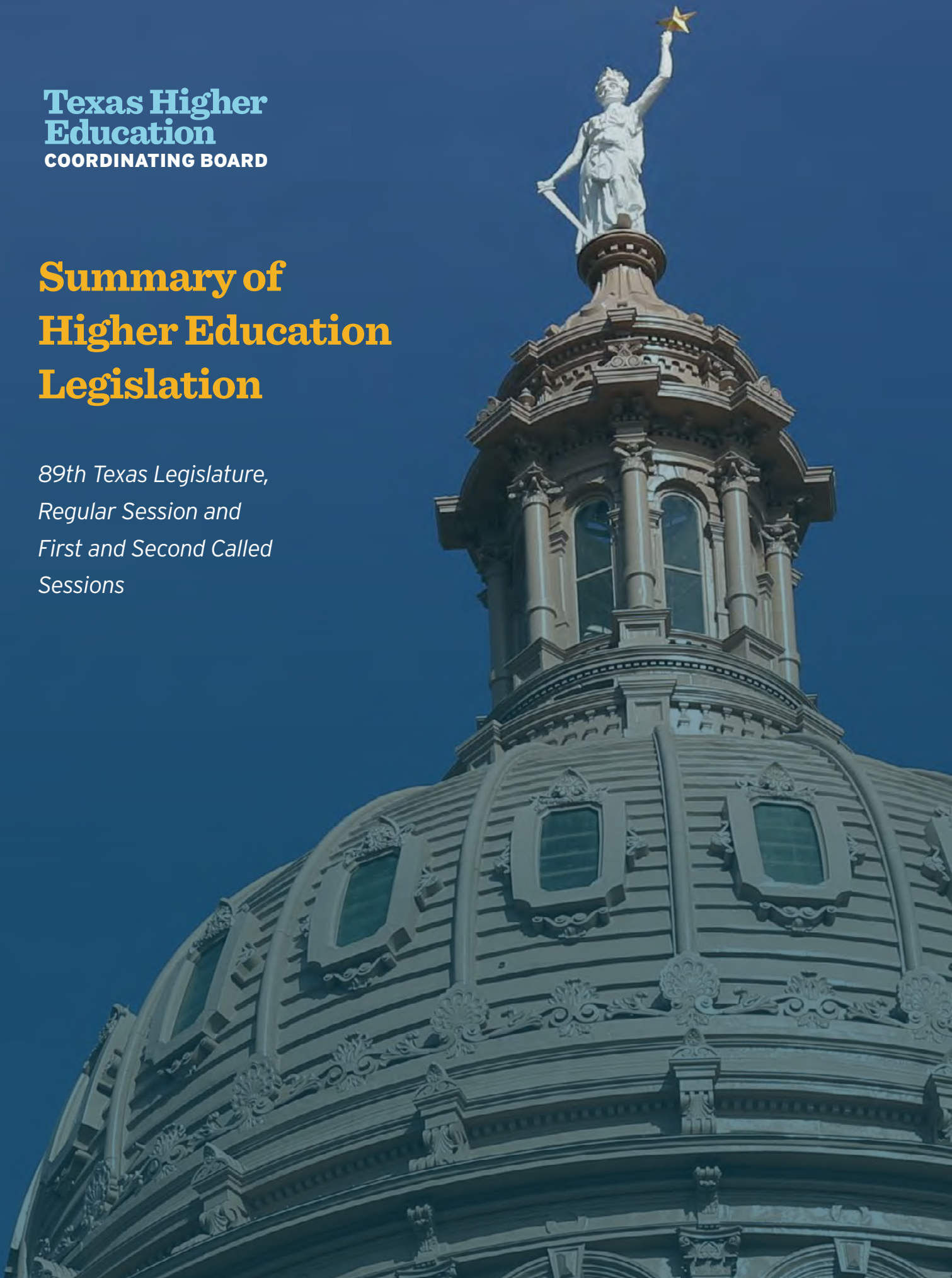


**Texas Higher
Education**
COORDINATING BOARD

Summary of Higher Education Legislation

*89th Texas Legislature,
Regular Session and
First and Second Called
Sessions*



Stacy A. Hock, *Chair*

Welcome Wilson Jr., *Vice Chair*, Houston

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[VACANT]

Lisa D. Cantu, *Student Representative*, College Station

Wynn Rosser, PhD, *Commissioner of Higher Education*

Agency Purpose

Our purpose is to strengthen Texas through higher education. By making higher education accessible to a wide range of people, we can ensure Texas remains one of the world's most innovative, valuable educational systems. By bringing together data, policymakers, and institutions, we can inform sensible policies that make a difference and make education beyond high school available to every person in our state. When we do that, we will improve lives, communities, and our shared economy.

Agency Vision

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

Agency Philosophy

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

The THECB's core values are:

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

Efficiency: We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

Collaboration: We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The THECB does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

This document is for educational purposes only. Questions related to interpretation of or compliance with legislation should be directed to legal counsel. Please cite this report as follows: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (2025). Summary of Higher Education Legislation. Austin, TX.

