



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
02/15/25
PHTA

GOVERNOR

On February 12th, Governor Greg Abbott celebrated the announcement by the New York Stock Exchange, part of Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (NYSE: ICE), of plans to launch NYSE Texas, a fully electronic equities exchange to be headquartered in Dallas. Governor Abbott said, “Texas is the most powerful economy in the nation, and now we will become the financial capital of America. With the launch of NYSE Texas, we will expand our financial might in the United States and cement our great state as an economic powerhouse on the global stage. I thank the New York Stock Exchange for choosing Texas. Working together, we will continue to advance pro-growth economic policies that allow entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive and will make Texas stronger and more prosperous than ever in the history of our great state.”

ICE announced the reincorporation of NYSE Chicago in Texas and the renaming of NYSE Chicago as NYSE Texas, pending regulatory approval. On Monday, Governor Abbott met with NYSE: ICE Founder, Chairman, and CEO Jeffrey Sprecher and NYSE Group President Lynn Martin to discuss the launch of NYSE Texas and the new economic opportunities NYSE: ICE will provide to Texas and global businesses.

SENATE

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

On Tuesday, the Senate conducted routine business. They commemorated Tarrant County Day, University of Houston Day, Texas State Technical College Day, Rockwall County Day; and they welcomed the British Consul General and a delegation from the United Kingdom, and Texans for Vaccine Choice.

On Wednesday, the Senate celebrated Coastal Bend Day, Panhandle Day, Chambers County Day, and Pasadena Day; commemorated the centennial of National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors; and recognized the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student Visionaries.

On Thursday, the Senate paid tribute to Dean Judith Zaffirini in honor of her birthday. They recognized Harmony Public Schools, and the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Then they took up:

SB 4 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would increase the school district **residence homestead exemption** from \$100,000 to \$140,000. (this is the enabling bill for SJR 2) *It passed by a vote of 30-0.*

SJR 2 by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) would propose a constitutional amendment increasing the school district **residence homestead exemption** from \$100,000 to \$140,000. (the enabling bill is SB 4) *It passed by a vote of 30-0.*

Senator Paul Bettencourt said, "Today, the Texas Senate delivered a win for homeowners statewide. By passing SB 4 and SJR 2, we are putting real dollars back into the pockets of Texans while ensuring our schools remain fully funded. The average homeowner will see an estimated annual savings of nearly \$363. During Senate Committee testimony, Charles Scoma of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature highlighted the significance of this relief, noting that 80 percent of Texas seniors live on just \$36,000 of disposable income annually. He estimated that 80-90 percent of Texas seniors will pay no property taxes at all. In 2023, the Texas Senate delivered a tax cut of \$1,266.30 for the average homeowner. When tax cuts from 2023 and 2025 are combined, homeowners will be receiving a total tax cut of \$1,762.87. Senators from both sides of the aisle understand that when an increased Homestead Exemption and more compression are combined, homeowners

receive maximum tax relief benefit. In 492 school districts, the 140k Homestead exemption will mean the average homeowners will pay no school property taxes in 49 percent of state school districts. With today's passage, the Texas Senate has made it clear: more property tax reduction is on the way!"

Next Week: The Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

HOUSE

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

On Tuesday, the House conducted routine business. They honored Miss Texas 2024; and they recognized Tarrant County Day, Texas State Technical College Day, Bastrop County Day, University of Houston Day, Jacksonville Leadership Day, Athens Day, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority Day, Cuero Chamber Day, Texas Independent Automobile Dealers Association, and Texans for Vaccine Choice.

On Wednesday, the House recognized Panhandle Day, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Day, Chambers County Day, Coastal Bend Day, Angelina County Day; honored Leadership Boerne, and Black Heart Association; commemorated the 100th anniversary of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors; and took up two memorial resolutions.

On Thursday, the House took up memorial resolutions; and recognized Uvalde County Day, City of West Day, Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; and commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Stark County Memorial Hospital. Then Speaker Burrows called on the clerk to read House Committee assignments.

