

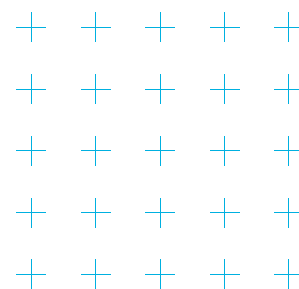
89th Texas Legislature

2025 END OF SESSION REPORT



++ TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	01
Leadership Priorities	03
The State Budget	05
Driving Economic Development in Life Sciences	08
Expanding Patient Access to Life-Saving Treatments	13
Promoting Research Investment and Commercialization of Innovation	18
Improving Health and Health Programs for All Texans	23
Legislation Impacting Government Efficiency	26
Constitutional Amendments	29
Coalitions and Partners	31
THBI Board and Staff	33



Introduction

The Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) is the statewide trade organization for the life science and biotech industry. THBI's membership includes organizations that represent all aspects of the industry, from early-stage research and product development, through incubation and commercialization, to full market maturity. THBI members include biopharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, highly recognized research institutions, and the economic development organizations and service companies that support them.

Texas' bioscience industry is large and rapidly growing, employing 129,245 people in 2023 across 9,212 establishments. Beyond employment, the industry also generates economic activity through product research and development and clinical trials. Texas ranks third in the country for bioscience-related academic R&D expenditures of \$4.6 billion in 2022. NIH funding to Texas institutions reached \$1.8 billion in 2023, growing 34% since 2019. Texas bioscience companies raised \$8.7 billion in venture capital investment from 2019 through 2023, ranking fifth in the country. Inventors in Texas were affiliated with nearly 8,000 bioscience-related patents over that same five-year period, ranking ninth in the country.

TEXAS' BIOSCIENCE PERFORMANCE METRICS BY INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR

SUBSECTOR	RATE OF GROWTH	NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE
Agricultural feedstock and industrial biosciences	12%	168	4,748	\$119,431
Medical devices and equipment	41.3%	818	15,040	\$94,416
Research, testing, and medical laboratories	96.8%	3,913	37,702	\$113,689
Bioscience-related distribution	6.8%	3,898	57,770	\$134,377
Pharmaceuticals	56.2%	415	13,985	\$123,068

Source: TECONOMY / BIO 2024, The U.S. Bioscience Economy: Driving Economic Growth and Opportunity in States and Regions. <https://bio.widen.net/s/hflmb92hwx/the-us-bioscience-economy-driving-economic-growth-and-opportunities-in-states-and-regions>

In order to continue this tremendous growth, THBI works to advocate at the state and federal levels for public policy that provides a positive impact on the industry. The mission of the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute is to develop and advocate policies and actions that promote biomedical science, biotechnology, agriculture, and medical device innovation in Texas. With this mission as a touchstone, THBI and its members approached the 89th Texas Legislative Session with the goal of promoting effective legislation to create a steady regulatory environment and a more favorable business landscape.

Throughout the session, THBI tracked over 400 bills and resolutions related to the industry and an additional 148 bills by state leadership that would impact all Texans. THBI worked closely with its Board of Directors and its State and Federal Legislative Committee to develop four priority policy objectives, which were then used to determine THBI's position on all filed legislation.

THBI'S PUBLIC POLICY OBJECTIVES:

- + Support and expand the bioscience economy through economic development efforts designed to make Texas the best place to locate and grow a life science and biotech business.
- + Support and expand efforts that ensure patients have access to the innovative therapies and treatments created by the life science and biotech industry that are improving health and saving lives.
- + Support and expand opportunities for research and commercialization programs that are designed to rapidly take new innovative products from the research bench to the marketplace and to create the future of medicine right here in Texas.
- + Support the improvement of the health of Texans and strengthen programs that provide healthcare services, improve population health, and ensure effective response to infectious diseases.

By our unofficial count, 1,291 bills and concurrent resolutions were passed and sent to the Governor and 18 joint resolutions were filed with the Secretary of State. Ultimately, the Governor signed 1,155 bills, allowed 140 bills to become law without his signature, and vetoed 28 bills.

In the end, this legislative session will be remembered for two themes. First, for having a significant conservative focus, and finally passing several conservative policy initiatives that had stalled for years.

Second, for being a session that required seasoned advocacy professionals to set aside all preconceived notions about how the process works and to adapt day by day with the evolving political landscape. With new leadership in the House and broad turnover in committee chairs and membership, there were new voices making decisions on nearly every single topic. The Senate took an extremely narrow view of policy issues and, in many cases, refused to consider amendment requests or bill changes, particularly for priority bills.

This report provides an overview of the actions and activities of the 89th Legislature, a high-level analysis of state leadership's legislative priorities, highlights of the state budget, and featured legislation from THBI's four public policy objectives.

With a 14% passage rate for all filed legislation, no one group or industry was able to accomplish all of their goals, but overall, the life science and biotech industry closed this session on the positive side of the ledger, with some significant victories that will help ensure that Texas continues to lead and outpace national growth for the industry.





Leadership Priorities

Each session, the Governor and the leaders of each chamber outline their priority goals and objectives. These leadership priorities define the environment in which all other legislation is considered. This session saw fewer disagreements between the “Big Three” on their collective priorities, and by all accounts, the majority of all three’s wish lists were achieved.

In early February, Governor Greg Abbott gave his “[State of the State](#)” address in which he outlined his priority items for the 89th Legislature. He also released his constitutionally required [budget proposal](#) for the legislature’s consideration. Following the speech, the Governor released proclamations designating the following issues as emergency items: property tax relief, investment in water, increasing teacher salaries, expanding career training, school choice, bail reform, and the creation of the Texas Cyber Command. Legislation related to each of these topics passed the legislature.

To highlight his priorities, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick designated [Senate Bills 1-40](#) as his priority items. Including education savings accounts, there were 11 priority bills impacting public schools and higher education institutions. These bills made reforms to nearly every aspect of public education, including school finance mechanisms, replacing standardized testing requirements with a series of student assessments, updating nutrition and physical education requirements, restricting library materials, and requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in school classrooms.

Property taxes were the subject of three priority bills and included raising the homestead exemption for most Texans and providing property tax relief to certain groups. Other priority topics included bail reform, a

THC ban, clarifying exceptions to Texas’ abortion law to protect the life of the mother, immigration reform, long-term planning for the state’s water supply, strengthening the electric grid, limiting the powers of local governments, establishing the Texas Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, dramatically expanding the state’s moving image industry incentive program, and putting limitations on foreign ownership in Texas.

There were certain priority items of importance to the life science and biotech industry. [SB5](#) and [SJR3](#), if approved by Texas voters in November, will create the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT). Once created, DPRIT will make grants and provide funding to further prevention and research for dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders.

The national movement to Make America Healthy Again also had an impact in Texas. [SB25](#) makes updates to food labeling laws, education on nutrition, and other provisions for expanding public information about food additives and awareness of healthy eating habits.

Of the 40 designated initiatives, 30 Senate priority bills were passed to the Governor for his consideration.

The designation of priority items in the House has historically not been as formal, but this session, newly elected Speaker Dustin Burrows set aside House Bills 1-150 as priority bill numbers. Each member of the House could request a bill to receive a low bill number to be designated as a priority. In the end, 45 of the bill numbers were not used at all.

Many of the House's priority bills aligned with the Senate's priority bills, but there were some high-profile House bills that were not included on the Senate's list. Two involving public education were [HB2](#), school finance reform (which passed), and [HB4](#), student assessment reform (which did not).

The much broader membership of the House brought to the table a number of priority bills focused on addressing a more diverse array of policy issues impacting industry in Texas. In an effort to enhance the education and career pathway for high school students who focus on trade education rather than college, [HB20](#) creates the Applied Science Pathway, a dual credit process for students to earn industry certification while still in high school.

Several initiatives were designated as House priorities impacting the life science and biotech industry, including rural health reform ([HB18](#)), the Texas Future Fund ([HB104](#)), a sickle cell registry ([HB107](#)), genetic information storage ([HB130](#)), mandated benefit review ([HB138](#)), benefit-less plans ([HB139](#)), and regulation of artificial intelligence ([HB149](#)).

The House also led the way on several other bills. [HB11](#) makes it easier for individuals licensed in good standing in other states to acquire a similar license in Texas without duplicating licensure requirements. [HB45](#) enhances enforcement of human trafficking laws. [HB114](#) transfers administration of veterans' mental

health services programs from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to the Texas Veterans Commission, streamlining oversight and aligning service delivery with the agency's specialized expertise in veteran services. [HB33](#), named the "Uvalde Strong Act", implements new safety and security requirements relating to active shooter incidents at primary or secondary school facilities.

Of those designated as House priorities, approximately 60 were finally passed to the Governor for his consideration.

Ultimately, the Governor has the last word on whether a bill lives or dies. Upon receiving a bill that has passed both chambers of the legislature, the Governor has the option to sign it, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature. Only one bill was vetoed by the Governor of interest to THBI. [SB1032](#) would have added private or independent higher education institutions to the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) but was **vetoed** by the Governor due to lack of additional funding to support the program.

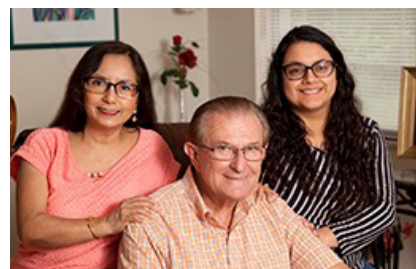
In a surprising turn of events, the Governor also **vetoed** [SB3](#), which would have banned consumable hemp products containing any THC, including delta-8 and delta-9.

All veto statements are available on the [Office of the Governor's website](#).

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The State Budget

Each legislative session, the only bill constitutionally required to be passed is the state biennial budget, authorizing and allocating state spending for the next two years.

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT - SB1

Per the Texas Constitution, the budget for the State of Texas is structured biennially, covering two full fiscal years. This session, the General Appropriations Act was designated as [SB1](#), providing funding for fiscal years 2026-2027 from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2027.

In the final version of SB1, the legislature budgeted \$338 billion from all funding sources, including money from general revenue, federal funds, and revenue earmarked for specific uses, known as General Revenue-Dedicated Funds.

The Governor signed SB1 with minimal line-item vetoes, mostly consisting of contingency riders without passed enacting legislation. He did [line-item veto](#) \$60M for the summer electronic benefit transfer (EBT) program, also known as food assistance, noting significant uncertainty regarding federal matching rates and the need for clarity.

