry	Granger Smith	Jefferson/Borden
247	547	Texas Pollinator Protection	Tripp Runnels	Brindle Harper	Swisher/Lamb
248	548	Texas State Parks Protection	Scollie Saha	Robert Jones	Matagorda/Jasper
249	549	Water Improvement District Tax Payer Voter Authority	Ava Dora	RuthEllen Stetcher	Archer/Kaufman
250	550	Water Infrastructure Investment & Affordable Rainwater Harvesting Act	Kadie Cox	Granger Smith	Sherman/Borden



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Greyson Crenwelge, Gillespie County

Senate Sponsor: Granger Smith, Borden County

Bill Author: Greyson Crenwelge, Gillespie County

House Bill: 227

Senate Bill: 527

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Avian Migration Preservation And Light Pollution Control

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Avian Migration Preservation And Light Pollution Control Act.
- Section 2. This act aims to safeguard the migratory routes of birds. Light pollution impairs the navigation abilities of migrating birds, rendering them unable to differentiate between artificial light and natural celestial bodies.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Avian Migration: The seasonal movement of birds from one region to another, typically for breeding or feeding purposes.
 - B. Light Pollution: The excessive or misdirected artificial light that interferes with astronomical observations, disrupts ecosystems, and affects human health.
 - C. Migratory Routes: Established pathways followed by birds during migration, often influenced by geographical features, weather patterns, and habitat availability.
 - D. Navigation Abilities: The innate or learned skills possessed by birds to orient themselves and navigate across vast distances, relying on visual cues, celestial landmarks, and magnetic fields.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: Notified with a Warning and given a thirty-day grace period, if problem is not resolved, the offender will receive a \$250.
 - 2nd Offense: \$500 fine.
 - 3rd Offense: \$1,000 fine and mandatory participation in a light pollution awareness program.
- Section 5. The implementation and enforcement of the “Avian Migration Preservation and Light Pollution Control Act” will be primarily funded by the State government with a budget of three million dollars. Any fines collected will fund the “Avian Migration Preservation and Light Pollution Control Act”.
- Expenses include:
- A. Administrative Costs: Setting up and maintaining an administrative infrastructure within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
 - B. Inspection and Monitoring: Costs for inspections, monitoring, and operational expenses. Public Education and Outreach: Programs to educate the public and businesses on reducing light pollution.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Eli Stetcher, Kaufman County

House Bill: 228

Senate Sponsor: Aidan Hill, Moore County

Senate Bill: 528

Bill Author: Addilyn Reed, Swisher County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Balloon Release Ban

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Balloon Release Ban Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that no foil, mylar, or latex balloons be released into the atmosphere under any circumstances in the state of Texas so that ecological environments such as wildlife, livestock, and marine life will not be endangered. In addition, the act will prohibit balloons from becoming entangled in electric lines preventing outages and fires and minimize littering upon deflation.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Foil Balloons: Balloons that contain metal and have a shiny exterior appearance.
 - B: Mylar Balloons: Balloons made from transparent plastic that contain zero metal.
 - C: Latex Balloons: Balloons that are made specifically to hold helium.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Fines up to \$500.
 - 2nd Offense: Fines up to \$2,000 and 180 days in jail.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in conjunction with current littering laws.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Jessi Mae Pearson, Kaufman County

House Bill: 229

Senate Sponsor: Brindle Harper, Lamb County

Senate Bill: 529

Bill Author: Jessi Mae Pearson, Kaufman County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Certification For Basic Utility Workforce Training

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Certification For Basic Utility Workforce Training Act.
- Section 2. This act shall create an abbreviated certification program and standard certificate for basic utility workforce training. Like the act H.B. 3349 this act will provide an opportunity to for current utility operators to help teach and educate that utility work has career opportunities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Certificate: Office document of basic knowledge learned of the skill.
B. Utility: Water & wastewater department a needed resource.
- Section 4. False certification and/or proof of eligibility should fall under the educational rules.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government if funding is needed.
- Section 6. This new act should be additional to the H.B. No. 3349 Act as it's to expand the opportunities to educate and provide more career opportunities in the utility workforce.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Laney Scott, Lynn County
Senate Sponsor: Robert Jones, Jasper County
Bill Author: Laney Scott, Lynn County

House Bill: 230
Senate Bill: 530

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Climate Relief During Extreme Temperatures

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Climate Relief During Extreme Temperatures Act.
- Section 2. This act should ensure that all Texas residents receive free electricity when temperatures exceed 100°F and fall below 32°F. This would allow all Texas residents to stay safe during extreme weather without having to worry with how to pay for electrical services.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Free Electricity: Residents will not be charged for their electric usage.
- Section 4. This act will be funded by the state government. Monies can also be allocated from capital gains funds brought in from the electrical cooperatives.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Luke Landry, Jefferson County

Senate Sponsor: RuthEllen Stetcher, Kaufman County

Bill Author: RuthEllen Stecher, Kaufman County

House Bill: 231

Senate Bill: 531

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Combating Oak Wilt From The Roots Up

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Combating Oak Wilt From The Roots Up Act.
- Section 2. This act aims to help stop live oak tree loss in Texas. In Texas, we are currently facing a disease epidemic in our trees, afflicting Live Oaks particularly. Due to a fungal infection called Oak Wilt, this disease spreads by sap beetles that carry fungal spores on their legs. Weakened and stressed trees cannot fight off Oak Wilt. The fungus invades and disables the water-conducting system of trees, effectively destroying their water supply.
- This act proposes preventative spread of Oak Wilt by injecting a fungicide into healthy trees before starting construction of any sort, including building construction and roadwork, we can create a way for our trees to protect their ecosystems, and prevent the spread of disease from uninfected trees or tree tissues by protecting against new infections.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Oak Wilt: A fungal disease of oaks and other trees that makes the foliage wilt and eventually kills the tree.
 - B. Fungus: Any of a group of spore-producing organisms feeding on organic matter, including molds, yeasts, mushrooms, and trees.
 - C. Construction: The process where contractors build structures that serve a particular purpose, such as residential houses, schools, hospitals, public works such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, dams, and railways
 - D. Stress: A state of strain or tension resulting from adverse or very demanding circumstances.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in: \$1000 fine.
- Section 5. Enforcement will be overseen by the Texas Commission On Environmental Quality. A permit will be required.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Brayden Dillingham, Karnes County

House Bill: 232

Senate Sponsor: Granger Smith, Borden County

Senate Bill: 532

Bill Author: Brayden Dillingham, Karnes County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Diesel Exhaust Fluid Exemption

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Diesel Exhaust Fluid Exemption Act.
- Section 2. This act is to eliminate the requirement for light and medium duty diesel engines to have a Diesel Exhaust Fluid System. These systems reduce engine emissions, but at the cost of fuel efficiency and power; as well as being expensive to produce and also repair. These systems are effective for larger displacement engines used in heavy machinery and semi-trucks, which have a larger carbon footprint due to the increased miles and hours that are put on these engines. However, these systems are useless for smaller displacement diesel engines used in medium and light duty applications because they do not produce enough emissions to enable the need for these systems.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Diesel Exhaust Fluid: An emission control liquid required by modern diesel engines. It is injected into the exhaust stream, which aims to reduce carbon emissions.
- Section 4. There would be no penalties or punishments associated with this bill.
- Section 5. Funding is not required for this bill.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Hannah Hewitt, Kaufman County

Senate Sponsor: Aidan Hill, Moore County

Bill Author: Joseph LeBlanc, Tarrant County

House Bill: 233

Senate Bill: 533

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Ethanol Subsidy Removal And Fuel Tax Amendment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Ethanol Subsidy Removal And Fuel Tax Amendment Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Act is to amend the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and well as the Biofuel Blend Tax Exemption, to eliminate all subsidies for ethanol production and usage, ensure the ethanol portion of blended fuel is no longer exempt from the state diesel fuel tax, and remove ethanol from the acceptable alternative fuel use and vehicle acquisition requirements, as well as from the Clean Vehicle and Infrastructure Grants and Clean School Bus Grants. This Act shall amend the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and Renewable Energy Incentives to remove all subsidies for ethanol production and usage. This Act eliminates subsidies for ethanol and ensures it is no longer afforded preferential treatment in state policies. This includes its removal from the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan, and exemptions under the state diesel fuel tax.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Ethanol: A volatile, flammable liquid produced by the fermentation of sugars, used as a fuel, particularly in blended fuels for vehicles.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Immediate cessation of any subsidies or grants until compliance is achieved and verified.
2nd Offense: Permanent disqualification from receiving future state-funded incentives.
- Section 5. This Act shall result in the reallocation of funds previously designated for ethanol subsidies towards other renewable energy initiatives and emission reduction programs.
- Section 6. Repeal of:
Subsection 6.1: Amendment to the Texas Health and Safety Code Amendment to Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 386.101
A. All references to ethanol as an acceptable alternative fuel are to be removed from:
1. Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 386.101 (Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants).
2. Any related sections under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan.
B. Repeal any grants or subsidies specifically allocated for ethanol production, infrastructure, or usage under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan and Renewable Energy Incentives.

Subsection 6.2: Amendment to Texas Administrative Code Amendment to Texas Administrative Code Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 114
A. Ethanol is to be removed from the list of acceptable fuels under:
1. Sub-chapter K, Division 3 (Clean Vehicle and Infrastructure Grants).
2. Sub-chapter K, Division 4 (Clean School Bus Grants).

Section 6.3: Amendments to the Bio-fuel Blend Tax Exemption Amendment to House Bill 3599, 2023.
A. The provision that exempts the ethanol portion of blended fuel from the diesel fuel tax is to be repealed in:
1. Texas Tax Code, Section 162.204.

Section 6.4: Amendments to Alternative Fuel Use and Vehicle Acquisition Requirements Amendment to Texas Government Code, Sections 2158.004-2158.009
A. Ethanol is to be removed from the list of acceptable alternative fuels for state agency vehicle acquisition.
1. Amend Texas Government Code, Section 2158.004 to exclude ethanol as an acceptable fuel.
2. Ensure state agency fleets are not required to use ethanol blends.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Jordis Stark, Rusk County
Senate Sponsor: Brindle Harper, Lamb County
Bill Author: Jordis Stark, Rusk County

House Bill: 234
Senate Bill: 534

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Exotic Pets Ban

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Exotic Pets Ban Act.
- Section 2. This act would effectively ban the purchase, selling, trade, and ownership of exotic animals as pets in Texas. This bill would help to decrease the number of accidents that are inherent with owning exotic animals. Many exotic species can be dangerous to own as pets, be a threat to public safety and generally need more sophisticated care than traditional pets. This act would also support environmental stewardship and avoid exotic species being released into the wild and causing harm to native species.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Exotic Animal: Any wild cat, non-human primate, canine not indigenous to Texas, bear, and any alligator or crocodile.
B. Traditional Pets: Animals domesticated to live as pets, Example: Cats & Dogs.
C. Native Species: A native species is found in a certain ecosystem due to natural processes such as natural distribution.
- Section 4. Punishment for owning or purchasing an Exotic Animal:
For each animal found to be in violation of this law, the owner will be fined \$2,000 dollars. That animal will then be confiscated and will be relocated to a zoo, sanctuary, or research facility. Money that is acquired from fine will be allocated to Texas Zoos and Sanctuaries.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the State Government.
- Section 6. Any Exotic Pet proven to be owned before this Bills approval will be grandfathered in. This will affect exotic animals that are purchased or owned after the approval of this Act.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Olivia Floyd, Bexar County
Senate Sponsor: Robert Jones, Jasper County
Bill Author: Olivia Floyd, Bexar County

House Bill: 235
Senate Bill: 535

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Increase in White Tailed Deer Hunting Limits

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Increase in White Tailed Deer Hunting Limits Act.
- Section 2. This act will allow for an increase in hunting limits for white-tail deer, the purpose being to reduce overpopulation. Overpopulation of white-tail deer could lead to the overconsumption of crops and farmland.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Overpopulation: A non-sustainable number of members of the same species.
- Section 4. Existing penalties enacted under current legislation to be applied to this bill.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the purchases of hunting licenses in the State of Texas.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Abygail Blaylock, Terrell County
Senate Sponsor: RuthEllen Stetcher, Kaufman County
Bill Author: Abygail Blaylock, Terrell County

House Bill: 236
Senate Bill: 536

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Marine Conservation And Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Marine Conservation And Protection Act.
- Section 2. Whereas the marine environment is a crucial component of the Earth’s ecosystem, providing essential services, biodiversity, and economic resources; Whereas the protection and sustainable management of marine resources are necessary to ensure the health and resilience of ocean ecosystems; Whereas it is the duty of the government to safeguard marine environments for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Marine Environment: The oceans, seas, coastal areas, and all marine ecosystems, including but not limited to coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries, and sea grass beds.
 - B. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Designated regions of the marine environment set aside for long-term conservation of nature, including ecosystem services and cultural values.
 - C. Sustainable Fishing: Fishing practices that maintain fish populations at sustainable levels, protect marine habitats, and minimize by-catch.
 - D. Pollution: The introduction of substances or energy into the marine environment that causes harm or potential harm to marine life, ecosystems, or human health.
- Section 4. Budget Allocation:
 - A. Sufficient budget allocation shall be made to support the implementation of this Act, including funding for research, monitoring, enforcement, and community-based conservation initiatives.
 - B. Revenue Generation: Revenue from marine resource use, such as fishing licenses and tourism fees, shall be reinvested into marine conservation programs.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Tyler Jennings, Potter County

Senate Sponsor: Granger Smith, Borden County

Bill Author: Tyler Jennings, Potter County

House Bill: 237

Senate Bill: 537

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Not In My Backyard

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Not In My Backyard Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure that all major solar farms installations will provide energy to surrounding cities/towns and instate a 100-mile radius cap on the energy transmission from a solar farm. Additionally, all solar farm installations will be subjected to mandatory wildlife and environment observations by the Texas State Wildlife and Conversations Department.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Solar Farm: A large-scale solar installation that uses photovoltaic (PV) panels or other means of collecting solar energy, like concentrating solar systems, to harvest solar power.
B. Wildlife Observation: The practice of noting the occurrence or abundance of animal species at a specific location and time, either for research purpose or recreation. It also includes monitoring which is surveillance of the natural environment or any of its components.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
Loss of state tax rebate and a penalty for every kilowatt of energy sold outside of the 100-mile radius. Wildlife observations will be at the cost of the owner of the solar farm.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the Texas State Government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Teresa McDaniel, Dallam County

House Bill: 238

Senate Sponsor: Robert Jones, Jasper County

Senate Bill: 538

Bill Author: Teresa McDaniel, Dallam County and Robert Jones, Jasper County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Power On Demand

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Power On Demand Act.
- Section 2. The intent of this bill is to increase reliable, cost-effective power on demand in Texas and install generators to assist the Texas power grid to prevent power outages. The following methods of power generation are detailed below:
1. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) produce power which is not dependent on weather (wind), solar (day or night), gas transmission, nor coal transportation. Texas money should be directed to establish reliable (24/7/365) power on demand, which is in extremely short supply. Federal environmental and energy policy incentives that have supported an increase in energy market disruptors (like wind and solar resources that do not run on calm days or at night) have decreased the reliability of the energy grid; therefore, Texas needs SMRs to restore the reliability of the electric grid.
 2. Gas power generators would be gas fired, then kept burning by fibrous materials and waste. This will make them efficient and save natural gas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs): Advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors and a much smaller footprint, construction cost and time-frame.
 - B. Power On Demand (POD): The ability to generate power when needed from a generator resource which has its own onsite self-contained fuel storage.
 - C. EPA: Environmental protection agency, a department in the government that monitors environmental hazards.
 - D. Gas-Fired: Gas only used to initially start a fire.
 - E. Fibrous Material: In the context of this bill, it will include wood and wood by products.
- Section 4. Failure to act or promote SMRs will result in:
- 1st Offense: Without additional quick start power generation resources like SMRs we will run out of electricity. Coal plants have been forced to retire because of environmental regulations thereby reducing available generational resources, we do not have the generation capacity needed without SMRs.
- 2nd Offense: Without adequate generation capacity, we will be in the dark. No air conditioning, water, communications, sewer, or electricity.
- Failure to comply with EPA standards will result in:
- 1st Offense: Immediate shutdown of the plant until action has been taking to correct the offense and it has been properly inspected.
- 2nd Offense: Will result in the loss of government funding.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of \$25 billion dollars with grants up to an amount of \$700 million toward start-up costs. Grants shall not exceed 80% of initial start-up costs.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: McKinley Tucker, Hockley County

House Bill: 239

Senate Sponsor: Aidan Hill, Moore County

Senate Bill: 539

Bill Author: McKinley Tucker, Hockley County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Prohibiting Potable Water In Texas Hydraulic Fracturing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Prohibiting Potable Water In Texas Hydraulic Fracturing Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure that the Texas oil industry will not use potable water for fracturing, allowing the millions of gallons used to be utilized for agricultural purposes and consumption.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Hydraulic Fracturing: A drilling method used to extract petroleum or natural gas from deep in the Earth, water is injected at a very high pressure.
B. Potable Water: Also known as drinking water, comes from surface and ground sources and is treated to levels that meet state and federal standards for consumption.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Immediate shutdown of the company until action is taken to correct the offense that has been inspected and fines up to 3,000 dollars.
2nd Offense: Will result in permanent shut down of the company and the company will be fined for failure to comply.
- Section 5. This act shall not be government funded.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Eli Stetcher, Kaufman County
Senate Sponsor: Brindle Harper, Lamb County
Bill Author: Olivia Hanson, Travis County

House Bill: 240
Senate Bill: 540

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Reducing Food Waste Through Incentives

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Reducing Food Waste Through Incentives Act.
- Section 2. This act aims to reduce food waste in Texas. Reducing food waste would have trickle-down effects of reducing the resources needed for processing, packaging, transportation, etc. This could reduce greenhouse emissions at a global level by 8%. By creating food reduction targets at the corporate, supplier, and consumer levels through tax breaks, this goal can be met.
- This act will reduce food waste by specifically targeting increased infrastructure for storage, processing, and transportation in lower income areas and interventions at the retail and customer level in higher income areas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Food Waste: The conscious discarding of food that is technically fit for consumption.
B. Lower Income: An annual salary of \$10,830 or less for a single person
C. Incentives: Money given in exchange for tangibly proven meeting of food reduction goals established by Texas law.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Not receiving the tax break.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of three million dollars.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Jordis Stark, Rusk County

House Bill: 241

Senate Sponsor: RuthEllen Stetcher, Kaufman County

Senate Bill: 541

Bill Author: Lauren Edwards, Galveston County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Renewable Energy In Government Buildings

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Renewable Energy In Government Buildings Act.
- Section 2. This act shall increase the percentage of renewable energy that is used to power Texas government buildings. Therefore, resulting in increased investment, infrastructure development, and new jobs in the renewable energy sector. Meanwhile, it will decrease greenhouse gas emissions and continue to support energy conservation efforts.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Renewable Energy: Usable energy derived from replenish-able sources. For example: solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, etc.
B. Texas Government Buildings: Buildings owned by the state government of Texas.
C. Greenhouse Gas: Any atmospheric gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect, typically by absorbing infrared radiation.
D. Energy Conservation Efforts: Legislation enacted to decrease the amount of energy used. For example, Texas Health and Safety Code 388 and Texas Government Code 447.
- Section 4. A report must be submitted to explain why the conditions were not met and provide a plan to amend the issue.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the Texas Comptroller or the Texas State government.
- Section 6. A committee should be formed to determine expectations based on current availability of renewable energy, cost effectiveness, environmental standards, and other factors. These expectations will involve the gradual increase in the percentage of total energy powering Texas government buildings that represents renewable energy. The committee should include, but is not limited to, representatives from the State Energy Conservation Office, the Texas Facilities Commission, the Texas Comptroller's Office, and other industry professionals. This committee will also review any report submitted due to failure to comply.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: **Tripp Runnels, Swisher County**

House Bill: **242**

Senate Sponsor: **Brindle Harper, Lamb County**

Senate Bill: **542**

Bill Author: **Brindle Harper from Lamb County and Tripp Runnels from Swisher County**

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Residential Landscape Irrigation Conservation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Residential Landscape Irrigation Conservation Act.
- Section 2. This act shall help conserve water by enforcing efficient practices when watering outdoor landscapes, such as ensuring the proper maintenance of landscape irrigation systems, prevent water waste due to mis-aimed sprinklers, water hose leakage, and overwatering. Water is our greatest natural resource. The on-going drought conditions in Texas have made our water situation critical. Both rural and urban Texans must take responsibility to protect our water resources.
- This act will prohibit the watering of both residential and commercial outdoor landscapes, within the city limits, between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. when the temperature is above 90 degrees F and evaporation rates are the greatest.
- Texas has one of the fastest growing populations in the United States, and the state's population is expected to double by the year 2050. The more people we have, the more water we need. Water conservation is a must. According to the Texas Living Waters Project, water conservation practices are the most cost-efficient way for city governments to be able to provide water for the growing population.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Water Conservation: Using water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage.
 - B. Evaporation: Liquid that turns into vapor.
 - C. Landscape Irrigation: Systems or devices used to distribute the appropriate amount of water to lawns and shrubbery at private residences to specific zones.
- Section 4. Failure to comply to limited watering hours will result in:
- 1st Offense: \$100 fine
 - 2nd Offense: \$250 fine
 - 3rd Offense: \$500 fine
- For each offense past this, the fine will be doubled.
- Failure to comply with improper maintenance of landscape systems will result in:
- 1st Offense: The citizen will be given a verbal warning, necessary educational materials, and a 30-day "grace period" to comply.
 - 2nd Offense: The citizen will be issued a written warning.
 - 3rd Offense: Immediate disconnection of the sprinkler system meter and a \$1,000 fine to regain access.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the Texas Water Development Board. Furthermore, this act will provide cities with incentive funds for enforcement of the act by code and law enforcement employees. This act shall be enforced by city water utility services.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- City governments should work with water conservation professionals to educate citizens and business owners about the importance of water conservation, effective water conservation practices, and appropriate times for landscape watering prior to enforcement of the act.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Emma Bell, Bosque County

