



87th State Legislative Session Update

Jeff Coyle

Government & Public Affairs

February 10, 2021

CURRENT STATUS

- FOUR WEEKS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED
- STATE'S BASE BUDGET HAS BEEN FILED; DISCUSSIONS IN THE SENATE STARTED THIS WEEK
- BILLS HAVE YET TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES



Governor Greg Abbott is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red tie with thin blue and white stripes. He is speaking at a podium, with his right hand raised in a gesture. The background features a large red outline of the state of Texas with the words "STATE OF THE STATE" in white capital letters. The scene is lit with blue and purple stage lights.

STATE
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FEBRUARY 1, 2021

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY ITEMS

- Expanding broadband access
- Reform the bail bond system
- Penalize cities that defund the police
- Uphold election integrity
- Civil liability protections



Governor's Budget Highlights

- **DSHS IT Infrastructure:** Support to improve Infectious Disease IT and laboratory infrastructure
- **State Hospitals:** Requesting continued investment to improve state's mental health infrastructure.
- **Broadband:** Increase access to low income communities and underserved areas

SPEAKER PHELAN

HOUSE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Veteran lawmakers replaced - 12 members appointed as first time Chairs
- 13 Democrat Chairs
- 21 Republican Chairs
- Diversity in Chairmanships

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS



**Corrections Committee
Ways & Means Committee**

**Trey Martinez Fischer
Dist. 116**



**Chair - Urban Affairs Committee
Higher Education Committee**

**Philip Cortez
Dist. 117**

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS



Leo Pacheco
Dist. 118

Vice Chair - Higher Education Committee
General Investigating Committee
Licensing & Admin. Procedures Committee



Liz Campos
Dist. 119

Public Health Committee
Urban Affairs Committee

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS



Vice Chair - Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee
Local & Consent Calendars Committee

Barbara Gervin-Hawkins
Dist. 120



Public Education Committee
Public Health Committee

Steve Allison
Dist. 121

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS



Lyle Larson
Dist. 122

International Relations & Economic Dev.
Natural Resources Committee



Diego Bernal
Dist. 123

Public Education Committee
Urban Affairs Committee

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS



Ina Minjarez
Dist. 124

Appropriations Committee
Redistricting Committee
Urban Affairs Committee



Ray Lopez
Dist. 125

County Affairs Committee
Defense & Veteran's Affairs Committee

COSA PRIORITIES



POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

HB 1087 (Gervin-Hawkins)

Authorize the Police Chief to discipline officers within 180 days of discovering misconduct

HB 1561 (Gervin-Hawkins)

Create opportunities to encourage new officers to live in the City in which they serve

HB 1563 (Gervin-Hawkins)

Allow the release of conduct violations held by a law enforcement agency

HB ? (pending)

Limiting an arbitrator to reduce discipline, as determined by the Police Chief

COSA PRIORITIES



POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Community Meeting: Collaboration with Representative Gervin-Hawkins

- GPA and City Attorney staff presented legislative priorities and briefed attendees on City's dual path to police accountability

Legislator Meeting(s): Offering language to bills that enact penalties for Reducing Police Funding

“(f) this statute does not apply to determinations by a county or municipal government to reassign services to other departments or agencies if those services do not require a public safety response from a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical service.”

COSA PRIORITIES



PUBLIC HEALTH

- DSHS proposed 5% budget cuts: City Impact
 - Reduction in staffing impacting COVID response; infectious disease control
 - Reduction in IT infrastructure critical to investigations/contact tracing
 - Reduction in testing and testing supplies related to STD/HIV/TB

MEDICAID EXPANSION

- Medicaid expansion continues to be a conversation by Members of both parties.

OPINION

Larson: Past time for Texas to expand Medicaid

Lyle Larson, For the Express-News

Feb. 3, 2021 | Updated: Feb. 3, 2021 11:07 a.m.



COSA PRIORITIES



BROADBAND

- SB 506 (Nichols)/HB 1446 (Ashby)
 - Aim to expand access to critical broadband services
- On-going conversations with AT&T and Charter Communications

COSA PRIORITIES

LOCAL DECISION MAKING

- TML Weekly Meetings
- City Departments Analyzing Hundreds of Bills
- Coordinating with consultants and other cities on relevant legislation



Why Texas cities need lobbyists to represent them in Austin

We are the mayors of Fort Worth, Balch Springs and Arlington, and our representatives in Austin play important roles for citizens.

BILLS OF INTEREST / ADVOCACY

- **SB 1 (Nelson)** DEAAG Funding - \$30M
- **HB 872 (Bernal)** Confidentiality of SAWS Customer Information
- **HB 891 (Bernal)** No-Cost Birth Certificates for Homeless Individuals
- **HB 1685 (Cortez)** Electronic Court Reporter



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