

Legislative Updates 2025 Civil Process 89th Legislative Session

Texas Justice Court Training Center

1

TJCTC Programs are an educational endeavor of the Justices of the Peace and Constable's Association of Texas, Inc. and funded by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Copyright © 2025 Texas Justice Court Training Center

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of the Texas Justice Court Training Center unless copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law.

Address inquiries to: Permissions
Texas Justice Court Training Center
1701 Directors Blvd. Suite 530
Austin, TX, 78744



2

Agenda

Intro

Reminders

Landlord/Tenant

Civil Process & Bailiffs

Criminal

Victim Rights & Family Violence

Schools & Children

Magistration

Peace Officer Licensing/Commissions/Benefits/Etc.

Other

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Reminders

3

Intro

4

Resources

- Texas Justice Court Training Center: <https://www.tjctc.org/>
 - Legal Resources > Additional Resources > Legislative Materials
- Texas Legislature
 - Can look up bills by number or by search terms.
 - See “How to Use Texas Legislature Online” handout.
- Texas Constitution and Statutes: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>
 - When a statute has been changed but the changes aren’t integrated yet, there will be a note and a link to the relevant bill immediately above the statute.
 - Reminder on how to navigate this site in TJCTC’s *The People’s Court: Overview, Resources, and Ethics* self-paced module (Part 3: Resources That Will Help You Do Your Job):
<https://www.tjctc.org/onlinelearning/selfpacedmodules.html>

5

Notes About Presentation

The presentation will only mention effective dates that are something other than 9/1/25 or if there is a special note related to the effective date

Unless otherwise stated, changes related to criminal offenses apply only to an offense that occurred on/after the effective date (and an offense occurred before the effective date if any element of the offense occurred before).

Some slides will have words that are in the regular black font and have underline or ~~strikethrough~~ formatting. Like in the text of the bills, underline indicates language added to a statute and strikethrough indicates language removed from a statute.

6

Note About Special Sessions

Special Sessions are ongoing, and we will provide updates regarding any relevant bills that pass.

Be sure we have your right email and check our website frequently.

7

Abbreviations

COA	Cause of Action
HB	House Bill
SB	Senate Bill
OCA	Office of Court Administration
FV	Family Violence
EPO	Emergency Protective Order
CCP	Code of Criminal Procedure
CPRC	Civil Practice and Remedies Code
HSC	Health and Safety Code
LGC	Local Government Code
PWC	Parks and Wildlife Code

8

Reminders

9

Reminders

*(from before
this session)*

Open Court During Magistration

EPO Forms

CCP Renumbering

10

Open Court During Magistration

- The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held in *Texas Tribune v. Caldwell County* that a closed magistration hearing violates the First Amendment.
- While there may be some exceptions, magistration proceedings must generally be open to the public.
- If having the public physically present is not logistically feasible, one other option is to stream the proceedings via Zoom and YouTube.
- Because your county attorney would represent you/the judge in any litigation, it's important that you seek their advice on this important issue.
- For more information, see TJCTC's blog post on the topic:
<https://docket.wp.txstate.edu/2024/12/05/tjctc-updates-12-5-2024/>

11

EPO Forms

- SB 48 from the 2023 Legislative Session required OCA to create and release protective order forms, including EPO forms.
- These forms are live and available here:
<https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/standardized-protective-order-forms/>
- The EPO form itself must be used by courts, while other forms, such as applications, are optional for courts (*but available for law enforcement and others*).
- For additional information regarding use of the forms, see the top of TJCTC's Forms webpage: <https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/forms.html>

12

CCP Renumbering

- HB 4504 from the 2023 Legislative Session renumbered many sections of Chapters 2, 13, 45, and 55 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, effective January 1, 2025.
- TJCTC has updated its Deskbooks to contain the new references. Books marked as “Updated January 2025” contain updated references.
- No other substantive changes were made to the Deskbooks in this update, but 2025 Legislative Session updates to all deskbooks will be coming soon!

13

Landlord/Tenant

14

Landlord/ Tenant

SB 38 – New Eviction Laws

Bill List

SB 1333 – Squatters

HB 47 – Right to Vacate Following Certain Sex Offenses/Stalking

SB 38 – New Eviction Laws

Property Code Ch. 24

Effective 1/1/26, applies to suits filed on/after this date.

***Except** Rulemaking authority for the Supreme Court takes effect 9/1/25.*

Service of Citation

- A Sheriff or Constable, including a deputy sheriff or constable shall make a diligent effort to serve the citation and petition not later than the **fifth** business day after the date the **petition is filed**.
- Any requests for substituted service are included which generally requires at least two (2) attempts on different days and an order signed by the judge after the request has been made.

17

Service of Citation may be transferred

- If the citation and petition are not served on or before the fifth business day after the date the petition is filed, the landlord MAY, but is not obligated to, provide for the citation and petition to be served by any other law enforcement officer, including an off-duty officer with appropriate identification...
- ...that has received appropriate training in the service of process, eviction procedures, and the execution of writs, as determined by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.
- Citation may also be sent to another Constable in a different precinct for service

18

Writ of Possession

- The issuance of a writ of possession is a ministerial act not subject to review or delay.
- A sheriff or constable, including a deputy sheriff or deputy constable, shall serve the writ of possession not later than the **FIFTH** business day after the writ is issued.
- If the writ of possession is not served on or before the fifth business day after the date the writ is issued, the landlord may, but is not obligated to, have the writ served by any other law enforcement officer, including an off-duty officer with appropriate identification, who has received training as described by Sec. 24.0051 (f).
- This would include another Constable in a different precinct.

19

Writ of Possession

- An officer may use reasonable force in executing a writ under this section.
- A **landlord** is not liable for damages to the tenant resulting from the enforcement of a judgment in favor of the landlord under this chapter including the execution of a writ of possession by an officer under this section.
- The Supreme Court shall have rulemaking authority as of September 1, 2025 however, this Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

20



What if the citation isn't issued/sent to the constable/sheriff right away?

- This will make it very difficult to hit the serve within 5 business days deadline.
- *Courts:* Make sure citations are issued and sent ASAP.
- *Constable Offices:* Document when you receive them and do your best.
- *Everyone:* Talk to each other and work together!

21



Practically, who else other than a constable or sheriff's office could serve eviction papers?

- Likely very limited, because other agencies are busy and most won't have the desire, time, and/or resources to take the required training.
- There are also liability concerns for officers who are not a sheriff/constable/deputy

22

SB 1333 – Squatters

Penal Code § 28.03(b), 32.56, 32.57

- New Criminal Offenses

Property Code Ch. 24B

- Immediate Removal & Action for Wrongful Removal

23

New Criminal Offense –

False, Fraudulent, or Fictitious Document Conveying Real Property Interest

- Penal Code Section 32.56
- Creates criminal penalties for presenting false or fraudulent documents (e.g., fake leases or deeds) to claim possession of real property.
- Class A misdemeanor

24

New Criminal Offense –

Fraudulent Sale, Rental, or Lease of Residential Real Property

- Penal Code Section 32.57
- Creates criminal penalties for knowingly selling, renting, or leasing (or listing/advertising for sale, rent, or lease) residential property without legal authority or title.
- **First Degree Felony**

25

Amended Criminal Offense –

Criminal Mischief

- Amends Penal Code Section 28.03
- Adds a **Second Degree Felony** offense if the damage is more than \$1000, but less than \$300,000, the building is a habitation, and the person was also criminally trespassing at the time of the damage.

