

MAJOR LEGISLATION OF THE 89th SESSION

Representative Collier in Action

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I secured significant investments from the state, most notably:

- ★ **\$10 million for the National Juneteenth Museum in Fort Worth.**
- ★ **\$1 million for Griggs South Creek Linear Park in Forest Hill,**
- ★ **\$1 million for Sycamore Community Park in Fort Worth.**
- ★ **\$1.025 million towards reducing burdensome childcare regulations while still prioritizing child welfare and safety.**

Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day, HCR 92 effective 9/1/2025

Designates the fourth Thursday in March as the Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day in Texas.

Appropriations

State Budget, Senate Bill 1 – effective 9/1/25

Authorizes \$338.02 billion in of total spending.

Public Health

Expanding Access to Medical Marijuana, House Bill 46 – effective 9/1/25

Expands Texas' Compassionate Use Program by issuing 15 total licenses to distribute medical marijuana. Patients would be certified for 1-year periods, broken into four 90-day medication refills. Also expands the conditions a patient may have to access the program, most notably chronic pain, traumatic brain injuries, Crohn's disease, and terminal illnesses that require a patient to receive hospice or palliative care.

Medical Bills of Uninsured Patients - House Bill 1612 – effective 9/1/25

Puts limits on what a public and private hospital can bill an uninsured patient versus an insured patients, for the same services. The hospital may not charge 25% more than the service is generally billed, or 50 percent more than the highest bill does not apply rate the hospital accepts from CHIP, Medicare, Medicaid, or Medicaid managed care. The catch is that the patient must request application of this provision but the hospital must tell them of their right to make it. This does not apply to ambulatory surgical centers.

Penalties for Operating an Unlicensed Assisted Living Facility, House Bill 2510 – effective 9/1/25

Creates a criminal offense for a person who provides "personal assistance" or "personal attendant care services" to a resident of an assisted living facility without a home and community support services agency license. Also creates a Class A misdemeanor offense for a person operating an assisted living facility without holding a license issued under the Assisted Living Facility Licensing Act.

Suing Vaccine Manufacturers, House Bill 3441 – effective 9/1/25

Creates a cause of action against vaccine manufacturers who advertise in Texas, for injury or harm caused by the vaccine.

Access to Physical Therapy, House Bill 4099 – effective 9/1/25

Expands the amount of time a person may seek care from a physical therapist without a referral from a physician from 10 consecutive business days to 30 consecutive calendar days.

Warning Label for COVID-19 Vaccine, House Bill 4535 – effective 9/1/25

Requires health care providers to obtain a patient's informed written consent before administering the COVID-19 vaccine. The consent form will include information about the benefits and risks of taking the vaccine including side effects, the expedited manner of approval of the vaccine, whether long term studies have been conducted regarding the vaccine, whether vaccine manufacturers are subject to liability for injuries related to the vaccine, how to report vaccine related injuries or reaction.

Nutrition Classes and Food Labels, Senate Bill 25 – effective 9/1/25

Requires public schools to teach nutrition in K-8 health classes based. High schools must offer elective courses in nutrition and wellness. Colleges and universities are required to offer nutrition education.

Requires students from pre-K through 8th grade to have daily moderate or vigorous physical activity unless the student is sick, has a disability, or is already involved in organized extracurricular activities. Prevents schools from taking away physical activity as a punishment for behavior or academic problems.

Starting in 2027, food manufacturers must add a warning label to certain products meant for human consumption if the product includes certain ingredients such as bleached flour and titanium dioxide to dyes that are already outlawed in the U.S., such as red dye No. 4, and red dye No. 3.

Exception to Abortion Ban, Senate Bill 31 – effective 9/1/25

Allows a physicians to use reasonable medical judgment to provide an abortion when there is a medical emergency. Under this bill, medical emergency is defined as a threat to the mother's life or her major bodily functions.

Vaccine Reporting, Senate Bill 269 – effective 9/1/25

Requires physicians to report to the appropriate federal monitoring systems, any adverse events related to a drug or vaccine that is experimental or investigational or authorized or approved for emergency use by the FDA.

Banning Certain Ingredients in Free or Reduced Lunch Meals, Senate Bill 314 – effective immediately

Starting with the 2026-2027 school year, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools providing free or reduced-price meals under state or federal programs are prohibited from including food containing any of certain specified additives, such as brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, various artificial colors, and titanium dioxide. However, a school district may apply for an exemption to this law from the Texas Education Agency.

