

Update on the 87th Texas Legislature

TCAA Summer Conference

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2021 Introduction

- A tough 2019 led to TML focus on grassroots efforts
- Impact of increased partisanship and politicizing local issues heading into 2021
 - Pandemic response
 - Policing
 - Elections
- Community advocacy threat



87th Legislature Timeline

- Early session impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Slow start with limited public access
 - COVID tests, masks, wristbands
 - Focus on basics (budget, redistricting, pandemic response, etc.)
 - Limited member interaction
- Winter Storm Uri shifted the focus
 - Refocus of state priorities
 - Utility weatherization and securitization
- Session ended with walkout in House
 - Meltdown at critical deadline
 - Special session(s) looming

Governor Abbott Priorities

- **HB 5 - Statewide Broadband Plan**
- **SB 2 - ERCOT Reform**
- **SB 3 - Power Grid Reform**
- **SB 6 - COVID -19 Liability Protections**
- **SB 7 - Election Integrity**
- **SB 21 - Bail Reform**
- **HB 1900/SB 23 - Defunding law enforcement**

Lt. Governor Patrick Priorities

SB 1 – State Budget

SB 2 – ERCOT Reform

SB 3 – Power Grid Stability

SB 4 – National Anthem at Sporting Events

SB 5 – Statewide Broadband Plan

SB 6 – COVID-19 Liability Protections

SB 7 – Election Integrity

SB 8 – Fetal Heartbeat Bill

SB 9 – Abortion Ban Trigger

SB 10 – Community Censorship

SB 11 – Appellate Court Reorganization

SB 12 – Social Media Censorship

SB 13 – Oil & Gas Investment Protection

SB 14 – Preemption of Local Ordinances on Employment Practices

SB 15 – Ban Sale of Personal Data from State Agencies

SB 16 – Protect State-Held Personal Data



Patrick Priorities, Cont.

SB 17 – Trucking Liability

SB 18 – Protect Second Amendment Businesses

SB 19 – Stop Corporate Gun Boycotts

SB 20 – Second Amendment Protections for Travelers

SB 21 – Bail Reform

SB 22 – COVID Presumption for First Responders

SB 23 – Law Enforcement Defunding

SB 24 – Law Enforcement Hiring Process

SB 25 – Family Nursing Home Visitation Rights

SB 26 – Protecting Places of Worship

SB 27 – Expanding Virtual Learning Options

SB 28 – Charter School Equity

SB 29 – Transgender Athletes and UIL Sports

SB 30 – Ending Discriminatory Deed Restrictions

SB 31 – Senate Redistricting



87th Legislature by the numbers

- 6,927 bills filed 2,156 bills tracked (31%)
- 1,073 bills passed 247 bills tracked passed
- 1,429 bills passed (86th Legislative Session)

Special Sessions

- July 8th
 - **Election integrity**
 - Border security
 - Transgender athletes
 - Bail Reform
 - Critical race theory ban
 - Social media censorship
 - Article X funding
 - **Property tax relief**
- Fall 2021
 - Redistricting
 - Distribution of state ARPA funding

Cutting Room Floor

- Community censorship
- Sales tax sourcing
- Partisan city elections
- Preemption of city regulation of state licensees
- Expansion of videoconferencing and teleconferencing under TOMA
- Land development shot clock expansion
- ETJ removal
- Mandatory sick leave
- Chickens, rabbits, and bees
- Omnibus disaster authority during pandemic
- Extension of Chapter 313 incentives
- Preemption of city employment regulations
- Expanded liability for ballot language

Property Tax

- **H.B. 1869** – Modifies definition of “debt” for property tax rate calculation purposes; intended to limit certificates of obligation
- **S.B. 1438** – Limits scope of disaster tax rate calculation provisions from S.B. 2
- **H.B. 988** - Class A misdemeanor for city official to communicate with chief appraiser to influence appraised value of property
- **S.B. 742** – Local option installment payments for business-owned property damaged in disaster

Pandemic and Disaster Response

- **S.B. 6** – Limits liability of both first responders and cities, among many others, relating to exposure to pandemic disease
- **S.B. 22** – COVID-19 workers comp presumption for first responders
- **H.B. 2073** – Paid quarantine leave for first responders
- **S.B. 877** – Third party building inspections during disaster
- **S.B. 968** – Wellness checks on medically-fragile individuals

Community and Economic Development

- **H.B. 5** – Establishes state broadband office and state broadband plan
- **H.B. 1925** – Public camping ban
- **H.B. 2404** – Cities must report Ch. 380 agreements to comptroller for inclusion in online database

Public Safety and Defunding

- **H.B. 1900** – No police defunding for cities over 250,000 population
- **H.B. 1927** – Unlicensed handgun carry
- **H.B. 1069** – First responders carrying handguns
- **H.B. 929** – Body worn cameras
- **S.B. 24** – Hiring procedures for law enforcement agencies
- **S.B. 69** – Duty to intervene and ban on chokeholds

Land Use

- **H.B. 738** – Cities must use 2012 or newer versions of International Residential Code and International Building Code
- **H.B. 1929** – City waives immunity for ETJ development agreements
- **S.B. 374** – City may annex across road if county or TxDOT doesn't object
- **S.B. 1168** – No city fines or fees in areas of ETJ that have been disannexed or that voted down annexation

Winter Storm Uri Response

- **S.B. 3** – Utility preparedness and weatherization for electric generation and transmission facilities; also impacts water utilities
- **H.B. 4492** – Electric market financing following Winter Storm Uri
- **H.B. 17** – prohibits city limitations on utility services based on source of energy delivered to end-user

Questions?

- Stay engaged for special session!
- Look for bill summaries and in-depth analysis of specific bills in TML *Legislative Update*