House Bill: 243

Senate Sponsor: Granger Smith, Borden County

Senate Bill: 543

Bill Author: Emma Bell, Bosque County, Hannah Hewitt, Kaufman County and Scollie Saha, Matagorda County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Solar Panels for the Sake of Texas Soil

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Solar Panels for the Sake of Texas Soil Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that the development of photovoltaic power stations on farmland is either monitored/restricted and in some cases prohibited to maintain steady food production. Solar energy installation would be subject regulated approvals to avoid valuable food production loss for our State and Country's consumers. Solar companies are consuming hundreds of acres that have historically been used to produce valuable commodities such as, live-stock, produce, grains, and other textile crops.
- This act proposes that the state of Texas adopt zoning ordinances that are clear about where systems can be built. Continuing to allow companies to build massive power stations on viable soil will greatly affect the agriculture industry and our state's food supply. Although solar panels have the potential to be a powerful renewable resource and better our environment, the long-term effects they will have on our states soil need to be avoided. If panels are placed on farmland and the land needs to be returned to its original state, it can be farmed again after solar panels are removed and the land is properly decommissioned, which can take place after roughly 20–30 years.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Photovoltaic: The conversion of light into electricity.
 - B. Zoning: Regulations that govern how property can/cannot be used in certain geographic areas.
 - C. Ordinances: A piece of legislation enacted by a municipal authority.
 - D. Viable Farming Land: Land that is currently used or has the potential to be used for agricultural purposes, including crop and livestock production.
 - E. Commodities: A raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, such as copper or coffee.
 - F. Acre: A unit of land equal to 4,840 square yards.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with mandated restrictions:
- 1st Offense: A fine equivalent to three times the purchase price of the land if it has been purchased prior to regulated approval. In addition, the photovoltaic power station will be temporarily closed down and met with a list of requirements to complete to reopen. All solar panels must be moved unless given special permission.
 - 2nd Offense: In addition to the fine, mandatory restitution which involves the sale of the land back to the state or to an approved agricultural entity at the original purchase price. The photovoltaic power station will be shut down indefinitely.
 - 3rd Offense: The company will be taken to court and possibly charged.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
- This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) annually to enforce compliance within each county and support agricultural preservation programs. The AHJ must approve each solar panel farms placements.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- Solar Panels can easily be installed on buildings, roofs, and towers. This law will be in effect for future solar panel endeavors. After 3 months of the bill being stated the rules will be enforced. A detailed list of where exactly solar panels can or cannot be placed will need to be added.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Ella Jander, Dewitt County
Senate Sponsor: Robert Jones, Jasper County
Bill Author: Ella Jander, Dewitt County

House Bill: 244
Senate Bill: 544

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Electric Generation Capacity Reform

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Electric Generation Capacity Reform Act.
- Section 2. This act shall reform the market for electric generation providing funds for generators to maintain adequate capacity to meet Texas' growing demand for electricity and improve the reliability of the grid.
1. The current "energy-only market" pays generators only for the energy they provide to the grid.
 2. A "capacity market" creates available funds for reliable generators who make a commitment to dispatch electricity when called upon by ERCOT.
 3. Wind and Solar generators can offer less expensive electricity because their fuel is free, typically selling all the electricity they can produce.
 4. Dispatch-able generation, such as natural gas, nuclear and coal plants, must pay for their fuel and have high facility operating costs.
 5. Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) events have become more common in Texas due to growing energy demand and the unavailability of wind and solar resources at certain times.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. ERCOT: Energy Reliability Council of Texas.
 - B. Dispatch-able Generation: Electricity sources that can be turned on or off on demand by grid operators.
 - C. Energy Emergency Alert (EEA): An event of reduced operating reserves when ERCOT will direct transmission operators across the region to reduce power on the grid through controlled outages.
- Section 4. Generators failing to comply by not maintaining the capacity of dispatch-able generation for which they have been contracted must return 110% of the capacity contract funds.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by a 1% surcharge on each Texas ratepayers electric bill.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Olivia Clifton, Rusk County

House Bill: 245

Senate Sponsor: Aidan Hill, Moore County

Senate Bill: 545

Bill Author: Olivia Clifton, Rusk County and Aidan Hill, Moore County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Lake Initiative & Restoration Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Lake Initiative & Restoration Act.
- Section 2. The state of Texas is experiencing rapid growth, and as a result, our infrastructure needs to constantly adapt. However, one area that has been unable to keep up with this growth is our water resources, largely due to extremely strict regulations on building lakes. Reducing environmental regulations and expediting the approval process for building lakes is imperative to address this issue effectively.
- Additionally, in some areas of Texas, sedimentation has filled in and made some playa lakes less effective. In other cases, land practices have impacted the clay liner that playa lakes use to recharge the aquifer. This bill seeks to give landowners incentives for restoring playa lakes on their property in order to more efficiently recharge the Ogallala Aquifer (or other viable aquifers) which support the vital agricultural area that supplies food to the entire state of Texas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Lake: A lake is a naturally occurring, relatively large and fixed body of water on the Earth's surface. It is localized in a basin or interconnected basins surrounded by dry land.
 - B. Playa Lakes: Round depressions in the ground in the Southern High Plains of the United States. They are ephemeral lakes, meaning that they are only present at certain times of the year.
 - C. Playa Restoration: The reversal of past modifications to playas by removing accumulated sediment, filling drainage features, redirecting water back into the playa, and protecting the playa with a buffer composed of native vegetation.
 - D. Infrastructure: The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.
 - E. Environmental Regulations: Environmental regulation is necessary. It can prevent the worst excesses, and the existence of regulation and enforcement is itself an important deterrent. Environmental regulation has resulted in environmental improvements, but it sometimes does impose what could be perceived as excessive costs on businesses.
- Section 4. Funding to build the lakes would come from municipalities that would benefit from the water.
- If restoring a Playa Lake, the Comptroller office will administer a property tax exemption program where a landowner can apply for a property tax exemption for the acreage of the fully functioning playa lakes on their land. The expense to administer this program will come from the Comptroller's operating budget.
- Section 5. Land for the lake must be purchased at the appraised value. Lake will be reviewed by the board to determine if it is a viable location. If restoring, the Comptroller's office will contract with the affected groundwater conservation districts to establish a rubric to evaluate the functionality and restoration status of the playa lakes on the acreage applied for property tax exemption.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Luke Landry, Jefferson County

House Bill: 246

Senate Sponsor: Granger Smith, Borden County

Senate Bill: 546

Bill Author: Allison Gray, Hood County, Luke Landry, Jefferson County and Eli Stetcher, Kaufman County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Lone Star Night Plan

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Lone Star Night Plan Act.
- Section 2. This act seeks to combat light pollution and the problems it creates such as wasteful energy consumption and disrupted migratory patterns. This act would enforce practices to decrease light pollution utilizing by reforming the following:
1. Restrictions on artificial outdoor lighting on government owned and commercial buildings across the state and the installation of quality outdoor lighting. This act shall also ensure that no field floodlights are on when they are not actively being used and exterior lights for businesses aren't on while closed. The larger goal would be for at least two thirds of Texas cities to meet the criteria for International Dark Sky Association (IDA) urban night sky designation or IDA community status within the next 10 years, restoring the night skies for Texan citizens to enjoy.
 2. Designate a specific day each year to reduce light pollution across the state of Texas. On this day, residents, businesses, and government entities will be encouraged to dim or turn off non-essential outdoor lighting. The "Texas Lone Star Night" designated day will focus on raising public awareness and encouraging voluntary actions to reduce light pollution.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Light Pollution: The presence of poorly implemented or excessive artificial lighting that results in overwrought illumination levels.
 - B. Sky Glow: The brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas.
 - C. Dark Sky: Areas that restrict artificial light and the night sky is visible. The brightness is regularly equal to or darker than 20 magnitudes per square arc-second.
 - D. Exterior Lights: Artificial light sources used to illuminate the exterior spaces of buildings.
 - E. Floodlights: A large, powerful light, typically one of several used to illuminate a sports field, a stage, or the exterior of a building.
 - F. Non-Essential Lighting: Lighting that is not crucial for safety, or essential nighttime activities, often used for decorative, aesthetic, or recreational purposes.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: \$500 fine each 90 days that businesses within city limits in towns under 500,000 population that do not take appropriate measures. The fine and an education on the benefits of light pollution reduction will be issued by a local legal authority (ex: a city inspector) in the first 180 days.
- 2nd Offense: \$200 fine per month will be issued to the property owner for a total of twelve months.
- Participation in "Texas Lone Star Night" designated day is encouraged but entirely voluntary. Residents, businesses, and government entities are urged to dim or turn off non-essential outdoor lighting on the designated day outside of designated restrictions to support the initiative.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government to use for light pollution reduction and educating the public. Administrative costs are expected to be minimal. Any revenue received from paid fines would be reallocated to the city's efforts to reduce light pollution on city owned property.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
"Texas Lone Star Night" shall be observed annually on the Saturday closest to the National Astronomy Day in spring, as recognized by the Astronomical League and various astronomy organizations. This date selection aims to coincide with national and international efforts to promote astronomy education and appreciation of the night sky.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Tripp Runnels, Swisher County

Senate Sponsor: Brindle Harper, Lamb County

Bill Author: Daniel Preston Galvan, Hidalgo County

House Bill: 247

Senate Bill: 547

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Pollinator Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Pollinator Protection Act.
- Section 2. The Texas Pollinator Protection Act recognizes the vital role that pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, play in our state's agricultural industry and ecosystem health. This act aims to safeguard pollinator populations by establishing regulations for pesticide application and promoting habitat restoration efforts. Through these measures, the act seeks to ensure the continued abundance and diversity of pollinators in Texas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Pollinator: An organism, typically an insect or bird, that transfers pollen between flowering plants, facilitating reproduction.
 - B. Pesticide: Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
 - C. Habitat Restoration: The process of repairing and improving degraded habitats to support a variety of native plant and animal species.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- First Offense: A first violation of this Act's pesticide application regulations will be considered a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 and mandatory completion of a pollinator protection training program offered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).
- Second Offense: A second violation within two years of a first offense will be considered a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and potential suspension of the applicator's pesticide license for a period of up to 30 days.
- Civil Penalty: The TDA may impose a civil penalty of: \$10,000 for a third or subsequent violation within five years of a first offense. Up to \$25,000 for egregious violations that cause significant harm to pollinator populations.
- Section 5. The TDA will be responsible for administering the provisions of this Act. Funding will be allocated from the following sources:
- A. A \$1 million annual increase in general revenue is dedicated to the TDA for pollinator protection programs. Grants secured from federal agencies and private foundations to support habitat restoration initiatives.
 - B. Any collected fines from violations of this Act will be deposited into a dedicated Pollinator Protection Fund managed by the TDA. These funds will be used to:
 - C. Develop and distribute educational materials on pollinator-friendly practices.
 - D. Provide cost-share programs for landowners implementing habitat restoration projects.
 - E. Support research on pollinator health and sustainable pest management techniques.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- Pesticide Application Regulations:
- A. Sensitive Area Buffer Zones: Establish buffer zones around known pollinator habitats (e.g., beehives, butterfly gardens) where pesticide application is restricted or prohibited.
 - B. Time-of-Day Restrictions: Implement restrictions on pesticide application during peak pollinator activity times (e.g., sunrise, sunset) to minimize exposure.
 - C. Notification Requirements: Require applicators to notify nearby beekeepers and landowners of planned pesticide applications to allow for protective measures.
 - D. Applicator Training: Develop and mandate training programs for pesticide applicators on pollinator-safe practices and the proper application techniques to minimize pollinator risk.
 - E. Habitat Restoration Programs: Cost-Share Programs: Establish cost-share programs to incentivize landowners to implement pollinator-friendly habitat restoration projects on their property.



F. Native Plant Lists: Develop and distribute lists of native plants beneficial to pollinators to guide restoration efforts.

G. Technical Assistance: Provide technical assistance to landowners on planning, planting, and maintaining pollinator habitat.

H. Enforcement and Monitoring: TDA Enforcement: Empower the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to conduct inspections and investigate violations of the Act's regulations.

I. Complaint Process: Establish a clear and accessible process for reporting suspected violations of the Act. Data Collection: Develop a system for collecting data on pollinator populations and pesticide use to monitor the Act's effectiveness.

Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Scollie Saha, Matagorda County

Senate Sponsor: Robert Jones, Jasper County

Bill Author: Cayleigh Coursey, Coryell County

House Bill: 248

Senate Bill: 548

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas State Parks Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas State Parks Protection Act.
- Section 2. This act is mandated to protect, conserve, and sustainably manage Texas state parks, ensuring they are preserved for future generations while enhancing recreational opportunities and supporting local economies.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. State Park: A designated area of land in Texas set aside for the protection and enjoyment of natural resources, managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).
 - B. Conservation: The responsible management of natural resources to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.
 - C. Sustainable Management: Practices that allow for the use and enjoyment of resources in a way that does not deplete them and ensures their availability for future generations.
 - D. Pollutant: Any substance introduced into the environment that can cause harm to ecosystems, wildlife, or human health.
- Section 4. Unauthorized Destruction and Illegal dumping and pollution will result in:
- 1st Offense: A fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000.
 - 2nd Offense: A fine of \$10,000 to \$30,000 and mandatory community service within state parks.
 - 3rd Offense: A fine of \$30,000 to \$50,000, potential imprisonment for up to 2 years, and a ban from entering any state parks for three years.
- Section 5. The Texas State Parks Protection and Sustainability Act will be funded by the Texas State Parks Conservation Fund, which will be established through fines collected from violators, federal and state grants, and allocations from the state budget.
- Section 6. Any laws, regulations, or ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Ava Dora, Archer County
Senate Sponsor: RuthEllen Stetcher, Kaufman County
Bill Author: Ava Dora, Archer County

House Bill: 249
Senate Bill: 549

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Water Improvement District Tax Payer Voter Authority

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Water Improvement District Tax Payer Voter Authority Act.
- Section 2. This act shall allow tax payers that own property and pay water improvement district taxes within water improvement district boundaries the authority to vote on all water improvement district matters that are brought to the public to vote.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Tax Payers: A person(s) per the county appraisal district records that own property and who pays irrigation taxes within the water improvement district boundaries.
- Section 4. Failure to pay water improvement district taxes will result in relinquishing of his/her voting rights.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by water improvement districts across the State of Texas.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

House Sponsor: Kadie Cox, Sherman County

House Bill: 250

Senate Sponsor: Granger Smith, Borden County

Senate Bill: 550

Bill Author: Kadie Cox, Sherman County and Granger Smith, Borden County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Water Infrastructure Investment & Affordable Rainwater Harvesting Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Water Infrastructure Investment & Affordable Rainwater Harvesting Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that sufficient funds are made available to towns and cities, designated for the improvement to or reclamation of water infrastructure within the state of Texas.
- In addition, this act will also encourage installation of rainwater harvesting systems in residential and commercial buildings (both existing and new). This act will give back to home and business owners that install rainwater harvesting systems. The rebate will be based on a percentage of the rainwater capture of the system and usage rate.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Water Infrastructure: Consists of more than 2.2 million miles of underground pipelines that carry clean drinking water, more than 16,000 wastewater treatment plants and networks of concrete storm sewers, roadside ditches and flood control reservoirs to mitigate flooding from storm water.
 - B. Water Infrastructure: Includes drinking water, wastewater, and storm water.
 - C. Rainwater Harvesting: Rainwater harvesting is the capture and storage of rainwater for landscape irrigation, potable and non-potable indoor use, and storm water abatement. Harvested rainwater can be particularly useful when no other source of water supply is available, or if the available supply is inadequate or of poor quality.
 - D. Rainfall Recapture Rate: For every 1" of rain and 1,000 square feet of impermeable surface (roof, driveway, etc), about 620 gallons are generated - this is the recapture rate.
 - E. Usage Rate: The amount of water being used during a 24 hour period, as well as where the water is being used (potable, landscape, etc.).
 - F. Rebate: A partial refund for the total cost of the rainwater harvesting system.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with rules and regulation regarding improvement of water infrastructure will result in the inability to participate or receive funding for future improvements.
- There are not any penalties or punishments associated with this act for rainwater harvesting rebates.
- Section 5. This act should be funded by and in conjunction with the Texas Water fund & Texas Water Development Board and the Texas State Government from revenues of water permits and usage.
- Section 6. This will not repeal any acts, including the state sales tax for rainwater harvesting systems under the Texas Tax Code §11.32.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

(GFA)

House

Chairperson: **Wes Shaw**

Senate

Chairperson: **Joseph LeBlanc**

Advisor(s): **Haley Cowley & Matthew Pfeifer**

Advisor(s): **Cory Edwards & Marcus Preuninger**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
251	551	Accumulated Spending With Incredibly Naive Outlay (C.A.S.I.N.O.)	Avary Wesley	Owen Bryant	Swisher/Kenedy/Kleberg
252	552	Ag Exemption On Ad Valorum Taxes Without Minimum Acreage	Mason Meredith	Liam Miller	Burnet/Somervell
253	553	Dr. Pepper	Sarah Masur	Harper Mau	Bastrop/Fayette
254	554	Eminent Domain Authority Regulation For High-Speed Rail Companies	Kolton Scharbrough	Maryanna Tessmann	Wichita/Travis
255	555	Itemized Bills	Brayden Baird	Camryn Skaggs	Wise/Brazos
256	556	Limiting The Power Of The HOA	Azalee Porter	Maryanna Tessman	Montgomery/Travis
257	557	Rural Broadband Enhancement Of 2024	Sarah Masur	Harper Mau	Bastrop/Fayette
258	558	State-Owned Firefighting Air Fleet & Supporting Infrastructure	Kolton Scharbrough	Camryn Skaggs	Wichita/Brazos
259	559	Sustainable Land Management Protection	Azalee Porter	Owen Bryant	Montgomery/Kenedy/Kleberg
260	560	Texas Established Home Purchase Incentive	Mason Meredith	Liam Miller	Burnet/Somervell
261	561	Texas Public School Voucher Equivalency	Brayden Beard	Maryanna Tessmann	Wise/Travis
262	562	Texas Sovereignty And Independence	Mason Meredith	Harper Mau	Burnet/Fayette
263	563	Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Tax Protection	Azalee Porter	Owen Bryant	Montgomery/Kenedy/Kleberg



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: **Avary Wesley, Swisher County**

Senate Sponsor: **Owen Bryant, Kenedy/Kleberg County**

Bill Author: **Cooper Mau, Fayette County**

House Bill: **251**

Senate Bill: **551**

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Accumulated Spending With Incredibly Naive Outlay (C.A.S.I.N.O.)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Accumulated Spending With Incredibly Naive Outlay (C.A.S.I.N.O.) Act.
- Section 2. To legalize all forms of gambling and authorize the construction and operation of casinos in the state of Texas to generate revenue, create jobs, and enhance tourism with the establishment of the Texas Gaming Commission. All forms of gambling are hereby legalized within the state of Texas. This includes but is not limited to:
- A. Casino gambling.
 - B. Sports betting.
 - C. Online gambling.
 - D. All forms of Lotteries.
 - E. Poker rooms and tournaments.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Gambling: The act of wagering money or something of value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money or material goods.
 - B. Casino: A facility licensed by the state to host and manage gambling activities including but not limited to slot machines, table games, and sports betting.
 - C. Gaming Commission: A regulatory body established by the state to oversee and regulate all gambling activities and casino operations.
- Section 4. The Texas Gaming Commission is hereby established to:
- A. Issue licenses for the operation of casinos and other gambling establishments.
 - B. Regulate and enforce all gambling activities to ensure fair play and compliance with state laws.
 - C. Develop and implement standards for the responsible operation of gambling facilities.
 - D. Investigate and address complaints and violations related to gambling activities.
- Section 5. An initial budget of \$500 million is allocated for the establishment of the Texas Gaming Commission and initial regulatory activities. This budget will be sourced from the state's general fund. A gambling revenue tax of 15% will be imposed on all casino earnings. Revenue generated from this tax will be allocated as follows:
- A. 40% to the state's education fund.
 - B. 30% to infrastructure and public works projects.
 - C. 20% to public health and addiction treatment programs.
 - D. 10% to administrative costs of the Texas Gaming Commission.
- Section 6. The Texas Gaming Commission is hereby established to:
- A. Issue licenses for the operation of casinos and other gambling establishments.
 - B. Regulate and enforce all gambling activities to ensure fair play and compliance with state laws.
 - C. Develop and implement standards for the responsible operation of gambling facilities.
 - D. Investigate and address complaints and violations related to gambling activities.
 - E. Enforce local building codes and designate areas for the construction of casinos.
- Section 7. Special Instructions:
- A. The Texas Gaming Commission shall develop and publish rules and guidelines for the licensing and regulation of gambling activities within 180 days of the enactment of this Act.
 - B. The Commission shall begin accepting applications for casino licenses within 240 days of the enactment of this Act.
 - C. All licensed casinos must commence operations within one year of receiving their license.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Mason Meredith, Burnet County