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Introduction

Glossary of Terms

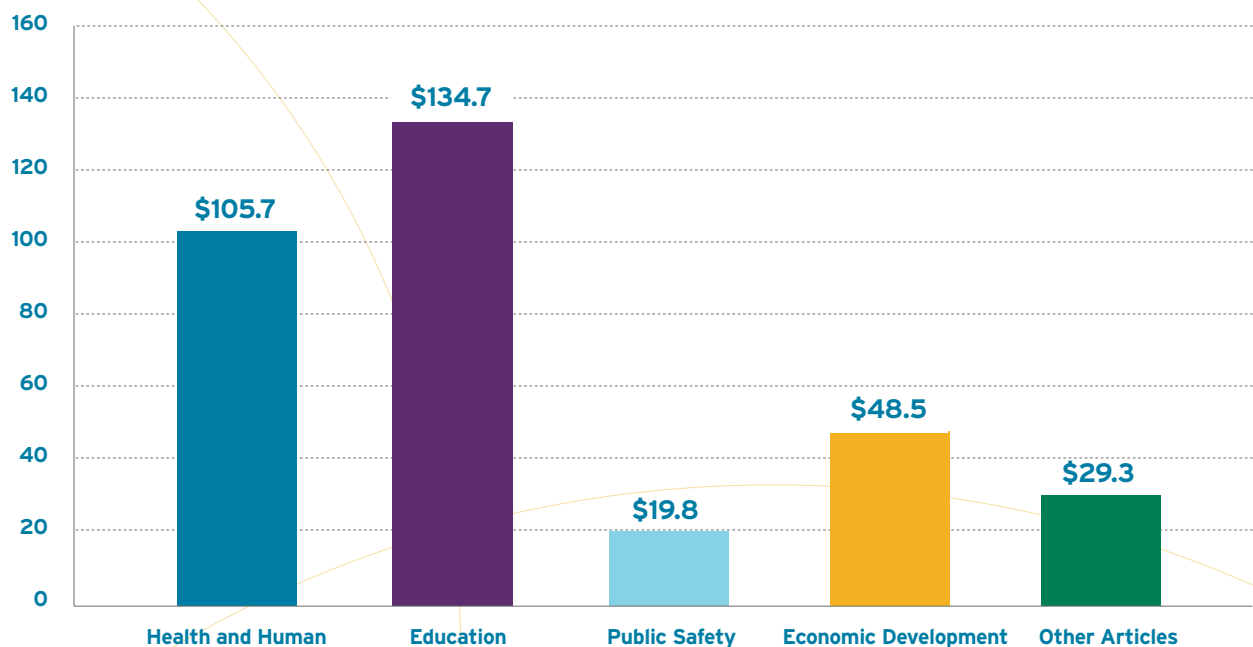
COV	credential of value
DIR	Department of Information Services
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
FAST	Financial Aid for Swift Transfer
FY	Fiscal Year
GAA	General Appropriations Act
GAI	General Academic Teaching Institution
GME	Graduate Medical Education
GPA	grade point average
HEF	Higher Education Fund
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
HRI	health-related institution
I&O	Instructional and Operations Formula
ICUT	Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas
IHE	institution of higher education
JAMP	Joint Admission Medical Program
JET Program	Jobs and Education for Texas Grant Program
JROTC	Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
MHPLRP	Mental Health Professional Shortage Area
MTF	My Texas Future
Perkins Grant	Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Grant
P-TECH	Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program
PUC	Public Utility Commission of Texas
ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
R-PEP	Rural Pathway Excellence Program
TASSP Scholarship Program	Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program
TEA	Texas Education Agency
TEC	Texas Education Code
TEES	Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station
TEG	Tuition Equalization Grant
TEOG	Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program
TEXAS Grant	Toward Excellence, Access, and Success Grant Program
THECB	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
TRIP	Texas Research Incentive Program
TRUE Grant	Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Education Grant Program
TSTC	Texas State Technical College
TWC	Texas Workforce Commission

State Budget Summary for Fiscal Years 2026-2027

During each regular session, the Texas Legislature adopts the state budget to provide funds for state government operations for the upcoming fiscal biennium. The 89th Texas Legislature adopted Senate Bill (SB) 1, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Biennium (FY 26-27 Biennium). Governor Abbott signed the act, and it will take effect with the beginning of the next fiscal biennium on September 1, 2025.

The GAA is organized into 12 articles, which fund the major categories of state operations – general government, health and human services, education, the judiciary, public safety and criminal justice, natural resources, business and economic development, and the Legislature. It also makes provisions regarding state expenditures and finance for the biennium. For the FY 26-27 Biennium, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$338 billion across all state government and across all categories of spending (federal, general revenue, general revenue-dedicated, and other).

Figure 1. FY 26-27 SB 1 All Funds by Article (in millions)



Source: Legislative Budget Board

Education funding is represented in Article III of the GAA, totaling approximately \$135 billion, or 40%, of the All Funds appropriation for the state budget in the FY 26-27 Biennium. Within this appropriation, approximately \$100 billion supports K-12 education and \$34 billion supports higher education.

Higher Education Funding in SB 1

The \$34 billion appropriated for higher education for the FY 26-27 Biennium represents an increase of \$1.85 billion, or about 5.7%, from the amount budgeted for the FY 24-25 Biennium. Appropriated funds flow to institutions, students, and other higher education stakeholders in several ways. This includes formula funding appropriated directly to institutions of higher education for their operations; funding appropriated to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB or Coordinating Board) for operations and grant funds that ultimately will be awarded to students and other eligible parties; disbursements from dedicated funds for capital needs, research, and other identified purposes; and group benefits for higher education employees.

Figure 2. FY 26-27 All Funds Appropriation for Higher Education (in millions)

CATEGORY	FY 24-25 ESTIMATED/ BUDGETED	FY 26-27 APPROPRIATED	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
General Academic Institutions	\$10,102.2	\$9,509.0	-5.9%
Health-Related Institutions	\$4,144.1	\$4,383.1	5.8%
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	\$3,027.8	\$3,301.5	9.0%
Higher Education Funds	\$5,022.9	\$5,391.1	7.3%
Public Community/Junior Colleges	\$2,312.8	\$2,476.1	7.1%
Lamar State Colleges	\$152.2	\$170.4	11.9%
Texas State Technical Colleges	\$288.4	\$393.0	36.3%

Source: Legislative Budget Board

SB 1 supports higher education formula funding across all sectors through \$10.8 billion in General Revenue funds and \$1.6 billion in statutory tuition revenue – these represent increases of \$687.6 million and \$5.6 million, respectively. The funding rate for the General Academic Teaching Institution (GAI) Instruction and Operation formula (I&O) increased from \$59.08 per semester credit hour to \$60.67, and the GAI Infrastructure rate increased from \$5.75 per predicted square foot to \$5.94.

The Texas State Technical Colleges (TSTCs) saw an increase in their returned value model rate from 35.9% to 56.1%. The Lamar State Colleges Instruction and Administration rate increased from \$8.16 to \$9.16 per contact hour. The GAA also includes, contingent on voter approval, \$850 million to establish a TSTC endowment fund to support capital projects.

Additionally, the Legislature established two new mission-specific formulas to support certain health-related institutions: \$3.6 million in the Sam Houston Regional Education Consortium Formula to support Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and \$29.4 million in the Texas Academic Medical Center Support Formula to support The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School.

The GAA also included, across all sectors, \$1.9 billion for non-formula support items, a decrease of \$501 million from the FY 24-25 Biennium. The decrease is due primarily to decreases in one-time funding items.

Finally, the Legislature included a total of \$1.2 billion for the Higher Education Fund (HEF), an increase of \$393.8 million. This fund supports capital needs at certain public universities that do not participate in the Permanent University Fund.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Funding

The All Funds appropriation to THECB in SB 1 for FY 26-27 provides a total of \$3.3 billion, an increase of about \$275 million from the previous biennium. Within this amount, the Legislature made historic additional investments to key areas that will continue to make Texas higher education accessible and affordable to students of all backgrounds and meet the needs of our economy and workforce.

Financial Aid

The budget includes an increase of \$328 million across the THECB's current student financial aid programs, an increase of 22% over funding for the previous biennium. This funding increase will allow the **Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant** program, **Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)** program, and **Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)** program to serve 68% of eligible students at Texas public universities, public two-year institutions, and private and independent institutions, respectively.

