



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
02/08/25
PHTA

GOVERNOR

Governor Delivers State of the State Speech – On Sunday, February 2nd, Governor Greg Abbott delivered his State of the State speech at the Arnold Oil Company facility in Austin. Arnold Oil Company is an 85-year-old family business that supplies auto products, lubricants, and power equipment. Many State Senators and State Representatives in the audience. Governor Abbott said, “It means something to be a Texan. No state offers the opportunity that Texas provides. Texas is the most powerful economy in America. Ranked as the best state for doing business for 20 years, Texas is No. 1 for the most new jobs, No. 1 for economic development, and No. 1 as the best state to start a new business. Texas is the blueprint for America’s future. We rank No. 1 for technology and innovation and No. 1 for semiconductors that power the things you use every day. We created a Space Commission to boost space exploration in Texas, from NASA, to SpaceX, to Blue Origin, and beyond. And we added new

business courts that swiftly deal with complex business litigation. Business is booming so much that we now have our own stock exchange, the Texas Stock Exchange. It will make Texas the financial capital of America. Clearly, God has blessed Texas, and the state of our state has never been better. But we know that more must be done to ensure that prosperity reaches every Texas family and every Texas business. That's why I created the Small Business Freedom Council to require all state agencies to slash rules, fees, and regulations. It's why we will keep state spending below constitutional limits and why we must cut your taxes." Governor Abbott announced seven emergency items that the legislature can start work on immediately.

They are:

- Property Tax Relief
- Investment in Water
- Teacher Pay
- Expanding Career Training
- School Choice
- Bail Reform
- Texas Cyber Command

Abbott Praises President Trump's Executive Order on Women's Sports – On February 5th, Governor Greg Abbott issued a statement following President Donald Trump signing an Executive Order protecting women's sports in America. He said, "Today is a historic day for female athletes across the country who have worked tirelessly to compete at the highest level. President Trump's Executive Order prohibiting biological men from competing in women's sports will safeguard the integrity of women's sports, and I am proud to have joined the President at the White House for this historic signing. Female athletes across the nation can be assured that fairness will be protected."

Governor Issues Executive Order Banning DEI in State Agencies – On January 31st, Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order directing all Texas state agencies to eliminate any forms of DEI policies and to treat all people equally regardless of race. Governor Abbott said, "DEI agendas divide us rather than unite us and have no place in the state of Texas. These radical policies deviate from constitutional principles and deny diverse thought. Every Texan is equal under the law, including the state and federal Constitutions, both of which prohibit government discrimination based on race. That is why I directed all state agencies to eliminate any form of DEI attempting to divide Texans. We must always reject race-based favoritism or discrimination and allow people to advance based on talent and merit."

[Here](#) is the governor's executive order.

SENATE

The Senate was in session on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

On Wednesday, the Senate recognized Texas Wildlife Association, Maverick County Day, and Booker T. Washington High School in Houston.

They took up:

SB 2 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would be the Texas Education Freedom Act and would institute **education savings accounts**. *During hours of debate 19 floor amendments were adopted. It passed to Third Reading by a vote of 19 to 11; and received final approval by a vote of 19 to 12. The “no” votes were all the Democrats and Senator Robert Nichols (R-Nacogdoches).*

The Texas Senate Democratic Caucus issued a statement saying, “Today, Senate Democrats were united in their strong opposition to SB 2, which would create an ‘Education Savings Account’ program. This latest voucher scheme siphons off billions of taxpayer dollars for private vendors without requiring the transparency, accountability or anti-discrimination standards our public schools must follow.”

The Senate recessed until 11:00 a.m. on Friday for reading and referral of bills and then adjourned until Tuesday.

Next Week: The Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

HOUSE

The House was in session on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week.

On Thursday, the House appointed and swore in the permanent officers of the House including:

- Parliamentarian Sharon Carter
- Assistant Parliamentarian Thomas Samuels
- Chief Clerk Stephen Brown
- Sergeant at Arms Kara Coffey
- Doorkeeper Alec Degadillo
- Committee Coordinator Stacy Nicchio
- Journal Clerk Jennifer Teigen Doran
- Executive Director of the House Business Office Steven Adrian
- Assistant Director of the House Business Office Scott Siebert

Speaker Burrows Announces Additional Staff – On February 3rd, Speaker Dustin Burrows announced additional senior and policy staff assignments in the Office of the Speaker. Sydney Watts will serve as Director of Administration and Kimberly Carmichael as Press Secretary. Under the direction of Jimmy Skipton, General Counsel and Policy Director, and alongside Andrew Blifford, Director of Finance, and individuals who will compose the Speaker's policy department and provide specialized expertise in their assigned subject areas to the Speaker, his administration, members of the House, and their staff.

Next Week: The House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

TRACKED LEGISLATION

[HB 1133](#)

Relating to the authority of a property owners' association to prohibit or regulate certain swim instruction provided in a pool on an owner's or resident's property.

Author: Carrie Isaac

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

[HB 1245](#)

Relating to a prohibition on the use of water on nonresidential property to irrigate nonfunctional turf during a drought.

Author: Vikki Goodwin

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

[SB 63](#)

Relating to the licensing and regulation of child swim instruction operators; requiring an occupational license; imposing penalties, including administrative penalties; authorizing fees.

Author: Judith Zaffirini

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

[SB 100](#)

Relating to the issuance of a license by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to certain out-of-state applicants; authorizing a fee.

Author: Bob Hall

Last Action: (11/12/2024) – Filed

Key Dates – 89th Legislative Session

- 89th Legislative Session Begins: January 14, 2025
- Inauguration of US President – January 20, 2025
- Bill Filing Deadline: March 14, 2025
- 89th Legislative Session Ends: June 2, 2025
- Governor’s Veto Deadline: June 22, 2025

Keep Track of the Texas Legislature

To keep track of bills or access legislative information for this or previous sessions, visit [Texas Legislature Online \(TLO\)](#).

To learn more about the Texas State Senate and its activities, visit the [Texas State Senate](#) website.

To learn more about the Texas House of Representatives and its activities, visit the [Texas House of Representatives](#) website.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Texas Legislative newsletter. We look forward to providing weekly news and information important to each of you while working to make the 89th Legislative Session a very successful one for PHTA!

Sincerely,

Jake Posey and Steve Koebele
Texas Pool & Spa Coalition (TPSC) Lobbyists