House Bill: 252

Senate Sponsor: Liam Miller, Somervell County

Senate Bill: 552

Bill Author: Liam Miller, Somervell County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Ag Exemption On Ad Valorum Taxes Without Minimum Acreage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Ag Exemption On Ad Valorum Taxes Without Minimum Acreage Act.
- Section 2. This act shall allow urban horticulture to claim Ag exemption on ad valorem taxes without regard to minimum acreage. This act will encourage food production in urban areas. Urban areas in Texas have a poverty and food insecurity rate of 13.7%. By providing property tax exemptions to urban food producers this bill hopes to reduce the poverty rate by increasing availability of food in urban areas by allowing property owners to claim agricultural exemptions on ad valorem taxes in urban areas that do not otherwise meet the county's minimum land requirement.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Urban Agriculture: The practice of farming within an urban environment, especially the cultivation of food crops for human consumption, can be in a traditional agricultural setting, a vertical or hydroponic platform.
B. Urban: Within the municipal boundaries of a municipality that has a population of at least 5,000 or contains 2,000 or more housing units.
C. Farming: The growth and harvest of plants for the purpose of consumption.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with existing agricultural exemption laws, aside from agricultural acreage, or attempting to claim agricultural exemption when one is not warranted will result in a fine not exceeding \$1000 and prohibition from tax exemptions for up to two years.
- Section 5. This bill will minimally impact state funds. However, any shortfalls shall be funded through the \$33 billion budget surplus, similarly to the recently passed Proposition 4 which increased homestead exemptions.
- Section 6. Amends Tax Code Chapter 23, Sub chapter D (Sections 23.51 – 23.60).
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Sarah Masur, Bastrop County

House Bill: 253

Senate Sponsor: Harper Mau, Fayette County

Senate Bill: 553

Bill Author: Cooper Mau, Fayette County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Dr. Pepper

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Dr. Pepper Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to make a significant addition to the National list of U.S. State beverages with an entry for Texas. This will be achieved by adding to the Texas Government Code Title 11, Subtitle A, Chapter 3101, a new Sec. 3101.014, which reads: "The Official Drink of Texas shall be the original Dr Pepper recipe, crafted with pure cane sugar, previously produced in Dublin, Texas."
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Dr Pepper: A carbonated pepper soda consisting of 23 unique flavors created in the 1880s at Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store in Waco, Texas.
 - B. Pepper Soda: The category that the U.S. FDA gives to Dr. Pepper was created to define a soft drink flavor profile similar to Dr. Pepper.
 - C. Texas Government Code TITLE 11, SUBTITLE A, CHAPTER 3101: Defines and designates all state symbols.
- Section 4. There will no penalty for any violations of this Act.
- Section 5. This act will require minimal funding and personnel. Any designated or appointed representative of the Texas Government will be authorized to start negotiations with Dr Pepper's Parent company, Keurig Dr Pepper, and ensure all copyright and distribution laws are followed. Total costs will only include the current staff payroll, and potential premiums Keurig Dr. Pepper will request for this honor.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Koltan Scharbrough, Wichita County

House Bill: 254

Senate Sponsor: Maryanna Tessmann, Travis County

Senate Bill: 554

Bill Author: Ella Porter, Montgomery County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Eminent Domain Authority Regulation For High-Speed Rail Companies

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Eminent Domain Authority Regulation For High-Speed Rail Companies Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to regulate the use of eminent domain authority by Private High-Speed Rail companies. Upon the request by a high-speed rail company to obtain eminent domain authority from the State, companies shall be required to submit a business plan, to include a feasibility study, a financial plan with reasonable financial milestones, and an abandonment bond. Additionally, the private entity shall be required to disclose information requested to the Texas Government to ensure transparency in the planning and construction of the High-Speed Rail; proprietary information must be provided if requested but shall be kept confidential if so determined by the Attorney General. The business plan with inclusions shall be reviewed and approved/denied during a regular legislative session, then included in the Texas Rail Plan.
- A Private High-Speed Rail company applicant shall be granted eminent domain authority only after the successful attainment of those process and financial milestones and other thresholds created by the regulating entity.
- Section 3. As there is no statute within the Texas Transportation Code inherently granting eminent domain authority to an entity operating or planning to operate a High-Speed Rail, this act shall set forth how a private entity obtains eminent domain authority as a subpart in the Texas Transportation Code defining High-Speed Rail.
- Section 4. Definitions:
- A. Regulating Entity: Any board, commission, agency, division, or other unit or sub-unit of state government which regulates one or more professions, occupations, industries, businesses, or other endeavors in this state, i.e. TxDOT.
 - B. Eminent Domain: A power of the government or acting upon power granted by the government to take private property for public use.
 - C. Proprietary: Any information deemed as private or non-disclosable by a private company, such as investors and corporate partners.
 - D. Railroad Company: An entity that is operating a railroad, according to the Texas Transportation Code Section 81.001 Subpart 2.
 - E. Interurban Electric Railway Company: A corporation chartered under the laws of this state to conduct and operate an electric railway between two municipalities in this state, according to the Texas Transportation Code Sub-chapter B Section 131.011.
 - F. High-Speed Rail: An entity that is operating a rail line reasonably expected to travel at speeds of over 125 miles per hour that is granted eminent domain authority only after demonstrating public use thresholds and financial milestones set and regulated by TxDOT.
- Section 5. A Private High-Speed Rail company that attempts the use of or fraudulently represents eminent domain authority, or is found to have withheld critical information from the regulating entity at a later date than the submittal of said information, shall be fined and penalized by the regulating entity:
- 1st Offense: \$50,000 fine.
 - 2nd Offense: \$100,000 fine.
 - 3rd Offense: Denial of subsequent applications for eminent domain authority and/or revocation of eminent domain authority, \$200,000 fine.
- Section 6. This act will be funded by the Texas Department of Transportation.
- Section 7. Approval of application for eminent domain use by Private High-Speed Rail entities lies with the Texas Legislature. Applications must be submitted and decided during a regular legislative session. TxDOT may advise the Legislature regarding applications to be processed and approved or denied.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Brayden Baird, Wise County

House Bill: 255

Senate Sponsor: Camryn Skaggs, Brazos County

Senate Bill: 555

Bill Author: Campbell Baron, Medina County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Itemized Bills

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Itemized Bills Act.
- Section 2. The intent of this act is to itemize spending bills presented to the state legislature. As of now (2024) it is common practice to utilize “omnibus spending bills” The purpose of these bills is to approve many spending plans at the same time, however this allows the authors of these bills to force funding for one item to allow it for another. For example, to gain funding for infrastructure you also have to give funding for unemployment benefits. This causes state funds to be allocated to projects that are not state priority. By making each budget funded individually, then all funding will be purposeful and precise.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Omnibus: 1-relating to or providing for many things at once. 2-containing many items.
- Section 4. If an omnibus bill is created and presented to the legislature when or if this bill is passed, then it shall be declared null and void. There will be no further repercussions for the author or presenter.
- Section 5. This act would not require any outright funds, however the increased need of paper or other materials henceforth needed to complete the larger workload will be provided by their respective current producers.
- Section 6. This would simply be passed by both chambers and the Governor. Then it would be a restriction on funding bills with no major effect on the public.
- Section 7. Bill SB 1 (2021) would need to be repealed.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Azalee Porter, Montgomery County

House Bill: 256

Senate Sponsor: Maryanna Tessman, Travis County

Senate Bill: 556

Bill Author: Maryanna Tessmann, Travis County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Limiting The Power Of The HOA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Limiting The Power Of The HOA Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to limit the power of the HOA.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. HOA: The homeowners association is an organization in a subdivision, planned community, or condominium building that makes and enforces rules for the properties and residents. Those who purchase property within an HOA jurisdiction automatically become members and are required to pay dues, which are known as HOA fees.
- Section 4. The bill requires no funding from the state.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Sarah Masur, Bastrop County

Senate Sponsor: Harper Mau, Fayette County

Bill Author: Harper Mau, Fayette County

House Bill: 257

Senate Bill: 557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Rural Broadband Enhancement Of 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Rural Broadband Enhancement Of 2024 Act.
- Section 2. The main purpose of this bill is to enhance broadband connectivity in small cities across Texas to ensure equitable access to digital services, support economic development, and improve the quality of life for residents.
- (a) The Fund shall be used to provide grants to eligible cities for:
- A. Planning, designing, constructing, and expanding broadband infrastructure.
 - B. Purchasing and installing broadband equipment.
 - C. Training and capacity-building for local officials and residents on the use of broadband technology.
- (b) Priority shall be given to projects that:
- A. Demonstrate a high level of community support and involvement.
 - B. Provide service to under-served or un-served areas.
 - C. Leverage additional sources of funding.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Broadband Connectivity: High-speed internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access.
 - B. Eligible City: A city within the State of Texas with a population of under 5000 residents, as determined by the most recent U.S. Census data.
 - C. Department: Refers to the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR).
 - D. Fund: The Rural Broadband Connectivity Fund established under this Act.
- Section 4. Funding Provisions:
- (a) The Fund shall be financed through:
- A. Appropriations from the State Legislature.
 - B. Federal grants and matching funds.
 - C. Contributions from private entities and philanthropic organizations.
 - D. Any other sources of funding available to the Department.
- (b) For Fiscal Year 2025, an initial appropriation of \$100 million shall be allocated to the Fund. Subsequent funding amounts shall be determined annually based on project needs and fund utilization.
- Section 5. Failure to comply will result in:
- (a) The Department shall establish an application process for eligible cities to apply for grants from the Fund.
- (b) Applications shall include:
- A. A detailed project plan and budget.
 - B. Evidence of community support.
 - C. An assessment of current broadband access and infrastructure needs.
 - D. A sustainability plan for maintaining broadband services post-grant period.
- (c) The Department shall review applications and award grants based on criteria that prioritize need, community impact, and project feasibility.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- (a) The Department shall monitor the implementation of funded projects to ensure compliance with grant terms and objectives.
- (b) Recipients of grants shall submit quarterly reports to the Department detailing:
- A. Progress on project implementation.
 - B. Expenditure of funds.
 - C. Any challenges or delays encountered.
- (c) The Department shall submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing the status of the Fund, the progress of funded projects, and recommendations for future actions.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Kolton Scharbrough, Wichita County

House Bill: 258

Senate Sponsor: Camryn Skaggs, Brazos County

Senate Bill: 558

Bill Author: Camryn Skaggs, Brazos County

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

State-Owned Firefighting Air Fleet & Supporting Infrastructure

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the State-Owned Firefighting Air Fleet & Supporting Infrastructure Act.
- Section 2. Whereas the Texas A&M Forest Service does not own aviation resources but instead utilizes firefighting aircraft through federal aviation contracts with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, it would be prudent for the state of Texas to appropriate state funds in the acquisition of aviation resources to enable rapid response to in-state wildfires by establishing a state-owned firefighting air fleet and supporting infrastructure to be supplemented with private aircraft contracted directly with the state of Texas. In support of the 2024 Texas House Interim Wildfire Report, this bill proposes that the legislature should authorize and fund a state-owned firefighting air fleet, hire pilots and crews to operate and maintain it, and secure the infrastructure necessary to stage and deploy the aircraft to effectively fight wildfires in the Texas Panhandle and other high-risk areas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Aviation Resources: Aircraft such as fixed-wing aircraft, rotary-wing aircraft and helicopters
 - B. Wildfire: A wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie.
 - C. Texas Panhandle: The Texas panhandle is a region of the U.S. state of Texas consisting of the northernmost 26 counties in the state. The panhandle is a square-shaped area bordered by New Mexico to the west and Oklahoma to the north and east.
- Section 4. Based on recommendations from the 2024 Texas House Interim Wildfire Report, this bill proposes that the legislature should authorize and fund a state-owned firefighting air fleet, hire pilots and crews to operate and maintain it, and secure the infrastructure necessary to stage and deploy the aircraft to effectively fight wildfires in the Texas Panhandle and other high-risk areas. An early mix of exclusive use contracts and procurement is estimated to cost in excess of \$500 million plus ongoing staffing and maintenance.
- Section 5. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd stated that as a starting point, the state should purchase four fixed-wing aircraft, two rotary-wing aircraft, and a command aircraft. As conditions warrant, use of state-owned aircraft should be supplemented through the use of additional private aircraft contracted directly with the state, TDEM, and the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS). A helpful comparison for the program may be the Texas Department of Public Safety ("DPS") Aircraft Operations Division, which is composed of 50 police pilots, 25 tactical flight officers, and five essential support personnel operating a fleet of helicopters and fixed-winged aircraft in six regions of Texas.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Azalee Porter, Montgomery County

House Bill: 259

Senate Sponsor: Owen Bryant, Kenedy/Kleberg County

Senate Bill: 559

Bill Author: Kanin Cleere, Madison County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Sustainable Land Management Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Sustainable Land Management Protection Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure that land used for agricultural production will not be taxed by local tax assessors/collectors if sustainable land management practices are being used to protect the natural resources and environment of that land.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Sustainable Land Management (SLM): The use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Local appraisal district will be placed on probation for three years and all denied agricultural appraisals will be reviewed.
2nd Offense: During the probationary period following the first offense, local appraisal district will have state funding reduced by 0.001 times the total taxable valuation of the property in the district.
- Section 5. The act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of \$950,000.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Mason Meredith, Burnet County

House Bill: 260

Senate Sponsor: Liam Miller, Somervell County

Senate Bill: 560

Bill Author: Rylee Wunderlich, Comal County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Established Home Purchase Incentive

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Established Home Purchase Incentive Act.
- Section 2. This act offers tax incentives to buyers of established homes with the goal of reducing new builds and loss of lands not currently in development.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Established Home: Homes used for residential purposes only for a time period greater than 25 years.
- Section 4. Tax reduction in the amount of 1% of purchase price will be offered to buyers in their first year of ownership of, and residence at, the residential property.
- Section 5. Reduction in property taxes will be absorbed at the state level.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Brayden Beard, Wise County

House Bill: 261

Senate Sponsor: Maryanna Tessmann, Travis County

Senate Bill: 561

Bill Author: CW Johnson, Swisher County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Public School Voucher Equivalency

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Public School Voucher Equivalency Act.

Section 2. This act shall insure that funding for Texas Public schools maintains a level of funding that is equivalent to any voucher programs enacted by the Texas Legislature.

This act amends the Texas Education Code (TEC) Title 2, Subtitle I, Chapter 48, Subchapter A, Sec. 48.001 by adding the following: The Texas public school finance system of this state shall provide equal revenue per student similar or equal to funding provided by a school voucher program or student education savings account used in tuition programs for private schools.

Section 3. Definitions:

- A. TEA: Texas Education Agency
- B. GAA: General Appropriations Act
- C. TEC: Texas Education Code
- D. FSP: Foundation School Program

Section 4. This act shall be funded by the state government by amending the FSP Statutes (Chapter 46 & Chapter 48).

Section 5. This act shall amend HB 3.

Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Mason Meredith, Burnet County

House Bill: 262

Senate Sponsor: Harper Mau, Fayette County

Senate Bill: 562

Bill Author: Turner Sanders, Angelina County

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Texas Sovereignty And Independence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Sovereignty And Independence Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Act is to establish the legal framework for a statewide referendum on the secession of Texas from the United States of America and to outline the steps for declaring and implementing Texas's independence should the referendum pass.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. State: Refers to the State of Texas.
 - B. Referendum: A direct vote in which the entire electorate is invited to accept or reject a particular proposal.
 - C. Secession: The action of withdrawing formally from membership of a federation or body, especially a political state.
 - D. Independence: The fact or state of being independent; self-governance.
 - E. Constitutional Convention: A formal gathering for the purpose of drafting or adopting a new constitution.
- Section 4. Funding Provisions:
- A. The Legislature shall appropriate funds necessary for: Conducting the referendum. Convening the Constitutional Convention. Transitioning to an independent status, including negotiating the division of assets and liabilities with the federal government.
 - B. An initial appropriation of \$50 million shall be allocated from the state budget surplus for these purposes. Further funding requirements shall be assessed and appropriated as needed.
- Section 5. Repeal of:
- A. Upon formal declaration of independence, any laws of the United States that conflict with the new status of Texas as an independent nation shall be deemed null and void within the territory of Texas.
 - B. The Texas Legislature shall pass all necessary legislation to replace federal laws and regulations that no longer apply.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- A. The Governor shall appoint a delegation to negotiate with the United States federal government regarding: Division of assets and liabilities. Continuation of essential services and cooperation during the transition period. Terms of peaceful and cooperative relations post-secession.
 - B. The transition period shall not exceed two years from the date of the declaration of independence.
 - C. If a majority of voters approve the secession in the referendum, the Governor of Texas shall, within 30 days of certification of the results, convene a special session of the Texas Legislature to:
 - a. Formally declare Texas as an independent nation.
 - b. Establish a Constitutional Convention to draft a new Constitution for the Republic of Texas.
 - c. Create committees to handle the transition of all governmental functions, including defense, currency, international relations, trade, and more.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATIONS

House Sponsor: Azalee Porter, Montgomery County

House Bill: 263

Senate Sponsor: Owen Bryant, Kenedy/Kleberg County

Senate Bill: 563

Bill Author: Azalle Porter, Montgomery County and Owen Bryant, Kenedy/Kleberg County

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Tax Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Tax Protection Act.
- Section 2. This act shall exempt youth livestock show exhibitors under 18 years old from taxes on livestock sales and premiums that take place at a county fair or other nonprofit youth livestock show on winnings and awards \$30,000 or less. As buyers make tax-deductible donations to county fairs and other nonprofit livestock shows to help support local youth, the youth livestock exhibitors shall be protected from a tax burden as well. Youth livestock exhibitors help strengthen the agriculture industry and reinvest earnings within the State through retail, agricultural, or educational purposes. While competing in these activities does teach these students valuable money and business skills, it should be counted as just that, teaching. The winnings are for an educational activity and therefore they should not be taxed.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Youth Livestock Exhibitor: Members of Texas 4-H and Texas FFA under the age of 18 showing livestock and poultry for the purposes of sale.
 - B. Buyer: A purchaser of livestock from a youth livestock show auction taking place at a county fair or other nonprofit livestock show.
 - C. Premium: The guaranteed amount paid to youth livestock exhibitors based on livestock show placing.
 - D. Youth Livestock Show: A livestock show that is part of a county or state youth livestock validation program and has Texas 4-H and Texas FFA engagement or sanction.
- Section 4. If a county fair or other nonprofit youth livestock show fails to comply, the following penalties will be assessed:
- 1st Offense: \$1,000.
 - 2nd Offense: \$5,000.
 - 3rd Offense: 1% of the payouts to youth livestock exhibitors.
- Section 5. This Act will be funded by the State government and enforced by the Texas Comptroller.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

(HPS)

House Chairperson: **Travis Barrett**
Advisor(s): **Tommy Yeater**

Senate Chairperson: **Aiden Hunter**
Advisor(s): **Ryan Merrel**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
264	564	Drive At 15	Mason Scott	Trevor Trcka	Lynn/Dallas
265	565	Driver License Test; DOT Tie-Down Portion	Anabelle Groom	Rylee Kahler	Johnson/Val Verde
266	566	Driving With A Communications Impediment	Graycie Montfort	Caitlyn Grange	Navarro/Lee
267	567	Education For County Inmates	Timothy Murphy	Mason Hart	Bosque/Hale
268	568	Facilitate Immigration And Support For Low-Income Families	Kaleb Thayer	Addisyn Horn	Terrell/Harrison
269	569	Firefighter Protection	Emily Lamb	Trevor Trcka	Walker/Dallas
270	570	Game Fence Texas Highways	Hope Smith	Rylee Kahler	Uvalde/Val Verde
271	571	Increase Security In Public Schools	Ashlynn Conner	Caitlyn Grange	Somervell/Lee
272	572	Keep The Roads Safe	Ryleigh Clark	Mason Hart	Potter/Hale
273	573	Making School Safer	Ansley Heifrin	Addisyn Horn	Brazos/Harrison
274	574	Minimum Wage For Police Officers' Pay	Sophia Neumann	Caitlyn Grange	Bosque/Lee
275	575	Non-Business Hours Curfew	Colton Payne	Rylee Kahler	Bell/Val Verde
276	576	Production Agriculture Hardship Driver License At Age 14	Ashlynn Conner	Trevor Trcka	Somervell/Dallas
277	577	Prohibition Of Antisemitism Support	Samantha Butler	Rylee Kahler	Bee/Val Verde
278	578	Requirement Of Outdoor Warning Sirens	Mason Scott	Caitlyn Grange	Lynn/Lee
279	579	Right To Work	Annabelle Groom	Mason Hart	Johnson/Hale
280	580	Safety Ramps Include Pregnant Women And Strollers	Decara Hemsath	Addisyn Horn	Johnson/Harrison
281	581	Say No To Squatting In Texas	Colton Payne	Rylee Kahler	Bell/Val Verde
282	582	Secure Borders And Immigration Reform	Kaleb Thayer	Trevor Trcka	Terrell/Dallas
283	583	Strengthen Our State	Timothy Murphy	Rylee Kahler	Bosque/Val Verde
284	584	Texans' Ability To Protect Life And Property	Aubrey Smith	Caitlyn Grange	Brazos/Lee
285	585	Texas Driver License Age To 15	Miles McDonald	Mason Hart	Collin/Hale
286	586	Texas Land Ownership	Anthony Peter Quinn	Trevor Trcka	Brazoria/Dallas
287	587	Texas Property Protection	Ansley Heifrin	Addisyn Horn	Brazos/Harrison
288	588	The Left Turn	Sophia Neumann	Rylee Kahler	Bosque/Val Verde
289	589	Tractical Training For School District Law Enforcement	Hope Smith	Mason Hart	Uvalde/Hale
290	590	Traffic Signal Preemption Installation	Aubrey Smith	Addisyn Horn	Brazos/Harrison