This funding, in concert with relevant rider revisions, will also:

- Ensure that Texas high school students who graduate in the top 25% of their graduating class and are otherwise eligible for the **TEXAS Grant** or **TEOG** programs receive an award.
- Treat **TEOG** recipients who transfer from a two-year college to a public university as renewal students for the **TEXAS Grant** program, ensuring their continued receipt of state financial aid.
- Increase funding for the **Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program** sufficient that the maximum award amount would increase to \$30,000, better supporting these students who commit to service in our armed forces.
- Maintain the current cohort size in the **Texas Leadership Scholars Program** and allow an increase in the **Texas Leadership Research Scholars Program** cohort size.

Medical Education

The GAA includes \$304.4 million in All Funds to the agency's **Graduate Medical Education (GME) Expansion Program**, which provides grants to support the creation of additional first-year residency programs in Texas. This increase of \$71.3 million is intended to meet the goal of having 1.1 first-year residency positions for every graduate from Texas medical schools, providing opportunity for both Texans and out-of-state medical graduates to live and practice in Texas.

The act also includes new funding for several health education related initiatives, including:

- \$5 million for the development of a **Family Medicine-Obstetrics Postgraduate Training Grant Program** and to support the salaries and benefits of training physicians.
- \$5 million for the **Behavioral Health Innovation Grant Program** to support recruitment, training, and retention programs in behavioral health fields through the solicitation of grant applications from public community colleges. This program was created by the 88th Legislature but had not been previously funded.

In addition to the above categories, the GAA included additional funding that provides:

- \$5 million to support the **Rural Veterinary Incentive Program** to encourage veterinarians to practice in qualifying rural Texas counties through educational loan repayment assistance or payment of tuition and fees.

Key Rider Revisions and Additions

SB 1 also includes changes and additions to several riders with the Coordinating Board's bill pattern and within the "Special Provisions" affecting agencies of higher education. Budget riders provide specific instructions regarding the expenditure or collection of funds.

A few significant new or modified riders to highlight are:

- **Riders 25 and 26 (previously Riders 30 and 31)** regarding the **TEOG Program** were amended to require the Coordinating Board to distribute funds in a manner that ensures each eligible student who graduates in the top 25% of their high school graduating class receives an initial grant for the 2026-2027 academic year.
- **Previous Rider 37**, which related to the **Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)**, was eliminated due to SB 2066, which terminated the program.

- **Rider 53** was previously a contingency rider (Rider 65) for **implementation of House Bill (HB) 8** (88th Texas Legislature). Those provisions are now embedded in the budget and the rider now requires the Coordinating Board to submit to the Legislative Budget Board data related to community college funding formulas by September 1.
- **New Rider 56** regarding the **Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)** program provides for the transfer of funds from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to the Coordinating Board for the program and provides for additional transfers and settle up necessary to reflect correct amounts.
- **New Rider 60** regarding **TEXAS Grants for TEOG transfer students** provides that \$27.3 million of TEXAS Grant funding shall be used to provide grants to eligible transfer students.
- **New Rider 61** provides **contingency funding for TEOG students pursuing baccalaureate degrees**. Because legislation was not adopted that would allow this change, the rider is not implemented.
- **Rider 64** requires THECB to conduct **a study on the education and retention of obstetricians and gynecologists** in Texas.
- **New Rider 65** requires THECB to use funds appropriated **to conduct a comprehensive workforce study on veterinary medicine in Texas**. The study shall assess whether the state's veterinary workforce needs are being met and analyze workforce trends.
- **New Rider 68** requires **reporting by the Coordinating Board on expenditures by awardees in the GME Expansion program**. Such reporting is to be included in the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request for the FY 28-29 Biennium.
- Finally, **SB 1** adds Special Provisions Relating Only to State Agencies of Higher Education Section 60, regarding an **interim study and report on performance-based funding and removal of institutional enhancements for General Academic Institutions**. The provision directs the Coordinating Board to convene an executive committee composed of individuals nominated by university systems and Texas Southern University to consult in the study. The study shall consider GAI formula funding levels, student success indicators, support needed by regional institutions, and the cost to maintain stable funding in the future. A final Coordinating Board report and recommendations are due by August 1, 2026.

Supplemental Appropriations

In addition to SB 1, the Legislature adopted HB 500 to make select supplemental appropriations for various agencies and initiatives. Across all state government, the legislation appropriates \$12.5 billion in All Funds.

Items included in this amount, which are relevant to higher education:

- \$400.9 million to the Coordinating Board to fund the backlog of certified, eligible, unmatched donations in the **TRIP**. Along with other legislative action, this funding closes out the program.
- \$89.5 million to fund higher-than-expected growth in fundable outcomes for community colleges under the new financing model implemented by **HB 8** (88th Texas Legislature).
- An additional \$405.7 million to other higher education agencies and institutions of higher education for identified projects.

Summary of Legislation

A young woman with glasses is sitting at a desk, reading a book. She is wearing a red sweater and has white earbuds in her ears. The desk is white and has a smartphone and some papers on it. In the background, there is a large window with a view of a city. The overall tone of the image is calm and focused.

Academic Affairs

**HB
4848****Relating to requiring that competency-based baccalaureate degree programs be offered at certain public institutions of higher education**

AUTHOR: Harris-Davila		SPONSOR: Hinojosa, Adam	
HB 4848 adds Texas Education Code (TEC) Section 51.3535, requiring each university system to ensure one or more of its institutions offer competency-based baccalaureate degree programs in each high-demand field (as determined by Coordinating Board rule). Such programs are subject to THECB approval authorities and may not exceed a total cost to the student of one-half of the average of a baccalaureate degree (as determined by the Coordinating Board). THECB shall annually adjust this threshold by the rate of inflation. The requirement applies beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.			
EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB may adopt rules if necessary.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
1534****Relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding health physics education in this state**

AUTHOR: Zaffirini		SPONSOR: Lambert	
Section 1 of SB 1534 amends TEC Section 61.06696 by mandating a study and report by the THECB, in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), regarding health physics education within Texas. The focus is to identify gaps in workforce training and assess workforce needs in related sectors. The THECB must submit a written report to relevant legislative committees by December 1, 2026. The report must summarize the study's findings and include recommendations for legislative or other actions based on those findings. The study will expire on September 1, 2027.			
EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	Report due by December 1, 2026

**SB
2431****Relating to requiring foreign language credit opportunities for students enrolled in study abroad components or programs offered by certain institutions of higher education in this state**

AUTHOR: Campbell		SPONSOR: Howard	
Section 1 of SB 2431 adds TEC, Chapter 51, Subchapter F to provide baccalaureate degree students at Texas institutions of higher education who are participating in study abroad components or programs where English is not primarily spoken with the option to gain proficiency in a foreign language through earning foreign language credit as part of the study abroad component(s) or program. The Coordinating Board is required to adopt rules as necessary by fall 2026 for implementation beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.			
EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB shall adopt rules as necessary by fall 2026.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

SB 3039

Relating to the transfer of students in public higher education and to transparency regarding certificate or degree program requirements

AUTHOR: West

SPONSORS: Davis, Aicha

Section 1 of SB 3039 amends TEC Sections 51.4033 and 51.4034 to require each general academic teaching institution to provide the Coordinating Board and the Legislature with a report no later than May 1 of each year that details its goals to increase the number, success, and persistence of students who transfer to the institution from a junior college. The report must also assess its institutional, academic, and technical transfer pathways; identify existing barriers to transferring to the institution; identify emerging issues for students transferring to the institution; and detail the institution's actions to serve current and prospective transfer students through local and regional articulation agreements.