Banning Candy & Soda on SNAP, Senate Bill 379 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits SNAP recipients from using their benefits to buy sweetened drinks and candy. Sweetened drinks are defined as beverages containing five grams or more of sugar, except for the following: milk, milk substitutes (such as soy milk), and drinks with more than 50% vegetable or fruit juice.

Medical Necessity Denials, Senate Bill 815 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits the use of artificial intelligence algorithms as the sole basis to deny, delay, or modify health care services, in whole or in part, for medical necessity reasons.

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Public Education

Public Education Funding, House Bill 2 – effective 9/1/25

Authorizes \$8.5B for public school funding distributed as such: teacher raises: Tiered by district size and experience; \$500M for non-teaching staff raises; makes special education funding based on student need, not placement; bans uncertified core subject teachers by 2030; additional funding for full-day Pre-K; early reading and math support for K–3 students; increases campus security funding from \$10 to \$20 per student; and allocates funding for a school districts’ transportation, utilities, and insurance costs.

School Vouchers Program, Senate Bill 2 – effective 9/1/25

Starting in 2026, families can apply to receive around \$10,300 per year for each child to attend an accredited Texas private school. Children with disabilities are eligible for up to \$30,000 depending on their circumstances. Home-schoolers can receive up to \$2,000 per year. Money will be available through education savings accounts and only U.S. citizens or people lawfully in the country are eligible.

Students would be prioritized in the following order:

1. Students with disabilities from families earning up to 500% of the federal poverty level (around \$156,000 for a family of four).
2. Low-income families who earn up to 200% of the poverty level (approximately \$62,400 for a family of four).
3. Families earning between 200% and 500% of the poverty level.
4. Families earning above 500% of the poverty level.

In the first year, the program will be capped at \$1 billion, providing funding for up to 90,000 students, however there were approximately 5M students enrolled in Texas’ public and charter schools at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

School Discipline, House Bill 6 – effective immediately

Extends in-school suspension from 3 days to unlimited, with principal reviews every 10 days. Students can be suspended for weapons offenses, threats to safety, or serious classroom disruptions. Out-of-school suspensions can be used for repeated disruptions or safety threats.

Charter schools cannot exclude students unless specified, must have written policies on admissions and exclusions based on serious disciplinary or criminal history, and can exclude students convicted of certain crimes if they have child-care facilities. Virtual DAEPs are allowed. Students can be expelled for off-campus offenses involving deadly conduct or weapons. First-time vaping offenses can receive milder consequences instead of alternative education.

Religious Time in Schools, Senate Bill 11 – effective 9/1/25

Allows students and employees to have a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text in public schools but requires students to have parental/guardian consent in order to take part. This time cannot impact students who do not participate and it can’t be used as a replacement for regular classroom instruction.

Library Materials, Senate Bill 13 – effective 9/1/25

Requires school districts to adopt formal policies for selecting library books. Creates local advisory councils of mostly parents, to help review materials and mandates a 30-day public review before new books are approved. Allows parents to challenge books and temporarily restrict access while a review is pending. Schools must avoid materials deemed sexually explicit, indecent, or profane based on new state standards.

Open Carry for School Marshals, Senate Bill 870 – effective immediately

Allows uniformed school marshals to openly carry a handgun on school grounds (rather than conceal carry).

Teaching about Communism, Senate Bill 24 – effective immediately

Requires public schools (grades 4–12) to teach about the history and dangers of communism starting in the 2026–2027 school year. The curriculum must cover: Atrocities by communist regimes (e.g., China, USSR, Cuba); Tactics like censorship, propaganda, and forced conformity; Comparisons between communism and American democratic values; and First-person accounts from victims of communism.

DEI Ban in Schools, Senate Bill 12 – effective 9/1/25

Bans diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs and policies at all K-12 schools. Bans student clubs that are based on one’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Allows parents to view all of their child’s instructional materials, including their child’s library access records.

Bans on Cell Phones, House Bill 1481 – effective immediately

Students are prohibited from using personal communication devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, smartwatches) on campus during the school day. Schools may require students to store these devices securely while on campus. This ban does not apply to school-provided devices or personal devices used for students with disabilities, medical directives, or legal health and safety requirements.