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Mason Scott, Lynn County

Senate Sponsor: Trevor Trcka, Dallas County

Bill Author: Trevor Trcka, Dallas County

House Bill: 264

Senate Bill: 564

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Drive At 15

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Drive At 15 Act.
- Section 2. This act shall reduce the minimum age for receiving a Texas Driver License from 16 to 15. Driver Education and Learner License(s) shall be available after the age of 14. The act will allow those who chose to receive a license at an earlier age to do so at a time in life when they likely have fewer other commitments. The act will also increase productivity of the workforce by reducing the time parents dedicate to the transportation needs of students in early high school.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Texas Driver License: The state issued identification required for residents to legally drive on public roads.
B. Driver Education: The coursework and behind the wheel practice required prior to receiving a Texas Driver's License.
C. Learner License: The entry-level restricted driver license that allows you to practice driving with a licensed adult.
- Section 4. This act shall be funded as part of the Texas Department of Public Safety annual budget.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Anabelle Groom, Johnson County

House Bill: 265

Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 565

Bill Author: Anabelle Groom, Johnson County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Driver License Test; DOT Tie-Down Portion

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Driver License Test; DOT Tie-Down Portion Act.
- Section 2. The main purpose of this bill is to ensure that any individual hauling items on a flatbed or trailer understands the importance and how to properly tie-down items to secure them from falling from the vehicle during transport. Having legislation regarding this and making it mandatory as part of the standard driver license process will improve the safety of everyone on Texas highways.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Tie Down: A fitting or a system of lines (ropes, ratchets, chains) and fittings used to secure something
B. Rope: A row or string consisting of things united by or as if by braiding, twining, or threading
C. Ratchet: A mechanism that consists of a bar or wheel having inclined teeth into which a pawl drops so that motion can be imparted to the wheel or bar, governed, or prevented and that is used in a hand tool to allow effective motion in one direction only.1st
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: \$250.00 Fine
2nd Offense: \$500.00 Fine
3rd Offense: \$2,000 fine and suspension of Driver License
- Section 5. The initial implementation expense is subject to vary based on the physical set up at the local DPS offices. There are 2 approaches to implementing this requirement with one being questions on the written test that indicate one has the full understanding of how to secure a load. This approach would not require any additional funds as it can be implemented within the test that is currently administered. The second approach would be to have a mock set up for individuals to demonstrate their understanding of how to secure or tie-down a load. This approach could be implemented for under \$2,500 but would be required at every DPD office.
- Section 6. If this becomes a law it would require that upon expiration of a driver license currently in play, the individual will need to answer questions regarding this requirement. For online renewals a modification to the electronic version would need to be implemented. Individuals who must report in person to renew their license would have to answer or demonstrate competency regarding this law.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Graycie Montfort, Navarro County

Senate Sponsor: Caitlyn Grange, Lee County

Bill Author: Graycie Montfort, Navarro County

House Bill: 266

Senate Bill: 566

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Driving With A Communications Impediment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Driving With A Communications Impediment Act.
- Section 2. This act shall improve upon Texas Senate Bill 976 (Effective September 1, 2019) by adding a subcategory line under "Communications Impediment" to Driver's Licenses and in the DPS Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications Systems. This subcategory line would serve to better inform law enforcement of the specific communication impediment so that law enforcement personnel are better equipped to deal with the wide range of challenges those individuals may face. Choosing to Disclose a communications impediment and/or a subcategory line or optional as outlined in Senate Bill 976.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Texas Senate Bill 976: Effective September 1, 2019. Commonly know as the Samuel Allen Law. Relates to the notification of a peace officer through an indication associated with vehicle registration that a person has a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication.
- B. Communication Impediments: Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Mild Intellectual Disability, Parkinson's Disease, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Speech and Language Disorder (such as mutism, stuttering, speech delay, dysphonia)
- C. Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS): Provides intrastate interconnectivity for criminal justice agencies to a variety of local, state, and federal data base systems. It is a store and forward message brokering system that ensures safe, secure delivery of content being transmitted throughout the system.
- Section 4. Special Instructions: Communication Impediment with a Peace Officer is an optional indicator offered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) on the Texas State ID and Driver License for those wanting to alert law enforcement of a potential challenge with communication. Individuals may ask their doctor to complete form DL-101 and present it at the driver license office so that "Communication Impediment" will appear on the front of the drivers license along with the specified communication impediment listed in the subcategory line.
- In addition, The Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS) provides authorized law enforcement personnel with query access to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) registration system. Returns of vehicle and driver information are presented through authorized TLETS terminals. The option for disclosure of a communication disability and the specific impediment occur when registering a vehicle through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Communication Impediment along with the subcategory of that impediment will then be privately placed in TLETS thus alerting the officer of communication need prior to approaching the vehicle in a pull-over scenario. There are two forms that are available: Form VTR-215 Deaf Driver Awareness (with specialty license plate) or the Form VTR-216 Communication Impediment (without specialty license plate).
- An approved medical provider will need to complete the form which will be presented when the individual registers or updates vehicle registration with the Texas DMV.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. Repeal of Texas Senate Bill 976.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Timothy Murphy, Bosque County

House Bill: 267

Senate Sponsor: Mason Hart, Hale County

Senate Bill: 567

Bill Author: Emily Schooler, Potter County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Education For County Inmates

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Education For County Inmates Act.
- Section 2. This bill will require trustee inmates in county/local jails to begin career-based education programs if sentence last longer than three months. Career-based education programs include but not limited to; electrician, plumbing, carpenter, mechanic, HVAC mechanic, etc. This will allow trustee inmates to be eligible for a career when they are released so they are equipped to be productive citizens.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Trustee Inmates: Inmates that are well behaved and are entrusted with task that present a level of security risk.
B. Sentence: The punishment assigned to a defendant found guilty by a court.
C. Career-based Education Programs: Programs that offer a sequence of courses that provide students with coherent and rigorous content.
D. Electrician: Installs and repairs electrician systems in buildings.
E. Plumbing: Installation and maintenance of plumbing systems.
F. Carpenter: Person who makes and repairs wooden objects and structures.
G. Mechanic: Person who repairs and maintains machinery, motors, etc.
H. HVAC mechanic: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Technician that installs and repairs various air quality systems.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Mandatory educational courses for guards to teach.
2nd Offense: Revocation of all inmate technology usage.
3rd Offense: 10% of Government funding specific to county jail facilities revoked.
- Section 5. This act will be funded through the Texas Department of Public Safety by payment of bonds/bail.
- Section 6. This law can be enforced through the regular scheduled state visits to the county jails.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Kaleb Thayer, Terrell County

House Bill: 268

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Horn, Harrison County

Senate Bill: 568

Bill Author: Kaleb Thayer, Terrell County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Facilitate Immigration And Support For Low-Income Families

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Facilitate Immigration And Support For Low-Income Families Act.
- Section 2. To create a streamlined process for low-income immigrant families seeking to immigrate to Texas, ensuring they receive necessary support and resources for successful integration while also enhancing resources for better border security.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Low-income Families: Refers to households with incomes below the federal poverty line.
 - B. Immigrant: Refers to individuals and families seeking permanent residence in Texas from foreign countries.
 - C. Support Services: Include, but are not limited to, housing assistance, employment services, education, health-care, and legal aid.
 - D. Border Security: Set of measures taken by governments to enforce their border control policies.
- Section 4. If illegally immigrated the resources provided will be given to the individual.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
- A. HHSC is authorized to seek and accept grants, donations, and federal funds to supplement state funding for the program.
 - B. Funding for border security measures will include: Increased surveillance capabilities, including the deployment of advanced technologies such as drones and sensors. Additional border security personnel and training programs. Infrastructure improvements, including the construction and maintenance of barriers and checkpoints.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Emily Lamb, Walker County
Senate Sponsor: Trevor Trcka, Dallas County
Bill Author: Emily Lamb, Walker County

House Bill: 269
Senate Bill: 569

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Firefighter Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Firefighter Protection Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to protect firefighters in the event of a fire in a building that uses light weight truss systems. This act shall ensure that any usage of lightweight truss systems is to be made known by the owner of the building, in the form of a written lightweight truss system usage statement, to local fire marshals at the following times:
 - A. For commercial buildings annually at each fire code inspection.
 - B. For residential buildings at the time of construction or at the time of any sale. This will permit fire departments to reevaluate their plan of action while containing any fires in these structures, due to the high vulnerability to collapse.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Lightweight Truss Systems: Utilizes 2x4 wood and light-gauge steel plates (gusset plates) as primary structural elements.
 - B. Written Lightweight Truss System Usage Statement: A written document which clearly explains the structure uses the lightweight truss system construction type.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Written warning by the local fire marshal’s office and a 45- day grace period to submit the Written Lightweight Truss System Usage Statement to the fire marshal’s office.
 - 2nd Offense: \$2,000 fine which will double every month until the Written Lightweight Truss System Usage Statement is submitted to the fire marshal’s office.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government and enforced by the local government through the fire marshall’s office.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Hope Smith, Uvalde County

House Bill: 270

Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 570

Bill Author: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Game Fence Texas Highways

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Game Fence Texas Highways Act.
- Section 2. This bill shall ensure that all Texas highways are game fenced to save lives both people and animals as well as save money to the state and the insurance companies. The state of Texas and the insurance companies shall be responsible for the initial cost of the fencing. Landowners and the state shall share equally in maintaining the fencing.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. High Fencing: Fencing that is at least 8 feet high to protect native animals.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Fine up to \$5000, due to the fact that the animals on the highway could have caused an accident that could have been prevented.
 - 2nd Offense: If and accident occurs the state and the landowner will be equally responsible which would include loss of life: up to one million dollars to the deceased family: \$500,000 for bodily injury.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state of Texas and the insurance companies in the amount of \$6.6 trillion. Texas has 443,780,283 feet of highway and the price for fencing is \$15 per foot.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Ashlynn Conner, Somervell County

House Bill: 271

Senate Sponsor: Caitlyn Grange, Lee County

Senate Bill: 571

Bill Author: Ashlynn Conner, Somervell County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Increase Security In Public Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Increase Security In Public Schools Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that youth are protected and secure in their schools. More than 1,150 guns are brought to school in a year with 350 school shootings a year. This allows students to learn and engage in a safe environment.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Gun: A weapon incorporating a metal tube from which bullets, shells, or other missiles are propelled by explosive force, typically making a characteristic loud, sharp noises.
B. Safe Environment: One in which the population has the freedom to pursue daily activities without fear of politically motivated, persistent, or large-scale violence.
- Section 4. School districts that remain non-compliant with security increase after 2 years will be held accountable by the Department of Education and Homeland Security.
- Section 5. Funding is provided by the Department of Education and Homeland Security.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Ryleigh Clark, Potter County

Senate Sponsor: Mason Hart, Hale County

Bill Author: Ryleigh Clark, Potter County

House Bill: 272

Senate Bill: 572

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Keep The Roads Safe

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Keep The Roads Safe Act.
- Section 2. This act shall help ensure that students able to obtain their licenses have the chance to complete the course with an instructor. Safety for minors should be a top priority. More and more teenagers are putting off getting their license until they are 18. A lot of the reason is because they do not have someone who will take the time to train them and help them pass off the instruction that they need.
- Even though a lot of them wait until 18 to obtain a license does not mean that they wait until 18 to drive. The number of unlicensed drivers between the ages of 16-18 is alarming. Then when they do get their license at 18 they do so without ever receiving instruction on how to drive or follow the laws. If we brought drivers ed curriculum back to public schools it would greatly reduce the number of unlicensed or uneducated drivers on our roads resulting in fewer accidents or fatalities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. License: A permit from an authority to own, operate, or use something.
B. Fatality: An occurrence resulting in death.
- Section 4. Failure of minors to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Misdemeanor: \$100
2nd Offense: With holding license till 18
3rd Offense: 6-month sentence in jail
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government providing schools with incentive funds for enforcement of the act by code and government paid school employees.
- Section 6. Special instructions:
Public schools should work with students to educate and instruct them of all the important driving laws, and teach them the importance of obtaining and withholding a drivers license.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Ansley Heifrin, Brazos County

House Bill: 273

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Horn, Harrison County

Senate Bill: 573

Bill Author: Ansley Heifrin, Brazos County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Making School Safer

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Making School Safer Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to ensure that students are in a safe public school facility. By implementing metal detectors and trained security guards at every entrance of the school, it will be ensured that no weapons are brought into the school.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Metal Detector: A security device that scans individuals for dangerous objects (such as weapons).
 - B. Weapons: Something (such as a club, knife, or gun) used to injure, defeat, or destroy.
 - C. Security Guard: A person whose job is to guard a place and make sure the people and things in it are not harmed.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: A fine to the school district for time not in compliance
 - 2nd Offense: Disciplinary action against administration and ISD superintendent
- Section 5. This act will be funded by local school tax dollars and by the state government.
- Section 6. Metal detector machines should be operated by a minimum of one security guard and a maximum of three security guards. After all students have arrived, one entrance will remain open with a metal detector and security guard.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Sophia Neumann, Bosque County

Senate Sponsor: Caitlyn Grange, Lee County

Bill Author: Caitlyn Grange, Lee County

House Bill: 274

Senate Bill: 574

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Minimum Wage For Police Officers' Pay

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Minimum Wage For Police Officers' Pay Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all police officers in Texas get paid fair compensation for their time, dedication, and sacrifices to ensure our state's success. Police officers will have a minimum wage of the state's average annual income. If their jurisdiction has a higher average than the states, the minimum is raised to such. Officers will still be paid by the hour; however, the base hourly pay must add up to the total average income following the previously stated guidelines. The average annual income for the state and city will be reevaluated every 5 years.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Police Officer: A warranted law enforcement employee whose job is maintaining the law and keeping the public peace. This includes city police officials, state troopers, and county sheriffs.
 - B. Compensation: Granting money to make up for the sacrifices made in the line of duty.
 - C. Sacrifices: Any physical, psychological, or emotional harm that results in a major part of someone's life being given up.
 - D. Preemption: The city violates a state law and must re-compensate for it.
 - E. Base Hourly Pay: The hourly pay for employees without overtime or holidays.
 - F. Jurisdiction: The city, county, or state level of employment.
 - G. Special Projects: Any funding that is provided for an improvement to a particular area that isn't mandatory for the success of the city.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: 5% funding loss for special projects until the offense is corrected
 - 2nd Offense: 20% funding loss for special projects for 2 years
 - 3rd Offense: 50% funding loss for special projects for 4 years
 - 4th Offense: 75% funding loss for special projects for 5 years
 - 5th Offense: 90% funding loss for special projects for 7 years
 - 6th Offense: 100% funding loss for special projects for 8 years
 - Further Offense: 100% funding loss for special projects for an additional 6 months and a 20% preemption for special projects in the last 5 years.
- Section 5. The state and city will increase the funding percentage for police officers to meet the required amount to pay them.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Colton Payne, Bell County

House Bill: 275

Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 575

Bill Author: Colton Payne, Bell County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Non-Business Hours Curfew

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Non-Business Hours Curfew Act.
- Section 2. A curfew on citizen protests will allow citizens to reserve their free speech rights. A curfew is necessary to protect citizens, businesses, schools, and government workers' safety and access to a civil and productive work or school environment. The curfew allows protesting between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and restricts protestors from temporarily putting up shelters or dwellings. These lawful restrictions fall under "time, manner, and place restrictions."
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Curfew: An order establishing a specific time in the evening after which certain regulations apply.
B. Shelters/Dwellings: A building serving as a temporary refuge or residence, including tents, tarps, and awnings.
C. Protestor: One who protests at a location for a religious, political, or other cause.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: A government official (police) will ask the offender to remove themselves and return during allowed protesting hours.
2nd Offense: Non-compliant protestors will be arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, which carries a fine of at least \$500.
- Section 5. This bill shall be funded through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Office of Justice Division.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Ashlynn Conner, Somervell County

House Bill: 276

Senate Sponsor: Trevor Trcka, Dallas County

Senate Bill: 576

Bill Author: Texann Ralston, Hansford County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Production Agriculture Hardship Driver License At Age 14

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Production Agriculture Hardship Driver License At Age 14 Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that youth involved in production agriculture are able to be considered for a hardship driver license at the age of 14, with curfews of 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset. This shall allow them to work on their family farm or ranch and drive during the day beginning at 14 years of age.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Hardship License: Known as a minor's restricted driver license; the driver must meet all application requirements, complete all components of a state-approved driver education course, pass the skills examination, meet all requirements of Texas Transportation Code 521.223 and provide evidence of hardship.
B. Hardship Types: Unusual Economic Hardship article VIII Must drive in order to assist in essential farming or ranching activity, which is the primary source of family income.
C. Age of Hardship Requirements: Current Texas Age is 15.
- Section 4. Driving with hardship outside of curfew or driving without hardship privileges at age 14 will result in:
1st Offense: \$400 fine
2nd Offense: \$800 and lose hardship license for 60 days
3rd Offense: Lose hardship license
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by funds collected from the \$50 production agriculture hardship driver's license at age 14 application fee.
- Section 6. If this bill becomes law hardship drivers should have their hardship license with them. This license may also become a form of ID.
- Section 7. The current law to be repealed is Texas Transportation Code 521.223.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Samantha Butler, Bee County
Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County
Bill Author: Samantha Butler, Bee County

House Bill: 277
Senate Bill: 577

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Prohibition Of Antisemitism Support

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Prohibition Of Antisemitism Support Act.
- Section 2. To legalize the support of any and all antisemitic groups and/or organizations statewide which support the destruction/death of the Israeli people, groups including Palestine, Hezbollah, and Hamas, by which Israel and its citizens' residency are falsely deemed as unlawful and worthy of demise. Adherence to this bill will neither demean nor discredit the First Amendment, for the support of antisemitism is the support of nationally recognized foreign terrorist organizations whose tactics include murder and kidnapping the Israeli people, contradicting the statement by which peacefully assembly is required for free speech. Furthermore, this bill will offer support for and be supported by Article 20 Section 2 of the ICCPR which states: "Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law."
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Support: To advocate for or endorse, whether verbally or by means of peaceable assembly.
 - B. Antisemitism: Hostility to, prejudice towards, or discrimination against Jews. Past incidents which derive from the efforts of antisemitic groups include bombings, kidnappings, stabbings, car-ramming, bomb-threats, assaults, and kidnapping, the victims both male and female, ranging from infant to elderly in age.
 - C. Palestinian: A people unrecognized by the U.S. and designated in 1997 as a Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Additionally, these groups have been listed as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs) since October 2001.
 - D. Hezbollah: A political party involved in numerous anti-US terrorist attacks, including the suicide truck bombings of the US Embassy in Beirut in April 1983, the US Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983, and the US Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984, as well as the hijacking of TWA 847 in 1985.
 - E. Hamas: A militant group committed to armed resistance against Israel and the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state in Israel's place, designated by the US State Department as a foreign terrorist organization in October 1997.
 - F. Israel: A state formally established by the Israeli Declaration of Independence on 14 May 1948 and admitted to the United Nations (UN) as a full member state on 11 May 1949.
 - G. The First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
 - H. ICCPR: The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the U.S. in 1992 in order to provide the prohibition of propaganda advocating war or national, racial or religious hatred.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- Class B Misdemeanor: Up to 180 days in a county jail and a maximum fine of \$2,000.
 - Class A Misdemeanor: Up to one year in a county jail and a maximum fine of \$4,000.
 - State Jail Felony: 180 days to two years in a state jail facility, and a maximum fine of \$10,000.
- Section 5. This Act does not require any funding as it does not mandate the provision of services, programs, or activities that incur costs. No appropriations or budget allocations are necessary for the implementation of this Act.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Mason Scott, Lynn County

House Bill: 278

Senate Sponsor: Caitlyn Grange, Lee County

Senate Bill: 578

Bill Author: Mason Scott, Lynn County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Requirement Of Outdoor Warning Sirens

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Requirement Of Outdoor Warning Sirens Act.
- Section 2. This act requires all cities with a population of at least 300 to have, maintain, and use outdoor warning sirens.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Outdoor Warning Siren: A siren used to provide an emergency population warning to the general population of approaching danger. Often used to warn of nuclear attack and natural disasters, such as tornadoes.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with this bill will result in a \$10,000 fine.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Annabelle Groom, Johnson County

House Bill: 279

Senate Sponsor: Mason Hart, Hale County

Senate Bill: 579

Bill Author: Anna Magnuson, Collin County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Right To Work

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Right To Work Act.
- Section 2. To safeguard Texans' ability to work during times of crisis and prevent prolonged disruptions to business operations, it is proposed that the governor refrain from mandating business closures exceeding a duration of five consecutive days in the state of Texas.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Times of Crisis: Includes natural disaster, public threats, and health pandemics.
B. Mandate: An official order or commission to do something.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Relinquish is duties for 14 days to the Lieutenant Governor, and \$1,000 fine.
2nd Offense: 30 days in jail and \$2,000 fine.
3rd Offense: Removal from office by Legislative majority vote, and \$3,000 fine.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Decara Hemsath, Johnson County

