



City of College Station
87th Legislative Session Review
July 22, 2021

87th Texas Legislature

HOUSE

83 Republicans and 67 Democrats

112 Males and 38 Females

SENATE

18 Republicans and 13 Democrats

21 Males and 10 Females

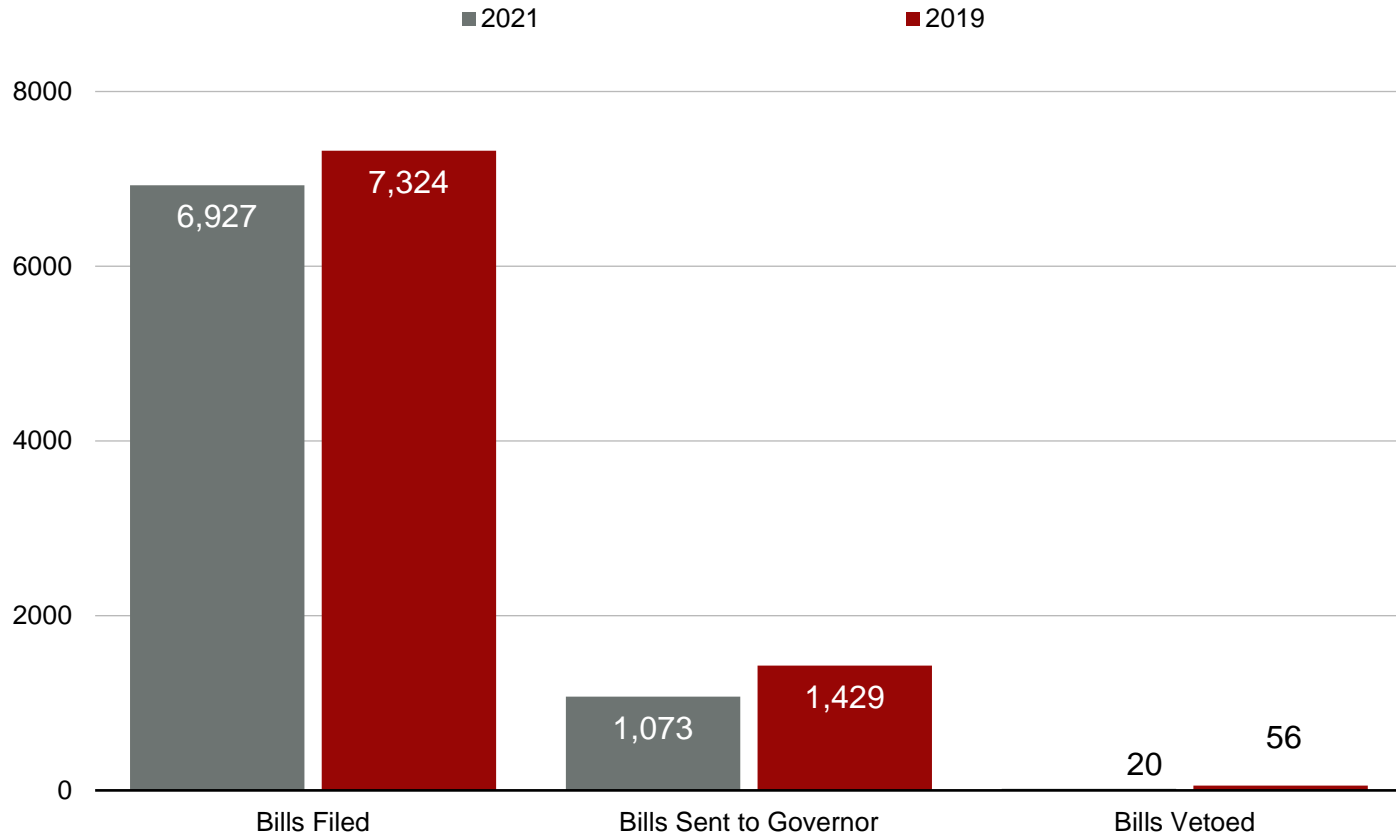
LEADERSHIP

Governor Greg Abbott

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick

Speaker Dade Phelan

Session Overview



Regular Session Highlights

- **2022-2023 State Budget - \$248 billion All Funds**
- **COVID-19**
- **Winter Storm Uri**
- **Redistricting**
- **Everything Else**
 - **RMA Funding**
 - **Clean up Texas Property Tax and Transparency Act of 2019**
 - **Clean up Public Education Finance Reform of 2019**