FUNDING BY ARTICLE, ALL FUNDS

ALL FUNCTIONS	ESTIMATED/ BUDGETED 2024-25	CCR SB1 2026-27	BIENNIAL CHANGE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Article I – General Government	\$21,639.1	\$11,908.4	(\$9,730.7)	(45.0%)
Article II – Health and Human Services	\$100,854.2	\$105,732.8	\$4,878.6	4.8%
Article III – Agencies of Education	\$123,475.2	\$134,664.7	\$11,189.5	9.1%
<i>Public Education</i>	\$90,965.0	\$100,300.0	\$9,335.0	10.3%
<i>Higher Education</i>	\$32,510.2	\$34,364.7	\$1,854.5	5.7%
Article IV – Judiciary	\$1,241.2	\$1,232.0	(\$9.2)	(0.7%)
Article V – Public Safety and Criminal Justice	\$19,485.3	\$19,771.9	\$286.6	1.5%
Article VI – Natural Resources	\$11,055.8	\$8,063.7	(\$2,992.0)	(27.1%)
Article VII – Business and Economic Development	\$49,832.2	\$48,477.9	(\$1,354.3)	(2.7%)
Article VIII – Regulatory	\$5,891.9	\$6,695.6	\$803.7	13.6%
Article IX – General Provisions	\$0.0	\$930.1	\$930.1	N/A
Article X – Legislature	\$520.8	\$540.3	\$19.5	3.7%
TOTAL, ALL ARTICLES	\$333,995.6	\$338,017.2	\$4,021.6	1.2%

Notes:

- (1) Substantive items funded in the Conference Committee Report for Senate Bill 1, Article IX, for the 2026-27 biennium are allocated to the prospective articles and agencies.
- (2) Excludes Interagency Contracts.
- (3) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, totals may not sum due to rounding.

SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

Life Science Investments

Within SB1, the legislature made significant investments in the life science and biotech industry. In addition to the dedication of \$3 billion to fund the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT), San Jacinto College received \$10 million to support enhancements to the biomanufacturing program laboratories at their Center for Biotechnology. This one-time funding request will support the acquisition of advanced equipment and supplements the cost of the National Institute for Bioprocessing, Research, and Training (NIBRT) license to deliver a globally recognized, industry-leading specialized curriculum to meet the workforce demands of the biotechnology industry. MD Anderson Cancer Center received \$30 million for the Institute for Cell Therapy Discovery and Innovation, which is advancing innovative cell therapies for patients with cancer. UT Southwestern Medical Center received \$18 million for their Cell and Gene Therapy Center, which is delivering leading-edge, compassionate care to patients, especially those with complicated diseases, and to researching novel, more effective therapies. The University of Texas at Dallas received \$6 million for the Texas Biomedical Device Center which combines science, engineering, and medicine to further develop therapies for chronic, treatment-resistant PTSD. Other THBI members also received funding for a variety of projects across the spectrum of research programs for their respective institutions.

Property Tax Reductions

A major priority this legislative session was the reduction of property taxes. The budget includes an estimated \$51 billion for tax relief for the next biennium, which is intended to maintain property tax relief provided in previous sessions as well as provide new property tax relief. Included in the relief package is \$3.5 billion to maintain property tax relief provided by the 88th Legislature in 2023, and \$3.9 billion for additional property tax relief through an increase to the state-mandated homestead exemption, an additional increase in the homestead exemption for individuals 65 and older or disabled, and increases to exemptions for tangible personal property that are contingent upon enactment of specific bills and subsequent voter approval of the associated constitutional amendments.

Public Education

The largest portion of the state budget is used to fund both public and higher education for the state. For the upcoming biennium, \$75.1 billion is included for state aid to school districts and charter schools through the Foundation School Program, an increase of \$13.6 billion from the last biennium. An additional \$8.5 billion is included in Article IX contingent upon enactment of HB2, the school finance bill, and SB569, which expands virtual education in public schools.

Higher Education

Higher education formulas are supported by \$10.8 billion in General Revenue Funds and \$1.6 billion in statutory tuition in General Revenue-Dedicated Funds. Included in these amounts are increases of \$687.6 million in General Revenue Funds and \$5.6 million in General Revenue-Dedicated Funds. The General Academic Institutions (GAI) Instruction and Operations (I&O) formula rate increased from \$59.08 to \$60.67 per weighted semester credit hour, and the GAI Infrastructure formula rate increased from \$5.75 to \$5.94 per predicted square foot. Formula rates for the Health-Related Institutions (HRI) I&O, Infrastructure Support, Graduate Medical Education, and HRI Research Enhancement formulas are comparable to rates from the last biennial.

Medicaid and Behavioral Health

The Texas Medicaid Program is receiving \$82.6 billion in All Funds, including \$32 billion in General Revenue Funds and \$0.1 billion in General Revenue-Dedicated Funds. This is an increase from last biennium of \$6.2 billion in All Funds and \$2.7 billion in General Revenue Funds. These amounts include \$75.9 billion in All Funds for Medicaid client services, \$2.4 billion in All Funds for programs supported by Medicaid funding, and \$4.3 billion in All Funds for Medicaid program administration and other programs supported by Medicaid funding. The net increase in Medicaid funding is due to a \$5.9 billion increase in All Funds for Medicaid client services, a \$0.3 billion increase in All Funds for other programs supported by Medicaid funding, and is partially offset by a decrease of less than \$0.1 billion in All Funds for administrative funding.

Funding for non-Medicaid Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) behavioral health services equals \$6.5 billion in All Funds, including \$5.5 billion from General Revenue Funds and General Revenue-Dedicated Funds. These funds support programs at 30 agencies, including funding for inpatient client services at state hospitals and community hospitals; outpatient services provided through local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities; substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services for adults and children; mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment for incarcerated offenders; mental healthcare services for veterans; and many other services.

Border Security

Other notable spending items include \$3,351.7 million to support border security efforts across 13 state agencies. Most of the funding for border security is appropriated to three agencies: \$1,765.5 million to the Texas Military Department; \$1,194.6 million to the Texas Department of Public Safety; and \$228.5 million to the Office of the Governor.

State Employees

The state contribution to the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) retirement program is \$1.9 billion in All Funds. This is an increase of \$250 million in All Funds and an increase of \$406.4 million for state employees' retirement benefits. Overall, this budget provides for 239,382 full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions for fiscal year 2026, and 240,861.3 FTE positions for fiscal year 2027, which reflects an increase in state employees of over 16,000 FTE positions from last year's budgeted levels.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - HB500

Budgeting for a two-year period is complicated, especially when unexpected state-wide events can occur at any time. Therefore, the legislature usually passes a supplemental appropriation bill to cover any expenditures from the biennial budget still in effect. This session, that bill was [HB500](#). All told, HB500 will result in an additional \$13.2 billion in appropriations for the current fiscal year.

While nearly every state agency receives some funding through the supplemental appropriations bill, there are specific funding items of note for the life science and biotech industry. A one-time legacy payment of \$1.02 billion was made to reduce unfunded actuarial liabilities for the Employees Retirement System of Texas and over \$1.03 billion was made to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to fund a variety of one-time expense projects and address additional capacity in some of the agency programs. The Texas Workforce Commission received over \$68 million for the Unemployment Compensation Fund, vocational rehabilitation, and childcare programs.

\$5.9 million in General Revenue was appropriated to the State Comptroller of Public Accounts for administration of the Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board received \$89.5 million in General Revenue to address higher-than-projected growth in fundable outcomes for public junior colleges. HB500 appropriated \$65 million to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso to develop phase two of a comprehensive oncology center partnership and \$25 million to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to help establish

a rural cancer collaborative. The Texas University Fund received \$1.3 billion to ensure stable funding for eligible institutions.

OTHER SPENDING BILLS

In addition to the two main budget bills, other pieces of legislation have an impact on the structure and function of the state budget each biennium. The first of those is the "miscellaneous claims" bill, filed as [HB4486](#). At the end of each biennium, the state has a number of outstanding claims and judgments against it. While the Comptroller is authorized to pay claims from existing appropriations, certain types of claims must be approved by the legislature before payments are made, including certain judgments or settlements greater than \$250,000; claims greater than \$50,000 without an appropriation; and claims older than eight years. After the "miscellaneous claims" bill is approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor, the Comptroller begins paying claims in September of the new fiscal year.

The legislature also passed legislation referred to as the "funds consolidation" bill, filed as [HB4488](#). This measure consolidates funds within the State Treasury by specifying which General Revenue-Dedicated Funds are available to use for budget certification and which are exempt. [According to the Legislative Budget Board](#), "the bill would abolish all funds, accounts, and revenue dedications created or recreated by the 89th Legislature, unless specifically exempted under separate sections of the bill." This deletes a dozen funds in the treasury, sweeping those funds into the general fund; only funds specifically exempt are maintained.



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Driving Economic Development in Life Sciences



Central to THBI is the need to grow the economic strength of the life science and biotech industry in Texas. To accomplish this, THBI supports a variety of legislative initiatives that bolster both early stage and mature companies with product development and growth in Texas, encourage incentives to attract new industry partners to the state, and promote policies for the development of a strong biotech workforce.

Multiple state agencies influence this area, including the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Education Agency. This session, legislation was considered that impacted these agencies, and when taken together, provide for positive growth for the bioscience economy in Texas.

Growing the Life Science Industry

THBI was proactive in the development of legislative initiatives to support the growth of the biotech economic sector. THBI worked with the [National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing](#) (NCTM) to develop and pass [SB856](#), allowing the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station to be eligible for the Skills Development Fund. This provides NCTM with the opportunity to apply for state funds to support the Texas Regional Industrial Biomanufacturing Education Certification (TRIBEC) which seeks to create a consistent statewide standard for entry-level biomanufacturing technicians in Texas. This program benefits the state by training local residents for biomanufacturing jobs, building a robust pipeline of trained biomanufacturing workers, and supporting local manufacturing capabilities.

THBI also participated in a coalition of business leaders called [Texans for Innovation](#) who worked together to extend the state's research and development tax credit which was set to expire this year. The coalition argued that extending the tax credit would increase economic output, employment, and income. Specifically, the tax credit would create more than 113,000 jobs and generate \$13.8 billion in additional Gross State Product in the first ten years. [SB2206](#) passed in the last few days of session.

