


★ LEGISLATION PASSED INTO LAW IN THE 89TH SESSION ★


LEGISLATION JOINT AUTHORED OR JOINT SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE COOK	
HB 1465	Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of invasive visual recording and the applicability of sex offender registration requirements to that offense.
HB 1732	Relating to the regulation of massage therapy.
HB 1871	Relating to the punishment for the criminal offense of attempted capital murder of a peace officer; increasing a criminal penalty; changing eligibility for parole and mandatory supervision.
HB 2282	Relating to the amount of the reimbursement fee paid by a defendant for a peace officer's services in executing or processing an arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine.
HB 2306	Relating to changing the eligibility for release on parole of certain inmates serving sentences for trafficking offenses involving child victims and disabled individuals.
HB 2508	Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a qualifying condition or disease.
HB 2697	Relating to certain procedures in connection with a bond forfeiture.
HB 2715	Relating to the removal from office of certain officers of political subdivisions.
HB 2761	Relating to the prosecution of the offenses of trafficking of persons, continuous trafficking of persons, and compelling prostitution.
HB 2854	Relating to the required approval of certain hospital visits as a condition of release on parole or to mandatory supervision for certain releasees and to the hospital's liability for damages resulting from those visits.
HB 3073	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of sexual assault.
HB 3463	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of theft of service.
HB 3711	Relating to assistance in the investigation of certain open meetings offenses by the open records division of the attorney general's office.
HB 3923	Relating to state employment opportunities for individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree.
HB 4076	Relating to prohibiting organ transplant recipient discrimination on the basis of vaccination status.
HB 4429	Relating to the designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 281 in Blanco and Burnet Counties as the Muckleroy Family Memorial Highway.
HCR 92	Designating the fourth Thursday of March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day for a 10-year period ending in 2035.
SB 11	Relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text in public schools.
SB 535	Relating to the admissibility of evidence regarding a victim's past sexual behavior in prosecutions of certain trafficking, sexual, or assaultive offenses.
SB 835	Relating to the enforceability of certain nondisclosure or confidentiality provisions with respect to an act of sexual abuse.
SB 836	Relating to victims of sex offenses, sex-based human trafficking offenses, or acts of a sexual nature and to the confidentiality of or restrictions on the availability of certain property, material, or information regarding those victims, offenses, or acts.
SB 985	Relating to the combination of certain election precincts.
SB 1728	Relating to the participation of certain juvenile justice entities in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program.
SB 1809	Relating to the creation of the offense of fraudulent use, possession, or tampering with a gift card, gift card packaging, or gift card data or redemption information.
SB 1833	Relating to the use of a social media platform in furtherance of an offense involving the delivery of a controlled substance; increasing criminal penalties.
SB 2052	Relating to suits affecting the parent-child relationship between a parent and a nonparent.
SB 2580	Relating to the definition of a designated law enforcement office or agency for purposes of certain laws governing the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications.
SB 2776	Relating to the disclosure of certain information by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.
SJR 5	Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.



DAVID L. COOK

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*Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice - Chair | Criminal Jurisprudence
Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE)*

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DAVID L. COOK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



HOW CAN WE HELP?

- ★ **State Agency Assistance** – Having trouble cutting through the bureaucratic red tape? Whether you are having issues renewing your driver's license, receiving unemployment insurance, applying for an occupation license, etc., please contact my office for assistance.
- ★ **Capitol Tour** – If you have plans to travel to Austin, my office can assist with setting up a tour of the Capitol. These tours cover the rich and extensive history behind the construction of our State's Capitol, including a tour of the Texas House and Senate chambers.
- ★ **Flag Requests** – Texas flags flown over the State Capitol make great gifts and are available for purchase. All flags are accompanied with a beautiful state certificate encompassing the seal of the Texas House of Representatives.
- ★ **Congratulatory Resolutions** – At no cost to you, my office is equipped to assist you in marking a special occasion by crafting an official proclamation issued by the Texas House of Representatives. Whether you are commemorating a birth, anniversary, retirement, or special occasion, please contact my office to learn more.
- ★ **Honorary Page Program** – During each legislative session, each House member may appoint up to 10 students to serve a half-day as a Page in the Texas House Chamber. The program is for students between the ages of 8-18. Page participants are tasked with various jobs on the House floor and receive an official badge and commemorative photo. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a Honorary Page, please contact my office to learn more.
- ★ **Meetings & Events** – If you would like to meet with face-to-face or have an event invitation, please contact me at david.cook@house.texas.gov.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DAVID L. COOK