26

Immediate Removal of Unauthorized Occupants

- Property owners (or their agents) can request immediate removal by sheriff/constable of a person unlawfully occupying a dwelling, if:
 - The property was not open to the public when entered,
 - The property is not the subject of pending litigation between the parties,
 - The owner/agent has directed the person to leave, and they have not done so, and
 - The occupant is not a current/former tenant (under written or oral lease), immediate family, owner, or co-owner.

27

Immediate Removal – Verifying Ownership & Identifying Occupants

- Complainant must be:
 - the record owner of the property that is the subject of the complaint or the owner's agent; and
 - otherwise entitled to the relief sought in the complaint.
- Occupants
 - The serving officer must attempt to verify the identity of each person occupying the dwelling and note each identity on the return of service.

28

Immediate Removal – Procedure

- The owner/agent must file a complaint that is sworn or has an unsworn declaration that includes everything listed in the statute and provide ID (and agent must give documentation of authority to act on owner's behalf). **In the county where the property is located.**
- Law enforcement must verify ownership and entitlement of the complainant, and then without delay, serve notice to immediately vacate (by hand delivery or affixing the notice to the front door or entrance of the dwelling) and restore possession to the owner.

29

Immediate Removal of Unauthorized Occupants

- The Sheriff or Constable will establish the following:
 - The property was not open to the public when entered,
 - The property is not the subject of pending litigation between the parties,
 - The owner/agent has directed the person to leave, and they have not done so, and
 - The occupant is not a current/former tenant (under written or oral lease), immediate family, owner, or co-owner.
- If the Sheriff or Constable determines that at least one of the issues exist the owner will be directed to proceed to the proper JP Court for the necessary eviction process.

30

Immediate Removal – Keeping the Peace

- The property owner or owner's agent may request that the sheriff or constable remain on the property to keep the peace while the owner or owner's agent:
 - changes any locks; and
 - removes any personal property of an occupant from the dwelling and places the personal property at or near the property line of the owner's property.

31

Immediate Removal – Arrest

Law enforcement may arrest unauthorized occupants for trespass, outstanding warrants, or other offenses for which there is PC.

32

Immediate Removal – Fees and Liability

- Sheriffs/constables may charge a fee equivalent to executing a writ of possession, plus an hourly rate if asked to remain on-site during removal.
- Law enforcement is shielded from liability for loss/damage during removal.
- Owners/agents are generally not liable for property loss/damage from removal, but may be sued for wrongful removal and face damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

33



If an owner does the immediate removal procedure, could law enforcement also pursue criminal trespass charges?

- Yes. This new removal process does not limit owners' other legal rights or law enforcement's authority to arrest for other crimes (criminal trespass, eviction, etc.).

34

Action for Wrongful Removal

- A person wrongfully removed or whose personal prop is wrongfully removed can bring a civil suit to:
 - Recover possession of the real property, and
 - Recover damages from the person who requested the removal.
- Court must set the case at the earliest practicable date to expedite the action.
- *Note:* No reason they couldn't also still ask for a Writ of Re-entry (as long as all requirements for that are met).

35

Action for Wrongful Removal – Damages

- Damages available:
 - Actual damages,
 - Exemplary/punitive up to 3x the fair market rent,
 - Court costs, and
 - Reasonable Attorney's fees

36



Issues Not Addressed in the Bill

- Where can the action be filed?
- What period of time of fair market rent is used to calculate exemplary damages?
- How is a judgment for possession enforced?

37

HB 47 – Right to Vacate Following Certain Sex Offenses/Stalking

Property Code § 92.0161(c)

- This statute allows for victims of certain assaults, abuse, or stalking to get out of their lease and move without liability.
- Removed the requirement that the assault or abuse occurred at the premises.
- Note, this does not remove the requirement that the stalking offense occurred at the premises.

38

Civil Process & Bailiffs

39

Civil Process & Bailiffs

HB 3104 – Appointment and
Compensation of Bailiff in Webb County

Bill List

HB 5238 – Disruption of Proceedings
Offense

40

HB 3104 – Appointment and Compensation of Bailiff in Webb County

Government Code §§ 53.001, 53.009

- Author: Rep. Terry McLaughlin
- **Clarifies Bailiff Appointment Authority:** Removes the authority of the judge of the 341st District Court in Webb County to appoint a bailiff.
 - Repeals provisions related to the appointment and compensation of bailiffs by the 341st and 406th District Court judges.
- **Ensures Continuity for Existing Bailiffs:** Bailiffs appointed by the 341st or 406th District Court judges before the effective date continue to serve and receive compensation from Webb County as before.
 - These bailiffs remain eligible for any longevity or cost-of-living salary increases available before the effective date.
- **Aligns with County Budgeting Processes:** The changes aim to provide clarity and ensure uniformity in salary-setting authority, aligning compensation with county budgeting processes.

41

HB 5238 – Disruptions of Proceedings Offense

Penal Code § 42.05(a)

- Disrupting Meeting or Procession – Class B Offense
- Expands this to clarify that disrupting virtual proceedings, including by electronic means, is included in this offense.
- The court bailiff will likely be the arresting/charging officer for this offense.

42

Criminal

43

Criminal

Bill List

SB 53 – Notice & Filing in Court Involving Persons with Mental Illness

SB 296 – DSC

SB 305 – Passing Certain Vehicles on Highway

HB 1024 – Execution of Warrants for Releasees Violating Electronic Monitoring

HB 1261 – Disposition of Abandoned or Unclaimed Property

SB 1349 – Transnational Repression & Unauthorized Enforcement of Foreign Law

SB 1497 – Search of Certain Wireless Devices

SB 1637 – Prosecution of Deadly Conduct

HB 1871 – Attempted Capital Murder of Peace Officer

SB 2129 – Disobeying Train Track Warnings

SB 2039 – Sidewalk Users

SB 2807 – Automated Motor Vehicles

44

SB 53 – Notice & Filing in Court Involving Persons with Mental Illness

*Criminal Procedure—General, Mental Health & Substance Abuse,
Constables, Records Management, Sheriffs*

- Modifies procedures for notifying individuals with mental illness in court proceedings by personal delivery by a Constable or Sheriff of the county or as directed by the court.
- Adjusts filing requirements to accommodate the needs of individuals with mental illness.
- Encourages collaboration between courts and mental health professionals to ensure appropriate handling of cases involving individuals with mental illness.