PUC/ERCOT Reform

SB 2 - Governance of ERCOT

SB 3 - Weatherization requirements for generators and pipeline facilities

SB 2154 - PUC Membership

HB 16 - Prohibits sale of wholesale indexed power plans to residential customers

HB 1520 - Securitization for gas utility companies

HB 1580 - Securitization for electric cooperatives

HB 2586 - Requires an annual, public audit of ERCOT

HB 4492 - \$800 million loan from Rainy Day Fund to ERCOT

Property Taxes

SB 1427 - Defines damage as physical damage for purposes of qualifying for the temporary property tax exemption for property damaged by a disaster

SB 1438 - Places a timeframe on how long a taxing unit can use the higher rate under a disaster that caused physical damage

SB 1449 - Raises the exemption for personal property tax used by a business from \$500 to \$2,500

HB 988 - Various amendments to the Tax Code related to an Appraisal Review Board

HB 1090 - Reduces the time frame during which the chief appraiser can discover that real property has been omitted from an appraisal and appraise the property

HB 1869 - Amends the definition of debt used in truth-in-taxation property tax rate calculations to debt that meets certain requirements

HB 2429 - Clarifies the language used in the tax notice when the de minimis rate exceeds the voter-approval tax rate

HB 2723 - Requires the Department of Information Resources to develop and maintain an internet website that lists and links to each property tax database maintained by appraisal districts

Other Notable Bills of Interest

Bills that passed:

***SB 6 Pandemic Liability Protection Act**

***HB 9 Obstruction of a highway penalties**

***HB 738 Adopts 2012 International Residential Code and International Building Code as municipal residential and commercial building codes for the state**

***HB 1925 Statewide Camping Bill**

Bills that failed:

***SB 10 Restrictions on Community Advocacy**

***SB 14 Pre-emption of Paid Sick Leave Ordinances**

***HB 3 Governor's powers in a pandemic**

***HB 1556/4242 Extension of Chapter 313 Agreements**

Special Session Update

July 8th 1st Called Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature convenes

July 12th Most of the 67 House Democrats left Austin for Washington, D.C.

August 6th 1st Called Special Session expires

Per the Texas Constitution, the governor has the sole discretion to convene the legislature for a special session as well as the sole discretion of the scope and agenda of the session. It can only last up to 30 days, and there are no limits to the number of special sessions the governor may call in an interim period between regular sessions.

1st Called Special Session Agenda

- **Bail Reform**
- **Election Integrity**
- **Border Security**
- **Social Media Censorship**
- **Article X Funding**
- **Family Violence Prevention**
- **Youth Sports**
- **Abortion-Inducing Drugs**
- **Thirteenth Check**
- **Critical Race Theory**
- **Appropriations**

Political Announcements

Several statewide elected officials and legislators have announced intentions to retire or seek election to a different office. More announcements are expected between now and the 2022 primary filing deadline.

Statewide Elected Officials

- **George P. Bush (R)** - running for Attorney General
- **Eva Guzman (R)** - running for Attorney General

Texas Legislature

- **Michelle Beckley (D-Carrollton)** - running for Congress
- **Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound)** - running for State Senate
- **John Turner (D-Dallas)** - retiring
- **James White (R-Woodville)** - running for Agriculture Commissioner

- **Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway)** - running for General Land Commissioner
- **Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound)** - retiring