Financial Literacy for Students, House Bill 27 – effective immediately

Requires high school students to complete a semester of personal financial literacy in order to graduate. Applies to students entering the ninth grade in school year 2025-2026.

Ten Commandments in Classrooms, Senate Bill 10 – effective 9/1/25

Requires the display of the Ten Commandments in each public school classrooms. If a school does not have a copy of the Ten Commandments, the school must accept private donations of compliant copies of the Ten Commandments to be displayed.

UIL Participation for Students who are Homeschooled, Senate Bill 401 – effective immediately

Public schools must allow students who are not enrolled—but meet UIL eligibility requirements—to participate in UIL activities, just like enrolled students. However, a school district or charter school can choose to adopt a policy that denies this participation. If the school a non-enrolled student would normally attend has such a policy, the student may instead participate in UIL activities at the nearest school that allows it.

Criminal Law

Limiting Bail Access, Senate Bill 9 – effective date varies

Bans personal bond release for violent felonies, repeat offenses, and immigration detainer cases. Lets prosecutors appeal low bail, keeping defendants jailed during appeals. In counties over 200,000 people, magistrates can’t bail out defendants on parole, with multiple felonies, or under immigration detainers. Charitable bail groups must report to the state Office of Court Administration, not county sheriffs.

Magistrate Findings for Bail, House Bill 75 – effective 9/1/25

No later than 24 hours after a magistrate determines there is no probable cause to believe a person committed the offense for which they were arrested, the magistrate must document written findings in the record, supporting that decision.

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Bail, Senate Bill 40 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits Texas counties, cities, and other political subdivisions from using public funds to pay nonprofit organizations that post bail for criminal defendants. Will prevent the use of government money from indirectly supporting charitable bail bond programs. Allows residents or taxpayers to sue for injunctive relief.

Criminal Penalties for Disrupting a Virtual Public Meeting, House Bill 5238 – effective 9/1/25

Expands the prohibition of disrupting lawful meetings, processions, or gatherings to include whether the event was in person or virtual. This virtual expansion would address hacking or any other way used to electronically disturb.

Ban on Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Senate Bill 1362 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits enforcement of “red flag” laws in Texas. Bars state/local officials from enforcing or recognizing red ERPOs from other states or the federal government; makes such enforcement a state jail felony; and blocks acceptance of federal funds tied to red flag laws.

Protections for Police Misconduct, Senate Bill 1367 – effective 9/1/25

Shields peace officers from being charged with deadly conduct if they are on duty, even if they knowingly discharge a firearm at another person without legal justification.

Gun Buyback Programs, House Bill 3053 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits cities and counties from organizing or participating in firearm buyback programs.

Higher Education

Student Athlete NIL, House Bill 126 – effective immediately

Allows a student athlete to enter into a name, image or likeness contract with or receive compensation from a higher education institution in exchange for accepting an offer of admission to attend the institution or actions that occur during an official team activity.

College Speech, Senate Bill 2972 – effective 9/1/25

Limits campus protests to students and staff, with added restrictions: no megaphones during class hours, no tents or disguises, no replacing U.S. or Texas flags, no disruptive protests in the last two weeks of the semester, and no protests from 10 PM to 8 AM.

Elections

Fonts on Mail-in Ballots, House Bill 3697 – effective 9/1/25

Requires applications and ballots to use at least 10-point font, instead of 6 and printed in black text on a white background.

Use of Cell Phones at Polling Locations, House Bill 3909 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits the use of cell phones within a room in which voting is taking place instead of within 100 feet of a voting station. Persons with disabilities are exempt.

Increase Criminal Penalties for Election Fraud, House Bill 5115 – effective 9/1/25

Adds to the definition of election fraud the following: counting votes a person knows are invalid or not counting votes a person knows is valid. General election fraud becomes a second-degree felony (up from Class A misdemeanor). If the offense is committed by an elected official in their official capacity, it's now a first-degree felony (up from state-jail felony). Attempted election fraud is upgraded to a third-degree felony (previously Class B misdemeanor).

Random Audit of Elections, Senate Bill 827 – effective 9/1/25

Requires the general custodian of election records to conduct a

manual count of all races in either: at least one percent of the election day polling locations **and** one percent of the early voting locations where the electronic voting system was used, **or** at least three election day polling locations **and** three early voting locations where the electronic voting system was used, whichever amount is greater. This count is based on locations, not precincts. The manual count must start within 72 hours after the polls close and be completed by the 21st day after election day. Applies to early voting and election day voting.

