



# 87th State Legislative Session Update

Government & Public Affairs

March 10, 2021

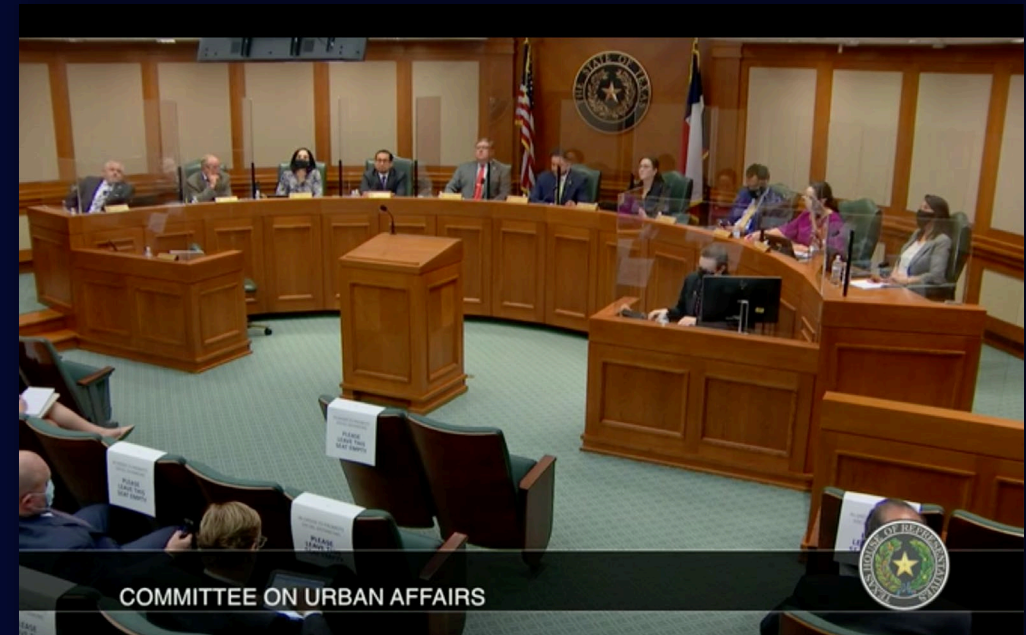
# CURRENT STATUS

- BILL FILING DEADLINE - FRIDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>
- BILLS FILED TO DATE
  - House - 3,528
  - Senate - 1,330
- BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ARE NOW MEETING TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION



# CITY OF SAN ANTONIO INVITED TESTIMONY

- HOUSE COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS
  - Dr. Colleen Bridger  
*COVID-19 impact on cities*
- HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
  - Carlos Contreras  
*COVID-19 impact on tourism*



# COSA PRIORITIES

Referred  
to House  
Urban  
Affairs



## 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 1940 (Gervin-Hawkins)

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

# COSA PRIORITIES



## PUBLIC HEALTH

- DSHS has requested restoration of its 5% cuts and testified as such to Senate Finance and House Appropriations
- Medicaid expansion continues to be a conversation by Members of both parties with numerous bills on the subject, for example:
  - HB 1730 (Larson) Directs HHSC to provide for – and adopt rules implementing – Medicaid eligibility to all persons who apply for assistance and for whom federal matching money is available.
  - HJR 86 (Larson) Constitutional amendment that puts the question to the voters at an election to be held November '21

# COSA PRIORITIES



## BROADBAND

### HB 5 / SB 5 (Ashby/Nichols)

*Relating to the expansion of broadband services to certain areas*

- Establish a Broadband Development Office that will develop the state broadband plan
- Require the existing governor's broadband council to form long-term strategies to promote access across the state
- Map the quality of internet connections in Texas annually

# COSA PRIORITIES



## LOCAL DECISION MAKING

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- **HB 3 (Burrows)** Texas Pandemic Response Act
- **HB 1656 (Murphy)** If in conflict, governor's disaster order prevails over local disaster order
- **HB 2239 (Gates)** Business/landlord don't have to pay any state or city taxes if disaster order limits their operation or authority
- **SB 26 (Paxton)** Government can't close places of worship during disaster

### Community Censorship

- **HB 749 (Middleton) / SB 234 (Hall)** Prohibit political subdivision from hiring lobbyists



# WINTER STORM ACTIVITY

- **House and Senate Committee Hearings**
- **Speaker Phelan announced first phase of reforms with filing of priority bills that aim to:**
  - "Weatherize" the state's energy infrastructure
  - Create a statewide alert system
  - Improve communication between state agencies
  - Define authority during extreme weather events



# BILLS OF INTEREST / ADVOCACY

- **HB 652 (Paul)** Animal Shelters
- **HB 872 (Bernal)** Confidentiality of SAWS Customer Information
- **HB 1869 (Burrows)** Tax-supported debt (like COs) that isn't voter approved must be financed through M&O tax rate instead of debt service
- **SB 639 (Menendez)** Open meetings Act/Virtual Meetings
- **HB 2365 (Lopez)** Reimbursement for military medical treatment facilities (BAMC)

# BILLS OF INTEREST / ADVOCACY

## ELECTIONS

- Limits on Debt Elections
  - HB 35 and HB 330 - Turnout and vote margin thresholds
  - HB 664 - Debt elections only in November
- Ballot Language Review
  - HB 782 - SOS review of home rule city ballot language
- Partisan City Elections
  - HB 2092- Partisan candidacy required for city elections



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