House Bill: 280

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Horn, Harrison County

Senate Bill: 580

Bill Author: Miranda Gonzalez, Kenedy/Kleberg County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Safety Ramps Include Pregnant Women And Strollers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Safety Ramps Include Pregnant Women And Strollers Act.
- Section 2. For public ramps to be open for not just ADA but for pregnant women and strollers. Giving easier accessibility to more people.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. ADA: American Disability Act.
B. Pregnant Women: A woman close to giving birth.
C. Stroller: New mothers with children in strollers.
- Section 4. Only given a warning until third warning:
1st Offense: \$350
- Section 5. Funding by Texas Government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Colton Payne, Bell County
Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County
Bill Author: Audrey Thibodeaux, Gonzales County

House Bill: 281
Senate Bill: 581

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Say No To Squatting In Texas

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Say No To Squatting In Texas Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill would be to protect property owners from losing their property. Every American should have the opportunity to work hard, pay taxes, and purchase their own property. Squatters are stealing and they should have consequences and they should have to be held accountable just like the rest of the Americans. Nothing is free.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Squatter: Someone who unlawfully occupied someone else’s property.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense of criminal trespass which is considered a misdemeanor, the squatter could face: a fine up to \$1,000 and/or jail time for up to 12 months.
- Section 5. The bill should specify the cost associated with enforcing the law against squatters, including police time court cost, and any administrative fees. These cost need to be estimated in a source of funding should be identified, which could include general state, funds, increase court fees or specific allocations from the state budget.
- Section 6. The laws in Texas that address squatting typically focus on protecting property rights and preventing unauthorized occupation of someone else’s property. These laws often deal with trespassing, unlawful entry, and unauthorized use of land or buildings.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Kaleb Thayer, Terrell County

Senate Sponsor: Trevor Trcka, Dallas County

Bill Author: Mason Hart, Hale County

House Bill: 282

Senate Bill: 582

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Secure Borders And Immigration Reform

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Secure Borders And Immigration Reform Act.
- Section 2. This bill's objective is to strengthen border security and implement stricter immigration laws on the southern U.S. border. This bill targets the problems correlated with unauthorized crossing and smuggling of people or drugs, which is a major threat to The United States safety and national security. This will also give additional resources for border patrol operations and provide tougher deterrents against illegal entry into the United States.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Border Wall: A physical barrier constructed along an international border to deter immigrants from illegal entry.
B. E-Verify: An online system employers in the United States can use to check if newly hired employees have legal documentation allowing them to work.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1. Unlawfully crossing the US border is a federal crime punishable by at least 2 years in jail, lifetime ineligibility for US citizenship, and automatic deportation after release.
2. Human and Drug Trafficking convictions have a minimum 25-year prison sentence, or potential life imprisonment if it involves minors, death, or sexual exploitation.
3. Penalties for hiring illegal and undocumented immigrants can include minimum fines from \$50,000 per violation and possible criminal charges that could lead to several years in prison.
- Section 5. This legislation requires state and federal funding. The federal government will finance the border wall construction, more immigration officers and detention facilities, while the state will fund E-Verify, worksite enforcement operations, and resources for immigration law enforcement agencies.
- Section 6. The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be responsible for executing and enforcing this act.
- Section 7. This act shall repeal current Texas policies related to immigration and border security which include, Texas Penal Code Section 20.05 - Smuggling of Persons and Texas Labor Code Section 92.001 - Employment of Undocumented Workers.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Timothy Murphy, Bosque County

House Bill: 283

Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 583

Bill Author: Timothy Murphy, Bosque County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Strengthen Our State

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Strengthen Our State Act.
- Section 2. This act intends to prohibit the purchase of land in the State of Texas by foreign individuals or entities. Allowing non-US citizens or companies to own land in the state has the potential to threaten our infrastructure by sending the state in a direction it does not wish to go, and to impact the economy adversely by taking funding from legal residents.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Foreign Individuals: A person born in or coming from a country other than one's own
B. Infrastructure: The facilities, structures and utilities necessary for the state to run efficiently, including but not limited to roads, railways, electric grid, public buildings, and water treatment plants.
C. Deterrent: A thing that greatly discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something.
- Section 4. Each individual desiring to purchase real estate or buy into a company or entity must provide proof of U.S. citizenship. Failure to do so would result in the loss of the contract on the real estate. Punishment would not be necessary.
- Section 5. This Act is a prohibition and funding is not necessary.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Aubrey Smith, Brazos County

Senate Sponsor: Caitlyn Grange, Lee County

Bill Author: Kreede Neal, Archer County

House Bill: 284

Senate Bill: 584

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texans' Ability To Protect Life And Property

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texans' Ability To Protect Life And Property Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure the safety and freedom of civilians who possess, desire to possess, or manufacture firearms by allowing for the possession of Class 3 Firearms with a basic background check similar to the Title I process. This act would further ensure that Class 3 Accessories would be fully removed from any background check requirements as they are not a firearm by definition of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tabaco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Class 3 Firearms/Accessories: A designation given to fully automatic and select fire weapons, short-barreled rifles/shotguns, silencers, and destructive devices.
 - B. Fully Automatic and Select Fire Weapon: A weapon that is capable of firing multiple rounds within one trigger pull or otherwise desired.
 - C. Short-barreled Rifles/Shotguns: A rifle/shotgun with a barrel that is shorter than 16 inches in length.
 - D. Silencer: A device that reduces the sound of a firearm by utilizing gas flow thus making them safer for the user and bystanders.
 - E. Destructive Device: A device capable of causing widespread impact over a singular area that may include damage.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: The organization and/or person(s) responsible for denying the interested party shall be issued a written warning.
 - 2nd Offense: The organization and/or person(s) responsible for denying the interested party shall be issued a fine of \$5,000. Offending parties would also be subject to potential civil penalties and/or lawsuits.
 - 3rd Offense: The organization and/or person(s) responsible for denying the interested party shall be issued a fine of \$10,000 and have their Firearms License suspended for 6 months. Offending parties would also be subject to potential civil penalties and/or lawsuits.
 - 4th Offense: The organization and/or person(s) responsible for denying the interested party shall give up all their inventory to the State Armory, have their storefront closed, and have their Firearms License permanently revoked. Offending parties would also be subject to potential civil penalties and/or lawsuits.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded, if necessary, by utilizing the funds generated from past Title I purchasing fees as well as Class 3 purchasing fees to help implement the new program.
- Section 6. Any citizen serving a penalty due to the formerly enacted law(s) would be subject to review and the remainder of their sentence commuted without further penalty from the previous offense.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Miles McDonald, Collin County

House Bill: 285

Senate Sponsor: Mason Hart, Hale County

Senate Bill: 585

Bill Author: Miles McDonald, Collin County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Driver License Age To 15

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Driver License Age To 15 Act.
- Section 2. This act will insure that people 15 and older have the opportunity to get a driver license. This makes sure that people going to high school can drive themselves for early sport practices, after-school tutoring, or other occasions/activities.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Driver License: A document permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle.
- Section 4. Teenagers would now be able to obtain their learner’s permit at the age of 14, their provisional license at the age of 15, and their full license would remain at age 18. The driving test for those who are 15 will require drivers to have higher requirements to get their provisional license than the current requirements for the driving test when you are 16, so that it can be ensured that people driving at age 15 have the capacity to drive safely.
- Section 5. This act repeals the current law that requires the minimum driver license age to be 16 and the minimum age for a learners permit to be 15.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Anthony Peter Quinn, Brazoria County

House Bill: 286

Senate Sponsor: Trevor Trcka, Dallas County

Senate Bill: 586

Bill Author: Anthony Peter Quinn, Brazoria County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Land Ownership

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Land Ownership Act.
- Section 2. To prohibit foreign ownership of land in the State of Texas. No land to be sold to foreign entities. Any land currently owned by foreign entities must be transferred to lawful Owners within one year of enactment.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Prohibit: Not allow by law; to now be unlawful.
B. Foreign: Citizenship and permanent residence outside of the United States of America.
- Section 4. After a grace period of one year all foreign owned Texas land shall be seized by the state for the purpose of auction to eligible buyers.
- Section 5. Funding Provisions:
Current Foreign Owners would be allowed one year from enactment of this law to sell property. At the end of one year the State shall seize all foreign owned property and sell it at auction to eligible buyers. All proceeds from these sales will be used in the enforcement of this law and cover the cost of seizures and auctions.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Ansley Heifrin, Brazos County

House Bill: 287

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Horn, Harrison County

Senate Bill: 587

Bill Author: William Adkison, Ellis County and Addisyn Horn, Harrison County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Property Protection

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Property Protection Act.
- Section 2. This act shall prevent the sale to or control of or acquisition of title to real property located in Texas by any alien individual or corporation, or corporation composed of a qualified majority of alien individuals with authority to select a representative from designated countries. This shall be effected in order to (1) prevent hostile foreign entities from influencing either (A) local infrastructure and economic balance on a county level or (B) state infrastructure and (2) secure the safety and welfare Texas citizens and maintaining law and order in accordance with the Texas Constitution.
- Section 3. In this sub-chapter:
- (1) "Agricultural land" means land that is located in this state and that is suitable for:
 - (A) use in production of plants and fruits grown for human or animal consumption, or plants grown for the production of fibers, floriculture, viticulture, horticulture, or planting seed; or
 - (B) domestic or native farm or ranch animals kept for use or profit.
 - (2) "Control" means ownership of at least 50 percent of the voting ownership interest of an organization necessary to elect a governing person or governing authority of an organization.
 - (3) "Designated country" means a country identified by the United States Director of National Intelligence as a country that poses a risk to the national security of the United States in each of the three most recent Annual Threat Assessments of the U.S. Intelligence Community issued pursuant to Section 108B, National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. Section 3043b).
 - (4) "Governing authority," "governing person," and "organization" have the meanings assigned by Section 1.002, Business Organizations Code.
 - (5) "Real property" means:
 - (A) agricultural land;
 - (B) an improvement located on agricultural land;
 - (C) a mine or quarry;
 - (D) a mineral in place; or
 - (E) standing timber.
 - (6) "Sale" means any transaction taking part in which the ownership and deed to Texas real property changes hands.
 - (7) "State infrastructure" means
 - (A) any structure associated with the Energy Regulations Committee of Texas,
 - (B) the Texas Department of Transportation, and (C) the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Class A Misdemeanor.
2nd Offense: Third Degree Felony.
3rd Offense: First Degree Felony
- Section 5. This act, in any capacity which shall be required, will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
This act does not apply to any citizen of the United States or any Legal Resident of Texas according to the Texas Administrative Code, Section 19.1.21, Sub-chapter B, or to any foreign corporation investing in a Texas corporation or enterprise and controlling less than a 50% ownership share.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Sophia Neumann, Bosque County

House Bill: 288

Senate Sponsor: Rylee Kahler, Val Verde County

Senate Bill: 588

Bill Author: Sophia Neumann, Bosque County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

The Left Turn

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the The Left Turn Act.
- Section 2. This shall make the operation of yielding on a green light during a left turn obsolete. All left-turn lights shall have a flashing yellow arrow to indicate yielding to oncoming traffic before proceeding through the intersection, and a lone green arrow for when the left-turn lane has the right-of-way. This will make all left-turn lights indicating the sign to yield the same across the state, eliminating the confusion caused by the interchangeably used flashing yellow arrow and green light.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Green Light: It is safe to proceed if clear; the person with this light as their sign has the right-of-way if no one else is already in the intersection.
B. Flashing Yellow Arrow: Left turns allowed, but you must yield to oncoming traffic/pedestrians.
- Section 4. Special Instructions:
1) If accident occurs while the light is the flashing yellow arrow, the fault will be that of the person in the turning lane, who failed to give way to oncoming traffic.
2) If the light is a lone green arrow, the person in the turn lane has the right to turn and the fault will be on the person who ran the red light.
- Section 5. The Texas Department of Transportation will fund the installation of updated traffic lights in state-owned locations. The local governments will fund the installation of updated traffic lights in their respective municipalities.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Hope Smith, Uvalde County
Senate Sponsor: Mason Hart, Hale County
Bill Author: Hope Smith, Uvalde County

House Bill: 289
Senate Bill: 589

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Tractical Training For School District Law Enforcement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Tractical Training For School District Law Enforcement Act.
- Section 2. This act shall create a fund and a program for school district law enforcement to have proper tactical training in the case of active shooter/active violence situations. The specific trainings such as A.L.I.C.E. and A.L.E.R.R.T. will be required of the school district law enforcement.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Tactical Training: generally trained and equipped for one or more of the following mission capabilities: hostage rescue operations, barricaded subject operations, sniper operations, high-risk warrant service, high-risk apprehensions, high-risk security operations, or terrorism response.
 - B. A.L.I.C.E.: Alert Lock down Inform Counter and Evacuate.
 - C. A.L.E.R.R.T.: Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training.
- Section 4. This program will be funded by the State lottery proceeds.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

House Sponsor: Aubrey Smith, Brazos County

Senate Sponsor: Addisyn Horn, Harrison County

Bill Author: Aubrey Smith, Brazos County

House Bill: 290

Senate Bill: 590

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Traffic Signal Preemption Installation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Traffic Signal Preemption Installation Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure that a Traffic Signal Device is installed at every intersection in a Texas city with a population over 125,000. This will be an optional installation for each city. This device will be installed in the fire trucks and ambulances and it will signal the traffic lights on the path and turn the other lights red to avoid crashes at intersections when emergency vehicles are responding to an emergency call.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Traffic Signal Preemption: A preemption device that changes the intersection lights to make a clear path for the fire trucks and ambulances. This is proven to decrease the number of crashes that happen at intersections and it reduces the time they take to get to their emergency.
- Section 4. If decided on the installation of this, it would be funded by either the Texas Transportation or Community Safety Committees.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

(JJJ)

House Chairperson: **Makenna Johnson**
Advisor(s): **Makenzie Banks**

Senate Chairperson: **William Adkison**
Advisor(s): **Bret Allen & Pearl Jones**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
291	591	Constitutional Amendment To Establish Annual Sessions of the Texas Legislature	McKenna Johnson	Jeremy Burt	Brazos/Lamb
292	592	Constitutional Amendment To Limit Gubernatorial Terms	Charlie Rodriguez	William Adkison	Rusk/Ellis
293	593	Death Penalty Prohibition	Garicyn Bigham	RaiSheletta Lovell	Lamb/San Augustine
294	594	Increased Minimum Bail Standards	Reagan Moreau	William Adkison	Fayette/Ellis
295	595	Obstructing Roadways	Garicyn Bigham	Jeremy Burt	Lamb/Lamb
296	596	State Elected Official Term Limits	Charlie Rodriguez	Jeremy Burt	Rusk/Lamb
297	597	Youth Employment Opportunity	Reagan Moreau	RaiSheletta Lovell	Fayette/San Augustine



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: McKenna Johnson, Brazos County

Senate Sponsor: Jeremy Burt, Lamb County

Bill Author: Aiden Hunter, Ellis County

House Bill: 291

Senate Bill: 591

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Constitutional Amendment To Establish Annual Sessions of the Texas Legislature

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Constitutional Amendment To Establish Annual Sessions of the Texas Legislature Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this law is to amend the Texas Constitution and establish annual sessions of the legislature to ensure Texans have a full time government. If passed the legislature would meet for 180 days every year in contrast to every other year. The governor would still reserve the right to call special sessions of the legislature.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Texas Legislature: The legislative body of the State of Texas composed of the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate.
B. Session: The meeting of the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate to pass legislation. A session would be 180 days every year.
C. Annual: Once a 365 Day Calendar Year.
- Section 4. No penalties could be associated with this constitutional amendment.
- Section 5. Per Diem for Members and other associated costs will be adjusted in the general appropriations bill for annual sessions.
- Section 6. This provision to amend the Texas Constitution would be placed on the 2024 General Election Ballot by the Texas Secretary of State. If passed the legislature would begin Annual Sessions in Spring 2025.
- Section 7. The Texas Constitution would be amended. THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 3. The Legislature shall meet every two years at such time as may be provided by law Amended to, The Legislature shall meet every year at such time as may be provided by law.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: Charlie Rodriguez, Rusk County

House Bill: 292

Senate Sponsor: William Adkison, Ellis County

Senate Bill: 592

Bill Author: Aiden Hunter, Ellis County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Constitutional Amendment To Limit Gubernatorial Terms

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Constitutional Amendment To Limit Gubernatorial Terms Act.
- Section 2. This act would place a constitutional amendment on the 2024 general election ballot to limit the number of terms the Texas Governor is able to serve. This amendment would limit the governor to two, four year terms in office. The bill would go into effect September 1, 2024.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Governor: The office of the governor as defined in the Texas Constitution.
B. Term: Serving in an office for four years.
- Section 4. Penalties for violating this law include candidate removal from the general election ballot. This also includes a 100,000 dollar fine to the political party sponsoring the ineligible candidate.
- Section 5. The Texas Secretary of State will ensure that candidates for the office of governor have not served more than two four year terms in this role. They will also be the entity that imposes election fines for violation of this law.
- Section 6. Repeal of Article Four Section Four of the Texas Constitution:
Sec. 4. INSTALLATION OF GOVERNOR; TERM; ELIGIBILITY. The Governor elected at the general election in 1974, and thereafter, shall be installed on the first Tuesday after the organization of the Legislature, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and shall hold his office for the term of four years, or until his successor shall be duly installed.
- AMENDED TO:
Sec. 4. INSTALLATION OF GOVERNOR; TERM; ELIGIBILITY. The Governor elected at the general election in 1974, and thereafter, shall be installed on the first Tuesday after the organization of the Legislature, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and shall hold his office for the term of four years with a maximum of eight years of elected service, or until his successor shall be duly installed.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: Garicyn Bigham, Lamb County

House Bill: 293

Senate Sponsor: RaiSheletta Lovell, San Augustine County

Senate Bill: 593

Bill Author: Garicyn Bigham, Lamb County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Death Penalty Prohibition

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Death Penalty Prohibition Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all instances of use of the death penalty shall be prohibited, so that all innocent victims of the practice can be freed, and are not serving justice for others mistakes.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Death Penalty: Execution of an offender sentenced to death after conviction by a court of law of a criminal offense.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Immediate federal control until action has been taken to correct the offense and it has been properly inspected.
2nd Offense: Will result in the loss of government funding.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: Reagan Moreau, Fayette County

House Bill: 294

Senate Sponsor: William Adkison, Ellis County

Senate Bill: 594

Bill Author: Reagan Moreau, Fayette County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Increased Minimum Bail Standards

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Increased Minimum Bail Standards Act.
- Section 2. This act shall prohibit the assignment of Personal Bonds to defendants arrested for a crime in a county or municipality where they do not reside; defendants with one or more failure to appear conviction(s) for jailable offenses in the 25-year-period prior to their arrest; defendants released on bail for a pending charge at the time of their arrest; and defendants with one or more felony conviction(s) in the 25-year period prior to their arrest. This act will also implement the addition of the following minimum bail amounts to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures art. 17.15 for cash and surety bonds: 1st Degree Non-Violent Felony: \$10,000 2nd Degree Non-Violent Felony: \$5,000 3rd Degree Violent Felony: \$5,000 3rd Degree Non-Violent Felony: \$3,000 Violent Class A Misdemeanor: \$2,000 Non-Violent Class A Misdemeanor: \$1,000 Violent Class B Misdemeanor: \$1,000 Non-Violent Class B Misdemeanor: \$500 An additional \$500 per previous failure to appear conviction for misdemeanor charges and \$1,000 for each failure to appear conviction for felony charges shall be added to these minimum bail amounts.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Bail: The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.01, or the security given by the accused that he will appear and answer before the proper court the accusation brought against him, and this includes a bail bond or a personal bond.
- B. Bail Bond: The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.02, or a written undertaking entered into by the defendant and the defendant's sureties for the appearance of the principal therein before a court or magistrate to answer a criminal accusation; provided, however, that the defendant on execution of the bail bond may deposit with the custodian of funds of the court in which the prosecution is pending current money of the United States in the amount of the bond in lieu of having sureties signing the same.
- C. Domicile: The Code of Federal Regulations § 301.6362-6, or an individual's fixed or permanent home. An individual acquires a domicile in a place by living there; even for a brief period of time, with no definite present intention of later removing therefrom.
- D. Failure To Appear Conviction: The Texas Penal Code Section §38.10, or A person lawfully released from custody, with or without bail, on condition that he subsequently appear commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly fails to appear in accordance with the terms of his release.
- E. Non-County Resident: A defendant with a permanent domicile in a county other than the county that they were arrested in.
- F. Non-Municipality Resident: A defendant with a permanent domicile in an area other than the municipality that they were arrested in.
- G. Personal Bond: Defined as per the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.03, or "bond without sureties or other security.
- Section 4. A victim of an offense that was committed while the person was released on bail, or the victim's estate if the victim is deceased, may bring a cause of action against the judge or magistrate who released the person on bail for damages incurred as a result of the offense if the defendant was released on bail that does not comply with the procedures stipulated in this act. A judge or magistrate may not assert judicial immunity as a defense to an action brought under this act. The Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Section 108.002 does not apply to an action brought under this act.
- Section 5. Costs incurred due to the retention of defendants that would otherwise be offered a personal bond will be funded by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice with the benefit of increased public safety and court appearances.
- Section 6. These changes will be incorporated into the training materials provided for magistrate judges by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, the Texas Municipal Courts Education center, and other training establishments.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: Garicyn Bigham, Lamb County