45

SB 296 – Driving Safety Course – Email Request (slide 1 of 2)

CCP 45A.352(a)

- Allows a written request for DSC to be sent through a court-designated e-mail address or Internet portal if authorized by the court.
- Certified mail, RRR is still an option also.

46

SB 296 – DSC – Multiple Offenses (continued)

CCP Arts.45A.352(b), 45A.356(c), 45A.358; Applies to a request made on/after 9/1/25, regardless of when the offenses were committed.

- DSC dismissal now available for multiple charges at the same time if they are all arising out of the same criminal transaction.
- All offenses must be eligible, and the defendant must otherwise satisfy all requirements for DSC.
- All charges will be dismissed after successful completion of **ONE** course, but separate reimbursement fees **MAY** be required for each offense.

47

SB 305 – Passing Certain Vehicles on Highway

Transportation Code § 545.157(a)

- Adds two additional types of vehicles to the offense of passing certain vehicles on the highway (without getting over or slowing down):
 - A vehicle operated by an animal control officer, as defined by HSC Sec. 829.001 or an individual authorized to dispose of a carcass of an animal under HSC Sec. 361.117, for the purpose of removing an animal carcass from a roadway, and using visual signals that comply with the standards and specifications adopted under Transportation Code Sec. 547.105.
 - A vehicle operated by an employee of a local authority for the purpose of issuing a parking citation and using visual signals that comply with the standards and specifications adopted under Transportation Code Sec. 547.105.

48

HB 1024 – Execution of Warrants for Releasees Violating Electronic Monitoring

Government Code § 508.2525, Applies to arrest warrants issued on or after the effective date

- Author: Rep. Shaheen
- Mandates law enforcement agencies to execute warrants for releasees violating electronic monitoring conditions

49

HB 1261– Disposition of Abandoned or Unclaimed Property

Code of Criminal Procedure Arts. 18.17(a), (b), (c), and (d), Applies to property seized on or after the effective date

- Author: Rep. Cunningham
- Revises procedures for the disposition of unclaimed or abandoned personal property seized by peace officers
- Allows notice requirements to be satisfied by placing a one-time notice on the Internet website of the law enforcement agency

50

SB 1349 – Transnational Repression & Unauthorized Enforcement of Foreign Law

Penal Code, Chapter 76; Government Code, Chapter 411

- Author: Senator Bryan Hughes
- Establishes criminal offenses for individuals committing or conspiring to commit certain offenses with the intent to: cause another person to act on behalf of a foreign government or organization or retaliate for protected conduct.
- Creates a second-degree felony for individuals acting as agents of a foreign government who prevent others from violating foreign laws.
- Requires law enforcement agencies to conduct training on recognizing and responding to transnational repression.

51

SB 1497 – Search of Certain Wireless Devices

Code of Criminal Procedure, Title 1, adding Chapter 7C

- Author: Senator Robert Nichols
- Prohibits peace officers from searching a person's cellular telephone or other wireless communications device incident to a lawful arrest without first obtaining a warrant.
- Clarifies that the term "wireless communications device" does not include devices such as skimmers or those manufactured for illicitly obtaining payment card or identifying information.
- Exclusions from the law in cases of imminent threats to public safety.

52

SB 1637 – Prosecution of Deadly Conduct

Penal Code § 22.05, Applies only to offenses committed on or after 9/1/2025

- Author: Senator Charles Perry
- Amends Section 22.05(c) to specify that the presumption of recklessness and danger does not apply to a peace officer engaged in the lawful discharge of official duties.
- Adds Section 22.05(f) to clarify that Subsection (b)(1) does not apply to a peace officer if, at the time of the offense, the officer was engaged in the actual discharge of official duties and reasonably believed the discharge of the firearm was justified under Chapter 9 of the Penal Code.

53

HB 1871– Attempted Capital Murder of a Peace Officer

Penal Code §19.03,

- Author: Rep. Paul Dyson
- Increases criminal penalty for attempted capital murder of a peace officer to a 1st degree felony punishable to life or 25 to 99 years.
- Changes eligibility for parole and mandatory supervision for those convicted of this offense

54

SB 2129 – Disobeying Train Track Warnings

Transportation Code § 545.251(f)

- Changes fine structure for offense of disobeying train/track signals/gates/rules:
 - An offense under this section is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200, except that the offense is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$400 if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the operator disregarded a warning given by a flagger under Subsection (a)(2).

55

SB 2039 – Sidewalk Users

(Slide 1 of 2)

Transportation Code § 541.001(6)

- “Sidewalk user” definition added to the code – an individual lawfully operating one of the following on a sidewalk:
 - a bicycle;
 - a motor-assisted scooter, as defined by Section 551.351;
 - an electric personal assistive mobility device, as defined by Section 551.201;
 - a skateboard;
 - roller skates; or
 - a similar device.

56

SB 2039 – Sidewalk Users (Slide 2 of 2)

- Sidewalk users now added to the following provisions related to pedestrians:
 - *Transportation Code § 544.007(b),(c),(d)* – Traffic-Control Signals in General (related to vehicles yielding to pedestrians/sidewalk users)
 - *Transportation Code § 545.256* – Emerging from an Alley, Driveway, or Building (related to vehicles yielding to pedestrians/sidewalk users)
 - *Transportation Code § 552.001* – Traffic Control Signals (in Pedestrians and Other Sidewalk Users chapter, related to rules they must follow)
 - *Transportation Code § 552.002* – Pedestrian or Sidewalk User Right-of-way if Control Signal Present
- New provisions added specifically for sidewalk users:
 - *Transportation Code § 552.0035* – Sidewalk User Right-of Way at Crosswalk
 - *Transportation Code § 552.0036* – Sidewalk User Right-of Way at Stop Sign

57

SB 2807 – Automated Motor Vehicles (Slide 1 of 2)

Transportation Code Ch. 545, Subchapter J

- Various updates to Operation of Automated Motor Vehicles Subchapter:
 - 545.451 – Definitions
 - 545.452 – Agencies can't regulate in a way that is discriminatory to automated vehicle operators. Public Safety Commission may exempt automated vehicles from specific traffic laws if will not cause risk to public safety.
 - 545.453 – DMV may adopt rules necessary to administer the subchapter.
 - 545.454 – Automated system is the "operator," but owner/authorization holder gets any citations.
 - 545.455 – Updates to procedures for when operation of automated vehicle is allowed (with and without human driver present).
 - 545.456 – Authorization for commercial use.
 - 545.457 – Duties following an accident.
 - 545.458 – Applies CMV laws to commercial automated vehicles
 - 545.459 – Suspension/revocation/cancellation of Authorization by DPS

58

SB 2807 – Automated Motor Vehicles (Slide 2 of 2)