The Coordinating Board is also required to submit a report that evaluates actions to increase the number and success of transfer students and provide a comparative analysis of institutional reports and data, which includes things like time-to-degree and graduation rates, including transfer students, a study of public junior college transfer practices, and recommendations to improve the transfer process in the state.

Section 2 adds TEC Section 51.4035 and requires each IHE to maintain on the admissions page of their website a list of the top five majors/degree programs and courses in which transfer credit is most often denied. THECB may adopt rules, as necessary.

Section 3 adds TEC Section 61.07771, which requires the Coordinating Board, in consultation with IHEs, to adopt rules to require IHEs to provide transparency in certificate and degree program requirements for those enrolling or transferring.

Section 4 adds TEC Section 61.8231 to require each IHE to designate a liaison officer for transfer students using existing resources.

Section 5 requires the Coordinating Board to adopt rules no later than January 1, 2026, and requires that an IHE comply with the rules adopted beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt rules no later than July 1, 2026.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	Report due December 1 of each even-numbered year

A photograph of two young women sitting at a desk in a classroom, working on computers. The woman in the foreground is looking intently at a screen, her hands on the keyboard. The woman behind her is also looking at the screen. In the background, a whiteboard with a colorful circular diagram is visible. The image has a blue tint and is overlaid with a yellow banner containing the text 'College Readiness and Advising'.

College Readiness and Advising

**SB
365****Relating to the period for which an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student to a public institution of higher education is entitled to an academic fresh start****AUTHOR:** Eckhardt**SPONSOR:** Howard

SB 365 amends statutes regarding a student's right to an academic fresh start. The current statute gives applicants applying to an IHE the option to have all academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant 10 or more years prior not considered by the institution. If exercised, such courses cannot be used for admissions decisions and cannot be used for GPA calculations or to award course credit by the institution.

Section 1 adds TEC Sections 51.931(c-1) and (c-2) to allow institutions to adopt, additionally, a policy that would apply academic fresh start criteria to courses taken no less than five years prior to the student's starting date. An institution adopting a policy under these sections is required to post the policy to their website and submit it to the Coordinating Board.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 61.0595(c) so that courses disregarded under a policy adopted under Section 1 do not count toward course limits for formula funding purposes.

Section 3 provides that these changes apply beginning with admissions to a public institution of higher education for the 2025 fall semester.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 6, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
1191****Relating to the development of a standard method of computing a student's high school grade point average****AUTHOR:** Creighton**SPONSOR:** Harris-Davila

SB 1191 makes certain requirements regarding the calculation of a student's high school grade point average (GPA).

Section 1 amends TEC 28.0252 to require the Commissioner of Education to develop a standard method of computing a high school student's GPA. The method must provide that equal additional weight is given to courses that are advanced placement, international baccalaureate, OnRamps dual enrollment, or academic dual credit. The amount of weight given to an academic dual credit course must be different from the amount of additional weight given to a workforce education dual credit course. Districts are required to use the method developed by the commissioner.

Section 2 directs the Commissioner of Education to develop the standard method as soon as practicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
1241****Relating to the consideration of college entrance examinations for admission to certain public institutions of higher education and a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding those examinations****AUTHOR:** Middleton**SPONSOR:** Leo Wilson

SB 1241 amends certain statutes regarding the use of college entrance examinations in admissions decisions at public universities.

Section 1 amends TEC 51.803(a) and Section 2 amends TEC 51.805(a) regarding automatic admissions requirements to remove from statute references to specific required scores on the SAT and ACT and to allow those scores to be set by Coordinating Board rule.

Section 3 directs the Coordinating Board to conduct a study on college entrance examinations to determine which examinations (and what score for each examination) should be used as a criterion for admission to a public university. The study must identify each exam with sufficient rigor and reliability to be used for admissions purposes, and must determine the score for each exam that demonstrates adequate performance for the purposes of admission. The results of the study and any recommendations are due to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and chairs of the committees of jurisdiction by August 1, 2026.

Section 4 states that the changes in Sections 1 and 2 apply beginning with admissions for the fall 2028 semester.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt rules due prior to fall 2028 application cycle.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	Report due August 1, 2026

**SB
2231****Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to waive fees for admission applications submitted to public institutions of higher education during certain periods****AUTHOR:** Hinojosa, Adam**SPONSOR:** Wilson

SB 2231 amends TEC Section 61.0731 and requires the Coordinating Board to designate the second full week of October as Free College Application Week. Individuals applying to any institution of higher education in Texas for undergraduate admission will be able to do so that week without paying an application fee. THECB can adopt rules as necessary.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 21, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB may adopt rules as necessary.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
2314**

Relating to the creation of an electronic platform and submission portal, known as My Texas Future, to facilitate public high school students' awareness of and application to institutions of higher education using the electronic common admission application form

AUTHOR: Creighton

SPONSOR: Wilson

Section 1 of SB 2314 amends TEC Section 28.025(c) and updates graduation requirements to specify that a student can receive a high school diploma if they complete the necessary curriculum set by the State Board of Education and comply with certain sections of the Texas Education Code, including the new requirements added by this bill.

Section 2 adds TEC Section 28.0257 to create a Direct Admissions data-sharing opt-in option for graduating high school students. It requires students to decide whether to allow THECB to share their academic and educational data with institutions of higher education as part of the Direct Admissions program. Students who are 18 or older, or who are legally emancipated, may decline this data sharing independently. For younger students, a parent, guardian, or school counselor may also submit the necessary opt-out form. School districts and open-enrollment charter schools are responsible for providing this opt-out form, which must be available in multiple languages to reflect the linguistic diversity of their student populations.

Section 3 amends TEC Section 51.763 and requires each public college and university in Texas to prominently display a link to the My Texas Future (MTF) website on their admissions pages. This ensures students are aware of the platform and its resources, including the ability to submit applications electronically.

Section 4 amends TEC Section 61.0511 and directs THECB to create and manage the MTF platform. This platform will serve as a centralized online portal where students can link to the ApplyTexas college application, explore financial aid options, and participate in the Direct Admissions program. It must include tools to help students understand the potential value of different college programs based on their individual profiles. This section also establishes guidelines for protecting student data, including strict privacy measures and the ability for students to opt out of data sharing. Additionally, school districts and charter schools must annually notify parents and students about the availability of this platform as part of the high school registration process.