Senate Sponsor: Jeremy Burt, Lamb County

Bill Author: Jeremy Burt, Lamb County

House Bill: 295

Senate Bill: 595

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Obstructing Roadways

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Obstructing Roadways Act.
- Section 2. This act shall remove and prosecute any civilians blocking highways, roadways, and streets.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Civilians: A person or persons (aside from armed services and police) inside or outside of a vehicle.
B. Obstructing: To block (an opening, path, or road, etc.); be or get in the way of.
C. Roadways: The part of a road intended for vehicles, in contrast to a median.
D. Highways: A main road, especially one connecting major towns or cities.
E. Street: A public road in a city or town, typically with houses and buildings on one or both sides.
- Section 4. Minimum jail sentence of 18 months, with a maximum of 5 years. If a minimum of half of the sentence has been served option of parole will be provided.
- Section 5. In addition to the 2.3 billion dollars in the annual state police budget, this bill will add an additional 2 million dollars to accommodate for any expenses.
- Section 6. Repeal of Section 42.03 of the Texas Penal Code Section 42.04 of the Texas Penal Code.
- Section 7. After police have arrived they will give a verbal order to vacate the premises. If the order is not followed, police will be permitted to use physical force to remove and arrest the person or persons. Following the arrest the assailants WILL be prosecuted.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: Charlie Rodriguez, Rusk County

House Bill: 296

Senate Sponsor: Jeremy Burt, Lamb County

Senate Bill: 596

Bill Author: Charlie Rodriguez, Rusk County and Krystal Tondre, Bexar County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

State Elected Official Term Limits

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the State Elected Official Term Limits Act.
- Section 2. This bill shall set term limits for state elected officials, to allow new ideas and a rotation of power. This bill shall restrict statewide elected officials to be able to serve no more than two consecutive or non-consecutive terms in their respective elected office. As we see that the rotation of power in the national government allows new leadership and ideas to form, and prevents the abuse of power, Texas also needs to set this precedent.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Term: Four years for all Texas Statewide Elected Officials as defined below, excluding Railroad Commissioners, for whom it is six years.
 - B. Term Limits: A restriction on the number of terms that may be served.
 - C. Statewide Elected Officials: Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Commissioner of General Land Office, Commissioner of Agriculture, Railroad Commissioners, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor.
 - D. Rotation of Power: The practice of not letting any one person stay in power long enough to become entrenched and/or corrupt.
- Section 4. No penalties shall be served, other than ineligibility for those who do not correspond with the criteria for election.
- Section 5. No funding will be necessary for this bill to be enacted.
- Section 6. Special instructions:
If a state elected official has already served more than two terms when this bill is enacted, they may complete their current term but shall not be eligible for reelection. The partial term of a person appointed or elected in a special election will not be counted as one of the two terms unless the time served exceeds half of a full term.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



JUDICIARY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

House Sponsor: Reagan Moreau, Fayette County

House Bill: 297

Senate Sponsor: RaiSheletta Lovell, San Augustine County

Senate Bill: 597

Bill Author: RaiSheletta Lovell, San Augustine County

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Youth Employment Opportunity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Youth Employment Opportunity Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of The Youth Employment Opportunity Act is to empower young Texas citizens aged 13 to seek employment to learn valuable life skills, including time management, teamwork, and financial responsibility earlier in life. The objective is to reduce adolescent risky behaviors by engaging them in productive activities that can divert teenagers from negative behaviors such as substance abuse, delinquency, and other risky activities- especially in rural regions. The goals are to alleviate poverty and reduce youth's risky behaviors through employment opportunities that can help reduce the financial strain on families, improve educational performance, and contribute to Texas's economic stability. This bill is founded on the principle that early exposure to the workforce is crucial for the holistic development of youth and the future prosperity of the state's economic and social well-being.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Youth: Refers to individuals who are 13 years old, aligning with the common understanding of teenagers in this age bracket.
- B. Employer: Defined as any person or entity that pays wages to one or more employees, or acts in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: A fine of \$250.00 and a written minor infraction will be imposed. If future violations occur, this will be taken into account.
- 2nd Offense: Subsequent offenses will escalate to higher fines and classifications, such as a misdemeanor with a fine of \$500.00 for a second offense.
- 3rd Offense: Results in a felony charge with a fine of \$1,000.00 or more depending on the nature of the incident and loss of state-certified licenses.
- Section 5. The Youth Employment Opportunity Act will be funded through the Texas state government specifically earmarked for youth employment and development programs in the amount of two million dollars.

The initiative's cornerstone is the establishment of a robust infrastructure that includes career counseling services, vocational training workshops, and internship opportunities tailored to the diverse needs of Texas youth. This infrastructure will not only support youth employment initiatives but also pave the way for the development of online platforms, outreach programs, and educational materials. A significant portion of the funding will also be allocated to vocational training programs, ensuring that our youth are equipped with the skills necessary for the modern workforce. Therefore, funds will be directed toward hiring qualified personnel to oversee the programs and manage day-to-day operations. To ensure effective enactment and enforcement of the act, a detailed budget includes the costs associated with administrative staffing, program development, marketing and outreach efforts, and the establishment of partnerships with local businesses and educational institutions. The administrative costs will cover salaries for a dedicated oversight committee team within the Texas Workforce Commission, which will oversee the program's operations, including monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement of the services offered.

The Texas Workforce Commission will also manage the financial aspects of the program, as well as conduct marketing and public awareness campaigns to maximize the act's reach and impact. Their primary goal is to ensure that funds are disbursed appropriately and transparently. Moreover, a portion of the budget will be allocated to set up an online platform that will serve as a one-stop shop for youth seeking employment opportunities and employers looking to hire young talent. This platform will require ongoing maintenance and support of the Texas Workforce Commission, which is accounted for in the funding provisions. This committee will play a crucial role in monitoring compliance, addressing any violations, and conducting regular audits. Their efforts will ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the initiatives under the act. In the event that the act generates revenue, such as through partnerships with private entities or grants, these funds will be reinvested into the program to further its objective of establishing a sustainable model that can adapt to the changing economic landscape and employment needs of Texas youth. Therefore, the Texas Department of Labor will also be responsible for managing these additional funds under the guidance of the Texas Workforce Commission oversight committee.



The financial framework of the Youth Employment Opportunity Act is designed to be sustainable and self-reinforcing, with a clear delineation of responsibilities and a structured approach to fund management. This will ensure that the act not only provides immediate support for youth employment but also contributes to the long-term economic development of the state.

Section 6. According to the Texas Child Labor Law, it is illegal to employ a child under 14 except under specific circumstances. There are also limitations on the employment of 14- and 15-year-olds, particularly regarding hours and conditions of work. The specific statute that would need to be repealed or amended is Chapter 51 of the Texas Labor Code, which outlines the employment of children and the conditions under which they may work. Therefore, The new bill would allow 13-year-old youth to engage in certain types of employment under strict regulations to ensure their safety, health, and well-being. This change is particularly significant for rural regions, where opportunities for youth engagement are often limited. By providing structured employment opportunities, the Youth Employment Opportunity Act could offer an alternative to risky behaviors, often a result of idle time and lack of supervision. Therefore, employment can also instill a sense of responsibility and work ethic in younger individuals, which is crucial for breaking the cycle of generational poverty. Moreover, the act of working can provide these youths with financial literacy and the opportunity to contribute to their household income, which can be particularly impactful in low-income rural areas. Research has shown that engagement in activities such as youth sports can lead to disparities based on socioeconomic status in rural communities. Therefore, the Youth Employment Opportunity Act could serve as a leveling field, offering all youths, regardless of their economic background, the chance to gain work experience and develop skills that are valuable for their future careers. Furthermore, the act could encourage local businesses to invest in the training and development of young individuals, fostering a sense of community and belonging. This investment in youth could lead to a more vibrant local economy, as young workers spend their earnings within their communities, supporting local businesses.

Additionally, the act could promote mentorship and the passing down of skills from older generations to younger ones, preserving local trades and crafts that are unique to rural areas. Overall, the Youth Employment Opportunity Act has the potential to provide numerous benefits to rural communities by offering safe and regulated employment opportunities to 13-year-olds. It addresses the need for constructive activities to prevent risky behaviors and generational poverty while also contributing to the local economy and social fabric of these communities. The act represents a progressive step towards empowering the youth in rural Texas, equipping them with the tools they need to build a prosperous future.

Section 7. If enacted, the Youth Employment Opportunity Act would necessitate a comprehensive framework to ensure its effective implementation and adherence. Firstly, a clear definition of permissible work types and hours for 13-year-olds must be established to protect their welfare and education. Secondly, mandatory work permits will be introduced, requiring parental consent and a review of the youth's academic standing. Thirdly, employers must provide evidence of a safe and suitable work environment, adhering to strict health and safety regulations.

Additionally, the Act will mandate regular inspections by labor officials to enforce compliance and prevent exploitation. Educational workshops for both employers and young employees would be beneficial in educating them on their rights and responsibilities under the new law. Finally, a reporting system will be in place for any grievances or violations, ensuring that issues are addressed promptly and effectively. These measures would collectively safeguard the interests of young workers and uphold the spirit of the Youth Employment Opportunity Act.

Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



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PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

(PHW)

House Chairperson: **Cooper Smith**

Senate Chairperson: **Addilyn Reed**

Advisor(s): **Caleb Kott**

Advisor(s): **Tonya Poncik**

HOUSE NUMBER	SENATE NUMBER	TITLE	HOUSE SPONSOR	SENATE SPONSOR	COUNTY
298	598	Affordable Insulin For All	Kenzie Hobbs	Esther Groot	Milam/Bandera
299	599	Ban Synthetic Dyes And Titanium Dioxide In Texas Public Schools	Lani Duncan	Lydia Browne	Montgomery/Ellis
300	600	Child Adoption Integrity	Vallie Deville	Ansley Kubecka	Jefferson/Matagorda
301	601	Child Of Divorce Choice	Hannah Dreher	Caroline Wood	Kaufman/Bell
302	602	Contact Lens Safety	Carolina Salas	Piper Boyd	Hidalgo/Bosque
303	603	Defining Emotional Support Animals on College Campuses	Avery Goss	Esther Groot	Swisher/Bandera
304	604	Expansion Of Medicaid Health Insurance for College Students	Diego Salas	Lydia Browne	Hidalgo/Ellis
305	605	Food Allergy Awareness Training	Lani Duncan	Piper Boyd	Montgomery/Bosque
306	606	Illegal Consumption Of Alcohol For Minors	Roan Nash	Ansley Kubecka	Brazoria/Matagorda
307	607	Lower Driver License Age To 15	Ryder Sims	Caroline Wood	Erath/Bell
308	608	Mandatory Drug Tests For Expecting Mothers During Prenatal Care And Birth	Harley Mauldin	Esther Groot	Waller/Bandera
309	609	Medical Facilities For Rural Areas	Avery Goss	Lydia Browne	Swisher/Ellis
310	610	Mindfulness Education And Awareness in Schools	Abigail Porter	Ansley Kubecka	Wharton/Matagorda
311	611	Minor Conversion Therapy Prohibition	Carolina Salas	Caroline Wood	Hidalgo/Bell
312	612	Minor Gender Determination	Kannon Flowers	Piper Boyd	Swisher/Bosque
313	613	Musician Protection Against Artificial Intelligence	Daria Sempsrott	Esther Groot	Travis/Bandera
314	614	Open Gyms For More Open Minded Students	Audrey Schmidt	Lydia Browne	Washington/Ellis
315	615	Physician-Assisted Suicide	Roan Nash	Ansley Kubecka	Brazoria/Matagorda
316	616	Plant Based Medicine For All	Alice Moody	Piper Boyd	Travis/Bosque
317	617	Produce Production Labeling Policy	Julie Jones	Caroline Wood	Live Oak/Bell
318	618	Promotion Of School Mental Health Improvement	Cade Parker	Esther Groot	Schleicher/Bandera
319	619	Protect The Unhoused	Anneka Hansel	Lydia Browne	Collin/Ellis
320	620	Restaurant Truth In Labeling Of Seafood	Abigail Porter	Ansley Kubecka	Wharton/Matagorda
321	621	Senior Food Security	Kannon Flowers	Caroline Wood	Swisher/Bell
322	622	Social & Emotional Well-Being Of Farmers & Ranchers	Harley Mauldin	Piper Boyd	Waller/Bosque
323	623	Social Media Regulation For Minors	Bonnie Reese	Esther Groot	Lamb/Bandera
324	624	Temporary Support For Aged-Out Foster Youth	Addison Engquist	Lydia Browne	Comal/Ellis
325	625	Texas Dog Safety & Accountability Act	Daria Sempsrott	Esther Groot	Travis/Bandera
326	626	Unborn Child Protection Act	Julie Jones	Lydia Browne	Live Oak/Ellis
327	627	Welfare Recipients Shall Participate In Drug Screening	Everett Snoddy	Piper Boyd	Johnson/Bosque
328	628	Youth Cottage Food Act	Kenzie Hobbs	Ansley Kubecka	Milam/Matagorda



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Kenzie Hobbs, Milam County

Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County

Bill Author: Kenzie Hobbs, Milam County

House Bill: 298

Senate Bill: 598

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Affordable Insulin For All

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Affordable Insulin For All Act.
- Section 2. This act establishes a cap on co-payments for insulin of 25 dollars for a 30-day supply for individuals covered under all insured health plans to ensure that life-saving medication is affordable for those who need it.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Insulin: A medication used to treat diabetes, including but not limited to rapid-acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting, and long-acting insulin.
 - B. Insured Health Plan: Any health insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by an insurer, health maintenance organization, or any other entity providing health coverage, including employer-sponsored health plans.
 - C. Co-payment (Copay): A fixed amount an insured person pays for a covered health care service, typically paid at the time of service.
- Section 4. Penalties or Punishment:
- (a) Oversight: The Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner shall oversee the implementation of this Act and ensure compliance by all insurers offering insured health plans.
 - (b) Penalties for Non-Compliance: Insurers failing to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be subject to penalties, including but not limited to fines and sanctions, as determined appropriate by the Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of 1.7 million dollars.
- Section 6. Repeal of Senate Bill 827 will be repealed with the signing of this bill.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Lani Duncan, Montgomery County

House Bill: 299

Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County

Senate Bill: 599

Bill Author: Lani Duncan, Montgomery County and Lydia Browne, Ellis County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Ban Synthetic Dyes And Titanium Dioxide In Texas Public Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Ban Synthetic Dyes And Titanium Dioxide In Texas Public Schools Act.
- Section 2. This legislation aims to prohibit the use of synthetic dyes and titanium dioxide in Texas public schools to enhance safety. By eliminating these substances, potential risks such as neurological disorders, behavioral issues, and immune system complications could decrease. Moreover, removing synthetic dyes and titanium dioxide is expected to enhance classroom environments. This legislation is pivotal for ensuring student welfare, particularly by targeting the removal of Red Dye 40 from snack foods marketed to children and regulating its consumption.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Synthetic Dyes: Any of the following coloring additives made from petroleum:
 - 1. Blue 1
 - 2. Blue 2
 - 3. Green 3
 - 4. Red 3
 - 5. Red 40
 - 6. Yellow 5
 - 7. Yellow 6
 - B. Titanium Dioxide: A coloring additive in foods, medical products, and cosmetics.
 - C. Public School: A school controlled by a school district or county office of education, state special schools, and a charter school.
 - D. Neurological Disorders: Disorders that affect the brain as well as the nerves found throughout the human body and the spinal cord.
 - E. Behavioral Problems: Problems such as hyperactivity, sleeplessness, and aggression.
 - F. Immune System Complications: The Synthetic Dyes can cause immune disorders, auto immunities, and cross-re-activities causing new allergies.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: Possibility of losing state funding and support.
- Section 5. This act will hold funds to reimburse funds for the increased cost to public schools.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Vallie Deville, Jefferson County

Senate Sponsor: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County

Bill Author: Vallie Deville, Jefferson County

House Bill: 300

Senate Bill: 600

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Child Adoption Integrity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Child Adoption Integrity Act.
- Section 2. This act will ensure the adoption of a child will be for a couple that is made up of a male and a female with no previous anatomical alterations of sex organs, external or internal, concerning change of sex. This act will protect the purpose of a family and ensure proper child rearing.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Adoption: Voluntary acceptance of a child of other parents to be the same as one's own child.
B. Couple: A male and a female that have a license to be married.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in removal of the child from the illegal placement.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
A married couple must supply a marriage license with proper identification.
- Section 7. This law would repeal all laws that define a marriage as any thing other than a male and a female union and would restrict joint single adoption from non heterosexual couples.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Hannah Dreher, Kaufman County

House Bill: 301

Senate Sponsor: Caroline Wood, Bell County

Senate Bill: 601

Bill Author: Hannah Dreher, Kaufman County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Child Of Divorce Choice

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Child Of Divorce Choice Act.
- Section 2. In cases of split custody, children of 13 years and older shall be allowed to choose which parent they stay with, provided that the parent which the child chooses is both fit and willing to be the legal guardian. The child shall be allowed to decide how much visitation time, if any, they spend with the other parent.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Legal Guardian: The adult who has legal custody of the child.
 - B. Visitation Time: The Time the child spends with the parent who is not the legal guardian.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: \$200.00 fine and a warning.
 - 2nd Offense: \$300.00 fine
 - 3rd Offense: \$450.00 fine or jail time.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the government.
- Section 6. Children should not have to be stuck in an environment in which they feel miserable, just because that environment complies with all other laws.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Carolina Salas, Hidalgo County

Senate Sponsor: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

Bill Author: Carolina Salas, Hidalgo County

House Bill: 302

Senate Bill: 602

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Contact Lens Safety

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Contact Lens Safety Act.
- Section 2. This act shall protect the health and safety of contact lens patients by ensuring that contact lenses are only purchased from licensed professionals, optometrists and/or ophthalmologists. The public shall be able to report unlicensed vendors to health officials for violations.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Licensed Professionals: Only licensed professionals trained in the care and dispensing of contacts lenses such as optometrists, ophthalmologists, or their staff may sell or write prescriptions for contact lenses. This also includes vendors selling contacts under the supervision of a licensed professional.
 - B. Unlicensed Vendors: Flea markets, convenience stores, boutique stores or any unlicensed vendor may not sell contact lenses.
 - C. Health Officials: City or County Health Department Officials.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: \$250.00 fine
 - 2nd Offense: \$500.00 fine
 - 3rd Offense: Closure of business
- Section 5. This act shall require no funding, only compliance with health officials enforcement and payment of fines.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Avery Goss, Swisher County
Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County
Bill Author: Avery Goss, Swisher County

House Bill: 303
Senate Bill: 603

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Defining Emotional Support Animals on College Campuses

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Defining Emotional Support Animals on College Campuses Act.
- Section 2. This bill shall enforce paper documentations filled out by a psychiatrist specifying the necessity for an emotional support animal to be admitted on college campuses. This bill shall require college students to have a physical evaluation by a psychiatrist and supply paper documentation of the need and use of the animal.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. An Emotional Support Animal (ESA): A domesticated animal that provides psychological or emotional benefits to a person with a mental health or psychiatric disability.
 - B. Physical Evaluation: An in person evaluation by a health care professional.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Refusal to college campus without proper documentation.
- Section 5. This bill shall repeal the Fair Housing Act on defining ESA.
- Section 6. This bill will be reinforced by college campus housing authorities to verify documentation from healthcare professional that ESA is sufficiently needed for student.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Diego Salas, Hidalgo County

Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County

Bill Author: Diego Salas, Hidalgo County

House Bill: 304

Senate Bill: 604

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Expansion Of Medicaid Health Insurance for College Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Expansion Of Medicaid Health Insurance for College Students Act.
- Section 2. The Expansion of Medicaid Health Insurance for College Students Act shall provide health insurance for students over the age of 19 who have previously been covered under Texas Medicaid Health Insurance who are currently enrolled full time in a Texas higher education institution.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Texas Medicaid: Government funded insurance provided by the state of Texas for children under 19 years of age.
 - B. Higher Education Institution: Any college or community college of higher learning in the state of Texas.
 - C. Full Time Student: Any student enrolled in at least 12 hours of classes at an institution of higher learning.
- Section 4. Funding shall be provided by the federal and state government through the Medicaid program.
- Section 5. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 6. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Lani Duncan, Montgomery County

House Bill: 305

Senate Sponsor: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

Senate Bill: 605

Bill Author: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Food Allergy Awareness Training

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Food Allergy Awareness Training Act.
- Section 2. Through this act, food allergy awareness training will become mandatory for all Texas state, county, and local government employees and officials every two years. Under this law, individuals would need to undergo training to understand how to prevent, recognize, and handle allergic responses connected to food, as well as how to comply with ADA regulations for food allergies. Every ten seconds, an American with a potentially fatal food allergy—more than 33 million people—is taken to the emergency department.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Food Allergy: Food allergy is a condition in which a body’s immune system abnormally reacts to something typically safe to most people, with many reactions being fatal.
 - B. ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA Act of 1990, and ADA Amendment Act of 2008 recognizes food allergies as a disability.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in
 - 1st Offense: Fine of \$5,000 per person
 - 2nd Offense: Fine of \$15,000 per person
 - A grace period of 30 days will be permitted.
- Section 5. The training and funding will be the responsibility of Texas Health and Human Services.
- Section 6. Training records should be kept so that certifications are kept up to date since the training should be completed every two years.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Roan Nash, Brazoria County

House Bill: 306

Senate Sponsor: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County

Senate Bill: 606

Bill Author: Roan Nash, Brazoria County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Illegal Consumption Of Alcohol For Minors