The biggest disappointment of the session was that [HB1268](#) - creating the Texas Technology and Innovation Program - was not able to make it across the finish line. HB1268 would have provided matching grants to Texas-based companies that were awarded grants from the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program. The legislation and the \$25 million funding request were passed out of the House, but did not pass through the more conservative Senate. THBI will continue to work with the over 25 coalition members who supported this legislation during the next legislative session.

Driving Economic Development in Life Sciences

- + Create the Texas Technology Innovation Program, a SBIR/STTR matching grant program.
- + Expand and grow Texas biomanufacturing and its workforce.
- + Expand incentives for research and development.
- + Strengthen the Texas-based life science and healthcare supply chain.
- + Support bioscience skills development and training programs.



Another initiative supporting the life science and biotech industry that did not pass was [HB112](#), which would have created the framework for the establishment of Texas science park districts and the Texas Science Park Commission. The bill would have authorized landowners to petition the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office for the creation of a science park district, which would be authorized to operate education and workforce programs in collaboration with universities and technical institutes, enter partnerships with certain research institutions and corporations, and accept gifts and grants, with prioritization given to the development of research centers, technology incubators, advanced manufacturing facilities, and office spaces. Although the initiative was unsuccessful, THBI will continue working to support this legislation in future sessions.

Regulating Artificial Intelligence

One of the hottest topics this session was the rapid development, adoption, and use of artificial intelligence (AI). Several pieces of legislation attempted to regulate the use of AI. Primary among those was [HB149](#), developed through the interim in the House Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, to establish the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act. This legislation sets out provisions for consumer protections and enforcement mechanisms for AI use, creates a regulatory "sandbox program" for testing innovative AI systems, and establishes the Artificial Intelligence Council to support innovation and oversee compliance. The bill also establishes requirements related to public disclosures, prohibitions regarding using AI for the manipulation of human behavior, and restrictions on governmental entities from using social scoring or capturing an individual's biometric data using AI. Additional provisions in the bill address issues related to free speech and prohibiting child pornography.

Another bill, [SB1964](#), establishes an AI system code of ethics for state agency use, regulating the use of AI systems by state agencies and local governments that procure, develop, deploy, or use AI systems. The Department of Information Resources (DIR) will develop minimum risk management and governance standards, require all state agencies with over 150 FTE to have a data management officer, and develop a standardized notice for all agencies for use with AI. The bill also creates a public sector AI Systems Advisory Board to assist state agencies in the development, deployment, and use of AI systems and establish requirements related to disclosure, testing, and other aspects of AI system development. Additional oversight and enforcement requirements are also outlined in the bill.

One additional bill, [HB2818](#), creates an AI division at DIR to oversee and support the use of generative AI technologies in projects run by state agencies. The AI division would assist state agencies and other entities in the implementation of this technology for projects to modernize or replace legacy systems.

HB20 by Gates/Schwertner

Establishes the Applied Sciences Pathway Program, aiming to enhance educational opportunities within Texas, potentially improving workforce readiness, and aligning academic needs; aims to increase student engagement in STEM fields and better prepare graduates for employment in high-demand sectors.

HB112 by Button/Parker

DEAD

Creates the framework for the establishment of Texas science park districts and the Texas Science Park Commission.

HB120 by K.Bell/Schwertner

Prioritizes career and technology education programs in public schools, expands the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) Program, and introduces a new high school advising program.

HB149 by Capriglione/Schwertner

Establishes the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act and sets out provisions for certain consumer protections and enforcement mechanisms, a regulatory sandbox program for testing innovative AI systems, and the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Council to support innovation and oversee compliance.

HB1268 by Button

SB209 by West

DEAD

Creates the Texas Technology and Innovation Program, a matching grant program for small, innovative businesses who receive a federal SBIR or STTR grant.

HB2765 by Guillen/Zaffirini

Expands the eligibility of the Rural Economic Development and Investment Program to increase opportunities for rural communities and entities.

HB2768 by Capriglione/A. Hinojosa

Establishes a state IT apprenticeship credential offered by public junior colleges or public technical institutes to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

Improving the Business Environment

Texas businesses should take note of [SB29](#), which will affect business operations and make changes to the legal environment for businesses. The bill updates various provisions of the Business Organizations Code pertaining to corporate and partnership fiduciary duties, independent and disinterested directors, derivative lawsuits, examinations of company records, and jury trial waivers. Changes include establishing specific presumptions of good faith for a director or officer of a corporation, placing new requirements for shareholders to bring a derivative lawsuit, excluding certain corporate or company records from disclosure, defining terms for waivers of jury trial, and other provisions specific to limited liability companies and partnerships.

In response to an outpouring of concern regarding the challenges families face accessing childcare services, the legislature passed [HB4903](#), which creates the Quad-Agency Childcare Initiative to promote collaboration among the primary state agencies involved in childcare governance across the state. The Initiative, comprised of the Texas Workforce Commission, the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Texas Education Agency, will be tasked with evaluating and resolving duplicative or conflicting regulations that might impact the cost, quality, or accessibility of childcare in Texas. The legislature also increased funding for childcare services in the state's biennium budget.

Workforce Development

Following this session, Texas will see numerous educational reforms implemented, including those related to finance, student testing and assessment, school curriculum, student discipline, and many others. Several bills this session focused on expanding the effectiveness of career and technology education (CTE) programs and providing students not attending college with additional support to acquire skills and credentials to help them move into high-paying jobs.

[HB120](#) is a comprehensive bill designed to improve CTE and related programs. This legislation expands career-training opportunities in high schools by building upon existing successful programs related to career and technology education and establishing new initiatives. Specifically, this legislation further funds the new instructional facility allotment and career and technology education, Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership Program (R-PEP), and Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs. HB120 is designed to comprehensively enhance and modernize students' access to CTE opportunities in addition to educational advising in high schools. The funding provided under the bill helps prepare students to attain credentials in high-demand areas and support those who would prefer to join the workforce straight out of high school.

[HB20](#) builds on this effort by creating the Applied Science Pathway Program, authorizing partnerships between public schools and higher education institutions to allow students to concurrently earn credits towards high school graduation and an industry certification program to work toward successful job placement in certain industries.

The legislature also built upon the recent reforms of the community college system with the passage of [SB1786](#). This legislation provides a stronger framework to support individuals who must work while they acquire the skills and credentials to help them advance their careers. The legislation defines "credentials of value" to provide educational guardrails so that students do not waste time and money on credentials that are not useful to them. It also furthers the discussion related to streamlining the educational pathway so that credentials are "stackable" and students are not required to duplicate courses that have already been completed.

SB1786 requires the Texas Workforce Commission to conduct a biennial assessment of available regional labor demands across the state to allow higher education institutions to better align educational programs with workforce needs. This workforce analysis will analyze current and projected workforce needs in each region of the state over a ten-year period, disaggregated by wage, industry, occupational field, full-time and part-time status, county of primary employment, and remote work status; and identify for each region and county the industries and occupations that lead to an individual self-sufficient wage. THBI will monitor the rulemaking process for these bills to emphasize the workforce needs of the life science and biotech industry.



Modernizing Manufacturing

SB2925 establishes the Task Force on Modernizing Manufacturing within the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office to study the modernization of manufacturing in Texas. The Task Force will study the current state of manufacturing, focusing on the adoption of automation and digital technologies and identify barriers to adopting such technologies, and then develop policy and program recommendations, including incentives for the adoption of automation and digital technologies. The Task Force will evaluate the potential economic effect of modernization of manufacturing, including job creation, retention, productivity, and competitiveness, and report its findings and recommendations by October 1, 2026. The Task Force will be composed of 15 members appointed by the Governor and include representatives from small, mid-sized, and large manufacturers with an established presence in Texas, experts in automation and digital technologies related to manufacturing, representatives from organized labor in manufacturing, and representatives from the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office.

This session also saw the creation of the Texas Quantum Initiative in **HB4751**, which establishes and advances the state's position as a national leader in the quantum industry. This effort aims to attract new quantum companies and research projects to Texas, while also making the state more competitive for federal grants, private sector investment, and global partnerships in this emerging space.

Expanding Rural Economic Development

HB2765 expands the Rural Economic Development and Investment Program to better meet the growing economic development needs of rural Texas. This legislation expands the eligibility for financial assistance to support projects that attract private investment, develop infrastructure, and create jobs, specifically in areas facing infrastructure gaps and with limited access to capital for economic growth projects. **HB2765** raises the maximum population threshold of an eligible county from 75,000 to 200,000; includes municipally owned utilities, special districts, and other political subdivisions; and extends eligibility to any lender that primarily represents an eligible county or municipality, in addition to economic development corporations and community development financial institutions.

HB2818 by Capriglione/Parker

Creates a new division at the Department of Information Resources to oversee and support the use of AI in state projects.

HB3260 by K.Bell/Hancock

Amends the Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program by giving the Texas Workforce Commission rulemaking authority to encourage employer participation.

HB4081 by Vasut/Hughes

Establishes clearer procedures for use in trade secret lawsuits to protect confidential information presented in court.

SB17 by Kolkhorst/Hefner

Prohibits ownership of land by government entities, companies, or individuals connected to a hostile foreign adversary, with the aim of protecting the state from the threat of espionage, surveillance, and hostile foreign influence.

SB856 by Flores/K.Bell

Adds the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station to the list of entities eligible for the Texas Skills Development Fund for job training purposes.

SB1143 by Blanco/Talarico

Requires local workforce development boards to establish goals and objectives focused on workforce development across the state.

SB1620 by Huffman/Bonnen

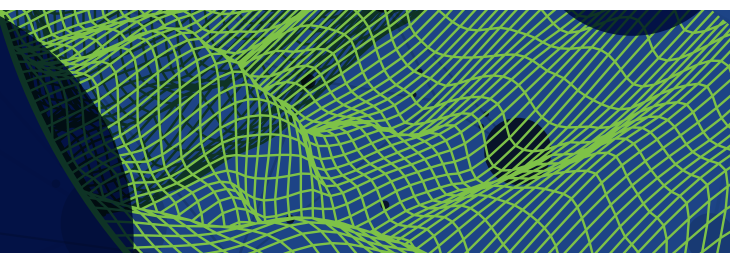
Creates the Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot Program to increase the forensic science workforce in Texas by placing individuals in accredited crime laboratories and prioritizing long-term retention.

SB1964 by Parker/Capriglione

Creates a clear framework for AI system use by government agencies.

SB2206 by Bettencourt/Geren

Continues the research and development tax incentive and streamlines the application process for qualifying research activities, reaffirming Texas as a top destination for innovation investment.