Section 5 sets the effective date for the MTF platform, and the direct admissions system created by this bill, making them operational for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Section 6 aligns the new graduation requirements introduced by this bill with the 2026-2027 academic year, ensuring that schools have adequate time to adjust their processes and inform students of the changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 19, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB shall adopt rules as necessary.
APPROPRIATION:	\$8.6 million was included in THECB's budget for implementation.	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No



Commissions and Committees

**SB
1350****Relating to a commission to coordinate celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of Texas' independence****AUTHOR:** Hughes**SPONSOR:** Leach

Section 1 of SB 1350 adds [Government Code Chapter 452](#) and creates the Texas Bicentennial Commission to coordinate celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of Texas' Independence. The Commissioner of Higher Education serves as one of the members of the 23-member commission. Not later than September 1, 2037, the commission shall file a report with the governor and the Legislature containing information about the effects of the bicentennial activities conducted in this state on the state's economy. The commission is abolished September 1, 2037.

Section 2 of the bill requires the initial appointments for the commission to be appointed no later than December 1, 2025, with the governor appointing nine members and the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House appointing three members each. All members will have varying lengths

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
1964****Relating to the regulation and use of artificial intelligence systems and the management of data by governmental entities****AUTHOR:** Parker**SPONSOR:** Capriglione

SB 1964 establishes a regulatory framework for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems by Texas governmental entities.

Section 1 of SB 1964 amends [Government Code Section 2054.003](#), adding definitions for artificial intelligence systems, consequential decision, controlling factors, heightened scrutiny artificial intelligence system, and principal basis.

Section 2 amends [Government Code Section 2054.068\(b\)](#) to direct the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) to collect information from state agencies regarding the agencies' information security systems, infrastructure, and vendors that manage or operate agency information technology infrastructure.

Section 3 amends [Government Code Section 2054.0965](#) to require state agencies to conduct and provide an inventory of artificial intelligence systems, including those with heightened scrutiny, along with risk measures and an analysis of how each system supports the agency's strategic plan.

Section 4 amends [Government Code Section 2054.137](#), allowing state agencies of 150 or fewer full-time equivalent employees to designate a full-time data management officer for the agency or jointly with one or more other state agencies. The data management officer shall post three or more high-value data sets to the Texas Open Data Portal annually.

Section 5 adds [Government Code Subchapter S to Chapter 2054](#), directing DIR to develop a code of ethics and minimum standards for the use of heightened scrutiny AI systems by state agencies and local governments. THECB will need to adopt the code of ethics and minimum standards established by DIR.

The bill also establishes an AI advisory board, creates an "AI Sandbox Program" for safe and limited testing of AI technologies, and sets enforcement provisions through the attorney general. Public disclosures, standardized notices, and training initiatives are required to ensure transparency and accountability in the government's use of AI.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	Yes



Financial Aid

HB 300

Relating to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

AUTHOR: Wilson

SPONSOR: Hancock

HB 300 modifies the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) to increase the maximum scholarship amount, revise the selection of alternate nominees, and clarify eligibility requirements for participants pursuing Texas State Guard service.

Section 1 amends TEC Section 61.9771 to raise the maximum annual amount of the Texas Armed Services Scholarship to \$30,000 or an amount equal to the average cost of attendance at an IHE.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 61.9772 to expand the group of eligible students to include those who have completed a Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program or who have been accepted to the officer commissioning program of the Texas State Guard. The bill allows for specific elected officials to nominate students, allowing the speaker of the House and the lieutenant governor, or their delegates, to fill all vacant appointments remaining after September 30.

Section 3 amends TEC Section 61.9773, establishing program agreement requirements. Students must satisfy one of certain requirements, including completing an ROTC or other officer commissioning program or acceptance into the Texas State Guard. The section requires THECB to adopt rules to exempt a student from repayment if they are physically incapable or something happens outside of their control that prevents them from meeting the terms of the agreement.

Section 4 amends TEC Section 61.9775, limiting the distribution of the TASSP scholarship to four academic years for each student awarded the grant. Students will not be permitted scholarship funds after the fourth academic year from when the scholarship was awarded.

Section 5 amends TEC Chapter 61, adding Section 61.9777, requiring the agency to designate a scholarship coordinator to work with students and institutions of higher education.

Section 6 establishes that the act applies beginning the 2025-2026 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB shall adopt rules as necessary by October 2025.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**HB
5646****Relating to admission of and resident tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education for certain students in military-related programs****AUTHOR:** Wilson**SPONSOR:** Hall

Section 1 amends TEC Section 51.805 by adding new subsection (c-1) requiring that any general academic teaching institution that maintains a corps of cadets shall consider an applicant's intent to enlist in the United States armed forces or in a corps of cadets when making admissions decisions.

Section 2 adds TEC Section 54.224, which requires institutions of higher education to grant resident tuition rates to students who are enrolled in and a member in good standing of a ROTC program, a corps of cadets, or a corps of midshipmen. However, receipt of the resident rate does not make the student a resident of the state for the purposes of participation in state financial aid programs.

Section 3 states that the new provisions apply beginning with registration for a course or program for the 2025 fall semester.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
646****Relating to repayment of certain mental health professional education loans****AUTHOR:** West**SPONSOR:** Davis, Aicha

SB 646 amends statutes governing the Mental Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program (MHPLRP) to expand the definition of mental health professional and adjust repayment assistance amounts and create additional incentives.

Specifically, Section 1 amends TEC Section 61.601 to expand the definition of "mental health professional" to include additional professions eligible for loan repayment assistance. These are licensed master social workers, licensed professional counselor associates, licensed marriage and family therapist associates, and certified school counselors with a master's degree in counseling.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 61.303 to broaden the eligible service settings for program participants to include providing services to students enrolled in public schools in Texas.

Section 3 allows unused funds to be allocated to any eligible mental health professional under the amended Section 61.601.

Section 4 amends TEC Section 61.607 to increase the maximum lifetime repayment amounts in the program. Licensed physicians may receive up to \$180,000, psychologists and certain doctoral-level professionals up to \$100,000, and other professionals and associates vary from up to \$15,000 to up to \$80,000. The section also allows for additional incentive payments to eligible participants, including one-time amounts of \$5,000 for professionals fluent in languages of need and \$10,000 for professionals practicing in counties with populations less than 150,000.

Section 5 amends TEC Section 61.608 to add subsection (f), allowing the Coordinating Board to allocate up to \$1 million for marketing to students, professionals, and organizations, including contracting with third parties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

THECB shall adopt rules as necessary.