Transportation Code Ch. 545, Subchapter J, Insurance Code § 1954.003

- DMV and Public Safety Commission shall adopt rules as required under Ch. 545, Subchapter J by 12/1/25. A person is not required to comply with Subchapter J as amended by this act until the 90th day after the effective date of the adopted rules.
- An automated motor vehicle, as defined by Section 545.451, Transportation Code, is considered a transportation network company driver for purposes of Insurance Code Ch. 1954, Subchapter B, and the coverage requirements of that subchapter apply to the automated motor vehicle.
- **Note: Additional statutes impacted by this bill are listed on the Bill Chart handout.**

59

Victim Rights & Family Violence

60

Victim Rights & Family Violence

Bill List

SB 1120 – Victims and Protective Orders

HB 2492 – Delayed Release on FV Offenses

HB 2073 – FV Bond Condition Violations

HB 2596 – Protective Orders for Burglary Offenses

SB 1559 – Protective Order Transfers

SB 2196 – EPO Timeframes

SB 1896 – Provision of Necessary Info for EPOs

HB 793 – Confidentiality of Information in Protective Orders

SB 836 – Prohibited Use and Confidentiality of Sex Offense Evidence

HB 1778 – Continuous Promotion of Prostitution

SB 1362 – Extreme Risk Protective Orders

SB 2177 – Grant Program for Violent and Sexual Offenses

61

SB 1120 – Victims and Protective Orders

Criminal Procedure—General, Bail & Pretrial Release, Crimes—Against Persons—General, Crimes—Against Persons—Sexual, Protective Orders, Stalking

- Author: Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
- Broadens the definition of "victim" to include individuals affected by offenses such as family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and violations of protective orders or bond conditions.
- Strengthens the rights of victims, guardians, and close relatives in the criminal justice process.
- Addresses the duration of certain protective orders, providing clearer guidelines for their enforcement.
- Clarifies the procedures for providing information to magistrates regarding victims and offenders.

62

HB 2492 – Delayed Release on FV Offenses JPCA Priority Bill

CCP Art. 17.291(b), Applies only to a person who is arrested on/after 9/1/25.

- Author: Rep. Rhetta Bowers
- There is **currently** a law in place regarding family violence cases that allows a jail to delay release (optional) of a defendant (who has posted bond) for not more than 4 hours if there is probable cause to believe the violence will continue if the person is immediately released.
- This delay is now **required** instead of optional if there is the above noted probable cause and the delay time is now set at exactly 4 hours.
- Note that release **may** be further delayed after this for up to 48 hours if the requirements of CCP Art. 17.291 are met.

63

HB 2073 – FV Bond Condition Violations

Penal Code § 25.07(g), 25.072(e)

- Section on offenses for violations of certain court orders/bond conditions in FV/child abuse or neglect/sexual assault or abuse/indecent assault/stalking/trafficking cases has been amended to make it a state jail felony if a defendant violates a bond condition/PO/EPO in a manner described by 25.07(a)(1),(2),(3),(5),(6), or (7) **while possessing a deadly weapon (all FV related).**
- Section on offenses for repeated violations of the above types of orders/bond conditions now makes it a felony of the second degree if it is shown on the trial of the offense that at least one time the person engaged in conduct that was punishable as a state jail felony as described above.

64

HB 2596 – Protective Orders for Burglary Offenses

Penal Code § 30.04

- Author: Rep. Will Metcalf
- Allows for the issuance of protective orders in cases involving certain burglary offenses.
- Expands the scope of protective orders to include victims of specific burglary-related crimes.

65

SB 1559 – Protective Order Transfers

Family Code § § 81.012, 85.026, 83.005, 85.064(c), applies to a protective order or motion to transfer issued/made on or after 9/1/2025

- Author: Sen. Judith Zafirinni
- Allows for protective orders to be transferred to family court if a **SAPCR** or divorce is pending (even if filed after the PO), if the transfer will not negatively impact the safety of anyone protected by the order
- Provides procedures for the transfer and contest of the motion to transfer

66

SB 2196 – EPO Timeframes

CCP Art. 17.292(j); Applies only to an order for emergency protection issued on/after 9/1/25.

- If EPO is issued under 17.292(a) (discretionary if one of the listed offenses) or 17.292(b)(1) (mandatory due to serious bodily injury to the victim of FV offense):
 - Timeframe is now at least 61 but no more than 91 days after issuance (instead of 31 and 61).
- If EPO is issued under 17.292(b)(2) (mandatory due to the use or exhibition of a deadly weapon during the commission of an assault in FV situation):
 - Timeframe is now at least 91 but no more than 121 days after issuance (instead of 61 and 91).

67

SB 1896 – Provision of Necessary Info for EPOs

CCP Art. 14.06(a-1), 15.052, 15.17, 17.292; Applies only to a person who is arrested on/after 9/1/25.

- A person making an arrest/having custody of a defendant for an offense where an EPO is an option shall provide the following to the magistrate:
 - Information regarding the arrested person that is necessary for/will aid in the issuance of the EPO.
 - To the extent available, information regarding the victim to aid in the issuance of the EPO.
 - At a minimum, any available information that is described by Government Code Sec. 411.042(b)(6) (and they may use a form adopted by OCA under Section 72.039, Government Code, for this purpose).
- A person making a complaint alleging the commission of an offense described by Art. 17.292(a) shall include the information necessary for the issuance of an EPO as provided by Art. 17.292(d-3).
- Failure to provide this information does not impact the sufficiency of a complaint or the authority/duty to issue an EPO.

68

HB 793– Confidentiality of Personal Information in Protective Orders

Family Code § § 82.011, 85.007, 87.004, Applies to applications for Pos filed on or after 9/1/2025

- Author: Rep. Senfronia Thompson
- Requires courts to protect the mailing address and county of residence of applicants for protective orders upon request
- Mandates that courts exclude certain personal information from protective orders, including addresses and telephone numbers

69

SB 836 – Prohibited Use and Confidentiality of Sex Offense Evidence (Slide 1 of 2)

CCP Art. 38.435, 38.451; Applies to a court hearing/proceeding that commences on/after 9/1/25.

- Any evidence collected during a forensic medical examination under CCP Ch. 56A, Subchapter G (exams done on victims of sexual assault) is confidential and shall be placed under seal of the court on the conclusion of the hearing/proceeding (including magistration duties).
 - The seal may only be lifted on a finding that the order is in the best interest of the public.
- Visual images that are evidence of an offense under Penal Code Sec. 21.15 (Invasive Visual Recording) used to only be confidential if it was of a child younger than 14 years old. Now they are confidential regardless of the age of the victim.

70

SB 836 – Prohibited Use and Confidentiality of Sex Offense Evidence

(Slide 2 of 2)

Government Code § 21.014; Applies to a court hearing/proceeding that commences on/after 9/1/25.

- A court may not allow the electronic transmission or broadcasting of certain court proceedings in which evidence or testimony is offered that depicts or describes acts of a sexual nature unless the court provides notice to and receives express consent for the transmission or broadcasting from:
 - the victim or the parent/conservator/guardian of the victim; the attorney representing the state; and the defendant.
- This applies to:
 - Criminal (including magistration duties) or civil proceedings related to the sexual, assaultive, and trafficking offenses listed in Sec. 21.014(a).
 - Court proceedings relating to EPOs.

