



TFCA – End of Session Report, 89th Legislative Session

June 10, 2025

TFCA Legislative Committee
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Overview

We began the 89th Legislative Session with a projected \$24 billion budget surplus, a Senate whose makeup was nearly unchanged from the previous one, and a House without a speaker and with a slate of far-right freshmen. Representatives ushered in by the previous speaker's attempt to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton. Rep. Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) was able to win the speakership and guided the House through a much less tumultuous session than we've seen in recent years. He did so by supporting the priorities of the Governor (overseeing the passing of private school vouchers and bail reform) and the Lt. Governor (supporting a full ban on THC statewide and agreeing to the Lt. Governor's preference for an additional increase in the homestead exemption rather than prioritizing business exemptions). However, in doing so, he may have undermined his relationship with House Democrats, who were essential in his speakership win. A clearer picture will emerge as the dust settles on what will likely be considered a low-energy legislative session.

One positive outcome is that the issue doesn't appear contentious enough to justify a special session (fingers crossed).

Keep in mind that the governor's veto period ends 20 days after the session ends (for most bills), which means that Governor Abbott has until Sunday, June 22nd to still take action on most of the legislation discussed here.

Major Session Issues

- **Water (Emergency Item)** – The Governor touted a “generational investment” in water. What ultimately passed was a restructuring of TWBD's oversight of water funding, a one-time cash infusion of \$2.5B and an additional \$1B each year for a decade.
- **Bail Reform (Emergency Item)** – A Republican push to prevent certain accused criminals from obtaining bail faltered in the House and most components of the multi-pronged legislative package ultimately passed.
- **Private School Vouchers/Teacher Pay (Emergency Item)** – This has been a top priority for the Governor since the previous session and led to contentious Republican primary battles last year. With Speaker Burrows on board, the bill did pass, though there does seem to be outstanding issues regarding the ultimate price tag.
- **Property Tax Reform (Emergency Item)** – A perennial issue at the Capitol, this session the homestead exemption was increased to \$140,000 and the exemption for business personal property was increased to \$125,000.
- **Abortion** – Another perennial issue, this time Republicans actually passed legislation to clarify the options that a doctor has to save the life of a pregnant woman, which the medical community has said was unclear after the sweeping 2023 legislation.

- **Lottery** – Following the disclosure of a major loophole that some organized interests were using to game the Lottery (pun intended), the Lt. Governor threatened to eliminate the Lottery Commission. However, the House ultimately saved the Lottery itself by moving it over to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and prohibiting the use of “lottery couriers”.
- **Banning/Restricting THC** – In 2021 the Legislature authorized agricultural hemp production and the sale of products with certain limited THC concentrations. As the retail industry exploded (estimates are that 55,000 jobs have been created in Texas as a result of that legislation) there has been a growing concern that loopholes are being abused. A strict ban on THC became a top priority for the Lt. Governor early in the session, while the House called for a narrower approach. Ultimately, the full ban won out and will go into effect in September.

The Texas fire service did pretty well this session, partly thanks to the thousands of hours TFCA and other fire service organizations like TSAFF, TFMA, SFFMA, and SAFE-D put in. Not everything we collectively wanted, but we didn’t lose anything for the most part. More importantly, the bad bills that stood to have a significant impact on us died or didn’t go very far. Special thanks to TDEM, TIFMAS, TAMFS, TEEX, TSFMO, TDI, TCFP, DSHS, and TML.

Below is a list of bills TFCA worked on in some capacity throughout the session. We may have missed one, as there were almost 9,000 bills filed this session. Some links will take you directly to the bill, others will take you to the bill’s landing page. From there, you can tab to the specific element of the bill you want to review. Most of the meat for these bills will be found under the “Text” tab. If searching for a specific bill number, search in the **Legislature: 89th(R)** session in the drop-down menu. [Link to Texas Legislature Online](#)

Fire Service

Passed

- [**HB 198 \(Bumgarner\)**](#) – Periodic health screening for firefighters.
- [**HB 331 \(Patterson\)**](#) – Presumption relating to myocardial infarction or stroke. (8-Hour Presumption)
- [**HB 554 - \(L.Wilson\)**](#) - Relating to the sale of fireworks on and before the Juneteenth holiday.
- [**HB 1593 \(Campos\)**](#) - Relating to an advisory committee to study suicide prevention and peer support programs in fire departments in this state.
- [**HB 1639 \(Patterson\)**](#) - Relating to a study on the increased cancer incidence in female firefighters in this state.
- [**HB 1899 \(Longoria\)**](#) - Relating to the required age for a license or permit relating to the conduct of a public fireworks display.
- [**HB 2513 \(Tepper\)**](#) - Relating to a paid leave of absence for public employees serving as fire protection personnel who are engaged in certain military service.
- [**HB 2713 \(Darby\)**](#) - Relating to the repeal of a municipal civil service system for firefighters and police officers in certain municipalities.
- [**HB 3000 \(King\)**](#) - Relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.
- [**HB 3135 \(Smithee\)**](#) - Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for retired firefighters.
- [**HB 3594 \(Lujan\)**](#) - Relating to the administration of a retirement health care plan for firefighters and police

officers in certain municipalities.