APPROPRIATION: \$14 million per fiscal year appropriated to MHPLRP**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
2995****Relating to the displacement of student financial aid at a public institution of higher education****AUTHOR:** West**SPONSOR:** Davis, Aicha

Section 1 of SB 2995 adds TEC Section 56.0094, which directs THECB to develop an advisory statement for use by institutions in notifying students regarding financial aid displacement. It provides specific language and specifications for portions of the advisory. An IHE is required to send the advisory to students in its admission materials and, in plain language, explain how to apply for gift aid, the timeline for financial aid processes (e.g. deadlines), recommendations on how to maximize gift aid awards, recommendations to ensure gift aid will not be reduced, and contact information for the financial aid office or similar entity that can provide further information or advice. The Coordinating Board shall adopt rules as necessary.

Section 2 states this act begins with the 2025-2026 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB may adopt rules as necessary.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No



Health Related

HB 18

Relating to the establishment and administration of certain programs and services providing health care services to rural counties

AUTHOR: VanDeaver

SPONSOR: Perry

HB 18 makes several provisions related to the provision of health care services in rural communities. The below sections are relevant to agencies and institutions of higher education.

Section 2 amends Government Code Section 526.0301 to require the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to create the State Office of Rural Hospital Finance to develop a strategic plan to ensure rural Texans have access to hospital services and submit a biennial report regarding the development and implementation of the strategic plan to the Legislature, governor, and Legislative Budget Board.

Section 3 amends Government Code, Chapter 526, Subchapter G, authorizing the commission to contract with two to four institutions of higher education to administer an academy to provide professional development and continuing education programs for rural hospitals and other rural health care providers. The commission shall establish an interagency advisory committee to oversee the development of the academy's curriculum. The advisory committee is composed of the members appointed by the executive commissioner, to include representatives of the commission, institutions of higher education, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), DIR, the state auditor's office, and a rural hospital, as well as any state agency the executive commissioner determines is appropriate. The advisory committee is abolished on September 1, 2027, or on the date the advisory committee adopts a curriculum.

Section 7 amends Government Code Section 548.0352 to establish the Pediatric Tele-Connectivity Resource Program for Rural Texas. The commission, with any necessary assistance from pediatric tele-specialty providers, shall establish a pediatric tele-connectivity resource program for rural Texas to award grants to rural hospitals and rural health clinics (nonurban health care facilities) to connect hospitals and clinics with pediatric specialists and pediatric sub specialists who provide telemedicine medical services or with an IHE that is a member of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium established under Chapter 113, Health and Safety Code.

Section 16 requires HHSC to contract with IHEs to administer the academy not later than December 1, 2025.

Section 16 authorizes the executive commissioner of HHSC to appoint the members of the interagency advisory committee not later than January 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**HB
2851****Relating to including nursing school applications in a consolidated application service****AUTHOR:** Howard**SPONSOR:** Kolkhorst

Section 1 adds TEC Section 51.765 to require that any consolidated application services for medical schools or dental schools, including the Texas Health Education Service at The University of Texas System, must include applications for nursing schools. Texas Health Education Services is charged with establishing an advisory board to make recommendations for the inclusion of nursing applications and to develop an implementation plan. The advisory board is to include representatives of nursing programs and those with expertise in nursing school applications. The service is to publish the implementation plan by January 1, 2026, and the advisory board is abolished September 1, 2027.

Section 2 provides that the act applies beginning with applications for admission to a nursing school for the 2027 fall semester.

Section 3 requires that the Texas Health Education Service appoint members of the advisory board not later than November 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
2856****Relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the feasibility of implementing a statewide system for coordinating clinical training placements****AUTHOR:** Howard**SPONSOR:** Zaffirini

HB 2856 adds TEC Section 61.09012 to require the Coordinating Board to conduct a study on the feasibility of developing regional portals to assist in reserving clinical rotations at health care facilities for students who require clinical training. The study must determine the number of regions needed to adequately support institutions and students, the cost of establishing regional portals, and the necessary maintenance, support, and staff required to establish and maintain regional portals. A report of the study's findings and recommendations is due by December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

Report due December 1, 2026

HB 3801

Relating to the establishment of the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council and a workgroup on nursing career pathways and the abolition of the statewide health coordinating council and the nursing advisory committee of that council

AUTHOR: Orr

SPONSOR: Cook

HB 3801 adds Section 104A to the Health and Safety Code to establish the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council to study and develop a strategic approach for ensuring a thriving health care system and health professions workforce in this state. The council is administratively attached to the DSHS and includes 19 members, including a representative of the THECB.

The council shall compile information regarding the state healthcare workforce (including higher education graduation and certification rates from THECB) and biennially prepare a health professions strategic plan. Among other requirements, the plan must: include a data analysis model for the projected needs of the health professions workforce; define targeted goals and objectives; examine the capacity of existing education programs to meet projected demands; and propose recommendations to realign existing and develop additional education programs for health professions that align with long-term goals and projections. Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the council shall complete and publish on the council's website the biennial strategic plan.

The council is further directed to establish a work group to examine the health professions and health care education programs that provide a gateway into a variety of health professions, as well as a nursing advisory committee.

Sections 2 and 3 amend statutes governing the TEXAS Grant and TEOG programs to replace references to a statewide health coordinating council with the Department of State Health Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

HB 5154

Relating to the Joint Admission Medical Program Council

AUTHOR: Wilson

SPONSOR: Kolkhorst

HB 5154 makes several changes to the administration of the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP).

Section 1 amends TEC Section 51.822 to further define the goals of the program as: providing mentoring and academic services to support and encourage highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education to complete a medical degree and meet state workforce needs; aligning statewide educational and workforce goals to increase medical jobs and stop workforce shortages; and promoting the accessibility and equality of medical education by addressing statewide barriers to entry and participation for economically disadvantaged communities.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 51.823 to revise the JAMP council, further defining the duties of the chair regarding convening meetings and ensuring compliance with program goals. The act requires the council to establish clear policies to ensure effective communication among council members, including procedures for convening and promoting meetings and disseminating an agenda and report.

Section 3 outlines requirements for notification of council meetings, requiring 72 hours' notice and a sufficiently detailed agenda.

Section 4 directs the council to pursue increasing the portion of funding allocated to students as scholarships to at least 30% of the appropriated amount. The council is to coordinate with THECB in requesting legislative appropriations; pursue gifts, grants, donations and other supplemental funding; and prioritize increasing the amount of graduate medical scholarships.

Section 5 amends TEC Section 51.834 regarding reporting by the council to require: a more detailed accounting of funds spent and received; data on students who withdraw or are dismissed or placed on probation from the program; expenditures for graduate scholarships; an estimate of the amount of funding required for the next state fiscal biennium to maintain enrollment and operations and increase the graduate scholarship amount; and other specified information.