71

HB 1778 – Continuous Promotion of Prostitution

Penal Code § 43.032, CCP Art. 17.081, 17.465(b), 58.051(11)

- This new offense was created, and has been added to various other existing provisions related to magistration and victim protections:
 - Additional requisites of bail bond given by certain defendants.
 - Bond conditions for defendants charged with certain trafficking or prostitution related offenses involving adult victims.
 - Confidentiality of identifying information and medical records of certain crime victims (including service of any process on AG for eligible victims).

72

HB 1778 – Continuous Promotion of Prostitution

- Online promotion is added to the list to report to OCA on Human trafficking cases
- OCA is added to the AG Task force (council)
- A body piercing studio added to licensed entities
- Added reporting entities with population of over 50,000

73

SB 1362– Extreme Risk Protective Orders

Criminal Procedure—General

- Author: Senator Bryan Hughes
- Bans the recognition, service, and enforcement of federal extreme risk protective orders (ERPOs) in Texas.
- Creates criminal offenses for serving or enforcing ERPOs against individuals in Texas unless issued under state law.
- Prohibits Texas governmental entities from accepting federal funds for the enforcement of ERPO laws.
- Specifies that the failure to provide necessary information does not negate the magistrate's authority to issue an emergency protection order.

74

SB 2177 – Grant Program for Violent and Sexual Offenses

Criminal Procedure—General, Law Enforcement Agencies

- Author: Senator Hagenbuch, Caption: Relating to the creation of a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in solving violent and sexual offenses.
- Establishes a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in solving violent and sexual offenses.
- Provides funding for the investigation and solving of violent crimes, particularly sexual offenses.
- Sets eligibility criteria for law enforcement agencies to apply for the grants.
- Specifies the application process and how the grants will be allocated.
- Provides resources to help local law enforcement enhance their investigative efforts.

75

Schools & Children

76

Schools & Children

Bill List

HB 33 – Uvalde Strong Act

HB 121 – Public School Safety Act

HB 908 – Reporting Missing Children to NCMEC

HB 1851 – Disposition of Surplus Law Enforcement Equipment to School Districts

77

HB 33 – Uvalde Strong Act (slide 1 of 2)

Education Code § § 12.104(b), 37.108(a) and (b)

- Author: Rep. Don McLaughlin, HB 33, known as the "Uvalde Strong Act," enhances school safety protocols in Texas by mandating that all public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools:
- **Develop and Implement Multihazard Emergency Operations Plans:** These plans must address prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, including the prompt recovery of services provided by the school district or public junior college district.

78

HB 33 – Uvalde Strong Act

(slide 2 of 2)

Education Code § § 12.104(b), 37.108(a) and (b)

- **Provide Emergency Response Training:** Training in responding to an emergency for district employees, including substitute teachers, is required.
- **Ensure Communication Access:** Measures must be in place to ensure district employees, including substitute teachers, have classroom access to a telephone, including a cellular telephone, or another electronic communication device.
- The act aims to strengthen the safety and preparedness of Texas schools in response to past tragedies.

79

HB 121 – Public School Safety Act

Education Code § § 37.1031, 37.108, 37.1083, 37.109

- Author: Rep. Ken King
- Allows for commission of Peace Officers by the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Revises Security Requirements and Emergency Operations Plans
- Annual Vulnerability Assessments
- Threat Assessments for Special Education Students
- Expanding the School Safety Allotment

80

HB 908 – Reporting Missing Children to NCMEC

Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 63.00905

- Author: Rep. Terry Spiller
- In addition to TLETS this bill Requires law enforcement agencies to enter missing child reports into NCMEC within two hours of receiving the report
- Mandates agencies to inform the person who filed the report that the information will be entered into NCMEC
- Applies to missing children reports filed on or after the effective date

81

HB 1851 – Disposition of Surplus Law Enforcement Equipment to School Districts

Government Code § 2175.308

- Author: Rep. Eddie Morales
- Authorizes the Texas Facilities Commission to transfer surplus law enforcement equipment to school districts in economically disadvantaged areas
- Requires that the receiving agency or district may not sell the property before the second anniversary of receipt
- Only allows the property to be used for law enforcement duties

82

Magistration

83

Magistration

Bill List

HB 75 – No PC Findings

SB 251 – Bell County Criminal Law Magistrates

SB 664 – Qualifications and Training for Magistrates, Masters, Etc.

SB 1610 – Civilly Committed Sexually Violent Predators

SB 1886 – Execution of Blood Search Warrants

SB 1164 – Emergency Detention Warrants

84

HB 75 – No PC Findings

CCP Art. 15.17(h)

- Not later than 24 hours after the time a magistrate determines that no probable cause exists to believe that a person committed the offense for which the person was arrested, the magistrate shall enter in the record written findings to support that finding.
- Author – Rep. John Smithee
- Applies only to offenses committed on or after 9/1/2025

85

SB 251– Bell County Criminal Law Magistrates

Government Code, Chapter 54, Effective Date: June 20, 2025

- Author: Senator Pete Flores
- Establishes criminal law magistrates in Bell County to assist courts with criminal jurisdiction.
- The Bell County Commissioners Court selects magistrates with specific qualifications.
- Magistrates have concurrent criminal jurisdiction with justice of the peace courts in Bell County.
- Magistrates are empowered to perform duties under the Code of Criminal Procedure, including administering oaths and conducting hearings related to bail and conditions of release.

86

SB 664 – Qualifications and Training for Magistrates, Masters, Etc.

Government Code, Chapter 54

- Author: Senator Joan Huffman
- Establishes specific qualifications for masters, magistrates, referees, associate judges, and hearing officers.
- Implements mandatory training programs to ensure competency in judicial duties.
- Outlines supervisory protocols to oversee the performance and conduct of these judicial officers.
- Defines clear procedures for the removal of these officials in cases of misconduct or failure to perform duties.

87

SB 1610 – Civilly Committed Sexually Violent Predators (Slide 1 of 2)

Applies only to a person who is arrested on/after 9/1/25.

- *CCP 14.03(a)*: Adds to list of who can be arrested w/o warrant: a person who the peace officer has probable cause to believe has committed a felony offense while civilly committed as a sexually violent predator under HSC Ch. 841.
- *CCP 15.17(a),(b)*: If defendant is civilly committed as a sexually violent predator, Magistrate can do the 15.17 warnings at the civil commitment facility. Defendant added to the exceptions to the rule that someone charged with a fine-only misdemeanor may be released without bond.
- *CCP 17.091*: Notice of Certain Bail Reductions Required – any felony offense committed by a civilly committed sexually violent predator added to this section.

88

SB 1610 – Civilly Committed Sexually Violent Predators (Slide 2 of 2)

Applies only to a person who is arrested on/after 9/1/25.