Enhancing State Security

Driven by concerns that global conflict could sever key supply chains (including pharmaceuticals, hospital equipment, power transformers, and semiconductors) and lead to direct attacks on critical infrastructure, **SB2312** creates the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict to assess and mitigate risks to the state's critical infrastructure and supply chains. This legislation aims to protect Texas' citizens and assets and contribute to the broader defensive posture of the country by reducing security vulnerabilities within the state. The nine-person advisory committee is specifically charged with examining "critical procurements supplied through a state supply chain that would be disrupted in the event of a geopolitical conflict" including drugs and medical supplies. While the advisory committee meetings are not subject to the Open Meetings Act, THBI will monitor this activity for decisions impacting the industry.

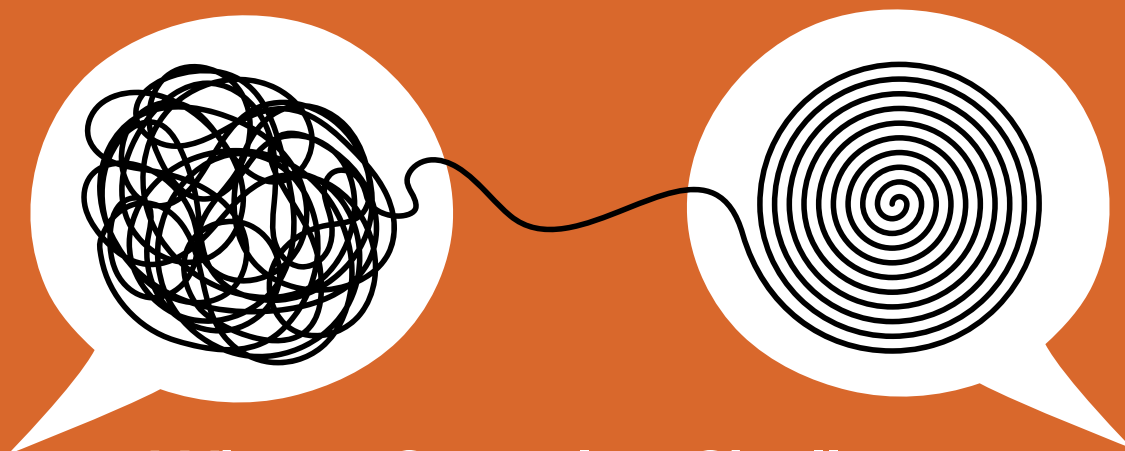
SB2312 by **Hughes/Hefner**

Establishes the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict to safeguard the state's critical infrastructure and supply chain from cyberattacks.

SB2925 by **Blanco/Ordaz**

Establishes the Task Force on Modernizing Manufacturing to examine the current state of manufacturing and identify obstacles to integration, propose realistic modernization strategies, and assess economic implications.

SB17 prohibits certain foreign governments, companies, organizations, or individuals from owning real property in Texas. The bill defines "real property" to include agricultural land, commercial property, industrial property, groundwater, residential property, a mine or quarry, a mineral in place, standing timber, or water rights. The bill does not apply to a citizen or lawful permanent resident, or companies or organizations owned by them, or to a leasehold interest in land or improvements constructed on a leasehold if the duration of the interest is less than 100 years. The Attorney General will be responsible for establishing procedures and regulations for the implementation of the law.

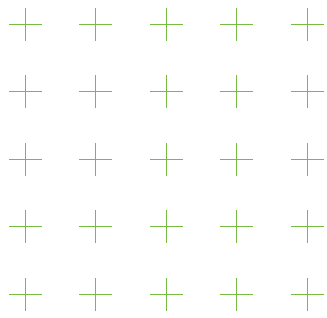


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Expanding Patient Access to Life-Saving Treatments

THBI supports efforts that ensure patients have access to innovative therapies and treatments that are saving lives and improving health. This includes legislation that increases transparency for health plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), especially legislation that simplifies how patients use and access their medical and drug benefits. THBI also works to ensure that patients can capture the full savings on medications offered through rebates and manufacturer savings programs.

This legislative session will not be remembered as one focused on patient access. Nearly 100 bills were filed that were designed to change the way health insurance plans and carriers operate, including how they cover certain services, how they approve or disapprove coverage, and how they contract and interact with providers and patients. In the end, very few of those bills passed both chambers, and in a first for Texas, the passage of one piece of legislation institutes a new process to make it harder for patient advocates to seek relief from insurance plan practices.



Expanding Patient Access to Life-Saving Treatments

- + Ensure patients receive all the discounts and benefits they are entitled to for medicines.
- + Remove barriers between patients and innovative therapies and treatments.
- + Increase transparency for pharmacy benefit managers and all middlemen.
- + Ensure patients can access the latest diagnostic tests and equipment.
- + Simplify patient utilization of their medical and drug benefits.

HB138 creates the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The Program will prepare analyses of bills and joint resolutions that would impose new mandates on health benefit plan issuers in this state. The Program will accept requests from the legislature year-round, even if the legislature is not in session. For all requests, a report will be issued outlining the estimated impact of the proposal, including how the proposal will increase spending for healthcare services, impact service utilization, and impact administrative expenses for the health plan. The primary focus of the analysis is on whether costs will increase for the health plan or plan sponsor; the bill does not require any analysis related to the impact on the patient. Proponents say that this will be a tool to determine costs associated with regulating health insurance companies; however, in other states with these processes, the primary purpose is to stop patient-focused legislation from garnering enough support to pass.

Protecting Patients at the Pharmacy

Among the few wins were bills designed to ensure that Texas patients have the most accurate information to access drugs at the lowest possible price. **SB493** prohibits PBMs from restricting pharmacies or pharmacists from informing enrollees when a drug is available at a lower cost. In short, the bill prohibits "gag clauses" in contracts that prevent pharmacies from telling patients when the cash price for a drug is lower than the price under their insurance plan. These gag clauses exist because PBMs can mandate that pharmacies direct patients to drugs that maximize the benefit for the PBM and not the patient. With implementation of SB493, Texas pharmacies will be able to freely inform patients if paying out-of-pocket (the cash price) for a prescription is cheaper than the insured's copay.

Another protection for pharmacists passed with **SB1236**. In the market today, a pharmacist must contract with PBMs to serve patients. With only a few PBMs controlling the majority of prescription drug reimbursements in the country, PBMs have used their market power to force pharmacies to accept "take-it-or-leave-it" contracts. This legislation puts in place contract protections for pharmacies and pharmacists in their relationships with PBMs, clarifying many aspects of the contracts and increasing transparency of contract provisions.

PBMs will also be limited by **HB3233**, which will protect Texans' privacy by prohibiting PBMs from storing patient data in countries where the U.S. Secretary of State has determined that the government has promoted international terrorist activities.

HB138 by Dean/Bettencourt

Establishes the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; requires analysis on bills that would impose new mandates on health benefit plan issuers, which may provide barriers for new tests and screenings.

HB1319 by Schoolcraft

DEAD

Broadens the scope of the wholesale drug importation program by adding Canadian and European Union suppliers for Texas to import drugs from.

HB2402 by Rose/Hughes

Establishes a framework for HHSC to exclude fees or rates offered as part of a fee-based membership discount program when evaluating the usual and customary fee or rate.

HB2412 by Bucy

DEAD

Ensures health plans provide coverage for a prescription drug, like a GLP-1, to treat obesity.

HB2516 by Guillen/Schwertner

Expands the eligibility criteria for purchasing Medicare supplement benefit plans to include individuals under 65 years of age for patients enrolled in Medicare by reason of disability or end stage renal disease.

HB2677 by Thompson/Cook

DEAD

Directs Medicaid to include coverage for the treatment of obesity, including behavioral therapy, metabolic and bariatric surgery, and anti-obesity medication, including GLP-1s.

HB3057 by Landgraf/Sparks

Requires health plans to cover CAR-T therapy at any certified in-network provider.

HB3086 by Oliverson

DEAD

Requires a pharmaceutical drug manufacturer to report wholesale acquisition costs for FDA-approved drugs sold in Texas, including cost increases, R&D costs, names of drugs with increased prices, and more.

HB3151 by Hull/Cook

Establishes an expedited and streamlined credentialing of providers for FQHCs currently contracted with an MCO.



Wrestling with Drug Prices

While there are proposals pending at the federal level to crack down on the root causes of high drug prices, many states are left to develop their own, often misguided, approaches to lowering drug costs. This session, the legislature considered - but did not pass - [HB1319](#), which would have expanded the current authorization for the state to import drugs from Canada to include the European Union, even though doing so has never been authorized or even agreed to by either of those entities. A proposal to create a state drug purchasing pool was also considered in [SB2857](#), which would have allowed a public employer, private employer, or health benefit plan issuer to purchase prescription drugs for their employees, employees' dependents, and retirees from vendors at a discounted rate. The concept would have the state act as a bulk purchasing agent on behalf of participating entities to leverage collective buying power to negotiate lower prices. The bill received some legislative support but did not make it past the tight deadlines to pass.

One unanswered question was how this purchasing pool would relate to the work currently being done by the [Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative](#) (TPI). Established by the 88th Legislature in 2023, the TPI was created to consolidate the state's drug purchasing programs to leverage the entire state's purchasing power to negotiate better drug purchasing agreements, essentially making the state its own pharmacy benefit manager. The authorizing legislation required the TPI to develop a business plan for implementing the initiative and outline a ten-year process for investigating the feasibility of and building the infrastructure to execute the initiative. This session's [HB4638](#) reauthorizes the TPI and makes technical changes such as expanding the number of board members and updating the ongoing planning requirements.

THBI was successful in helping defeat one legislative effort that would have negatively impacted drug prices. [HB3265](#) was designed to codify current practices used by certain entities in the federal 340B program, which provides significant benefits to the entities but does not provide benefits to patients, and ultimately drives up overall healthcare costs for everyone. THBI and its members support the intent of the 340B program, which was originally created to provide discounts to providers who specifically treat low-income patients and provide them access to lower cost drugs. But in the 30 years the program has existed, a lack of clarity around the program's rules and regulations has led to a proliferation of practices that provide these discounts to the covered entities instead of the patients. THBI will continue to work to support federal reforms to clarify the 340B program and realign the program to its original intended purpose.

There were additional bills attempting to regulate pharmaceutical manufacturers that did not pass. [HB3086](#) would have instituted new mandates related to drug price reporting requirements and [SB2470](#) would have placed additional labeling requirements on biologic products.