Section 6 adds TEC Section 51.835 to require the council to establish and maintain an online portal to allow students in the program to securely submit anonymous or identified recommendations and complaints regarding the program. The council shall establish procedures to ensure that complaints and recommendations submitted through the online portal are addressed in a timely and transparent manner. Complaints must be reviewed on a regular basis, shared with the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service and other relevant stakeholders, and compiled into a publicly available report.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
25**

Relating to health and nutrition standards to promote healthy living, including requirements for food labeling, primary and secondary education, higher education, and continuing education for certain health care professionals; authorizing a civil penalty

AUTHOR: Kolkhorst

SPONSOR: Hull

SB 25 makes several changes to statutes regarding health policy and nutrition.

Relevant to higher education, Section 3 adds TEC 51.3025, which directs the Coordinating Board by rule to require institutions to provide students enrolled in an associate or baccalaureate degree program the opportunity to complete a course of instruction in nutrition education. The course must include curriculum requirements based on nutritional guidelines recommended by the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee (created by the act).

Sections 4 through 7 amend TEC Chapter 63 to condition the ability of health-related institutions to participate in certain permanent funds supporting health research and education on developing nutrition curriculum requirements based on nutritional guidelines recommended by the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee. Institutions must require all medical students or students in relevant majors to successfully complete these curriculum requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025

THECB RULEMAKING:

THECB shall adopt rules as necessary.

APPROPRIATION: No

THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

No

**SB
1401**

Relating to the creation of the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

AUTHOR: West

SPONSOR: Davis, Aicha

SB 1401 adds TEC Section 61.070 to create the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program, implemented by THECB, with the purpose of encouraging institutions to develop pipeline programs to provide a clear pathway for public junior college students to transfer and pursue a baccalaureate degree, postbaccalaureate degree, or certificate leading to licensure and practice in a variety of health professions.

Under Section 1, the Coordinating Board shall determine the existing field of study curricula that a participating institution may accept and any additional field of study curricula that a participating institution may develop to enable community college students to fulfill undergraduate curriculum requirements. THECB shall maintain on its website information and data related to the pipeline program.

Section 2 requires THECB to adopt rules as soon as practicable after the effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025

THECB RULEMAKING:

THECB must adopt rules as soon as practicable.

APPROPRIATION: No

THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

No

**SB
1677****Relating to a study on prevention and reduction of diabetes-related amputation****AUTHOR:** Menendez**SPONSOR:** VanDeaver

SB 1677 requires THECB to designate an IHE to conduct a study on the prevention and reduction of diabetes-related amputation, using existing institutional resources. The IHE must be classified as a Research 1 university and collaborate with the DSHS, as well as consult with individuals and groups related to diabetes prevention and care.

The study must include information and provide recommendations regarding amputation prevention related to diabetic foot ulcers and peripheral artery disease, methods for increasing public awareness of diabetes-related amputation, best practices for reducing the number of amputations performed, policy solutions for ensuring access to treatments to assist with preventing amputation, which should include insurance coverage for therapies, equitable access to services to prevent amputation, and how to create methods to improve quality of care.

The IHE must submit a report to DSHS summarizing the study and recommendations for action by September 1, 2026. The act expires September 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:** No**APPROPRIATION:** No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:** No**SB
1998****Relating to a preceptorship program in a pediatric subspecialty for medical students in this state****AUTHOR:** Huffman**SPONSOR:** Shofner

SB 1998 amends TEC Section 58.011 to authorize THECB to contract with one or more organizations to establish and operate a statewide pediatric subspecialty preceptorship program for medical students enrolled in a Texas medical school. To qualify for program funding, an organization must be either a nonprofit or affiliated with a state-accredited medical school. To be eligible for this program, medical students must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in a pediatric sub-specialty.

The act applies beginning with the 2025-26 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 21, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:** No**APPROPRIATION:** No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:** No



Higher Education Funding Formulas



**HB
42****Relating to the amount and allocation of the annual constitutional appropriation to certain agencies and institutions of higher education and to the permissible uses of that money****AUTHOR:** Wilson**SPONSOR:** Huffman

HB 42 increases the annual appropriation of the Higher Education Fund (HEF), designates funds to certain agencies and institutions of higher education, and defines the permissible uses of that money for FYs 2026-2035.

Section 1 amends TEC 62.021, which specifies the individual institutional allocations for FYs 2026-2035. It adjusts the allocations per institution to reflect the increased annual appropriation amounts. It also adds additional institutions or components, including University of North Texas at Frisco, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Abilene, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Dallas, Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and University of Houston College of Medicine.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 62.024 to increase the total annual HEF appropriation by 50%, from \$393.75 million to \$590.625 million.

Section 3 amends TEC Section 62.027 to make conforming statutory amendments to update references to fiscal years and legislative sessions.

Section 5 specifies that the amounts allocated begin on September 1, 2025.

Finally, Section 6 makes special provision for the funds allocated to the University of Houston-Victoria in light of that institution's transfer to the Texas A&M University System.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: \$1.2 billion was appropriated to HEF for the FY 26-27 Biennium.**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
1868****Relating to a study on changes to performance tier funding for dual credit or dual enrollment courses under the public junior college state finance program and the capacity of the state's workforce to teach dual credit or dual enrollment courses****AUTHOR:** Leo Wilson**SPONSOR:** Zaffirini

HB 1868 amends TEC, Chapter 130A, Subchapter C to require the THECB to conduct a study assessing the feasibility, fiscal impact, and policy implications of reducing the dual credit fundable outcome from its current required semester hours to nine semester credit hours. The study must include: an assessment of the potential benefits to students of the reduction; the current and projected capacity of the state's workforce to teach dual credit courses (including an estimate of the number of instructors currently available to teach dual credit and their geographic distribution); an analysis of barriers to certification or credentialing in teaching dual credit courses; and strategies to increase the number of dual credit teachers available.

HB 1868 allows the THECB to consult with TEA and institutions of higher education to conduct the study. THECB must submit the report required by the act to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

Report due December 1, 2026

**SB
1400****Relating to a study on measurable outcomes for certain transfer students for performance tier funding under the public junior college state finance program****AUTHOR:** Kolkhorst**SPONSOR:** Kitzman

SB 1400 amends TEC Section 130A.1012 to require THECB, in coordination with the Community College Standing Advisory Committee, to conduct a study to determine the feasibility, fiscal impact, and policy implications of revising the community college transfer fundable outcome definition to include students who have previously enrolled in a general academic institution prior to becoming eligible for the transfer fundable outcome.