- *CCP 17.151, Sec. 2*: Release because of delay now does not apply to someone civilly committed as sexually violent predator.
- *CCP 17.411*: Specific discretionary and mandatory bond conditions for civilly committed sexually violent predators.
- *CCP 66.102*: "Computerized Criminal History System" (TCIC/included on PSRS report) – must now also include any civil commitment order issued under HSC Ch. 841. As soon as practicable after 9/1/25, DPS shall input this info for any person who was civilly committed under HSC Ch. 841 before 9/1/25.

Note: Additional statutes impacted by this bill are listed in the Bill Chart handout.

89

SB 1886 – Execution of Blood Search Warrants

CCP Art. 18.067; Applies only to a search warrant issued on/after 9/1/25.

- Clarifies that **any peace officer** who is physically in the county of execution (or in an adjacent county), regardless of the county their department is in, will be able to execute blood search warrants.
- Author – Senator Charles Perry

90

SB 1164 – Emergency Detention Warrants (Slide 1 of 3)

HSC § 573.012(b), Repealed: 573.012(c); Applies only to an emergency detention that begins on/after 9/1/25.

- The wording for the required determinations when deciding whether to issue an emergency detention warrant has changed.
- And now it is all combined into Subsection (b), with (c) repealed.
- New language on next slide:

91

SB 1164 – Emergency Detention Warrants (Slide 2 of 3)

(b) The magistrate shall deny the application unless the magistrate finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that:

- the person evidences mental illness and because of that mental illness the person evidences:
 - a substantial risk of serious harm to himself or others;
 - severe emotional distress and deterioration in the person's mental condition; or
 - an inability to recognize symptoms or appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment;
- the person is likely without immediate detention to suffer serious risk of harm or to inflict serious harm on another person;
- the risk of harm is imminent unless the person is immediately restrained; and
- the necessary restraint cannot be accomplished without emergency detention.

92

SB 1164 – Emergency Detention Warrants – Non-Warrant Detention

(3 of 3)

HSC § 573.001(a), 573.002(a),(b),(c),(d),(f), 573.003(a), Repealed: 573.001(b), 573.003(b); Applies only to an emergency detention that begins on/after 9/1/25.

- Similar changes in the following sections to the language for when a peace officer may take a person into custody for emergency detention without a warrant and when a guardian can take a ward who is 18 or older without the assistance of a peace officer:
 - Apprehension by Peace Officer Without Warrant
 - Peace Officer's Notification of Emergency Detention
 - Transportation for Emergency Detention by Guardian
- Language also added about peace officer being able to leave hospital after non-warrant detention as soon as the person is taken into custody by appropriate facility staff and the required notification is provided to the facility.

93

Peace Officer Licensing/Commissions/Benefits/Etc.

94

Peace Officer

Bill List

SB 434 – Harris Co Hospital Peace Officers

SB 502 – HHSC Inspector General Peace Officers

SB 906 – Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Peace Officers

SB 1321 – Compensation & Leave for Certain Peace Officers

HB 1866 – Federal Park Service LE

SB 2143 – County Commissioners & New Agencies

SB 2383 – Retired Officers Rehired at DPS

HB 2467 – Compensation for State Fire Marshal Peace Officers

HB 3248 – Defense Base Development Peace Officers

HB 3686 – Information on ID Cards for Retired LE

HB 4144 – Supplemental Benefits for Retired Firefighters & LE

HB4205 – Compensation & Benefits for LE

HB 4264 – Grant Program for Officers Holding Master Proficiency Cert.

SB 1737 – ERS Benefits

95

SB 434 – Harris Co Hospital Peace Officers

Special Districts & Authorities—Hospital

- Author: Senator Borris L. Miles
- Grants the Harris County Hospital District the authority to employ and commission peace officers.
- Establishes the process for commissioning peace officers within the district.
- Defines the jurisdiction and duties of the commissioned peace officers.
- Encourages coordination between the district's peace officers and local law enforcement agencies.

96

SB 502 – HHSC Inspector General Peace Officers

Health and Human Services Code, Government Code

- Author: Senator Charles Perry
- Grants the Harris County Hospital District the authority to employ and commission peace officers.
- Grants the Health and Human Services Commission's Office of Inspector General the authority to commission peace officers.
- Defines the jurisdiction and duties of the commissioned peace officers.
- Encourages coordination between the Office of Inspector General and other law enforcement agencies.

97

SB 906 – Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Peace Officers

Law Enforcement

- Primary Author: Senator César J. Blanco
- Grants the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo the authority to commission peace officers.
- Defines the jurisdiction and duties of the commissioned peace officers.
- Encourages coordination between the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's peace officers and local law enforcement agencies.

98

SB 1321 – Compensation & Leave for Certain Peace Officers

Government Code, Chapter 659; Occupations Code, Chapter 1701

- Author: Senator Hagenbuch
- Classifies commissioned peace officers employed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) as Schedule C positions under the position classification plan.
- Entitles TCOLE commissioned peace officers to receive state hazardous duty pay.
- Provides special injury leave for qualifying peace officers.
- Requires TCOLE to ensure peace officers commissioned as investigators are compensated in accordance with the state's salary schedule.

99

HB 1866 – Federal Park Service LE

Government Code § 411.0165

- Author: Rep. Lujan
- Grants state law enforcement authority to National Park Service officers in Texas
- Applies to National Park Service law enforcement officers assigned to parks in Texas
- Grants NPS officers limited authority to enforce Texas laws within national parks and recreation areas.
- Clarifies jurisdictional boundaries between federal and state law enforcement.

100

SB 2143 – County Commissioners & New Agencies

Code of Criminal Procedure Arts. 8.01, 8.02, 8.03

- Author: Senator Charles Perry
- Grants counties the authority to commission certain fire protection officers as peace officers.
- Allows the establishment of specific law enforcement agencies within counties to improve local law enforcement capabilities.
- Provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of newly commissioned peace officers.
- Specifies the procedural framework for the establishment of these new agencies.

101

SB 2383 – Retired Officers Rehired at DPS

Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 411.007

- Author: Senator Bettencourt
- **Retired Officers Rehired:** The bill amends Section 411.007 of the Government Code to allow retired commissioned officers to be rehired by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) without being subject to certain employment restrictions that typically apply to new hires.
- **Subsections Exempted:** Specifically, Subsections (e), (e-1), and (f) do not apply to a retired commissioned officer who is employed by the department as a commissioned officer.
- **Purpose:** This change aims to facilitate the reemployment of experienced officers, addressing staffing needs within the DPS.

102

HB 2467 – Compensation for State Fire Marshal Peace Officers

Labor Code § § 614.123, 614.124

- Author: Rep. VanDeaver
- Establishes compensation and benefits for certain peace officers commissioned by the State Fire Marshal.
- Aligns these officers' compensation with that of other state law enforcement officers.