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Committees

- S/C on Juvenile Justice, *Chair*
- Criminal Jurisprudence
- Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE)

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STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Texas Legislature has officially adjourned Sine Die following the 89th Regular Session and two called Special Sessions! I'm proud to share this newsletter with you, which details our many important victories accomplished this session.

This session, I was appointed to serve as the *Chair* of the **House Permanent Standing Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice**, which oversees legislation related to the commitment and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, youth correctional facilities, juvenile delinquency and gang violence, and criminal law and procedure as applicable to juvenile offenders. Additionally, I was appointed to serve as a member of the House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which deals with a plethora of issues including, eliminating inefficiencies in state government, open government matters, arti-ficial intelligence and emerging technologies, data privacy and identity theft, cybersecurity, and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse in state government programs. I was also reappointed to serve on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, which manages legislation related to criminal law, probation, parole, and criminal procedure in our criminal courts.

Just a Bill, Sitting on Capitol Hill! This session, **8,719 bills** were filed in the House and Senate. As you may remember from the Schoolhouse Rock episode, a bill must jump through many hurdles to become a law. A bill must be filed in either the House or Senate, be approved by a specific committee within its originating chamber, be adopted by the full membership of that chamber, and then repeat it all over again in the other Chamber! With **1,213 bills** signed by Governor Abbott, the 89th Legislative Session had a bill passage rate of only 13.9%. ***Of the 69 House and Senate bills I introduced in the 89th Legislative Session, 19 bills were sent to the Governor's desk to become law, a bill passage rate of 27.5%!***

This summer, the Legislature met for two called Special Sessions to address a host of issues including camp safety, flood warning systems, and relief funding for the Hill Country floods. Following the tragic July 4th floods that claimed the lives of 27 camp-goers, legislators passed the "Heaven's 27 Camp Safety Act," prohibiting camps from operating cabins in floodplains and requiring more comprehensive emergency plans. Additionally, the Legislature passed **HB 8** to eliminate the STAAR Test, **SB 16** to crack down on property deed fraud, and **SB 11** (which I sponsored) to create an affirmative defense to prosecution for human trafficking victims.

As always, constituent input in the legislation process is critical to making informed decisions for our community. Please feel free to send an email or give us a call, should you ever wish to share your thoughts on pending legislation. It is the honor of a lifetime to represent you in the Texas House. Best Regards.

Sincerely,

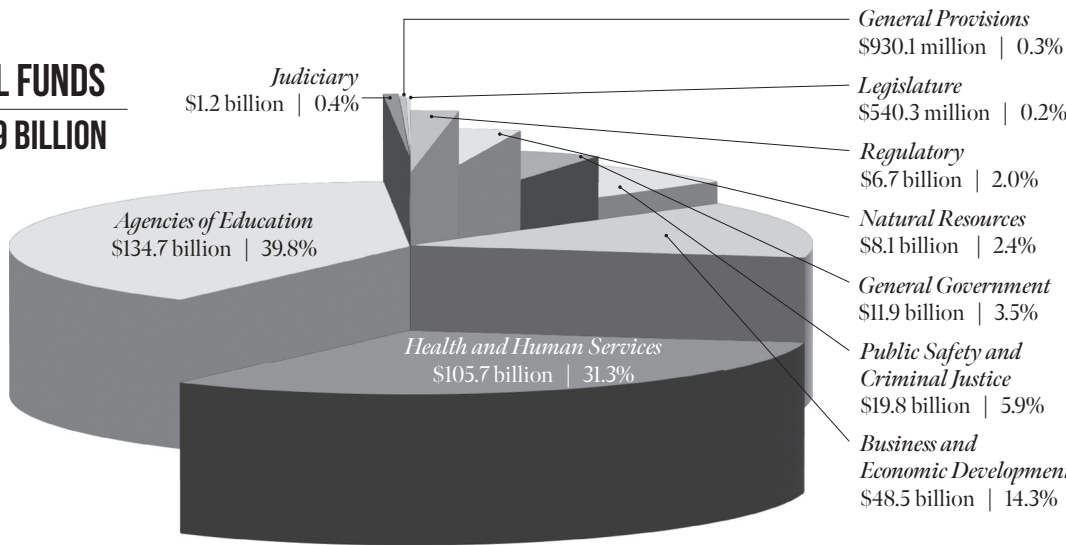
Representative David L. Cook
State Representative
House District 96



★ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ★

STATE BUDGET

2026 - 27 ALL FUNDS
TOTAL = \$337.9 BILLION



Budget Highlights: The 2026-2027 Texas Budget includes \$75 Billion for Public Education, \$51 Billion for Property Tax Relief, \$30 Billion for statewide Road Projects, \$5 Billion for the Texas Energy Fund, and \$2.5 Billion for Water and Flood Infrastructure.

The 2026-2027 State Budget totaled **\$338.2 Billion**. This budget reflects the Legislature's commitment to balancing fiscal responsibility with strategic investment, ensuring essential services are maintained while safeguarding our state's long-term financial wellbeing.

Highlights of the 2026-2027 State Budget include:

- ★ \$51 Billion to **Property Tax Relief** - 15% of the Total State Budget and \$11 Billion more than the previous budget cycle! Funds a **\$140,000 Homestead Exemption** (\$200,000 for seniors and individuals with disabilities) and a **\$125,000 exemption** for businesses, contingent on voter approval.
- ★ \$75 Billion for **Public Education**, including \$4.2 Billion for teacher compensation, \$1 Billion for education savings accounts, \$850 Million for special education, \$500 Million for support staff compensation, \$430 Million for school safety, and \$369 Million to reduce the cost of health insurance for teachers.
- ★ \$3 Billion for **Border Security**, including \$421 Million to add 450+ new State Troopers and improve driver license services, \$330 Million to support local and rural law enforcement, and \$215 Million for rural healthcare and grants for new ambulances.
- ★ \$30 Billion for **Public Transportation**, highway planning/design and construction/maintenance of roads.
- ★ \$5 Billion for the **Texas Energy Fund** to secure our electrical grid and construct, maintain, and modernize dispatchable energy (meaning, able to be deployed quickly during severe weather emergencies) generating facilities.
- ★ \$2.5 Billion for the **Texas Water Fund** for water and flood mitigation infrastructure and \$493 Million for wildfire response.
- ★ \$5.5 Billion for **Workforce Development** programs, \$850 Million for the Texas State Technical College Endowment, and \$250 Million to support semiconductor and microchip manufacturing.
- ★ \$177 Million to boost **Public Safety** and support victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse, \$411 Million to expand correctional facilities, \$330 Million to boost corrections and probation officer salaries, \$340 Million for new mental health hospital beds, \$174 Million for judicial pay raises.

- ★ \$135 Billion to establish the **Texas Cyber Command** and \$1 Billion for high-risk cybersecurity defense projects.
- ★ \$49.8 Million in additional support for children and adults with disabilities, \$1 Billion for personal care attendants and \$100 Million for childcare waitlist reductions.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- ★ **SB 4 & SJR 2** – Increases the homestead exemption for all homeowners from \$100,000 to \$140,000.
- ★ **SB 23 & SJR 85** – Increases the homestead exemption for seniors and individuals with disabilities from \$110,000 to \$200,000.
- ★ **HB 9 & HJR 1** – Increases the tax exemption on items a business uses to produce income from \$2,500 to \$125,000.
- ★ **HB 22** – Eliminates the taxation of intangible personal property, including stocks, trademarks, cryptocurrency, and intellectual property.