Speaker Burrows Announces House Committee Assignments

On February 13th, Speaker Dustin Burrows announced committee assignments for the 89th Texas Legislature, following an extensive process of meeting individually with House members regarding their committee preferences and legislative priorities. These assignments reflect careful consideration of members' expressed preferences, expertise, committee seniority, and ability to make the greatest impact on behalf of their constituents and the state of Texas. Speaker Burrows said, "Assigning members to committees is among the most significant and intricate responsibilities of the Speaker - one that demands thoughtful consideration and a delicate balance of many factors. This process is much more than filling seats; it's about structuring the House in a way that allows each member to contribute their expertise where it truly makes a difference. There is no small role in the committee process, as each plays a unique part in shaping statewide policy. I am grateful to every member who shared their input with me and thank

my colleagues in advance for the work they will undertake this session. Taking the time to get this right was not just necessary - it is what Texans deserve of their government, and I am confident these appointments will position the House for a productive, successful session.” Key Highlights of Speaker Burrows’ Committee Assignments:

In a reflection of the House’s Republican majority, for the first time in Texas history, every standing House committee of a regular session will be chaired by a Republican.

Speaker Burrows has tied the record for the most Republican committee chairs in Texas House history with 30 Republican chairs.

All standing committees and subcommittees are comprised of Republican majorities.

Under the House Rules for the 89th Legislature, the number of standing House committees was reduced to 30 to enhance government efficiency and streamline committee jurisdictions where possible.

Also Announced:

Deans of the House:

Tom Craddick (R-Midland)

Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston)

Speaker Pro Tempore

Joe Moody (D-El Paso)

House Committee and Subcommittee Chairs

Agriculture and Livestock - Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City)

Appropriations – Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood)

Calendars – Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi)

Corrections – Sam Harless (R-Spring)

Criminal Jurisprudence – John Smithee (R-Amarillo)

Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice – David Cook (R-Mansfield)

Culture, Recreation & Tourism – Will Metcalf (R-Conroe)

Delivery of Government Efficiency – Giovanni Capriglione (R-Southlake)

Elections – Matt Shaheen (R-Plano)

Energy Resources – Drew Darby (R-San Angelo)

Environmental Regulation – Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa)

General Investigations – Keith Bell (R-Forney)

Higher Education – Terry Wilson (R-Georgetown)

Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans’ Affairs – Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant)

Subcommittee on Defense & Veterans’ Affairs – Philip Cortez (D-San Antonio)

House Administration – Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth)

Human Services – Lacey Hull (R-Houston)

Insurance – Jay Dean (R-Longview)
Intergovernmental Affairs – Cecil Bell, Jr. (R-Magnolia)
Subcommittee on County and Regional Government – David Spiller (R-Jacksboro)
Subcommittee on State-Federal Relations – Carl Tepper (R-Lubbock)
Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence – Jeff Leach (R-Allen)
Subcommittee on Family & Fiduciary Relationships – Harold Dutton (D-Houston)
Land & Resource Management – Gary Gates (R-Rosenberg)
Licensing & Administrative Procedures – Dade Phelan (R-Nederland)
Local & Consent Calendars – Jared Patterson (R-Frisco)
Natural Resources – Cody Harris (R-Palestine)
Pensions, Investments & Financial Services – Stan Lambert (R-Abilene)
Public Education – Brad Buckley (R-Salado)
Subcommittee on Academic & Career-Oriented Education – Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin)
Public Health – Gary VanDeaver (R-New Boston)
Subcommittee on Disease Prevention & Women’s & Children’s Health – James Frank (R-Wichita Falls)
Redistricting – Cody Vasut (R-Angleton)
State Affairs – Ken King (R-Canadian)
Subcommittee on Telecommunications & Broadband – Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas)
Trade, Workforce & Economic Development – Angie Chen Button (R-Garland)
Subcommittee on International Relations – John Lujan (R-San Antonio)
Subcommittee on Workforce – Oscar Longoria (D-Mission)
Transportation – Tom Craddick (R-Midland)
Subcommittee on Transportation Funding – Terry Canales (D-Edinburg)
Ways & Means – Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas)
Subcommittee on Property Tax Appraisals – Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie)

[Here](#) is a list of House committee assignments by committee.

[Here](#) is a list of House committee assignments by member.

Next Week: The House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 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: (2/3/2025) - Referred to Business & Commerce

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: (2/3/2025) - Referred to Business & Commerce

SB 1119

Relating to liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities.

Author: Bryan Hughes

Last Action: (2/5/2025) - 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