HB3233
by Harris/
Kolkhorst

Prohibits PBMs from storing patient data in countries deemed by the U.S. Secretary of State to promote international terrorist activities.

HB3265 by
Darby

DEAD

Prohibits drug manufacturers from requiring claims data, placing guardrails around access, or discriminating against a covered entity utilizing the 340B program, opening the door to extensive fraud and abuse within the program.

HB3812 by
Bonnen/
Hancock

Extends the evaluation period for a "Gold Card" from six months to a year, removes physicians with a license to practice administrative medicine from directing a utilization review, and requires reporting on exemptions.

HB4638 by
Bonnen/
Kolkhorst

Amends the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative to include yearly business plan updates, a central distribution network, manufacturing generic drugs and generic biological products, expanding the number of board members, and removing the program's expiration date in statute.

HB4667 by
Manuel

SB2061 by
Parker

DEAD

Eliminates prior authorization requirements for all complex rehabilitation technology equipment repairs and establishes a reimbursement methodology specifically for this type of repair to ensure timely patient access.

HB5402 by
Geren/Hancock

DEAD

Requires a fiscal impact statement from the Legislative Budget Board for any bill requiring a health benefit plan issuer to provide new health benefits, increase payments to healthcare providers, or implement new contractual or administrative requirements.

SB493 by
Kolkhorst/
Wharton

Provides a new level of price transparency by protecting communications between a pharmacy/pharmacist and customer about the difference in cost between the customer's out-of-pocket cost for medication under their insurance and the out-of-pocket cost without using insurance.

Improving Medicare Plans

The legislature passed legislation designed to improve the availability and quality of Medicare coverage in Texas. Texans under age 65 diagnosed with disabilities such as end stage renal disease (ESRD) or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) face prohibitively high Medicare Supplement (Medigap) insurance premiums. Without affordable secondary coverage such as Medigap, many ESRD patients remain ineligible for critical transplant procedures, potentially limiting their life expectancy and quality of life. [HB2516](#) requires insurers offering Medigap coverage to individuals 65 and older to provide the same coverage options and benefits to qualified individuals under 65 who are enrolled in Medicare due to disability or ESRD.

Additionally, [SB1330](#) addresses allegations that Medicare patients were being charged up to 800 percent more than Medicare-approved prices for power wheelchairs, scooters, and other durable medical equipment (DME). The overcharging was happening because federal law does not apply the “limiting charge” protection to DME. SB1330 addresses this issue by preventing Medicare enrollees from being balance-billed for amounts beyond the allowable price. The legislation prohibits a Medicare enrollee from being charged more than 115 percent of the Medicare-approved amount for covered DME and certain other supplies and devices by a nonparticipating provider unless certain conditions are met.

Improving Health Coverage

Of the many bills filed to regulate health insurance practices, only a few actually made it through the legislative process. One of the most important measures for patients who need more information about how health programs work is [SB1307](#). Currently, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has detailed online resources for the public to reference when making health insurance decisions, but the resources are not consolidated, making it difficult for the public to access and comprehend. In contrast, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) publishes and maintains an aggregated reference guide for Medicaid and CHIP, frequently called the “Pink Book,” which provides straightforward and easily digestible information about these programs. SB1307 requires TDI to consult with HHSC to develop a biennial reference guide designed to educate the public about healthcare coverage in Texas.

[HB3057](#) expands the availability of Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapy. This is a transformational treatment that harnesses the T-cells in a person's immune system to target and destroy cancer cells and may hold the potential to be curative for severely ill patients and eliminate rounds of less effective treatments. The bill expands the availability of CAR T therapy by prohibiting health plans from limiting the types of facilities that can provide the treatment.

[SB815](#) by Schwertner/ Spiller

Prohibits the use of AI-based algorithms as the sole reason for denying, delaying, or modifying healthcare services.

[SB1236](#) by Hughes/Hefner

Implements regulatory changes to enhance transparency, fairness, and access, including requiring health plans to provide a unique identifier on ID cards to facilitate easier claims submissions by pharmacists, creating an online portal for pharmacists to access contract information, and requiring pharmacist approval before contract changes are made.

[SB1307](#) by Cook/Vo

Directs TDI to develop and publish a biennial health coverage reference guide to provide healthcare coverage information, including explanation of benefits, differences in plans, and differences between in-network and out-of-network providers.

[SB1330](#) by Hancock/Paul

Closes the loophole that allows DME suppliers to charge Medicare patients excessively high prices, and prohibits nonparticipating providers from charging Medicare patients more than 115% of the approved amount for covered DME and related supplies.

[SB1409](#) by Parker/Johnson

Allows higher education institutions to offer health benefit plan coverage to students and their families.

[SB2470](#) by Menendez

DEAD

Requires drug manufacturers to publish information on potential side effects and contraindicated medications online as well as printed for pharmacy distribution.

[SB2857](#) by Blanco/Talarico

DEAD

Creates a prescription drug purchasing pool for participating public employers, health plans, or private employers to purchase prescription drugs at a discounted rate.

Promoting Research Investment and Commercialization of Innovation



Every new innovation starts with research. With the right combination of entrepreneurial spirit and industry collaboration, any innovation has the chance to make it all the way to the marketplace. THBI works to promote a strong system for research and technology transfer programs to support the development of new innovations and help ensure they reach the patients and consumers they are designed to help. This includes supporting legislation that expands efforts at academic incubators and business accelerators, maintains effective protections for intellectual property and patents, and ensures appropriate privacy protection while continuing access to research and clinical trials.

Finding a Cure for Dementia

The most significant research-related legislation that passed this session was [SB5](#) and [SJR3](#). SB5 establishes the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) to accelerate research in dementia and related disorders to enhance the potential for medical or scientific breakthroughs, improve the health of Texas residents, and establish Texas as a leader in this field. DPRIT will drive innovation and research on dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders by awarding grants to eligible research institutions, supporting research into prevention and treatment strategies, and fostering collaboration between public and private entities. [According to the Department of State Health Services](#), Alzheimer's disease is a major public health issue in Texas. Texas ranks third in the nation in the number of Alzheimer's cases, and second in the number of Alzheimer's deaths.

This legislation allocates \$3 billion in funding to support DPRIT and creates an oversight committee that includes appointees from the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House. The legislation also creates a higher education advisory committee, a program integration committee, and a peer review committee to support the operation. The proposal, while already approved by the legislature and the Governor, must also be approved by a majority of Texas voters. The legislation is contingent upon passage of a constitutional amendment to finalize the establishment of DPRIT and authorize its funding over the next ten years.

Promoting Research Investment and Commercialization of Innovation

- + Expand state investment in research and product development.
- + Ensure appropriate privacy protections while continuing access to research and clinical trials.
- + Expand commercialization and product development efforts.
- + Maintain protection for intellectual property and patents.
- + Expand mechanisms to fund research at higher education institutions.
- + Simplify patient utilization of their medical and drug benefits.

Previously passed legislation from the 86th Legislature in 2019 created a "Gold Card" process for providers designed to decrease the number of prior authorizations needed for certain patient services. [HB3812](#) updates that law to ensure that more providers can qualify for a Gold Card. The bill extends the evaluation period from six months to one year to qualify for the card, removes physicians who hold a license to practice administrative medicine as an individual who may direct a utilization review, and provides for annual reporting to the TDI regarding prior authorization exemptions.

As the growth of AI continues, many in the healthcare system have expressed concern that a health plan or carrier might rely solely on AI algorithms, instead of qualified healthcare professionals, to determine medical necessity for services. [SB815](#) explicitly prohibits the use of AI-based algorithms as the sole basis for denying, delaying, or modifying healthcare services. The bill requires that only licensed medical professionals can determine medical necessity or appropriateness of care, ensuring that human judgment remains central to critical healthcare decisions.

College students and their families will have a new option for finding health insurance coverage because of [SB1409](#), which establishes a statutory framework for higher education institutions to offer health benefit plans to students and their families. Some higher education institutions provide health benefits outside of traditional insurance models, offering plans tailored to students' needs. These plans often provide essential medical coverage, yet because they are not classified as traditional health insurance, they operate without a clear legal framework. Current law does not clearly define or regulate these health benefit offerings, creating uncertainty for institutions and students regarding the scope and structure of such health benefits. SB1409 remedies this.



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By establishing DPRIT, the legislature is making a significant investment that will not only expand the opportunity for research but will also put Texas at the forefront of the development of treatments and even cures for dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Election Day is November 4, 2025.

Learn more at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/important-election-dates.shtml

Stay tuned to THBI for more updates.

Proposals to Change CPRIT

The legislature considered two measures to change the way the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) operates. [SB1357](#) aimed to broaden the entities eligible to administer CPRIT’s Cancer Clinical Trial Program to ensure its continued effectiveness and accessibility. The measure also addressed the critical gaps identified through CPRIT’s engagement with trial participants by expanding the scope of reimbursable ancillary costs, further reducing financial barriers to participation. A second bill, [SB2796](#), proposed to establish a non-binding target of at least one percent annual return on total CPRIT assets. The legislation defined key terms such as "return on investment" and "total assets" to align CPRIT’s reporting with best practices. Neither of these measures passed, but these concepts are expected to return in future sessions.

Texas Future Fund

The legislature considered, but ultimately did not pass, [HB104](#), which would have created the Texas Future Fund. This innovative proposal was designed to “strengthen this state’s proven leadership in supporting the advancement of innovative technologies and develop and diversify this state’s economy by authorizing investments in frontier technology infrastructure, industry sectors critical to national defense, and other innovative technologies.” THBI supported this legislation to create a new investment fund within the Economic Stabilization Fund to invest in long-term growth and high return projects to reinforce the state’s leadership in frontier technologies.

HB104 by Bonnen/Schwertner DEAD	Establishes the Texas Future Fund, a new account within the Economic Stabilization Fund, and authorizes investment to grow the allotment for investment in supporting innovation technologies in critical industry sectors, including national defense and advanced nuclear technology.
HB127 by Wilson/Hughes	Establishes measures to protect higher education institutions from foreign adversaries by regulating gifts and donations, prohibiting contracts with foreign adversary companies, and establishing standards of investigation for potential infractions.
HB130 by Bonnen/Hughes	Bans the use of genomic sequencers or software produced by or on behalf of a foreign adversary; requires genomic data to be stored and secured with encryption and cybersecurity best practices; and prohibits medical or research facilities, companies, or nonprofits from storing the data within the borders of a foreign adversary.
SB5 / SJR3 by Huffman/Craddick	Establishes and funds the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to advance research, promote prevention strategies, and enhance support for individuals affected by dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders, with the successful passage of a constitutional amendment.
SB37 by Creighton/Shaheen	Implements reforms in higher education institutions, including increased oversight powers for university governing boards over hiring, programs and curricula, and clearer definitions of faculty councils' roles.
SB119 by Hall DEAD	Creates additional labeling requirements if a food product was derived from livestock injected with mRNA vaccine and prohibits the sale of the product unless properly labeled.