Voting Period and Procedures, Senate Bill 2753 – effective 9/1/25

Requires early voting by personal appearance and Election Day voting be treated as a continuous voting period rather than separate phases – this means Early voting locations will also serve as polling places on Election Day. Allows election precincts with fewer than 3,000 registered voters to be consolidated. Requires the SOS to conduct a study on the impact of this change.

Correcting Defect on Mail-in Ballots, Senate Bill 2964 – effective 9/1/25

Requires county clerks to, upon the second day after the clerk detects a defect in a mail-in ballot, to notify the voter and send the voter a corrective action form that includes an explanation of the defect. If time does not permit, the clerk may notify the voter by phone or email, allowing the voter to cancel their mail-in ballot and vote in person not later than 6 days after the election. A poll watcher is permitted to observe this process.

Other

Rogue Signs, House Bill 3611 – effective 9/1/25

Subjects a person who places or commissions for placement, signage that is meant to advertise or for informational purposes, liable for civil penalties if the sign is placed in an unauthorized right-of-way of a public road. The person will receive written warning for the first offense with the opportunity to remove the sign within a reasonable time period. If the person fails to remove the sign after receiving the notice, they are subject to graduated fines.

Denial of Insurance, House Bill 2067 – effective 1/1/26

Requires insurers to provide written reasons for declining, canceling, or nonrenewing insurance policies and requires quarterly reporting of these reasons to the insurance department, which will publish aggregated data by zip code.

Insurance Rates, Senate Bill 1644 – effective 1/1/26

If an insurer uses credit scores to issue policies or set rates and takes adverse action against a customer—like raising rates or denying coverage—they must use a credit report that's no more than 90 days old. Also, the insurer must review and update customers' credit reports at least every 36 months and adjust premiums if the score improves. At renewal, policyholders can request a re-evaluation based on a current credit score once every 12 months. Insurers are exempt if the customer is already in the best rate tier, if credit scores weren't used, or if the policy type doesn't rely on credit scoring. If adverse action is taken, insurers must notify the customer of their right to request a re-rating within 30 days.

Identity Theft, House Bill 4238 – effective immediately

Prohibits creditors, debt collectors, or third-party debt collectors from attempting to collect consumer debt incurred as a result of identity theft when presented with a court order or notice confirming the identity theft.

Fake Fundraisers, House Bill 4281 – effective 9/1/25

Creates a civil cause of action for collecting donations with the intent to keep them instead of giving them to the intended donee. Mandates courts to award damages of 125% of the collected donations plus attorney's fees to the donee or their estate.

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Home-Businesses, House Bill 2464 – effective immediately

Municipalities cannot prohibit no impact home-based business within a residential property of a owner or tenant who manufactures, provides, or sells a lawful good nor require the property to be rezoned. The definition of “no impact home businesses” means a home-based business that does not generate on-street parking or substantially increase traffic or noise, and does not have visible business activities from the street. At any point, the total number of employees and patrons of the home-based business cannot exceed the municipal occupancy limit. A municipality cannot require the home-based business to obtain a license or permit to operate. This bill does not impact deed restrictions or HOA rules related to home-based businesses and does not apply to short term rental, which can continue to be regulated locally.

Bundling of Insurance, Senate Bill 213 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits insurers from requiring residential property or personal automobile insurance to be bundled as a condition of issuing, renewing, or delivering either type of policy. Does not apply to windstorm & hail insurance via the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association, NFIP flood insurance, or personal umbrella policies.

Municipal Courts, Senate Bill 304 – effective 9/1/25

Allows cities to pass ordinances permitting municipal courts to enforce health and safety and nuisance abatement ordinances. City councils would be permitted to grant their municipal court the same jurisdiction as a municipal court of record. This means municipal courts would have concurrent jurisdiction with county and district courts to enforce building and housing ordinances as well as abandoned vehicle laws. Municipal courts would also be permitted to issue search warrants and seizure warrants related to this authority.

