

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE









Presenters:

- *Bennett Sandlin, Executive Director*
- *Scott Houston, General Counsel*
- *Snapper Carr, Focused Advocacy*

Introduction

| Session | Total Filed | Total Passed | City Related | City Related |
|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2011 | 6,303 | 1,410 | 1,500+ | 160+ |
| 2013 | 6,061 | 1,437 | 1,700+ | 220+ |

The Cutting Room Floor

- Appraisal/revenue caps
- “Transparency”
- Tree preservation preemption
- Annexation authority
- Permit vesting law.
- Plastic bags and payday/auto title lenders preemption
- Billboards relocation
- Oil/gas wells and pipelines preemption
- gas and electric utility rate case participation/jurisdiction
- Online publication of legal notices
- Firearms/CHL bills



Property/Sales Tax

- **H.B. 97/H.J.R. 24 (Perry/Van de Putte)** – Disabled veteran property tax
- **H.B. 1597 (N. Gonzalez/Hinojosa)** – Delinquent property tax installment payments for elderly/disabled
- **S.B. 1510 (Hinojosa/Hilderbran)** – Simplified method of publishing notice of property tax rates to replace the method in current law
- **H.B. 3572 (Hilderbran/Williams)** – Mixed beverage sales taxes

Purchasing

- **H.B. 194 (Farias/Hinojosa)** – Veteran with at least a 20-percent service-connected disability eligible to be listed as a HUB
- **H.B. 1050 (Callegari/Fraser)** – Construction Contracts:
 - Using coop to purchase construction-related goods or services through a purchasing cooperative in an amount greater than \$50,000
 - If a change order for a public works contract in a city with a population of 300,000 (current law is 500,000) or more involves a decrease or an increase of \$100,000 or less, governing body of the may delegate general authority to an administrative official to approve

Elections

- **H.B. 259 (Simmons/Paxton)** – Electioneering:
 - prohibits a city that owns a building used as a polling place from restricting electioneering during early voting and on Election Day, including the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature on the building's premises outside the prescribed limits
 - allows a city to enact reasonable regulations concerning the time, place, and manner of electioneering



Open Government



- **H.B. 2414 (Button/Deuell)** – Open Meetings Act
videoconferencing: a member or employee of a governmental body may participate remotely in a meeting of the governmental body by means of a videoconference call if the video and audio feed is broadcast live at the meeting and complies with the provisions of the bill
- **S.B. 1297 (Watson/Branch)** – Open Meeting Act: Electronic communications using online message board
- **S.B. 1368 (Davis/Alvarado)** – Public Information Act: All electronic communications subject to Act, including “by an individual officer or employee of a governmental body in the officer’s or employee’s official capacity and the information pertains to official business of the governmental body”

Misc Admin

- **H.B. 1734 (Gutierrez/Uresti)** – Calling special meeting in Type A City
- **H.J.R. 87 (Muñoz/Hinojosa)** – Vacancies: will authorize a home rule city with terms of office of more than two years to provide in its charter the procedure for filling a vacancy on the governing body for which the unexpired term is 12 months or less
- **S.B. 637 (Paxton/Flynn)** – Transparency in city debt
- **S.B. 656 (Paxton/Button)** – Transparency in city budget and tax rate adoption

Municipal Court

- **S.B. 181 (Hegar/Guillen)** – Proof of financial responsibility on wireless communication device
- **S.B. 390 (West/Lewis)** – Court Costs: all new legislatively-enacted criminal costs become effective on January 1 following the legislative session
- **S.B. 393 (West/Lewis)** – Juvenile Offenders
- **S.B. 394 (West/Herrero), S.B. 1114 (Whitmire/Herrero), S.B. 1234 (Whitmire/Price), S.B. 1419 (West/Lewis)** – Juveniles

Community and Economic Development

- **H.B. 674 (Ratliff/Carona)** – Zoning notice to school district
- **H.B. 3159 (Isaac/Zaffirini)** – Emergency services district sales tax allocation
- **S.B. 837 (Ellis/Bohac)** – Adopts more detailed nuisance abatement authority
- **S.B. 985 (Zaffirini/Isaac)** – Authorizes use of broker for sale of real property

Personnel

- **H.B. 483 (Aycock/Fraser)** – Employment contract payouts
- **H.B. 1951 (S. Thompson/Carona)** – Telecommunicators training



- **H.B. 3739 (Burnam/Garcia)** – Employee candidate: a city may not prohibit a city employee from becoming a candidate for public office

Public Safety

- **H.B. 625 (Harper-Brown/Carona)** – (Front) license plates
- **H.B. 912 (Gooden/Estes)** – Restriction of drone use
- **H.B. 970 (E. Rodriguez/Deuell)** – Cottage food regulation
- **H.B. 1382 (Simpson/Deuell)** – Farmers' markets
- **H.B. 1813 (Lucio/Hinojosa)** – Fireworks in unopened package
- **S.B. 1400 (Estes/Geren)** – Possession of air guns

Utilities and Environment

- **H.B. 4 (Ritter/Fraser)** – State Water Plan funding: Provides a mechanism to fund the State Water Plan
- **S.J.R. 1 (Williams/Pitts)** – State Water Implementation Fund: Establishes a special revolving fund in the state treasury called the state water implementation fund to be used only to fund water infrastructure projects included in the State Water Plan
- **H.B. 1025 (Pitts/Williams)** – Makes a supplemental state appropriations of \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund to the Texas Water Development Board to finance projects in the state water plan
- **H.B. 1600 (Cook/Nichols), S.B. 567 (Watson/Geren)** – Water Rates: Transfers functions relating to the economic regulation of water and sewer service from TCEQ to PUC

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **JUNE 17 Legislative Wrap-Up:
DoubleTree Hotel • Austin**



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