Expanding Patient Access to Research

In 2015, the 84th Legislature enacted the Right to Try Act to allow terminally ill patients access to investigational drugs, biological products, and devices that have completed a phase one clinical trial but have not yet been approved for general use by the FDA. [SB984](#) expands this law to include patients with rare or ultra-rare diseases for whom there often are no clinical trials due to a lack of patients and commercial viability. The legislation provides qualifying patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses access to individualized investigational treatments.

In an effort to assist veterans and others afflicted by post-traumatic stress disorder, opioid use disorders, and other related neurological or mental health conditions, the passage of [SB2308](#) makes Texas the first state to authorize a grant program to specifically fund drug development research and clinical trials to secure FDA approval for ibogaine. In controlled settings, ibogaine has been associated with the abrupt cessation of withdrawal symptoms and long-term reduction in cravings and improved mental health. Prominent advocates have touted ibogaine's life-saving effects, and there is a growing veteran movement seeking alternatives to conventional treatments. SB2308 establishes a public-private grant program under the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to support FDA Investigational New Drug (IND) trials for ibogaine. The program will fund Texas-based clinical research and require dollar-for-dollar matching by recipients. A multidisciplinary selection committee will review applications and recommend grantees to HHSC; an Institutional Review Board based in Texas will ensure FDA standards are met; and once IND approval is secured, HHSC and awardees will launch clinical trials at Texas facilities.

In 2015, the 84th Legislature passed legislation establishing the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) within the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office. This initiative is a matching grant program that assists eligible higher education institutions in recruiting distinguished researchers, such as Nobel laureates. The scope of the original program did not include private institutions. [SB1032](#), which would have added private or independent higher education institutions to those eligible for GURI grants, was vetoed by the Governor.

Updating Research Operations

Motivated by concerns over China's pursuit of biotechnology dominance and military-civil fusion strategy, as well as the potential commercial and military advantages of controlling large gene banks, the legislature passed the Texas Genomic Act of 2025. [HB130](#) aims to protect Texans' genomic data from foreign adversaries by prohibiting a medical facility, research facility, company, or nonprofit organization from using a genome sequencer or genome sequencing software produced by or on behalf of a foreign adversary. The bill also requires genome sequencing

SB122 by Hall

DEAD

Requires labeling for medical and cosmetic products that contain, was manufactured using, or derived from research using fetal cell lines or tissue.

**SB261 by Perry/
Gerdes**

Prohibits the manufacture, processing, possession, distribution, offer for sale, and sale of cell-cultured protein to address concerns about potential health risks associated with lab-grown proteins.

**SB315 by
Kolkhorst/
Harris Davila**

DEAD

Establishes an exclusive property right for an individual's unique DNA with negotiated exemptions for medical diagnosis or treatment and use in research by higher education institutions.

**SB984 by
Bettencourt/
King**

Expands the existing Right to Try Act by including qualifying patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses, which will increase access to investigational drugs, biological products, and devices that have not been approved for general use by the FDA.

**SB1032 by
Kolkhorst/Leach**

VETOED

Expands eligibility for matching grants provided through the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) to include private institutions for recruitment and retention of distinguished researchers.

**SB1273 by
Hughes/Wilson**

Establishes the Higher Education Research Security Council, consisting of higher education institutions research security officers, to develop state-wide research security protocols, establish accreditation for security excellence, and create an annual training program for tier-one universities.

RESTRICTIONS ON TECHNOLOGY

As with previous sessions, several bills were filed and considered that would have restricted or prohibited certain kinds of innovative products or research. Bills such as SB119 and SB1887 would have required labels on products containing mRNA technology. SB122 would have required labels on products derived from embryonic cells, and SB1488 would have prohibited research on potentially pandemic pathogens. Fortunately, these measures did not pass.

One piece of legislation that did pass was SB261, which prohibits selling or offering for sale cell-cultured protein for human consumption for the next two years. The bill is set to expire September 1, 2027.

data of state residents to be stored within the United States. THBI worked with the bill author to make clarifications to the bill as it passed through the process, including making an exception for the storage of genome sequencing data conducted in accordance with [28 C.F.R. Part 202](#).

Some bills that did not pass will continue to be important policy issues for the state to consider in the future. [SB315](#) aimed to protect the privacy of patients' genetic information. Although THBI was able to work with the bill authors to reach compromised language to address both privacy rights and the ability for researchers to use genetic information efficiently, the bill failed to reach certain legislative deadlines.

Similarly, [SB2721](#) would have clarified regulations regarding the use of cadavers available through the state's anatomical gifts program. Two years ago, the legislature abolished the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas and transferred its functions to the Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC). Since then, TFSC has made many substantive changes, including restricting access to the program. Additionally, allegations of misuse of remains have been reported. Without new legislation passing, the resolution to these issues remains unclear.

SB1357 by Parker

DEAD

Establishes a cancer clinical trial participation program to increase access and provide financial support for patients enrolled in clinical trials.

SB1488 by Hall

DEAD

Imposes restrictions on research by higher education institutions involving potentially pandemic pathogens, known as gain-of-function research.

SB1887 by Sparks/Kerwin

DEAD

Prohibits immunization with a product containing mRNA material with exemptions for use in cancer or genetic disorder treatment.

SB2066 by Huffman/Bonnen

Eliminates the Texas Research Incentive Program, as state appropriations have significantly decreased and new, more intentional funding streams have been utilized.

SB2721 by Parker/K.Bell

DEAD

Establishes stricter oversight and tracking of donated bodies to close regulatory gaps, protect donor rights, and ensure dignified treatment of unclaimed remains.

SB2796 by Hughes

DEAD

Provides statutory clarity to CPRIT's fiduciary responsibilities by establishing a 1% annual return on total assets.

SB2308 by Parker/Harris

Creates a grant program to help fund the costs of FDA-approved clinical trials needed to make ibogaine a viable treatment option to combat the ongoing opioid crisis.

Higher Education Regulations

Each legislative session, the legislature makes changes to the operations and funding for higher education; and this session was no different.

SB2066 repeals the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP). Established in 2009, the program has slowly diminished as the state began investing in promoting research in other ways tied to more proven outcomes. The biennial state budget includes contingency funding to address any eligible unmatched donations received through the program upon the program's repeal.

Another issue impacting research relates to the increasing need to prevent theft of intellectual capital at higher education institutions. As Texas continues to conduct robust and cutting-edge research, institutions must strengthen security protocols across the university systems. Last session, legislation was passed requiring higher education institutions to establish a policy framework to address research security and designate a research security officer responsible for the handling of classified material. This session, **SB1273** and **HB127** built upon that work by creating a Texas Higher Education Research Security Council to develop statewide research security protocols, establish accreditation for security excellence, create an annual training program for tier-one universities, and submit an annual report to the relevant parties.

The most significant legislation impacting higher education was **SB37**, which creates a new process for the review and regulation for general education curriculum by higher education institutions. The bill requires, at least once every five years, the governing board of each institution to conduct a comprehensive review of its general education curriculum. On that same five-year schedule, each institution must adopt and implement a process for reviewing minor degrees and certificate programs offered by the institution to identify programs with low enrollment that could be consolidated or eliminated. The bill also establishes a General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee to provide oversight of implementation of these provisions.

SB37 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish an Office of the Ombudsman to serve as an intermediary between the legislature and the higher education institutions and to receive and investigate complaints regarding an institution's failure to comply with current law pertaining to the responsibility of governing boards. The bill also reforms the operations of an institution's faculty council or senate.



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- Facilitating collaboration

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Improving Health and Health Programs for All Texans

Improving Health and Health Programs for All Texans

- + Support families fighting rare diseases through early detection and treatment.
- + Improve state programs that provide support to patients with chronic diseases.
- + Ensure effective response to infectious diseases.
- + Improve population health and enhance the public health system.
- + Expand programs that provide health services and insurance coverage.

THBI supports legislation designed to improve patient and population health, including those that improve programs that provide for an effective response to infectious diseases, advance the fight against rare and chronic diseases, and expand state programs designed to support Texas patients.

Improving State Programs

Members of the legislature are often affected by national trends and events. Those influences were very evident in the types of healthcare-related legislation that were filed and passed. Senate priority legislation [SB25](#) - "Make Texas Healthy Again" - makes changes to Texas' health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living. The bill requires changes to food nutrition labeling, updates to physical exercise and nutrition education throughout the public education system, and new requirements for nutrition and health for certain healthcare professionals' continuing education.

The House prioritized healthcare legislation on rural hospital reform. Rural hospitals in Texas face financial instability, leading to closures and reduced access to critical healthcare services for rural communities. According to the [Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals](#) (TORCH), over 20 rural hospitals have closed in Texas since 2010, and many are currently operating at risk. [HB18](#) stabilizes rural healthcare delivery, supports workforce development, and enhances telemedicine access to ensure rural Texans



receive high quality care close to home. The bill establishes the State Office of Rural Hospital Finance within the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide technical assistance and financial support for rural hospitals participating in Medicaid and other state or federal programs. It also puts in place cost-based reimbursement rates, establishes an annual add-on reimbursement for rural hospitals with obstetrics and gynecology departments, and creates both a training program and grant program for rural hospitals.

The legislature also updated the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Health Multi-Share Plan, which provides limited but essential healthcare services to employees of small businesses within participating counties. The program has been challenged due to current regulatory burdens, but [HB721](#) makes several reforms to the program to ensure its long-term operation.

Several programs at the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) were the subject of legislation resulting in improved health services. [SB1044](#) adds Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) to the list of conditions screened through the Newborn Screening Program, offering parents crucial information about how best to provide care and treatment for their children. DMD is a universally fatal, rare pediatric disease resulting from an absence of dystrophin. While the mutation happens before birth, diagnosis is difficult, and the later the diagnosis occurs, the harder it is to treat the symptoms and manage the condition.