103

HB 3248 – Defense Base Development Peace Officers

Local Government Code § § 379B.003; Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 2.12

- Author: Rep. Philip Cortez
- **Authorizes Peace Officer Commissioning:** Empowers the board of directors of a defense base development authority to employ and commission peace officers.
- **Jurisdiction and Authority:** Grants commissioned officers jurisdiction over property owned or controlled by the authority and authority to make arrests without a warrant within their jurisdiction.
- **Classification as Peace Officers:** Includes officers commissioned by a defense base development authority among those classified as peace officers under the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- **Prevails Over Conflicting Legislation:** Establishes that, to the extent of any conflict, this bill prevails over another act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

104

HB 3686 – Information on ID Cards for Retired LE

Government Code § § 411.173, 411.174

- Author: Rep. Sam Harless
- **Updates Identification Card Information:** Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to include the date of birth and photograph of the retired peace or law enforcement officer on the identification card.
- **Enhances Identification Validity:** Ensures that the identification card accurately reflects the officer's identity and status, facilitating recognition and verification.
- **Applies to Retired Officers:** Affects retired peace officers and law enforcement officers who are authorized to carry a concealed handgun under state law.

105

HB 4144 – Supplemental Benefits for Retired Firefighters & LE

Government Code § § 615.003, 615.004

- Author: Rep. Turner
- **Eligibility for Supplemental Benefits:** Provides supplemental benefits to retired firefighters and peace officers diagnosed with certain diseases or illnesses.
- **Criteria for Diagnosis:** Specifies the diseases or illnesses that qualify for supplemental benefits.
- **Administration of Benefits:** Outlines the process for administering the supplemental benefits to eligible retirees.

106

HB4205 – Compensation & Benefits for LE

Local Government Code § § 152.908, 174.003, 174.005

- Author: Rep. Harless
- Applies in a county with a population of 3.3 million or more
- If the commissioners court of a county increases the compensation or employment benefits for a class of police officers, the commissioners court must increase by the same amount the compensation or employment benefits to all police officers that are within that class and who receive their compensation and employment benefits primarily through county funding.
- Commissioners court cannot reduce another part of the agencies' budget for these increases and must provide funding for these increases.

107

HB 4264 – Grant Program for Officers Holding Master Proficiency Cert.

Government Code § § 615.003, 615.004

- Author: Rep. Cole Hefner
- **Establishment of Grant Program:** Creates a grant program to provide financial assistance to peace officers who hold a master proficiency certificate.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Specifies the qualifications and requirements for peace officers to be eligible for the grant.
- **Administration of Grants:** Outlines the process for applying for and distributing the grants to eligible peace officers.
- **Purpose:** Aims to incentivize professional development and recognize the expertise of peace officers holding a master proficiency certificate.
- ***There is no funding for this.***

108

SB 1737 – ERS Benefits

Government Code §§ 811.001, 813.506, 814.104, 815.505

- Author: Senator Joan Huffman
- Expands the definition of "custodial officer" to include employees of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), the Comptroller of Public Accounts, and the Office of the Attorney General who are employed in positions involving custodial supervision or close contact with individuals under their care.
- Expands the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include employees of the Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Office of the Attorney General who are commissioned as peace officers.
- Allows employees of TJJD, the Comptroller, and the Attorney General to receive service credit as custodial or law enforcement officers under the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS).

109

Funding & Fees

110

Funding & Fees

HB 1950 – Municipal Court Security Fund

HB 2217 – Bullet-Resistant Components Grant Program

Bill List

HB 2282 – Warrant Fee

111

HB 1950 – Municipal Court Security Fund

Local Government Code § 102.051

- Author: Rep. Capriglione
- Establishes a Consolidated Municipal Court Building Security and Technology Fund for municipalities with populations under 100,000.
- Simplifies the management of courthouse security and technology fees by consolidating them into a single fund

112

HB 2217 – Bullet-Resistant Components Grant Program

Government Code § § 421.074, 421.075

- Author: Rep. Trey Wharton
- Creates a grant program administered by the Criminal Justice Division to equip law enforcement vehicles with bullet-resistant components.
- Provides financial assistance to law enforcement agencies for purchasing and installing bullet-resistant windshields, side windows, rear windows, or door panels.

113

HB 2282 – Warrant Fee JPCA Priority Bill

CCP Art. 102.011(a); Applies only to a fee imposed for the execution or processing of an arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine issued for an offense committed on/after 9/1/25.

- Warrant fee assessed as costs (when applicable) to a convicted defendant will now be \$75 instead of \$50.

114

Other

Other

Bill List

- SB 710** – Establishment & Use of Written Electronic Communications System
- SB 739** – Tracking Equipment & Communications
- SB 2580** – Definitions for Laws Related to Tracking Equipment
- SB 857** – Officer Tow
- HB 1620** – Non-substantive Reorganization of CCP, LGC, etc.
- SB 1723** – Establishment of Rapid DNA Analysis Pilot Program
- HB 1893** – Disclosure of License Plate Numbers
- SB 2001** – Registration & Placards for Disabled LE
- SB 2180** – Training for Polygraph
- HB 2523** - Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway
- SB 2569** – Reporting Related to Unmanned Aircraft
- SB 2570** – Use of Less-Lethal Force Weapon
- HB 4995** – Carrying of Handguns by Tactical Medical Professionals

SB 710 – Establishment & Use of Written Electronic Communications System

Government Code, Chapter 551

- Author: Senator Sarah Eckhardt
- Allows municipal governing bodies to authorize boards, commissions, or similar entities to establish and use online message boards or similar Internet applications for public communication.
- Authorization can be granted for up to two years and may be reauthorized.
- Governing bodies retain the authority to rescind the authorization at any time.

117

SB 739 – Tracking Equipment & Communications

Criminal Procedure—General, Electronic Information Systems, Law Enforcement

- Author: Senator Lois Kolkhorst
- Clarifies the definition of "authorized peace officer" for the purposes of laws related to the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications.
- Specifies the circumstances under which authorized peace officers may engage in activities related to tracking equipment and communications access.
- Ensures compliance with legal standards and protections in these activities.

118

SB 2580 – Definitions for Laws Related to Tracking Equipment

Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 18B.001(4), No new rulemaking authority granted

- Author: Senator Hancock
- **Modernization of Definitions:** Updates the definition of "designated law enforcement office or agency" to include:
 - Sheriff's department of a county with a population of 500,000 or more
 - Police department in a municipality with a population of 200,000 or more
 - Office of Inspector General of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
 - Office of Inspector General of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- **Purpose:** Ensures that these entities are recognized under laws governing the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications.
- **No Additional Rulemaking:** The bill does not grant new rulemaking authority to any state officer, department, agency, or institution.

119

SB 857 – Officer Tow

Transportation Code § 545.305(a)

- Authorizes officers to tow vehicles operated by a person in violation of Transportation Code Sections 521.021, 521.457, 601.191, or 729.002 (unlicensed or uninsured drivers).