PUBLIC SAFETY & BORDER SECURITY

- ★ **SB 8** – Requires local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law, including arresting, jailing, and deporting illegal aliens, in collaboration with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- ★ **SB 9 & SJR 5** – “*Bail Reform*” – Revises the conditions and procedures for magistrates setting bail, expands access to and use of the public safety report system, and provides for certain crime victims’ rights. Contingent on voter approval, bail may be denied for those accused of the most serious felony offenses, therefore reducing the risk of offenders committing new crimes while released awaiting trial.
- ★ **HB 1902** – Creates the new offense of “jugging,” defined as lying in wait at a bank or high-end retail store, stalking a victim to a secondary location, and subsequently, robbing the victim or burglarizing their vehicle.
- ★ **SB 1300** – Creates the new offense of “organized retail theft” and establishes a robust legal framework to deter criminal activity.

★ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ★



Celebrating the passage of HB 2674, the Freedom to Homeschool Act, with my colleagues, Representatives Caroline Harris Davila and Ellen Troxclair.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

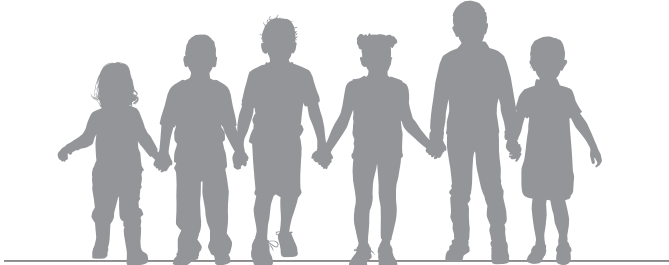
- ★ **HB 2** – Provides \$8.5 Billion in new funding for public schools, including: \$4.2 Billion for permanent teacher and staff pay raises; expanded incentive pay and teacher training programs; \$1.3 Billion to the Allotment for Basic Costs (ABC) to assist districts with expenses like insurance, utilities, and TRS contributions; \$2 Billion to update Special Education funding formulas and fund full-day Pre-K, early learning interventions, and Career & Technical Education (CTE); and \$430 Million for School Safety.
- ★ **HB 6** – “*The Teacher Bill of Rights*” – Empowers teachers with greater authority to discipline or remove disruptive students from the classroom to foster a productive learning environment for all students.
- ★ **SB 2** – “*Texas Education Freedom Act*” – Establishes a landmark school choice program, allowing parents to utilize education savings accounts to choose the best educational environment for their child.
- ★ **SB 12** – “*The Parental Bill of Rights*” – Bans discriminatory diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies and programs and prohibits instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools.

COMBATTING FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

- ★ **SB 17** – Prohibits companies, governments, and agents of foreign adversarial nations, like China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia, from purchasing, owning, or controlling property in Texas.
- ★ **HB 127** – Enhances intellectual property security at Texas higher education institutions by establishing the Research Security Council, prohibiting certain gifts and partnerships, requiring background checks for research applicants, mandating prior approval for international travel, and reviewing foreign-owned education software.
- ★ **HB 34** – Prohibiting the investment of state funds in securities, companies, or banks owned by, based in, or controlled by foreign adversarial nations, like China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

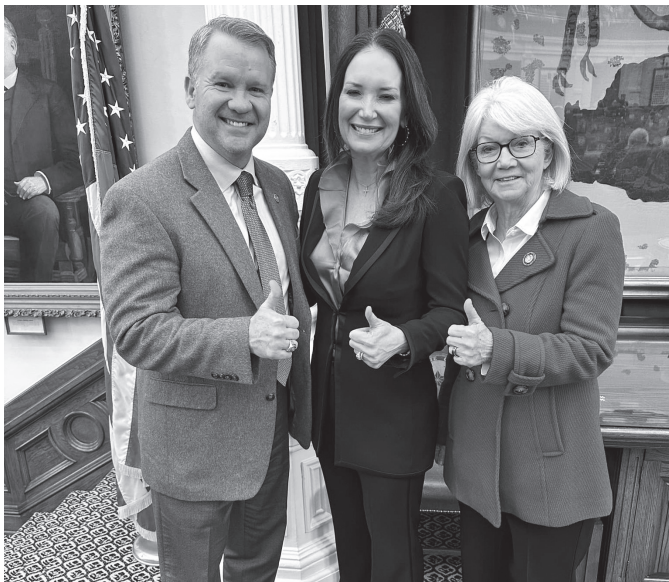
PROTECTING TEXAS CHILDREN

- ★ **SB 20** – Creates a felony offense for the possession or promotion of explicit sexual material that appears to depict a child, including materials depicting fictitious children or cartoons/animations generated by artificial intelligence.
- ★ **HB 229** – Defines biological sex in state statute to provide for a legal foundation to protect women and girls in private spaces.
- ★ **HB 4623** – Allows school districts to be sued (removes sovereign immunity) if they hire an educator or employee negligently who commits an act of sexual misconduct against a student and/or they fail to report the abuse or neglect to law enforcement.
- ★ **SB 835** – “*Trey’s Law*” – Prohibits and invalidates non-disclosure agreements in settlements relating to child sexual abuse.



ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

- ★ **SB 7 & HJR 7** – Establishes the Texas Water Fund, a dedicated funding stream for critical water infrastructure projects, including reservoir improvements, conservation efforts, and new water supply development. The Texas Water Development Board will be tasked with expanding eligible water projects including desalination, water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery, out-of-state water acquisition, and reservoir infrastructure.
- ★ **HB 14** – Makes Texas a national leader in the nuclear industry by providing funding mechanisms for the development, construction, and completion of advanced nuclear energy projects.
- ★ **SB 6** – Increases grid reliability by enacting new requirements governing the planning, interconnection, and operation of large electrical loads and generation resources in ERCOT.



On the floor of the Texas House of Representatives with United States Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and her mom, Representative Helen Kerwin!

★ LEGISLATION PASSED INTO LAW IN THE 89TH SESSION ★

LEGISLATION AUTHORED OR SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE COOK	
HB 1893	Relating to the disclosure under the public information law of a motor vehicle license plate number captured in a video recording obtained or maintained by a law enforcement agency.
HB 1902	Relating to creating the criminal offense of jugging.
HB 1916	Relating to the jurisdiction of a court in a suit to divide certain property not divided or awarded on the dissolution of a marriage.
HB 1973	Relating to proof of the identity of a child’s parents in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.
HB 2524	Relating to the recovery of fees, court costs, and expenses in family law proceedings.
HB 2530	Relating to special appointments in suits affecting the parent-child relationship.
HB 2674	Relating to prohibiting the regulation of home school programs.
HB 4263	Relating to the procedures and practices of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department regarding grievances submitted by department employees and former department employees and to the eligibility of a person to be appointed to the department’s release review panel and the authority of a panel member.
HB 5696	Relating to the creation of The Reserve Municipal Management District; providing authority to issue bonds.
SB 11	Relating to an affirmative defense to prosecution for certain victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution.
SB 664	Relating to qualifications, training, removal, and supervision of certain masters, magistrates, referees, associate judges, and hearing officers.
SB 955	Relating to the punishment for the offense of trafficking of persons.
SB 1080	Relating to the revocation of an occupational license from certain license holders and the issuance of an occupational license to certain applicants with criminal convictions.
SB 1300	Relating to the prosecution and punishment of the criminal offense of organized retail theft; increasing criminal penalties.
SB 1379	Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for forgery.
SB 1451	Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of stealing or receiving a stolen check or similar sight order.
SB 1610	Relating to sexually violent predators, to the Texas Civil Commitment Office, and to the prosecution of the offense of harassment by sexually violent predators and other persons confined in certain facilities; amending certain sex offender registration requirements; increasing criminal penalties.
SB 1660	Relating to the retention and preservation of toxicological evidence of certain intoxication offenses.
SB 1896	Relating to the provision of information regarding an arrested person and the victim of the offense to a magistrate for purposes of an order for emergency protection.

LEGISLATION JOINT AUTHORED OR JOINT SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE COOK	
HB 21	Relating to housing finance corporations; authorizing a fee.
HB 47	Relating to sexual assault and other sex offenses.
HB 148	Relating to the qualification of candidates for, and the training and education of members of, the board of directors of an appraisal district.
HB 285	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of cruelty to nonlivestock animals.
HB 346	Relating to the fee amounts prescribed by the secretary of state for expedited commercial and business record searches or filings and the exemption from the franchise tax and certain filing fees for veteran-owned businesses.
HB 762	Relating to severance pay for political subdivision employees and independent contractors.
HB 1105	Relating to the exemption of tuition and laboratory fees at public institutions of higher education for certain paramedics.