DSHS will also implement [HB107](#), which authorizes the creation of a Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) registry. The registry will serve as a single accurate source of information about SCD cases across the state. Healthcare facilities will report data on SCD cases to DSHS, and DSHS will publish reports, conduct analysis, and provide accessible information to healthcare providers and the public, including an annual report about SCD.

Vaccine Policy

There were 67 bills filed to change the way that immunization and vaccination programs operate in Texas. Of those, 58 of them were derived from the growing movement to cast doubt on the efficacy, safety, and effectiveness of vaccines. THBI, along with other stakeholders including healthcare providers, scientists, and public health advocates, worked throughout the session to provide policymakers with information about the incredible success of vaccinations to improve individual and population health and to ensure that Texans continue to have a strong system for combating infectious disease.

Of the vaccine-related bills, five passed both chambers and were sent to the Governor. [HB1586](#) makes it easier to obtain a school vaccination exemption by requiring the exemption form be available online, although the form must still be notarized. [HB4076](#) prohibits healthcare providers from refusing to qualify an individual for an organ donation solely based on

HB18 by VanDeaver/Perry	Creates the Rural Health Stabilization and Innovation Act to stabilize rural healthcare delivery, support workforce development, and enhance telemedicine access in rural areas.
HB107 by Simmons/Miles	Establishes a Sickle Cell Disease Registry at DSHS, serving as a single source of information about SCD cases across the state.
HB721 by Leo Wilson/Middleton	Exempts UTMB Health Multi-Share Plan from additional healthcare cost transparency requirements due to their financial structure.
HB1052 by Bhojani/Blanco	Requires health benefit plans to cover telemedicine, teledentistry, and telehealth services as long as the patient is a Texas resident and the provider is licensed to practice and maintains a physical office in the state.
HB1586 by Hull/Kolkhorst	Requires school immunization exemption forms be available online, which may influence public health policies, school enrollment processes, and the overall immunization rates within the state.
HB1700 by Fairly/Sparks	Establishes regulations and guidelines around management of records by health professionals who provide telemedicine, teledentistry, or telehealth services.
HB3441 by Luther/Hall	Establishes liability for vaccine manufacturers for advertising vaccines outside of the federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program and Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program, which may lead to increased scrutiny of vaccine promotional practices and increased litigation risk for manufacturers.

that individual’s vaccination status. [SB269](#) updates requirements for healthcare providers to report certain vaccine-related or drug-related adverse events. [HB4535](#) requires DSHS to develop a standardized information sheet that includes information on the risks associated with COVID-19 vaccination, the expedited manner in which the COVID-19 vaccine was developed, and whether long-term scientific studies had been performed on the COVID-19 vaccine. Finally, [HB3441](#) expands liability for vaccine manufacturers that advertise a harmful vaccine in Texas.

Telehealth and Medical Records

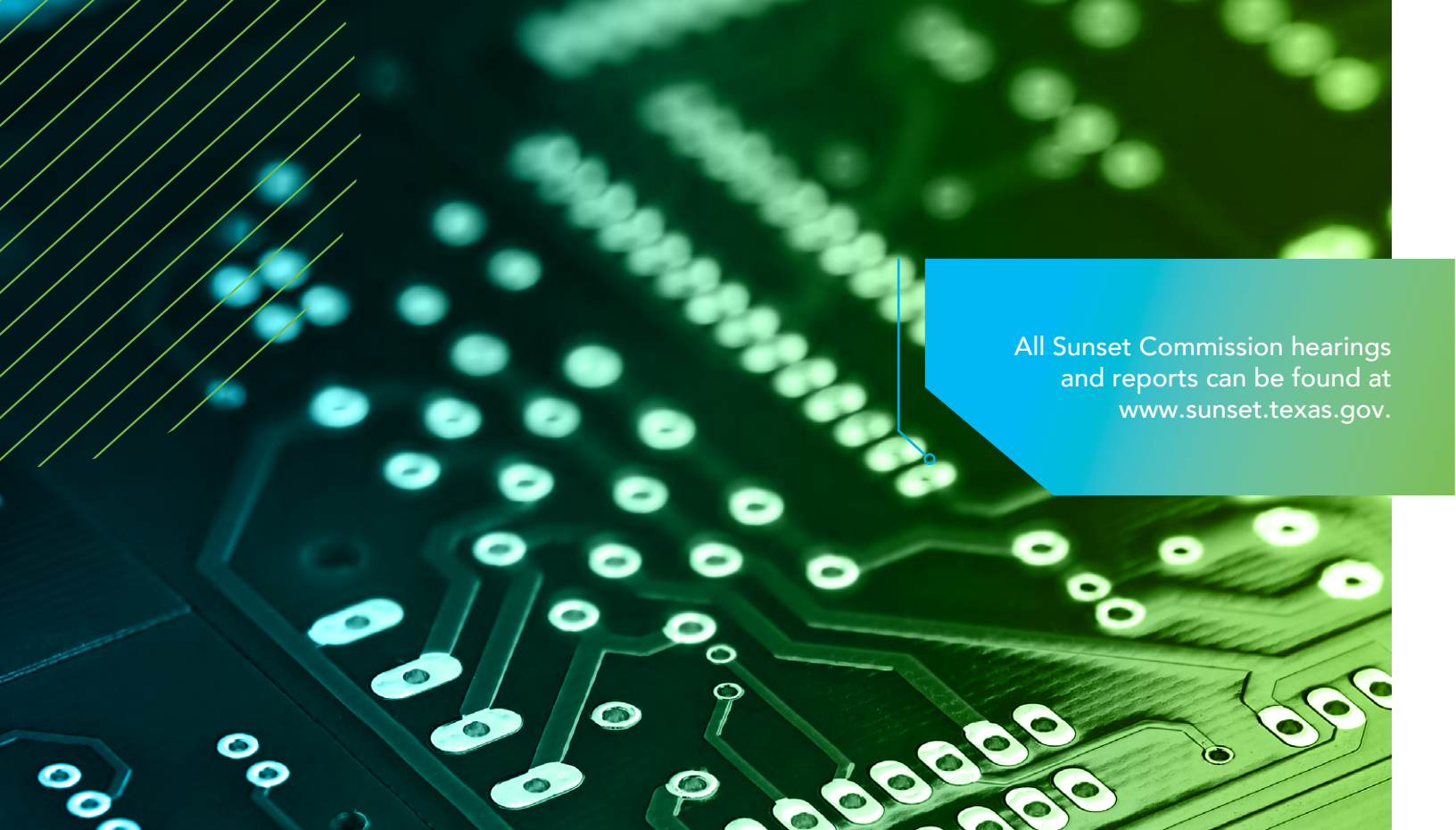
After the COVID-19 pandemic, state law expanded the availability of telehealth services in Texas. However, there was not clear statutory guidance on how records should be kept and shared. [HB1700](#) requires any regulatory agency with authority over a health professional providing telehealth services to adopt rules to standardize formats and processes for, and retention of records relating to, a patient's consent to treatment, data collection, and data sharing. The bill requires collecting consent to share, consent to treat, records retention, and other documentation when performing a virtual service, especially when the services were provided via audio-only platforms.

For the first time in many years, the legislature took up the issue of improving access to and the privacy of electronic health records. [SB1188](#) makes updates to the powers and duties of the covered entities that use electronic records. These updates include clarifying who has access to a patient’s records, enhancing confidentiality and administrative requirements for records, and requiring the data to be stored physically in the United States or U.S. territory. Other changes were also included relating to documentation of gender identity, use of artificial intelligence, and overall enforcement.

OTC Medication Access in Schools

Another effort to improve health programs was [SB920](#), which clarifies the ability of school nurses to give students over-the-counter medications in schools. In 2024, school districts expressed confusion about whether licensed nurses working in public schools were violating the Nursing Practice Act by administering over-the-counter medications to students. The Texas Board of Nursing released a statement saying the Nursing Practice Act was "silent on the universal and standard use of safe over-the-counter medications when the parent or guardian appropriately authorizes the treatments option to be administered by a school nurse." [SB920](#) clarifies that licensed nurses can continue administering over-the-counter medication.

HB4076 by Leach/Kolkhorst	Prohibits physicians and healthcare providers from determining an individual’s eligibility for an organ transplant only on the basis of vaccination status.
HB4535 by McQueeney/Hancock	Requires written informed consent prior to any COVID-19 vaccination, including information about benefits and risks associated with the vaccine.
SB25 by Kolkhorst/Hull	Establishes food labeling requirements, mandating nutrition education, and requiring continuing education on nutrition and metabolic health for healthcare professionals.
SB269 by Perry/Frank	Requires physicians to report serious adverse events experienced by patients after receiving experimental, investigational, or emergency use-authorized vaccines or drugs.
SB920 by Sparks/Alvarado	Clarifies how prescribed and nonprescription medications may be administered by school employees to students in schools.
SB1044 by Parker/Capriglione	Adds Duchenne muscular dystrophy testing to the newborn screening panel tested by DSHS.
SB1188 by Kolkhorst/Bonnen	Establishes requirements for electronic health records, including how and what information healthcare providers manage and store.



All Sunset Commission hearings
and reports can be found at
www.sunset.texas.gov.

Legislation Impacting Government Efficiency

TEXAS SUNSET COMMISSION AND SUNSET REVIEWS

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission was created by the Texas Legislature in 1977 to address concerns about government inefficiency, waste, and duplication of services. The Commission was established to provide a regular, comprehensive review of state agencies and programs, to ensure that state government operated efficiently and effectively, and to affirm that state agencies were still necessary and relevant. Each state agency is reviewed by the Sunset Commission on a 12-year rolling cycle.

Multiple bills are filed each legislative session to implement the biennial recommendations of the Commission. This session, the most high-profile agencies under review were the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and its related agencies ([SB2405](#)), the Department of Information Resources ([HB1500](#)), the Texas Lottery Commission ([SB3070](#)), and the Texas Ethics Commission ([HB1510](#)), which did not pass. Even though the bill did not pass, the Texas Ethics Commission is one of the agencies authorized in the Texas Constitution and so the functions of the agency will continue to operate.

If an agency's sunset bill does not pass, the agency will not be reauthorized in law and will be eliminated or "sunset-ed". Although there are exceptions, this rarely happens. Each session, a piece of legislation is filed to prevent the wholesale closure of the reviewed agencies that do not make it through the legislative gauntlet. This legislation is commonly called the "sunset catch-all" bill, and this session was filed as [HB1545](#).

