

## Texas Special Session Update

July 20, 2017

Only three days into the special-called session, the Texas Legislature is moving at lightning speed – or half of it is. In the wee hours of this morning, the Senate gave final approval to Senate Bills 20 and 60, the “sunset” bills which would extend the life of a handful of state agencies, including the Texas Medical Board. Those two bills have been received in the House. Following the Senate’s passage of the “sunset” legislation, Governor Abbott issued a second proclamation to add 19 items to the special session agenda. The proclamation can be found [here](#). Governor Abbott expanded the call to increase teacher pay by also asking legislators to increase benefits for educators, including TRS-Care, the healthcare plan for Texas’ retired teachers. Multiple bills have already been filed in both the House and Senate related to TRS-Care.

The Senate has scheduled multiple hearings for Friday through Sunday, and plans to hear each item on the Governor’s call before the full Senate reconvenes on Monday at 9 a.m. A list of those hearings with agendas can be found [here](#).

Moving at a slower, steadier pace, the Texas House is adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m. Yesterday afternoon, the House Committee on State Affairs voted out House Bill 1, the lower chamber’s version of the “sunset” bill. House Calendars Chairman Todd Hunter indicated that the bill would be eligible for consideration by the full House on Monday. The bill is expected to pass on final reading on Tuesday. Also on Tuesday, the House Appropriations committee is scheduled to take up HB 2, which relates to the funding of the Texas Medical Board and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, two agencies set to expire on September 1, 2017 if not extended by the special-called legislature. The Appropriations committee is also set to discuss the 1115 Waiver renewal and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) reauthorization, as well as potential impacts to Texas as it relates to federal action on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Items of which were not placed on the Governor’s call.

Expect the pace of the Senate to remain fast and furious as Lt. Governor Dan Patrick aims to push all items on the call through his chamber and over to the House, despite protests from Democratic members. Speaker Joe Straus’ intentions for the additional 19 special session items are still unknown, and the House will continue to be the wild card it was during the regular session. However, it appears that the “slow and steady wins the race” mantra will continue to be utilized by the meticulous monarch of the lower chamber.

As a recap, the modified call list is below and includes the respective Senator(s) and Representative(s) chosen to carry each issue, as well as important bills to watch. This list will be updated as bills continue to be filed.

Called Item	Senate Bill & Author	House Bill & Author
Sunset legislation	SB 20 by Van Taylor (passed Senate) SB 60 by Van Taylor (passed Senate)	HB 1 by Larry Gonzales HB 2 by Larry Gonzales
Teacher pay increase of \$1,000		
TRS-Care increase		HB 20 by Ashby
Administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention	SB 19 by Nelson	HB 198 by Clardy
School finance reform commission	SB 16 by Larry Taylor	HB 191 by Phil King

School choice for special needs students	SB 2 by Larry Taylor	HB 52 by Simmons HB 58 by Simmons
Property tax reform, including rollback elections	SB 1 by Bettencourt SB 93 by Bettencourt SB 96 by Bettencourt	HB 3 by Dennis Bonnen HB 4 by Dennis Bonnen HJR 35 by Dennis Bonnen
Caps on local spending (limit growth in local spending to no more than the growth of population and inflation)	SB 18 by Estes	HB 206 by Villalba
Caps on state spending	SB 9 by Hancock	HB 41 by Schofield HB 208 by Parker
Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with trees on private land	SB 14 by Hall	HB 70 by Workman
Preventing local governments from changing rules midway through construction projects	SB 12 by Buckingham	HB 188 by Bell
Speeding up local government permitting process	SB 13 by Burton	HB 164 by Workman
Municipal annexation reform	SB 6 by Campbell	HB 6 by Huberty
Preventing local entities from passing their own texting-while-driving bans	SB 15 by Huffines	HB 171 by Goldman
Restrictions on school bathroom use for transgender students	SB 3 by Kolkhorst SB 91 by Kolkhorst	HB 46 by Simmons HB 50 by Simmons
Prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues	SB 7 by Hughes SB 94 by Hughes	HB 156 by Isaac
Prohibition of taxpayer funding to subsidize health providers that also perform abortions	SB 4 by Schwertner	HB 14 by Springer HB 163 by Springer
Requiring women to get separate insurance policies to cover non-emergency abortions	SB 8 by Creighton	HB 214 by Smithee
Strengthening abortion reporting requirements when health complications arise	SB 10 by Campbell SB 85 by Campbell	HB 13 by Capriglione HB 195 by Capriglione
Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders	SB 11 by Perry SB 80 by Perry	HB 12 by Greg Bonnen HB 43 by Greg Bonnen
Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud	SB 5 by Hancock	HB 184 by Goldman
Extending maternal mortality task force	SB 17 by Kolkhorst SB 82 by Kolkhorst	HB 9 by Burkett HB 11 by Thierry HB 51 by Thierry HB 59 by Walle

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