120

SB 1723 – Establishment of Rapid DNA Analysis Pilot Program

Government Code, Chapter 411

- Author: Senator Brandon Creighton
- Defines "rapid DNA analysis" as the fully automated processing of a reference buccal swab sample to provide a DNA record eligible for comparison in the CODIS database within two hours, without submitting the sample to a crime laboratory.
- Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a pilot program to optimize the process of reporting DNA records and decrease the number of arrests for which a DNA sample is not collected and analyzed.
- Timeline for implementation and consultation with federal agencies for best practices.

121

HB 1893 – Disclosure of License Plate Numbers

Government Code § 552.130

- Author: Rep. David Cook
- Amends the Public Information Act to require the disclosure of motor vehicle license plate numbers captured in law enforcement video recordings.
- Removes the exemption that previously protected license plate numbers from public disclosure.

122

SB 2001 – Registration & Placards for Disabled LE

Transportation Code § § 504.201, 504.202, 504.601, 504.602, 504.603, 504.604, 504.605, and 504.606

- Author: Senator Phil King
- Establishes a specialty license plate for peace officers who are disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty.
- Allows eligible peace officers to register one vehicle without paying any fee, except for the license plate fee.
- Provides for the issuance of disabled parking placards to eligible peace officers.
- Defines eligibility based on the peace officer's disability resulting from injuries sustained in the line of duty.

123

SB 2180 – Training for Polygraph

Occupations Code, Chapter 1701, Subchapter G

- Author: Senator Brent Hagenbuch and Senator Pete Flores
- Requires peace officers to obtain certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to conduct polygraph examinations for preemployment screenings and criminal investigations.
- Establishes minimum requirements for training, testing, and certification of peace officers to conduct polygraph examinations.
- Peace officers must complete an approved training course and pass an examination administered by TCOLE to obtain certification.
- TCOLE must adopt necessary rules as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, with full compliance required by January 1, 2027.

124

HB 2523 – Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway

Transportation Code § 225.017

- Author: Rep. Janie Lopez
- Designates a portion of State Highway 48 in Cameron County as the Deputy Constable Ruben Garcia Memorial Highway

125

SB 2569 – Reporting Related to Unmanned Aircraft (1 of 2)

Government Code, Section 423.008(a), Effective Date: June 20, 2025

- Author: Senator Flores
- **Modernization of Reporting Requirements:** SB 2569 amends Section 423.008(a) of the Government Code to update the reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies regarding their use or operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

126

SB 2569 – Reporting Related to Unmanned Aircraft (2 of 2)

Government Code, Section 423.008(a), Effective Date: June 20, 2025

- **Frequency of Reporting:** The bill requires state law enforcement agencies and county or municipal law enforcement agencies to submit reports on their UAS usage to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on an annual basis.
- **Content of Reports:** Reports must include information on the number of UAS operated, the purpose of their use, and any other relevant data as determined by DPS.
- **Purpose:** The aim is to enhance transparency and oversight concerning the deployment of UAS by law enforcement agencies.
- **Implementation:** The bill does not grant additional rulemaking authority to any state officer, department, agency, or institution.

127

SB 2570 – Use of Less-Lethal Force Weapon (1 of 2)

Penal Code, Chapter 9, Effective Date: June 20, 2025

- **Primary Bill Author:** Senator Flores, House Sponsor: Representative Guillen
- **Legal Justification for Use of Force:** Introduces a legal justification for the use of force with a less-lethal force weapon by correctional facility guards or peace officers.
- **Definition of Less-Lethal Force Weapon:** Defines "less-lethal force weapon" to include any weapon, device, or munition designed to temporarily incapacitate a target while minimizing the risk of serious bodily injury or death.

128

SB 2570 – Use of Less-Lethal Force Weapon (2 of 2)

Penal Code, Chapter 9, Effective Date: June 20, 2025

- **Conditions for Use:** Establishes that the use of such force is justified when the person reasonably believes the force is necessary to accomplish their official duties and if the use of the weapon is in substantial compliance with department policies and procedures.
- **Immunity from Prosecution:** Provides that a person acting under this justification is immune from prosecution for certain offenses involving the use of a less-lethal force weapon

129

HB 4995 – Carrying of Handguns by Tactical Medical Professionals

Government Code § 411.1884; Penal Code § § 30.06, 46.15

- **Definition of Tactical Medical Professional:** A person who is a licensed physician or emergency medical services personnel, employed or appointed by a law enforcement agency to provide direct support to a tactical unit during high-risk incidents.
- **Training Requirements:** Establishes minimum standards for initial and continuing education courses in handgun use, administered by qualified instructors.
- **Certification:** Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to issue a certificate of completion to qualified tactical medical professionals.
- **Liability Protections:** Provides civil immunity for governmental units regarding the discharge of handguns by certified tactical medical professionals during the course of their duties.
- **Penal Code Amendments:** Creates defenses to prosecution for certain handgun-related offenses for certified tactical medical professionals acting within the scope of their duties.

130

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

131

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Bill List

SJR 5 – Denial of Bail in Certain Situations

SJR 27 – Judicial Conduct Commission Membership and Procedures

132

Note About Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- *These are not law yet!*
- They will be put up for a general vote on 11/4/25.
- If they pass, TJCTC will send out an e-blast with additional information.

133

SJR 5 – Denial of Bail in Certain Situations

Article 1, Sec. 11d; If passes, will take effect once the official vote canvas confirms statewide majority approval.

- The bill lists applicable offenses, procedures for denying bail for those offenses, and procedures/findings for granting bail for those offenses. Also says that at a hearing described by this section, a person is entitled to counsel.
- The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

134

Federal Case Studies

US Supreme Court Case 606

Barnes v Felix (2025)

5th Circuit Court-Lower Court

US Supreme Court Case 604 US

Bondi v. VanDerStok

Lower: 5th Circuit Court case

135

US Supreme Court Case Barnes v. Felix, 605 US –5th Circuit Court case

- April 28, 2016 Officer Roberto Felix, Jr. fatally shot Ashtian Barnes during a traffic stop on the Harris Co. tollway. Toll violations and no documentation, smells marijuana
- Barnes opens trunk for officer, gets back in and vehicle starts to move, officer pulls weapon, climbed onto the car presses weapon to Barnes head, fires twice
- Grand jury declined to indict Felix, 5th Court of Appeals affirmed ruling

136

US Supreme Court Case Barnes v. Felix, 605 US 2025

- Should Courts evaluate excessive force under the 4th amendment only at the “moment of the threat” or consider the broader context?
- Supreme Ct. ruled that the “totality of circumstances” should be reviewed, vacated and remanded the 5th Circuits decision.
- Case redefines the legal framework for assessing police use of force using the “reasonable officer” standards

137

US Supreme Court Case 604 US Bondi v. VanDerStok /lower: 5th Circuit Court case

- ATF enforces gun laws including background checks. To better identify newer guns like AR-15s and Glocks, ghost guns the ATF updated its rules to address in 2022. People sued said ATF had no authority to update the rule. Lower courts agreed and struck down the rule. An appeal was filed.
- Supreme Court decided that ATF did have the power to regulate gun kits. 3-2 decision

138