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Illegal Consumption Of Alcohol For Minors Act.
- Section 2. All minors will be prohibited from consuming alcohol by this act, even if they are with their spouse or parent/guardian. Additionally, it will be forbidden for minors to consume alcohol on either public or private premises. In the state of Texas, there will never be a situation where it is acceptable for a minor to drink alcohol.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Minor: Any person under 21 years of age.
 - B. Private Property: Property that is owned by an individual or group of individuals, rather than by the government or society at large
 - C. Public Property: Property that is owned by the government or society.
- Section 4. If it is shown at the trial of the defendant that the defendant is a minor who is not a child and who has been previously convicted at least twice of an offense to which this act applies, the offense is punishable by:
- (1) a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$2,000;
 - (2) confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days; or
 - (3) both the fine and confinement.
- In addition to any fine and any order issued under Section 106.115:
- (1) the court shall order a minor placed on deferred disposition for or convicted of an offense to which this act applies to perform community service for:
 - (A) not less than eight or more than 12 hours, if the minor has not been previously convicted
 - (B) not less than 20 or more than 40 hours, if the minor has been previously convicted once
- Community service ordered under this section must be related to education about or prevention of misuse of alcohol or drugs, as applicable, if programs or services providing that education are available in the community in which the court is located. If programs or services providing that education are not available, the court may order community service that it considers appropriate for rehabilitative purposes.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government. Any revenue generated from fines will be given to the Department of Education to fund educational programs that teach about the misuse of alcohol.
- Section 6. Texas Alcohol Beverage Code § 106.04 (b) would be repealed, due to conflict with this act.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Ryder Sims, Erath County
Senate Sponsor: Caroline Wood, Bell County
Bill Author: Ryder Sims, Erath County

House Bill: 307
Senate Bill: 607

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Lower Driver License Age To 15

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Lower Driver License Age To 15 Act.
- Section 2. The main objective of this bill is to lower the minimum age for obtaining a driver license from 16 to 15 years old. This change acknowledges that a 15-year-old who can pass the driving test demonstrates the same level of driving skill and responsibility as a 16-year-old. Additionally, this adjustment addresses the increased responsibilities and extracurricular commitments of 15-year-olds, facilitating their transportation needs and alleviating logistical hardships for families.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Driver License: A legal authorization issued by the state, permitting an individual to operate a motor vehicle.
 - B. Driving Test: A standardized examination that evaluates a person’s ability to operate a vehicle safely and competently.
- Section 4. Penalties for violations of driving laws by 15-year-old drivers will be consistent with those currently applied to 16-year-old drivers. Any offenses will be subject to existing penalties, such as fines, suspensions, or revocations, as applicable under current state law.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government. No additional expenses are anticipated beyond those currently allocated for the administration of driver’s licensing and testing.
- Section 6. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will update its regulations and procedures to accommodate the new minimum age requirement. This includes modifying application processes, educational materials, and public information campaigns to inform citizens of
- Section 7. This bill does not require the repeal of any current laws. It amends the existing statute to lower the minimum age for obtaining a driver license.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Harley Mauldin, Waller County

Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County

Bill Author: Harley Mauldin, Waller County

House Bill: 308

Senate Bill: 608

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Mandatory Drug Tests For Expecting Mothers During Prenatal Care And Birth

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Mandatory Drug Tests For Expecting Mothers During Prenatal Care And Birth Act.
- Section 2. This act aims to establish comprehensive measures ensuring expecting mothers receive adequate care for themselves and their unborn child or children throughout pregnancy. It includes provisions for accessible prenatal healthcare services, educational resources on nutrition, prenatal vitamins, and regular medical check-ups. The act also promotes awareness campaigns to encourage healthy lifestyle choices, stress management techniques, and prenatal exercises. By prioritizing maternal health, this legislation seeks to reduce pregnancy complications, promote fetal development, and support the well-being of both mothers and babies.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Prenatal Care: Also known as antenatal care, is a type of preventive healthcare. It is provided in the form of medical checkups, consisting of recommendations on managing a healthy lifestyle and the provision of medical information such as maternal physiological changes in pregnancy, biological changes, and prenatal nutrition including prenatal vitamins, which prevents potential health problems throughout the course of the pregnancy and promotes the mother and child's health alike.
- B. User: Someone who is taking drugs.
- C. Child Endangerment: A crime that occurs when an adult caring for a child fails to ensure that the child is free from dangerous situations and adequately protect the child. This includes exposing the child to unjustifiable pain, suffering, or danger.
- Section 4. Failure to pass drug tests during prenatal care will result in:
1st Offense: The user shall be subjected to mandatory weekly drug tests.
2nd Offense: The user shall be subjected to a \$250 fine and a misdemeanor.
- Failure to pass a drug test during birth will result in:
1st Offense: The user shall be subjected to a felony child endangerment charge.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the healthcare providers/insurance and the mothers.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Avery Goss, Swisher County

House Bill: 309

Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County

Senate Bill: 609

Bill Author: Jasmine Price, Bell County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Medical Facilities For Rural Areas

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Medical Facilities For Rural Areas Act.
- Section 2. The main purpose of this bill is to allow rural Texans better access to medical facilities in emergency situations as well as for important medical procedures. Through building medical facilities such as hospitals and clinics, no more than thirty minutes out from rural areas in Texas, will allow rural Texans a better ability to get medical help without traveling several hours. With closer proximity, rural Texans will have more accessible health care options, that they can quickly access.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Rural: Of or relating to people who live in the country.
B. Proximity: Nearness in place, time, or relation.
C. Medical Facility: A place where sick or injured people are given treatment (such as a hospital, urgent care center, or clinic).
- Section 4. In an agreed upon contract with the construction company, the medical facility being built would be funded by the state government and thus, if the facility is not able to be completed by the assigned date (for example, three years), the government would fine the construction company a certain amount depending on the medical facility until the company finished the building. For example, if a \$500,000,000 hospital is being built and delays were to occur, the company would be fined \$1,000 daily until the building is finished. However, if the company can catch up with the due date for finishing the building, the fines would end.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government. The Army Corps of Engineers will be given the money to manage and build the medical facilities. Incentives such as tax breaks will be offered for construction companies to build the medical facilities as well as a signing bonus to incentivize medical staff to come and work in these facilities. The state would also provide money for an economic impact study to understand the financial and environmental impacts of building hospitals closer to rural areas.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Abigail Porter, Wharton County

House Bill: 310

Senate Sponsor: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County

Senate Bill: 610

Bill Author: Abigail Porter, Wharton County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Mindfulness Education And Awareness in Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Mindfulness Education And Awareness in Schools Act.
- Section 2. This act will guarantee that mindfulness lessons be offered in all Texas high schools, and that students have access to a mindfulness studio before and after school as well as during breaks. The program’s goal is to help the state’s teenage population achieve a more stable mental health status, which will result in a more acceptable adult population.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Mindfulness: A mental state achieved by focusing on one’s awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one’s feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations.
- Section 4. A fee of \$1,000 per month not being implemented until in compliance.
- Section 5. This act shall be covered by the state government in the amount of four million dollars. This money will come from the existingly established taxes from the state and local governments.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Carolina Salas, Hidalgo County

House Bill: 311

Senate Sponsor: Caroline Wood, Bell County

Senate Bill: 611

Bill Author: Oliver Dann, Hamilton County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Minor Conversion Therapy Prohibition

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Minor Conversion Therapy Prohibition Act.
- Section 2. This act shall prohibit any mental health provider from providing conversion therapy to a minor. The prohibition of conversion therapy is essential for safeguarding the mental health and well-being of minors within the State of Texas, as the practice has been widely discredited and shown to pose significant psychological risks. Conversion therapy does not mean a practice or treatment that is neutral with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity or provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a patient or client’s sexual orientation identity and gender identity.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Conversion Therapy: Any practice or treatment that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a patient or client, including mental health therapy that seeks to change, eliminate, or reduce behaviors, expressions, attractions, or feelings related to a patient or client’s sexual orientation or gender identity.
B. Minor: Any person under 18 years of age.
C. Sexual Orientation: A person’s identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are attracted.
D. Gender Identity: A person’s innate sense of gender.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
1st Offense: The suspension of a professional license for 180 days, \$1,000 fine.
2nd Offense: The revocation of a professional license, Imprisonment up to 1 year, \$2,500 fine.
3rd Offense: Imprisonment up to 5 years, \$5,000 fine.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. This act shall be enforced by The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. They shall have the authority to: (a) Investigate reported violations of this Act.
(b). Impose penalties for violations, including but not limited to fines and the suspension or revocation of licenses.
(c) Adopt and implement any necessary rules or regulations for the enforcement of this Act.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Kannon Flowers, Swisher County

House Bill: 312

Senate Sponsor: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

Senate Bill: 612

Bill Author: Kannon Flowers, Swisher County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Minor Gender Determination

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Minor Gender Determination Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure the gender for all minors is determined by medical professionals until they are considered and adult (aged 18), in order to prevent parents or guardians from making a life decision for a minor.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Minor: Anyone under the age of 18.
 - B. Gender: The characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.
 - C. Guardian: A person who looks after and is legally responsible for someone who is unable to manage their own affairs.
 - D. Parent: Mother or Father of a child.
 - E. Medical Professional: Someone who provides health services to patients.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Supervision of parental/guardian rights for 1 year.
 - 2nd Offense: Loss of parental/guardian rights for 1 year.
 - 3rd Offense: Loss of parental/guardian rights until child reaches adult age.
- Section 5. This act should be funded by the state government through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Daria Sempsrott, Travis County
Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County
Bill Author: Maggie Meeks, Dallam County

House Bill: 313
Senate Bill: 613

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Musician Protection Against Artificial Intelligence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Musician Protection Against Artificial Intelligence Act.
- Section 2. This act shall protect musicians from theft by use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.). Any person cannot deliberately use a musician’s name, voice, photo, or any other form of likeness and/or sound mimicking without the musician’s consent. The use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) to impersonate a musician can negatively impact the music industry by resulting in job losses, limiting creativity, and removing originality. Texas musicians deserve to be protected.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Artificial Intelligence (A.I.): Technology that has the capability to execute a task that until recently only humans could carry out. In this context, A.I. is a form of technology that can compose music, generate photos and videos, etc.
- Section 4. If the use of A.I. is verified, the following will take place:
1st Offense: Class B Misdemeanor, which includes up to 180 days in jail and a maximum fine of up to \$2,000. In addition, any profit made from the A.I. content must be paid to the artist that was mimicked.
2nd Offense: Class A Misdemeanor, which includes up to 365 days in jail and a maximum fine of up to \$4,000. In addition, any profit made from the A.I. content must be paid to the artist that was mimicked.
3rd Offense: The crime becomes a felony offense and the punishment is up to the discretion of the judge. In addition, profit made from the A.I. content must be paid to the artist that was mimicked.
- Section 5. Funding for this act will be provided in collaboration with the Songwriters Guild of America, the individual artists, and other like-minded organizations within the music industry through an appropriate assessment applied to any copyrighted piece of work.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Audrey Schmidt, Washington County

House Bill: 314

Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County

Senate Bill: 614

Bill Author: Audrey Schmidt, Washington County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Open Gyms For More Open Minded Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Open Gyms For More Open Minded Students Act.
- Section 2. This bill will require all public Texas high schools to offer an open gym program for students enrolled in that high school. The objective is to grant students with more opportunities for physical activity that could result in better grade point averages and enhanced focus/learning in the classroom for every student.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Public Texas High Schools: Any Texas school open to the public's youth by means of support from public funds.
 - B. Open Gym: A scheduled time for gym guests to utilize the gym space or equipment for physical activity.
 - C. Enrolled: Officially registered as a member of the institution.
 - D. Grade Point Average: A school's average testing score in each subject or GPA.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Suspension of funds allocated for all athletic facilities and new equipment.
 - 2nd Offense: Will result in a loss of government funding.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government. Fundraisers can be hosted and donations can be accepted.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:

The open gym hours can be designated by each school according to weekly schedule. Each school is required to maintain and keep the open gym functional everyday that school is open. On early release days, school cancellations, or during summer break, the school is not required to allow access to the gym. It is highly encouraged that all students enrolled in the school of the gym they are attending, have little or no cost. Students suspended from school grounds under any means will not have access to the gym until their suspension is lifted.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Roan Nash, Brazoria County

House Bill: 315

Senate Sponsor: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County

Senate Bill: 615

Bill Author: Brandon White, Johnson County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Physician-Assisted Suicide

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Physician-Assisted Suicide Act.
- Section 2. This act proposes an alternative for individuals facing capital punishment or life sentences in prison. Physician-assisted suicide is suggested as a means to potentially save taxpayer dollars and reduce long-term incarceration costs while providing a compassionate end-of-life option for those who choose it.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Capital Punishment: The legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for a crime.
 - B. Physician-Assisted Suicide: The voluntary termination of one’s own life by administration of a lethal substance with the direct or indirect assistance of a physician.
- Section 4. There are no penalties or punishments, as this bill is proposing to legalize a choice made by a criminal, who is receiving capital punishment or a life sentence.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of 1 million dollars. This money will be reallocated from the criminal justice budget death row savings.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Alice Moody, Travis County

House Bill: 316

Senate Sponsor: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

Senate Bill: 616

Bill Author: Wesley Bocanegra, Travis County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Plant Based Medicine For All

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Plant Based Medicine For All Act.
- Section 2. This act shall legalize marijuana in the State of Texas including full legalization of medical marijuana and decriminalization from recreational use.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Dried leaves and flowering tops of the Cannabis sativa or Cannabis indica plant that contains active chemicals called cannabinoids that cause psychoactive or “High” effects.
 - B. Dispensary: Any business, facility or location where marijuana is made available to, distributed by or distributed to anyone who is legally permitted to purchase, distribute or receive marijuana
 - C. Personal Use: (recreational or medical) – 8 ounces in any form (dried leaves, pill gummies, tinctures, powder, ect...)
- Section 4. Failure to comply with regulations:
 - Personal Use: Citations will be issued under current laws (driving and otherwise) for being under the influence or being in possession outside of the personal use limits. Any one person with more than the personal use amount will be charged with a Class A misdemeanor jail sentence of 180 days to 1 year and/or fines of up to \$4,000.

 - Dispensaries without a License: Temporary Business closure and up to 6 months in jail.
- Section 5. This act shall be initially funded by the state government in the amount of 2 million dollars. Additional funds to oversee licensing, compliance and regulation will come from taxes levied on dispensary activities. (see above).
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
 - This act will allow the minimum legal age for legal usage to be 21.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Julie Jones, Live Oak County
Senate Sponsor: Caroline Wood, Bell County
Bill Author: Caroline Wood, Bell County

House Bill: 317
Senate Bill: 617

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Produce Production Labeling Policy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Produce Production Labeling Policy Act.
- Section 2. This act, which will be referred to as the Produce Production Labeling Policy Act, aims to enforce the requirement that all produce sold in Texas-based stores fully disclose all of the chemicals used in its production process on its packaging or display, thereby empowering all consumers to make informed purchasing decisions.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Produce: Anything grown with the intent of human consumption directly or indirectly.
 - B. Production: The chemicals/fertilizers used at all steps of the growing process.
 - C. Labeling: The procedure to identify all details within the growing process for display prominently for consumer information where the product is being sold.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: All produce not correctly identified will be impounded and its sales point fined \$250 per pound.
 - 2nd Offense: In addition to the penalty referenced in the 1st Offense, the point of origin shall be fined \$500 per day until the labeling information is provided.
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the state government with all fines collected to continue its operation.
- Section 6. The local Health Department shall oversee the implementation of the procedures and are authorized to hire additional personnel as needed and can be supported.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Cade Parker, Schleicher County

Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County

Bill Author: Cade Parker, Schleicher County

House Bill: 318

Senate Bill: 618

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Promotion Of School Mental Health Improvement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Promotion Of School Mental Health Improvement Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to provide Texas schools with the individual power and funding in which they can hire at least one specialized mental health professional or counselor whom is trained specifically to detect, educate, and aid students in the case that mental health conditions and tendencies can be harmful to themselves or others. The goal of this bill is to enforce a stronger support system for youth in school without taking away any support for safety of the children from physical threats. By enacting this bill, schools can promote alternative methods to deal with mental health conditions without taking disciplinary actions or using improper methods of helping. Through enactment, this bill will help students to healthier lives without taking time away in the classroom for teachers or students.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Mental Health: Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community.
- B. Mental Health Professional: A mental health professional is a health care practitioner or social and human services provider who provides services in order to achieve the improvement of an individual's mental health or to treat mental disorders.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with this bill's requirements (per school year) result in:
- 1st Offense: Warning for the school district
2nd Offense: Cut of 8% for general state funding to school
3rd Offense: Cut of 15% for general state funding to school
- Section 5. This act shall be funded by the Texas State Government and enforced by Texas Education Agency (TEA) at the cost of \$10 million per year.
- Section 6. Parameters for the minimum amount of professionals should follow the limits of having 1 professional per 350 students.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Anneka Hansel, Collin County
Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County
Bill Author: Anneka Hansel, Collin County

House Bill: 319
Senate Bill: 619

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Protect The Unhoused

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Protect The Unhoused Act.
- Section 2. This act shall introduce a program to help unhoused individuals, the program will be known as the Housing for the Unhoused program. This would enable unhoused individuals or families, to turn their life around by providing housing to them, free of charge up to five (5) years, while they work on their own to gather enough funds to provide housing for themselves. The program will use housing units that have been on the market and vacant for at least two (2) years.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Unhoused: Someone who is lacking a permanent, stable, safe, and functional housing or place of residence.
 - B. Hidden Homeless: An unhoused individual that has to resort to couch surfing or staying with someone. Because of this, they are not included in statistics regarding the unhoused population, while still being unhoused.
 - C. Housing Unit: A housing unit is a single unit within a larger structure that can be used by an individual or household, is fully functional, and can be used to eat, sleep, and live. The unit can be in any type of residence, such as a house, apartment, or mobile home, and may also be a single unit in a group of rooms.
- Section 4. All law enforcers that go against this act or discriminate against unhoused individuals will face the following consequences:
 - 1st Offense: \$250.00 Fine
 - 2nd Offense: \$500.00 Fine
 - 3rd Offense: \$1000.00 FineAll money from collected fines will go towards the program.
All participants in the program who is not a minor has to actively work towards obtaining financial and housing stability. If they do not, then their stay at their provided housing unit, gets shortened to two (2) years.
- Section 5. The main purpose of this act to end homelessness. That being said, the only requirements to qualify for this program, is that you are in the state of Texas, and have been unhoused within the last seven (7) days of applying for the program.
- Section 6. This act will be funded by the state government, by divesting in military and weaponry, and into the program.
- Section 7. H.B. No. 1925 Is hereby repealed after the passing of this act.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Abigail Porter, Wharton County
Senate Sponsor: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County
Bill Author: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County

House Bill: 320
Senate Bill: 620

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Restaurant Truth In Labeling Of Seafood

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Restaurant Truth In Labeling Of Seafood Act.
- Section 2. This act shall ensure that all seafood products served in restaurants are labeled properly. This shall include the correct species name, the Country-of-Origin information for both harvest and packaging, and whether the product was farm-raised or wild-caught. A USDA research found that 15% or so of the seafood provided is not what it is advertised to be. This involves the substitution of alternative species and the improper labeling of imports from outside of the United States. This act ensures the safety of consumers by allowing them to be educated in their purchases, guarantees they receive what they pay for, and protects the Texas aquaculture and fisheries industries from foreign competition.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Aquaculture: The rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: \$5,000 fine
 - 2nd Offense: \$7,000 fine
 - 3rd Offense: \$10,000 fine
- Section 5. The act shall be funded by the state government in the amount of \$1,000,000 and enforced by the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of State Health Services Consumer Protection Division.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Kannon Flowers, Swisher County

House Bill: 321

Senate Sponsor: Caroline Wood, Bell County

Senate Bill: 621

Bill Author: Aidan Hill, Moore County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Senior Food Security

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Senior Food Security Act.
- Section 2. Currently, 700,000 seniors in Texas who are 50 years of age or older face food insecurity. The Texas Department of Agriculture now offers help to seniors only who are 60 years of age or older. It does not permit the selection of food based on a person's specific health needs. This bill suggests lowering the eligibility age to 50 in order to address senior health issues more effectively and offer dietary options tailored to each person's needs.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. A Senior: For the purpose of this bill, is defined as a person age 50 and older.
B. Food Insecurity: Defined as having a consistent lack of access to sufficient amounts of healthy food.
- Section 4. There will be no penalties of punishments associated with this bill.
- Section 5. Currently the Texas Department of Agriculture receives approximately \$30,000,000 from the United States Government for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program which funds food boxes for seniors 60 and older. An additional \$30,000,000 from the general tax revenue will need to be allocated to expand the program for seniors aged 50-59. The issue of food choice can be addressed within the current budget by offering a wider variety of food instead of a standard box for everybody.
- Section 6. An advisory committee of individuals who specialize in knowledge of senior nutrition and how it impacts chronic health conditions will need to be formed to give guidance for food selection choices.
- Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Harley Mauldin, Waller County

Senate Sponsor: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

Bill Author: Wes Shaw, Donley County

House Bill: 322

Senate Bill: 622

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Social & Emotional Well-Being Of Farmers & Ranchers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Social & Emotional Well-Being Of Farmers & Ranchers Act.
- Section 2. This legislation will enhance farmers’ and ranchers’ mental and social health. Due to rising debt and declining income, farmers and ranchers are particularly vulnerable to mental health problems such as stress, anxiety, depression, and suicide. Therefore, by approving a measure that offers free mental health counseling by a certified professional counselor of the farmer’s or rancher’s choosing to those who seek counseling services, the Texas Legislative Body will promote social and emotional well-being.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Mental Health: A person’s condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being
 - B. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC): A mental health services provider with a master’s degree in mental health counseling or clinical psychology, who have passed a national counselor examination and completed supervised counseling programs.
- Section 4. This initiative is voluntary and would not be required in order to receive traditional operating funds for yearly production.
- Section 5. Funding for the counseling services provided by the LPC will be received from the Texas State Department of Health Services. Farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to choose their own provider.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law..