HB1545 was one of the very last bills finally passed by the legislature this session, changing many times throughout the process. The final version of the bill moves several agencies scheduled for future review out of schedule, specifically the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Texas Veterinarian Examiners; changes the review date of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; and makes technical corrections to the law regulating the Sunset Commission.

With the enactment of HB1545, the next cycle of agencies to receive a full Sunset review include:

- + Texas Civil Commitment Office
- + Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- + Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- + Texas Department of State Health Services
 - Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee
 - Perinatal Advisory Council
 - Public Health Funding and Policy Committee
- + Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- + Texas Health Services Authority
- + Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee
- + Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
- + Texas Workforce Commission
 - Texas Workforce Commission, State Use Program (WorksWonders)
- + Texas Workforce Investment Council

The Department of State Health Services houses many programs important to THBI member companies, such as the regulation of pharmaceutical manufacturers, and to patients, such as the Texas HIV Medication Program. The Texas Medicaid Program, including the Medicaid Vendor Drug Program, will be part of the review of the Health and Human Services Commission. The Texas Workforce Commission, also under review, will be important to monitor as the need for a trained and qualified workforce continues to grow along with the life science and biotech industry across the state. THBI will actively monitor and be involved in the Sunset Commission's review of these agencies.



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ENHANCING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

With a legislature that only meets every two years, many Texas laws are written at a high level, with the corresponding state agency tasked with drafting rules to regulate the specific details of how the legislation will be implemented. The rulemaking process for the state is standardized. Each agency must publish proposed rules in the Texas Register and public input is required for any rules to be adopted. This saw unprecedented updates in the way state agencies are audited, how they develop rules, and how they are represented through state websites and other public information.

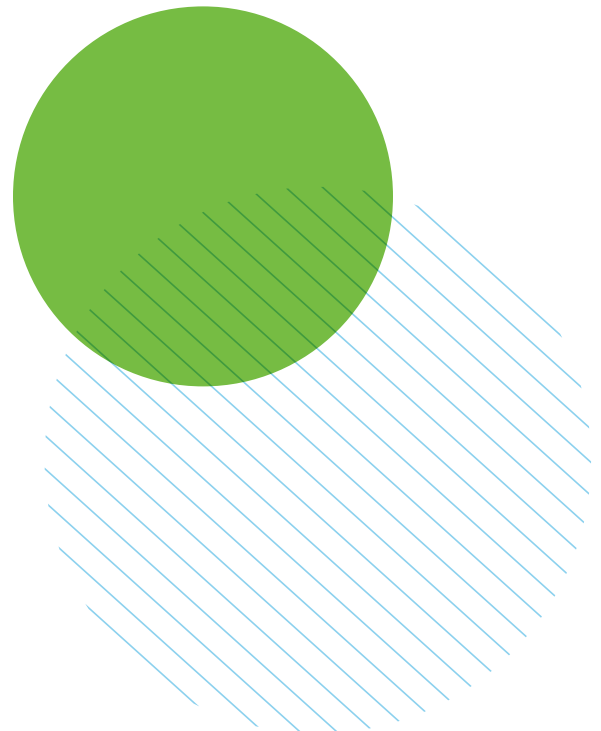
HB12 includes several changes focused on the state's regulatory processes. The bill clarifies that the Texas Sunset Commission, when conducting an agency review, shall include an examination of public participation in rulemaking, a review of the agency rules related to conflicts of interest, and the necessity and effectiveness of the adopted rules for the agency. The bill also authorizes the commission to recommend that a limited review of a regulatory agency be conducted prior to the regulatory agency's next sunset review if certain deficiencies are identified.

HB12 also creates a new kind of audit to be conducted by the Texas State Auditor. Under the bill, the State Auditor will adopt a schedule for conducting efficiency audits of regulatory agencies four years before the date the agency is scheduled to be abolished under the Sunset Act. The efficiency audits are designed to determine whether the objectives and intended benefits of the agency's program are being achieved efficiently and effectively. Following the efficiency audits, the State Auditor shall prepare a report with any recommendations for updates to the agency under review.

Another new process designed to examine the effectiveness of state government agencies was established with **SB14**. This bill creates the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office within the Office of the Governor to expand opportunities for implementing efficiencies in state agency rulemaking, the regulatory review process, and contested case processes. The legislation assists state agencies in identifying unnecessary and ineffective rules, the effect and cost of agency rules, opportunities to repeal or amend rules, and will coordinate with state agencies to reduce rules or other regulatory requirements. The new office will coordinate with the Secretary of State, the Department of Information Resources, and other state agencies to improve public access to information about agency rules, forms, and filings. The office will issue a biennial report about its accomplishments.

The bill requires the creation of a new web-based resource site to allow the public to search information by general topic about state rules and regulations for any applicable North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sector code. Finally, the bill includes provisions that will change the way courts consider and make rulings about ambiguous state laws. The bill clarifies that in a judicial proceeding, a court should not give deference to a state agency's legal determination regarding the construction, validity, or applicability of the law or a rule adopted by the agency.

HB5195 directs the modernization of all state agency websites and digital services. The bill requires state agencies to assess their agency websites and online service portals to identify areas for improvement in user accessibility, navigation, and digital service efficiency. Assessments should include strategies to simplify user access to forms, applications, and services; opportunities to reduce or eliminate paperwork requirements; enhancements to ensure compliance with disability accessibility standards; adopting best practices for search functionality, page load speed, and service integration; and using established templates and guidelines to provide consistency among state agency websites. The Department of Information Resources will provide guidance and technical assistance, develop and recommend best practices, and issue a report on the progress toward standardizing agency modernization efforts required by the bill.





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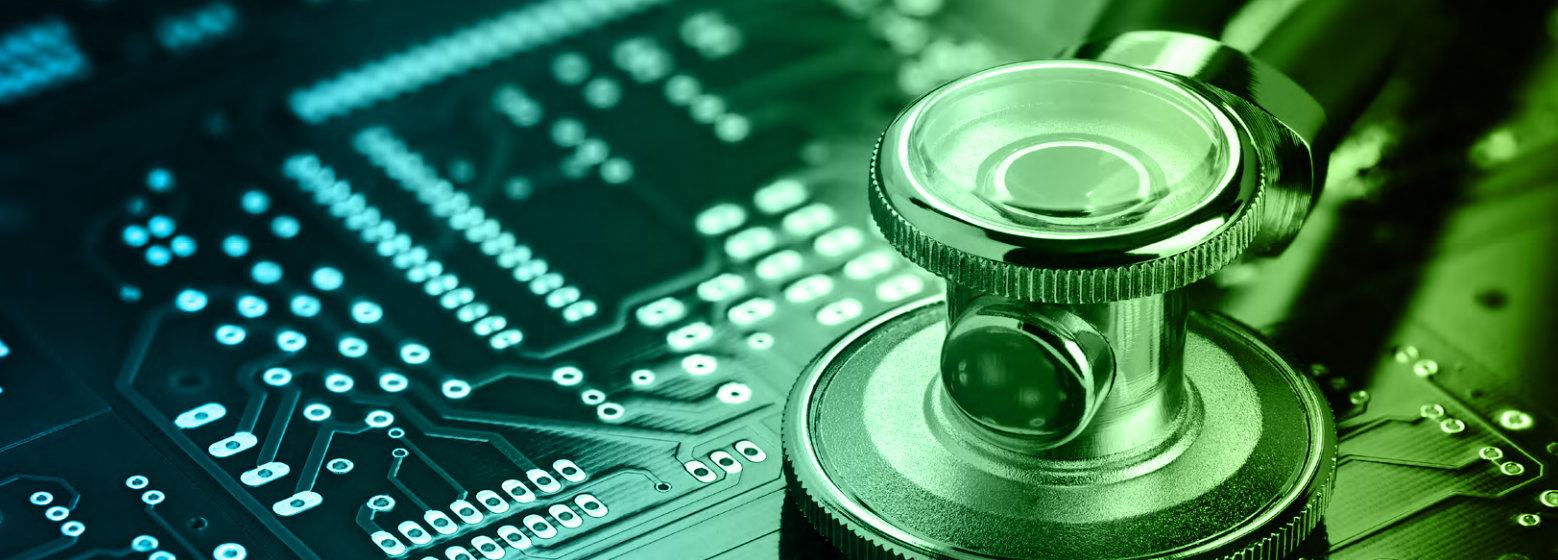
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Constitutional Amendments

In the Texas Legislature, a joint resolution is a proposal that amends the state constitution instead of state law. To change the constitution, a joint resolution must first pass through the legislative process, gaining approval in each body with at least two-thirds in favor of the bill. Following passage of the joint resolution, the proposal must then be presented to Texas voters in the form of a proposition. Following the legislative session, the Secretary of State conducts a drawing to determine the order in which the proposed constitutional amendments will appear on the ballot.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

- SJR2

Increasing the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district.
- SJR3

Establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) and the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on the prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders, and transferring \$3 billion to that fund from state general revenue.
- SJR5

Requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain felony offenses.
- SJR18

Prohibiting a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.
- SJR27

Regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct.
- SJR34

Affirming the rights and responsibilities of parents, known as the Parents' Bill of Rights.
- SJR37

Clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.
- SJR59

Creating funding to support the educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.
- SJR84

Providing a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire.

Stay tuned to THBI for more information about the Constitutional Amendments and how you can make your vote count in the November election. THBI will report on the progress and consideration of the propositions.

SJR85 Increasing the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled.

HJR1 Exempting from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income.

HJR2 Prohibiting death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift.

HJR4 Prohibiting an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions.

HJR7 Dedicating a portion of state sales and use taxes to the Texas Water Fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.

HJR34 Exempting from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located along the Texas-Mexico border that arises from the installation or construction of border security infrastructure and related improvements.

HJR99 Exempting from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.

HJR133 Exempting from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected.



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- + American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
- + Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
- + Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
- + Coalition for Texans with Disabilities (CTD)
- + Council of State Bioscience Associations (CSBA)
- + Dallas Regional Chamber
- + Greater Brazos Partnership
- + Greater Houston Partnership
- + Opportunity Austin
- + Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
- + Texas Association of Business (TAB)
- + Texas Association of Manufacturers (TAM)
- + Texas Immunization Partnership (TIP)
- + Texas Coalition for Patients
- + Texas e-Health Alliance
- + Texans for Affordable Healthcare
- + Texans for Health Access Coalition
- + Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (TCCRI)
- + Texas Economic Development Council
- + Texas Pediatric Society
- + Texans for Innovation
- + Texas Medical Association (TMA)
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