Move or Slow Down Law, Senate Bill 305 – effective 9/1/25

Texas law requires drivers to slow down 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit or move over an entire lane if a driver is approaching certain vehicles that are parked on the side of the highway. Currently, this law applies to emergency vehicles, tow trucks, TxDOT trucks, utility vehicles, municipal waste trucks, and toll operator vehicles. This bill adds animal control officers and parking enforcement employees to the slow down or move over law.

Mandatory Immigration Enforcement Agreement, Senate Bill 8 – effective 1/1/26

Requires counties with a population of more than 100,000 people to enter into 287(g) agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Local sheriffs will enforce federal immigration law and deportation efforts.

Housing

Residential Zoning Protest, House Bill 24 – effective 9/1/25

Under this bill, a protest of a proposed zoning change would have to be written and signed by the owners of at least 20 percent of the area of land covered by the proposed change or at least 60 percent of the area of land immediately adjoining the covered change and extending 200 feet from that area.

If the protest meets the conditions, the governing body would need a three-fourths vote to bypass the 20 percent of landowners or a simple majority to bypass the 60 percent of adjoining landowners.

Residential Lot Sizes, Senate Bill 15 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits municipalities from requiring residential lots to be larger than 3,000 square feet, wider than 30 feet, or deeper than 75 feet in. A municipality may not restrict small lots by requiring them to have setbacks greater than 15 feet from the front, 10 feet from the back, and 5 feet to the sides of the property. Small lot restrictions may not require covered parking, more than one parking space, off-site parking, etc. Only applies only to land larger than five acres that has not been mapped or platted, such as new neighborhoods.

Prohibitions Regarding the Purchase of Real Property, Senate Bill 17 – effective 9/1/25

Prevents people and companies from China, Russia, Iran and North Korea from buying land in Texas. If a person from one of those countries tries to buy land—especially for farming, energy, or near military bases—they might not be allowed to. There are exceptions though: if you’re from one of those countries but are a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident (green card holder), or buying land just to live on, you’re not affected.

Evictions, Senate Bill 38 – effective 9/1/25 and 1/1/26

If a tenant is being evicted only for not paying rent and hasn’t been late before, the landlord must give a written notice to either pay the rent or move out. If the tenant has been late in previous months, the landlord can give either a notice to pay or a notice to vacate.

This notice can be delivered in person (to someone 16 or older at the property), by mail, or attached to the front door—if posted, it must also be mailed by 5 p.m. that day. When counting deadlines, the first day is excluded, but the last day counts, even on weekends or holidays.

Before filing an eviction case (forcible detainer), the landlord must send the proper notice and file the case in the same precinct where the property is located. A sheriff or constable has five business days to serve the tenant. If not done on time, a qualified officer can be used instead.

The trial must be held 10–21 days after filing. It can be delayed up to 7 days if both sides agree in writing. Courts may allow virtual appearances. Landlords can request a quick ruling (summary disposition) when they first file. Tenants cannot bring up unrelated issues like ownership disputes or damages.

To appeal, a party has 5 days to file a bond, cash deposit, or statement of inability to pay. Tenants must appeal in good faith and keep paying rent, which goes to the court registry during the appeal.

Commercial Conversion to Residential Use, Senate Bill 840 – effective 9/1/25

Allows mixed use and multifamily housing to be developed “by right” in areas currently zoned for commercial, office, warehouse, retail or mixed-use – without the need for rezoning, variances or public hearings. This applies to cities with populations over 150,000 located in counties with more than 300,000 residents, such as Arlington and Fort Worth.

Removal of Squatters, Senate Bill 1333 – effective 9/1/25

Authorizes property owners to request immediate removal of a person unlawfully occupying a residence by law enforcement if the property was not open to the public or the subject of pending litigation, if the owner has directed the person to leave the property but they have not done so, and if the person was not a current or former tenant or an immediate family member of the property owner.

Allowing “Frat Houses”, Senate Bill 1567 – effective 9/1/25

Prohibits home-rule municipalities with a population of less than 250,000 and has a university with more than 20,000 students from limiting the number of people who can occupy a dwelling unit based on age, familial, occupation, or association. Does not apply to Tarrant County.

Municipal Conversion of Property to Address

Homelessness, Senate Bill 617 – effective 9/1/25

Requires a municipality that wants to convert property into homeless shelters to hold a public hearing at least 90 days before the conversion. The public hearing notice must be given 36 hours in advanced, notifying all residences and businesses in a one-mile radius of the proposed conversion property.