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TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
03/02/25
PHTA

GOVERNOR

Governor Abbott Asks Texas Rangers to Investigate Texas Lottery

On February 24th, Governor Greg Abbott directed the Texas Rangers to investigate two incidents involving the Texas Lottery, including a bulk purchase of lottery tickets in April 2023 and the recent \$83.5 million win through a courier service. Governor Abbott said, “Texans must be able to trust in our state's lottery system and know that the lottery is conducted with integrity and lawfully. Today, I directed the Texas Rangers to fully investigate these incidents

and identify any potential wrongdoing. Texans deserve a lottery that is fair and transparent for everyone.”

Earlier this month, a single winning ticket for the \$83.5 million drawing was purchased through a lottery courier company at a location in Northwest Austin. In April 2023, an entity won a \$95 million Lotto Texas jackpot by purchasing nearly every possible number combination.

Governor Abbott Speaks at Texas Republican County Chairmen’s Association

On February 25th, Governor Greg Abbott touted his conservative priorities for the 89th Legislative Session and urged Texans to get involved in the fight to pass school choice during his remarks at the 2025 Legislative Dinner hosted by the Texas Young Republican Federation, the Texas Federation of Republican Women, and the Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association in Georgetown.

Speaking to a crowd of over 350 conservatives and supporters, Governor Abbott slammed local taxing authorities for using loopholes to hike Texans' property taxes. The Governor pledged to deliver lasting property tax relief by eliminating those local loopholes and requiring a two-thirds voter approval to raise any property taxes. Governor Abbott also pushed back against far-left progressives and school choice opponents for criticizing and lying about the impact of a Texas school choice program. The Governor shared the facts of a universal school choice program, including that Texas will continue to fully fund public schools and the state will not dictate how parents educate their homeschooled children. Additionally, Governor Abbott highlighted Texas’ success to combat former President Joe Biden's border crisis over the past four years. The Governor praised President Donald Trump and his Administration’s ongoing homeland and border security operations. Governor Abbott vowed to continue working with the federal government to secure the border and make America safe again.



SENATE

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

On Tuesday, the Senate passed resolutions commemorating Brazoria County Day, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, Texas Hispanic Judges Day, Baylor University Day, the Bob Bullock Scholars Program, University of North Texas Day, Physician Assistant Day, and Houston’s Memorial Park Conservancy.

On Wednesday, the Senate and House met in joint session to hear the “State of the Judiciary” address from Jimmy Blacklock, Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. They reconvened and took up:

SB 26 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) would establishing a permanent **allotment** that guarantees across-the-board **teacher salary increases**; would expand the **Teacher Incentive Allotment**.

On Thursday, the Senate adopted resolutions honoring Allen Day, Grand Prairie Day, Black History Month, and Texas Majority to End Gun Violence Day.

They took up:

SB 28 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would clarify the prohibition on selling **lottery tickets** via the Internet or mobile application by eliminating lottery carriers.

Senate Standing Committee Schedule – The Senate committee schedule has been posted.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>8:00 a.m. Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs – E1.012 Nominations – Betty King Room</p> <p>9:00 a.m. State Affairs – Senate Chamber Local Government – E1.028</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Finance – E1.036</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Economic Development – E1.016</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Business & Commerce - E1.012</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Health & Human Services – Senate Chamber</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Education K-16 – E1.028 Veteran Affairs – Betty King Room Criminal Justice – E1.016</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Transportation – E1.016</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Health & Human Services – Senate Chamber</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Natural Resources – E1.012 Finance - #1.036 Jurisprudence – Betty King Room</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Business & Commerce E1.012</p> <p>9:00 a.m. State Affairs – Senate Chamber Border Security E1.016 Education K-16 – E1.028 Local Government – Betty King Room</p>

Next Week: The Senate recessed until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025 for the reading and referral of bills. Upon the conclusion of bill referrals, the Senate will adjourn until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.



HOUSE

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

On Tuesday, the House recognized “Teal Tuesday” to show support in the fight against ovarian cancer. They celebrated Brazoria County Day, United Way of Concho Valley, Baylor University Day, Texas Association of Charitable Clinics, Wharton County Day, Texas Food & Fuel Association, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, Texas Hispanic Judges Day, League of Women Voters of Texas Day, Texas Physician Assistant Day, City of South Padre Island, and CyFair ISD.

On Wednesday, the House met in joint session with the Senate to hear the State of the Judiciary address. They also adopted resolutions honoring Orange and Maroon Day (University of Texas and Texas A&M University), Bee County Day, Weslaco Day, Aransas County Day, Caldwell County Day, Pearland Day, Black Nurses Day, Bone Marrow, Blood, and Organ Donation Registry Day, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Dallas Independent School District Day, the Consulate General of France, United Way Day, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day, Plano Legislative Day, Young County Day, Waller County Chamber of Commerce, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, Texas Pediatric Medical Association, and Grand Prairie Day.

On Thursday, the House honored Senator Judith Zaffirini for being the first female Dean of the Texas Senate. Senator Zaffirini and several members of the Senate were in attendance. They passed a resolution congratulating Representative Denise Villalobos and her husband, Ruben Villalobos, on the adoption of their son Ezekiel. They adopted resolutions honoring Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, YMCA Youth Leadership Day, Texas Independence Day, Allen Legislative Day, Lone Star College System, Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, and the month of Ramadan.

House Standing Committee Schedule – The House Committee Clerk has released the House Standing Committee schedule.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>8:00 a.m. Appropriations – E1.030 Public Health E2.030</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Energy Resources – E2.026 Pensions, Investments & Financial Services – E2.030 County & Regional Government – E2.028 Defense & Veterans Affairs – E1.026 International Relations – E1.010 Telecommunications & Broadband – E1.010 Transportation & Finance – E2.014 Ways & Means – JHR 140</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Family & Fiduciary Relationships – E2.016</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Higher Education – E2.036 Human Services E2.030 Intergovernmental Affairs – E2.026 Public Education – JHR 140 Workforce – E2.012</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Criminal Jurisprudence – E2.012 Licensing & Administrative Procedures – E2.016</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Agriculture & Livestock – E1.010</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Corrections – E1.014 Insurance – E2.026 Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence – E2.030 Natural Resources – E2.036 Redistricting – JHR 120 State Affairs – JHR 140 Trade, Workforce & Economic Development – JHR</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Delivery of Government Efficiency – E2.010 Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans’ Affairs – E2.016</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Land & Resource Management – E2.026 Academic & Career-Oriented Education – E2.030 Disease Prevention & Women’s & Children’s Health – E2.010</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Culture, Recreation & Tourism – E2.028 Elections – E2.012 Environmental Regulation – E2.016 Juvenile Justice - E2.014 Property Tax Appraisals – E2.036 State-Federal Relations – E1.026</p>

Next Week: The House stands at ease until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025 for the reading and referral of bills and will continue bill referrals on Monday. At the conclusion of bill referrals, the House will adjourn until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 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

[HB 2613](#)

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

Author: Caroline Harris Davila

Last Action: (2/10/2025) - 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