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Bonnie Reese, Lamb County

House Bill: 323

Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County

Senate Bill: 623

Bill Author: Bonnie Reese, Lamb County and Lilliana Lange, Bexar County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Social Media Regulation For Minors

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Social Media Regulation For Minors Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this act is to ensure that minors be protected by limiting their ability to access, create, maintain, or manage social media accounts, by requiring a government-issued ID to be submitted proving their age before creation would be permitted. This act is intended to promote the social, academic, and mental well-being of all you in Texas, as well as protect youth from the possibility of trafficking due to social media interactions
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Sex Trafficking: The action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
 - B. Social Media: Websites and applications that that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
 - C. A Document: Allows a citizen to identify themselves and is considered valid by authorities.
- Section 4. Failure to ensure proper documentation from users by the social media website will lead to a fine of 10,000 to the social media company per offense.
- Section 5. Any funding necessary to implement these provisions is the responsibility of the social media company.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Addison Engquist, Comal County

House Bill: 324

Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County

Senate Bill: 624

Bill Author: Jackson Skelton, Montgomery County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Temporary Support For Aged-Out Foster Youth

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Temporary Support For Aged-Out Foster Youth Act.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Act is to provide temporary financial, educational, and housing support to individuals who age out of the foster care system in Texas, ensuring a smoother transition to independent living and reducing the risk of homelessness, unemployment, and other adverse outcomes.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Aged-Out Foster Youth: Refers to individuals who were in the foster care system and have reached the age of 18 without being adopted or reunited with their biological families.
 - B. Support Services: Includes financial assistance, educational grants, vocational training, housing support, and mental health services.
 - C. Department: Refers to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).
- Section 4. To be eligible for support under this Act, an individual must:
- 1. Be between the ages of 18 and 23.
 - 2. Have aged out of the Texas foster care system.
 - 3. Be a resident of Texas.
 - 4. Be enrolled in or actively seeking enrollment in an educational or vocational program, or actively seeking employment.
- 1. The Department will be responsible for the implementation and administration of this program.
 - 2. The Department will establish a dedicated unit to manage applications, disburse funds, and monitor compliance.
 - 3. An annual report will be submitted to the Texas Legislature detailing the program's outcomes and effectiveness.
- Section 5. FUNDING PROVISIONS:
- 1. Eligible individuals will receive a monthly stipend of \$500 for living expenses.
 - 2. The stipend will be available for up to 24 months, with a possible 12-month extension based on demonstrated need and compliance with program requirements.
- 1. Eligible individuals will have access to academic support services provided by the Department in collaboration with educational institutions and non-profit organizations.
 - 2. Academic support services will include:
 - a. Tutoring and mentoring programs to assist with coursework and study skills.
 - b. Academic counseling to guide educational planning and career paths.
 - c. Access to libraries, study centers, and other academic resources.
 - 3. Educational workshops and seminars will be offered to enhance skills such as time management, effective study habits, and test preparation.
 - 4. The Department will establish partnerships with Texas public colleges, universities, and vocational programs to provide on-campus support services specifically designed for aged-out foster youth.
- 1. The Department will collaborate with local housing authorities and non-profit organizations to secure affordable housing for eligible individuals.
 - 2. Housing assistance will cover up to 70% of rental costs for up to 24 months.
 - 3. Transitional housing programs will be developed to provide temporary shelter and support services.
- 1. Mental health services, including counseling and therapy, will be provided at no cost to eligible individuals.
 - 2. The Department will ensure access to a network of licensed mental health professionals.
- 1. Funding for this program will be allocated from the Texas General Revenue Fund.
 - 2. The Department is authorized to seek additional funding through federal grants, private donations, and partnerships with non-profit organizations.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:



Section 11: Sunset Clause

A. This Act will remain in effect for a period of 5 years from the date of enactment, after which it will be subject to review and renewal by the Texas Legislature.

B. This Act shall take effect on September 1, 2024.

Section 7. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 8. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Daria Sempsrott, Travis County

House Bill: 325

Senate Sponsor: Esther Groot, Bandera County

Senate Bill: 625

Bill Author: Daria Sempsrott, Travis County and Esther Groot, Bandera County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Texas Dog Safety & Accountability Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Texas Dog Safety & Accountability Act
- Section 2. Texas cities have a responsibility to safeguard the health and safety of all citizens, including protecting them from aggressive dogs. When cities knowingly re-home dogs that have violently attacked and caused harm, they should be held accountable for endangering public safety if another attack occurs. Without accountability, there is a risk of repeated life-threatening attacks on innocent children and adults. This legislation enables citizens to pursue legal action against city governments that knowingly re-home dogs with histories of violent attacks. The bill also mandates that all dogs must be restrained when outside their owner's property, either on a leash or under direct supervision, to prevent them from roaming freely.
- Section 3. Definitions:
- A. Dogs: Privately owned domestic mammals of the family Canidae and the order Carnivora.
 - B. Roam-at-large: Roam free of restraint or confinement.
 - C. Aggressive Dogs: Dogs that have violently bitten citizens, causing serious wounds and injuries, requiring intervention to stop the attack.
 - D. Liable: Held accountable in a court of law through legal action.
 - E. Re-home: To place an animal in a new home with different owners.
 - F. Injury: Deep, bloody bites or tearing caused by an animal.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
- 1st Offense: \$10,000 fine + medical and legal fees of victim and compensation as determined by a judge or jury.
 - 2nd Offense: \$100,000 fine + medical and legal fees of victim and compensation as determined by a judge or jury.
 - 3rd Offense: \$1,000,000 fine + medical and legal fees of victim and compensation as determined by a judge or jury.
- Section 5. This act will not need to be funded by city governments except for the minor cost of handling the aggressive dogs. If the law generates funds, the funds generated by the fines donated to private shelters as well as spay and neuter programs.
- Section 6. Special Instructions:
- Detailed documentation of any violent attacks should be kept in a database in order to not only protect the citizens of Texas, but also hold the cities of Texas accountable. If an attack occurs, a knowledgeable panel of three persons should deliberate on whether re-homing is in fact possible, or if the dog should be removed from society permanently. If the offense is deemed minor enough to re-home, the new owners/foster parents of the dog must be informed in writing and in detail of all previous incidents or attacks.
- Section 7. This act if passed nullifies any previous laws if applicable of city liability for dog attacks.
- Section 8. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 9. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Julie Jones, Live Oak County
Senate Sponsor: Lydia Browne, Ellis County
Bill Author: Julie Jones, Live Oak County

House Bill: 326
Senate Bill: 626

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Unborn Child Protection Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Unborn Child Protection Act
- Section 2. This law will guarantee that anyone performing an unlawful abortion in Texas will be prosecuted for first-degree murder, unless the woman’s life is in jeopardy. This will demonstrate that an unborn child, or fetus, is still a living human being. This will further demonstrate that, since an unborn child is not your body, terminating it is not your decision.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Abortion: A termination of a pregnancy by removing the embryo or a fetus.
 - B. First-degree Murder: Intentional killing of a subject that is punishable by life in prison or death.
- Section 4. Failure to comply will result in:
 - 1st Offense: Charging all parties intentionally involved with First-Degree Murder.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Everett Snoddy, Johnson County

House Bill: 327

Senate Sponsor: Piper Boyd, Bosque County

Senate Bill: 627

Bill Author: MaryJo Riley, Walker County

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Welfare Recipients Shall Participate In Drug Screening

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Welfare Recipients Shall Participate In Drug Screening Act.
- Section 2. Texas will mandate that recipients from specific welfare programs be denied benefits if they reject or fail the required drug test. As a result, impoverished households who are working toward financial stability and independence from the state’s welfare program will be able to access welfare funding.
- Section 3. Definitions:
A. Drug Screening: The term “drug screening” means an interview, questionnaire, or other screening instrument approved by the State, that is designed to be used to determine whether an individual has a high risk of abuse of a controlled substance.
- Section 4. Loss of welfare benefits for entire household and ineligible for the following 12 months and the requirement of a negative drug screening.
- Section 5. This act will be funded by the state government. Texas Health and Human Services will be responsible for managing the funds and the program.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

House Sponsor: Kenzie Hobbs, Milam County
Senate Sponsor: Ansley Kubecka, Matagorda County
Bill Author: Spencer Acker, Castro County

House Bill: 328
Senate Bill: 628

*A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT*

Youth Cottage Food Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 4-H YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

- Section 1. This act shall be known as the Youth Cottage Food Act.
- Section 2. This act will provide guidelines for young people starting a cottage food business. A cottage food business run by a young person twenty-one years of age or under must comply with Texas Health and Safety Code Section 437.0191-437.0195, with the exception of the following:
 - 1) The only information that needs to be listed on packaging labels is the youth cottage operation’s name and zip code.
 - 2) The customer can order meals from the operator by mail order or internal system without having it delivered in person.
 - 3) A food handler’s certificate is only needed for youth once every four years. A young person may be put in jeopardy if their place of residence is included and if personal delivery is required.
- Section 3. Definitions:
 - A. Youth: A person that is under the age of twenty-one.
 - B. Cottage Food Operation: A person who follows health and safety guidelines for at home food production and sales.
 - C. Label: Required information that must be included on food when sold.
- Section 4. Failure to comply with this act would result in the product not being allowed to be sold or distributed in the state of Texas.
- Section 5. Any necessary funding to be provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) as required.
- Section 6. All laws and statutes in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
- Section 7. This act shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.



Thank You

to the

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Texas Farm Bureau
c/o McKenna Bush
P.O. Box 2689
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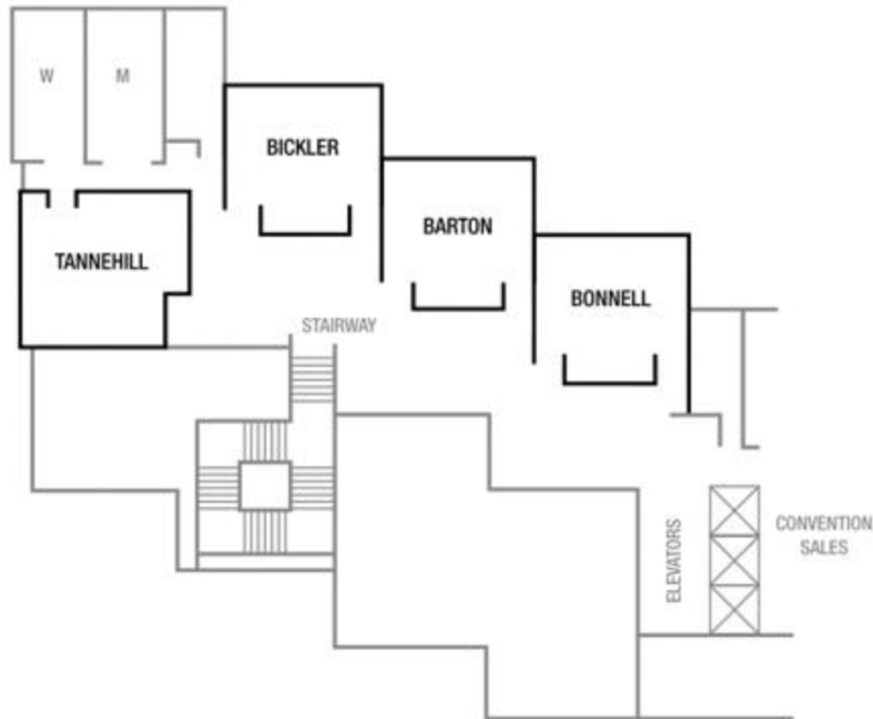
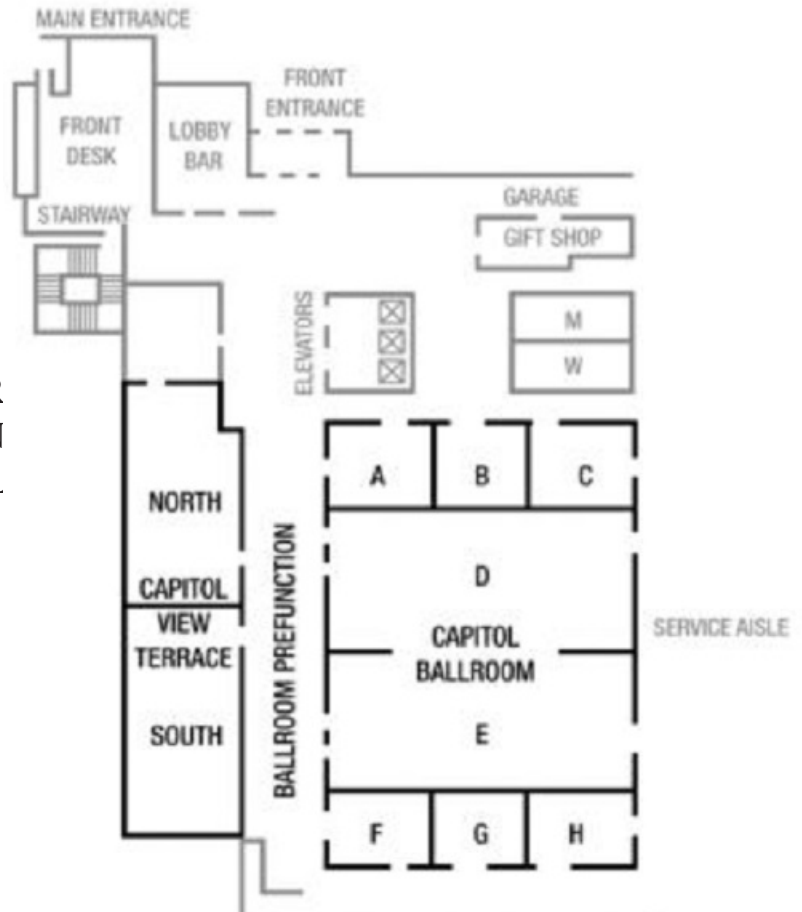
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DOWNRIGHT AUSTIN HOTEL FLOORS 3 & 4

MAP: DOWNRIGHT AUSTIN HOTEL

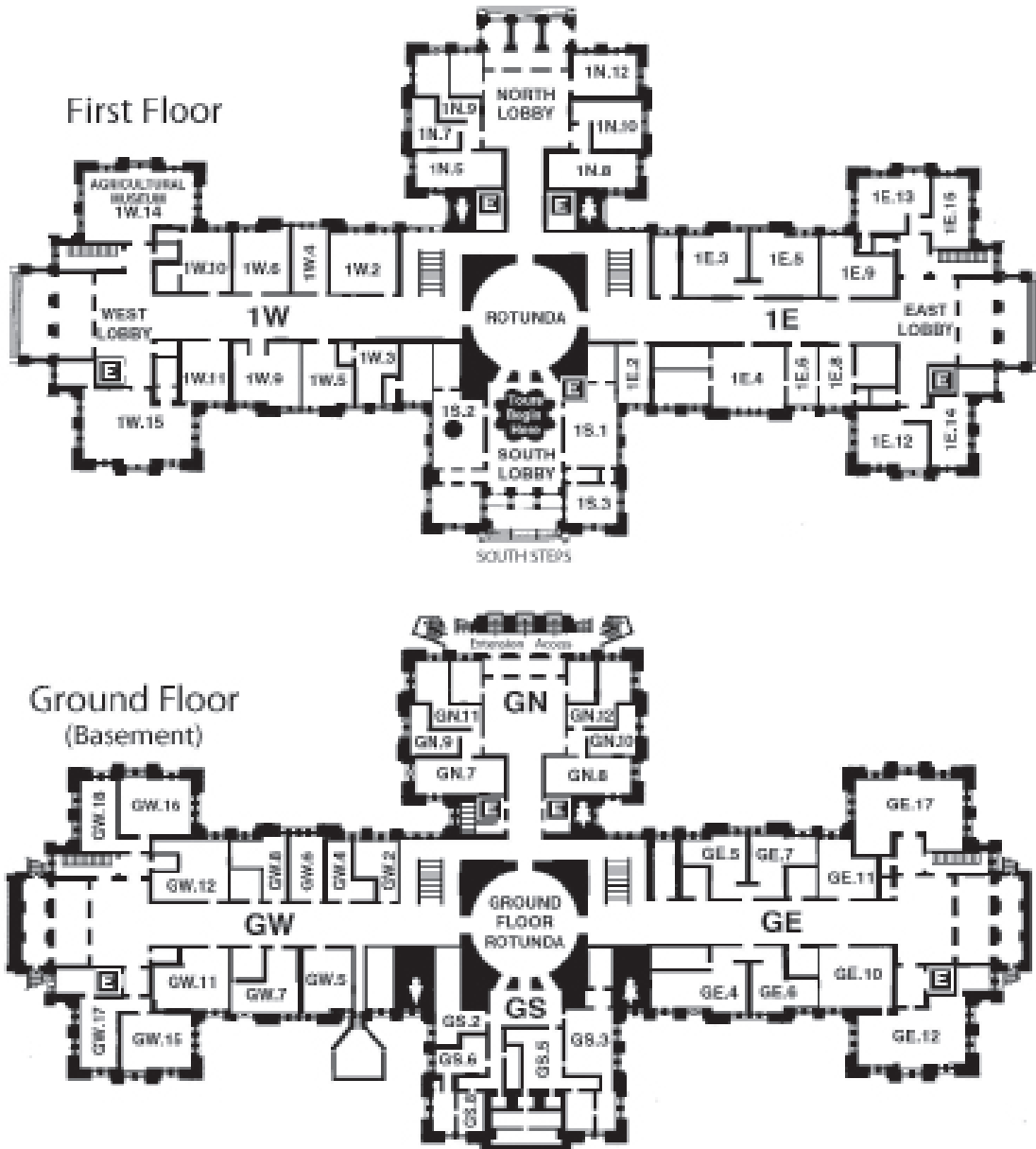
3RD FLOOR
DOWNRIGHT AUSTIN
HOTEL



4TH FLOOR
DOWNRIGHT AUSTIN
HOTEL



CAPITOL BUILDING FLOORS 1 & GROUND

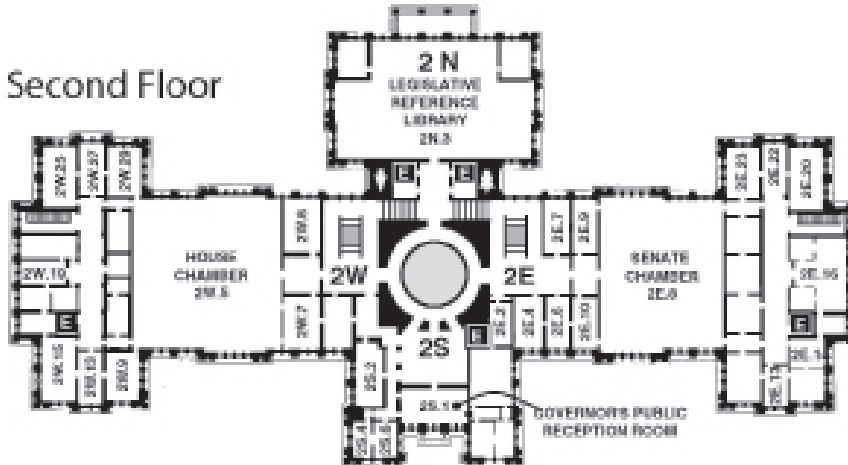


MAP: TEXAS STATE CAPITOL



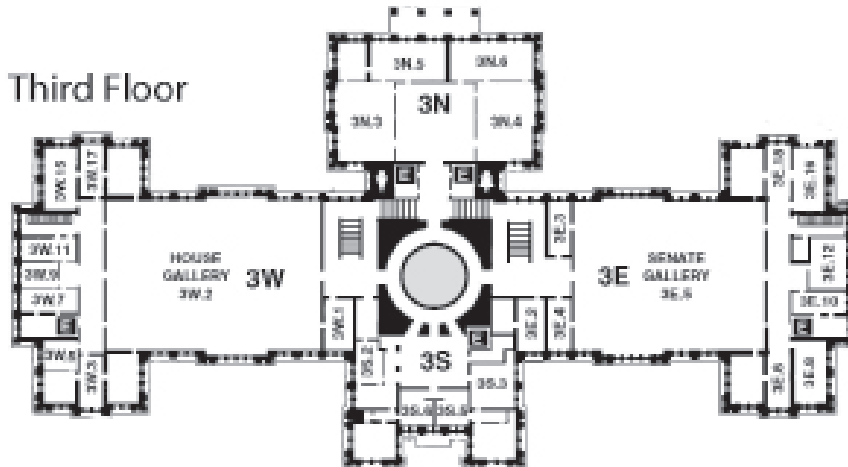
CAPITOL BUILDING FLOORS 2, 3 & 4

Second Floor

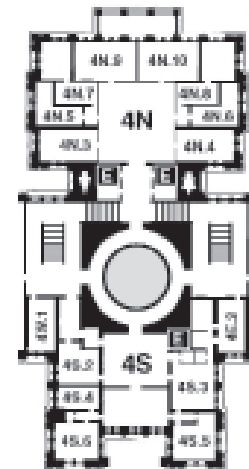


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Third Floor



Fourth Floor





CAPITOL EXTENSION GUIDE FLOOR E2

Extension
Second Floor (E2)

State Representatives Offices
E2.200 through E2.900's