- [**HB 3687 \(Harless\)**](#) - Relating to certification requirements for a fire marshal and any related employee, officer, inspector, and investigator appointed by certain counties and emergency services districts.
- [**HB 3732 \(Alvarado\)**](#) – Fire department compliance with Fire Commission standards.
- [**HB 4144 \(Turner\)**](#) - Relating to supplemental benefits for retired firefighters and peace officers diagnosed with certain diseases or illnesses.
- [**HB 4464 \(Gonzalez, Mary\)**](#) – Provision of workers’ compensation during mutual aid operations.
- [**SB 1321 \(Hagenbuch\)**](#) - Relating to compensation and leave for certain peace officers.
- [**SB 767 \(Sparks\)**](#) - Relating to creating a database of the firefighting equipment in the state available for use in responding to wildfires.
- [**SB 996 \(Nicols\)**](#) - Relating to fireworks sales to the public by retail fireworks permit holders on certain dates.
- [**SB 1177 \(Alvarado\)**](#) - Relating to fire safety inspections at public and private schools. (Note: The identical HB 4685 (Leach) failed, no impact on SB 1177, which passed)
- [**SB 2065 \(Huffman\)**](#) - Relating to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System.
- [**SB 2778 \(Hinojosa\)**](#) - Relating to the amount of an expenditure that an emergency services district employee may pay without board approval.
- [**SB 2786 \(Creighton\)**](#) - Relating to the exemption from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative for certain students who are public officers or employees.

Died

- [**HB 1701 \(Flores\)**](#) - Relating to the administration and enforcement of a county fire code.
- [**SB 1898 \(Johnson\)**](#) – Restricting the use of firefighting foams containing PFOS.
- [**HB 2098 \(Martinez\)**](#) – Relating to applicability of the civil service system for municipal firefighters and police officers and sheriff's departments.
- [**HB 2369 \(Patterson\)**](#) – Workers’ compensation adjudication and claims payment.
- [**HB 4685 \(Leach\)**](#) – Fire safety inspections at public schools. (Identical SB 1177 passed)

Government Operations

Passed

- [**HB 21 \(Gates\)**](#) - Relating to housing finance corporations; authorizing a fee. Many cities, counties, and ESDs have already been negatively impacted by this situation. Here is a [video](#) that explains some of the problems.
- [**HB 2488 \(Bell\)**](#) - Relating to conducting certain contested case hearings under the Texas workers'

compensation system by remote communication.

- [**SB 1844 \(Paxton\)**](#) - Relating to disannexation of certain areas of a municipality for failure to provide services.
- [**SB 2965 \(Creighton\)**](#) – Specifying processes and standards for emergency services provided by a municipality in annexed area previously served by an ESD. It requires a service plan to be approved and includes TML’s arbitration language.

Died

- [**SB 2485 \(Bettencourt\)**](#) – Live broadcasts and archived recordings of certain open meetings.
- [**HB 19 \(Meyer\)**](#) – Requiring voter approval for certain ad valorem tax increases.
- [**HB 23 \(Harris\)**](#) – Authorizing municipal inspections by third-party inspectors.
- [**HB 134 \(Meyer\)**](#) – Location of sale for sales tax purposes.
- [**HB 3897 \(Bell, Cecil\)**](#) – ESD territory annexed by a city.

Government-Funded Lobbying

A considerable number of bills were filed this session that would either restrict or ban the hiring of a state-level lobbyist by a governmental entity. [**SB 19**](#) by Sen. Middleton was the most sweeping bill that moved through the process, ultimately failing to receive a hearing in the House. The right wing of the Republican Party continued to pursue the issue and highlight it as the session wound down. Here are additional bills focused on the issue:

Passed

- [**HB 223 \(Capriglione\)**](#) – Requires an RFP process for any lobbyist hired by a governmental entity.

Died

- [**HB 309 \(Leo Wilson\)**](#) – Use of a lobbyist by a political subdivision.
- [**HB 1189 \(Troxclair\)**](#) – Use of a lobbyist by a political subdivision.
- [**HB 1294 \(Patterson\)**](#) - Use of a lobbyist by a political subdivision.
- [**SB 239 \(Middleton\)**](#) - Use of a lobbyist by a political subdivision.
- [**HB 571 \(Cain\)**](#) – Use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying.
- [**HB 671 \(Shaheen\)**](#) - Use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying.
- [**HB 755 \(Spiller\)**](#) – Requirements applicable to public entities that engage in lobbying.
- [**HB 3615 \(Schatzline\)**](#) - Use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying.
- [**SB 1695 \(Hall\)**](#) - Use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying.

Other

Passed

- [**SB 1858 \(Hagenbusch\)**](#) – Eligibility for bulletproof vest and body armor grant program.

Died

- **HB 41 (Hefner)** – Prohibiting the use of certain drones manufactured, or containing components, from specified countries.

Bill Statistics – 89th Legislative Session as of June 10, 2025

The following is final bill passage data for the 89th Legislative Session. Final bill “passage” means passed by both chambers and sent to the governor. This document does not include vetoes as the veto period continues through late June. During the 89th Legislative Session, we saw a decrease in overall bill filing in both chambers as compared to last session’s record high. However, the number of filed bills was not substantially different. Passage rates in both chambers were generally in line with historic trends, though more Senate bills did pass than we have seen in recent sessions. Based on a very slow start by the House, expectations were that the overall bill passage rate (both chambers combined) would fall this session, but the ultimate rate was slightly lower than the previous two sessions.

Bill Passage Data (bills only, does not include resolutions)

*Texas Legislative Research Library Report as of 6/10/251 & 2025 data sourced directly from Texas Legislature Online

House Bills	89th Session (2025)	88 th Session (2023)	87 th Session (2021)
Filed	5,647	5,413	4,671
Passed	619	743	581
Passage Rate	10.96%	13.72%	12.40%
Senate Bills			
Filed	3,028	2,633	2,256
Passed	594	502	413
Passage Rate	19.61%	19.07%	18.30%
All Bills			
Filed	8,675	8,046	6,927
Passed	1,213	1,245	994
Passage Rate	13.98%	15.47%	14.40%

End of Report –
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