The study must include an assessment of the types of postsecondary educational experiences students have prior to enrolling in a community college, the fiscal impact to the community college funding performance tier of a revised transfer fundable outcome that includes students with prior GAI enrollment and any additional factors deemed relevant by THECB or the standing advisory committee. The results and report of the study must be sent to the Legislature by December 1, 2026, and the provisions expire on September 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

Report due December 1, 2026



Institutional Governance

HB 127

Relating to measures to protect institutions of higher education from foreign adversaries and to the prosecution of the criminal offense of theft of trade secrets; increasing a criminal penalty

AUTHOR: Wilson

SPONSOR: Hughes

Section 1 of HB 127 amends TEC, Chapter 51, Subchapter Z to establish the Higher Education Research Security Council. Membership will be composed of research security officers appointed as determined by the section. The council member appointed for the Texas A&M University System shall serve as the initial presiding officer of the council. The council is charged with identifying best practices for institutions to securely conduct research while mitigating foreign threats, to vetting and approving gifts from foreign adversaries, developing a model research security policy, and establishing an accreditation process for security excellence.

The council will also promote attendance at the annual academic security and counter exploitation program seminar provided by Texas A&M University System. The council will develop and offer an annual training program for research security officers at institutions of higher education that includes a background and academic history check on researchers and research security tools and software. The bill requires THECB to provide administrative support to the council at the council's request.

The council must meet quarterly in person or via video conference. The council must provide a report on the status of research security at institutions of higher education and any associated recommendations by December 1 of each even-numbered year. The council may solicit and accept gifts, grants, or donations, but not from prohibited entities or countries.

Section 2 amends TEC, Subtitle A, Title 3, adding Chapter 51B titled "Higher Education Research and Protection." This section provides definitions and establishes that the THECB shall adopt rules regarding gifts from foreign adversaries to implement this chapter. The THECB shall also create a reporting mechanism by which institutions may report offers from prohibited entities. Gifts may require disclosure to the council and approval by the institution's chief executive officer including gifts over \$25,000. These gifts are not subject to public disclosure.

Institutions that submit reports to the United States Department of Education must submit that reporting to the THECB, and the THECB must submit that information to the Texas Legislature by December 1 annually.

Institutions must investigate sworn complaints and complaints from a compliance officer of a state agency. Institutions may request records relevant to a reasonable suspicion of a violation from any person who must provide any relevant information by the 10th day after receiving the request.

This section prohibits institutions from entering into certain contracts and partnerships with entities related to foreign adversaries. The council is charged with establishing best practices regarding partnerships with foreign sources of foreign adversaries and a certification process for institutional compliance. The council shall submit annually by December 1 a report on institutional compliance.

The section also prohibits the acceptance of gifts from foreign adversaries by student organizations and groups and requires institutions to certify organizations' compliance annually. Institutions may not provide any benefit to organizations not in compliance with this section and must terminate those organizations' recognition and registration.

Background checks and screening must be conducted before offering research-related employment positions that grant access to research or other sensitive data. The council may establish a risk-based framework for screening or consulting with the Texas Department of Public Safety to procure a qualified third party to conduct background checks.

The chief administrative officer of each institution is required to establish a research security office to verify background screening information and to report any person denied employment under this subchapter to law enforcement.

Institutions of higher education are required to establish a program to approve and monitor foreign travel. Travel records of employee foreign travel must be retained for a minimum of three years.

The council shall review foreign adversary education software in coordination with the THECB and publish a list of prohibited software on the THECB website.

Subchapter G details enforcement measures that prohibit institutions of higher education to spend any appropriated funds until they have reported their compliance with this chapter. This subchapter requires IHEs to testify to the state Legislature regarding their compliance each interim. The state auditor is required to conduct periodic compliance audits of institutions of higher education. Institutions have 180 days to cure violations or will be subject to losing their funding in the next biennium.

Section 5 requires the members of the council to be designated by October 1, 2025. The council is required to have their first meeting by January 1, 2026.

Section 7 establishes that Section 51B.103 applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB shall adopt rules as necessary.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	Report due by December 1 of each year

AUTHOR: Capriglione**SPONSOR:** Schwertner

HB 149 establishes regulations for the use and development of artificial intelligence systems in Texas.

Most pertinent to higher education, [Section 4 amends Business and Commerce Code, Title 11, Chapter 554](#) to create the Texas Artificial Intelligence Council under the Department of Information Resources. The bill lays out the duties and membership requirements of the council. The council is permitted to hire an executive director or other necessary personnel. The council may issue reports to the Legislature or conduct training programs for state agencies but is not permitted to adopt rules or override the operation of a state agency.

[Section 5 amends Government Code Section 325.011](#), requiring an assessment of state agencies' use of artificial intelligence systems, oversight of those systems, and any related impact on agencies' ability to achieve their mission.

[Section 6 amends](#) Government Code Section 2054.068, directing DIR to collect information from agencies on their information security programs and an inventory of servers, mainframes, services, or equipment, and identify vendors that manage and operate agency IT infrastructure, as well as an evaluation of the use of artificial intelligence systems.

[Section 7 amends Government Code Section 2054.0965](#), requiring a review of state agencies, including inventories of major information systems and artificial intelligence systems, agency telecommunications, and an analysis of how those systems support the state strategic plan for information resources. The bill also requires agencies to provide confirmation of compliance regarding state information resources.

[Section 8 directs](#) the attorney general of Texas to publish an online complaint platform and relevant information on the Office of the Attorney General website by September 1, 2026.

[Section 9 establishes](#) that a state agency is not required to implement any provision of the bill imposing a duty on the agency unless provided an appropriation specifically to carry out that duty. If an agency does not receive the funding to carry out those duties, the agency must include that in their budget request in the following biennium.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 1, 2026	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

HB 150

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Cyber Command and the transfer to it of certain powers and duties of the Department of Information Resources

AUTHOR: Capriglione

SPONSOR: Parker

HB 150 establishes the Texas Cyber Command and transfers certain powers and duties of the Department of Information Resources to the Texas Cyber Command.

Section 1 amends Government Code, Subtitle B, Title 10, adding Chapter 2063, Texas Cyber Command. This section provides relevant definitions and establishes the Texas Cyber Command as a state agency. The chief of the Texas Cyber Command is to be appointed by the governor and approved by the Texas Senate and will serve for a two-year term. The command shall employ other employees as deemed necessary to carry out its functions and may enter into interagency agreements to provide administrative support or a facility for command use. The purpose of the command is to prevent and respond to cybersecurity incidents affecting governmental entities and critical infrastructure in the state. This includes providing guidance and leadership, facilitating training and education, monitoring threats, and creating partnerships.

The command is charged with developing best practices and minimum standards for cybersecurity training and assessing them annually. The command will determine mandatory cybersecurity training for all information resource employees of state agencies and consult with the Information Technology Council for Higher Education to apply training requirements to institutions of higher education

The command is charged with creating the Cybersecurity Threat Intelligence Center and a Digital Forensic Laboratory and shall collaborate with federal cybersecurity intelligence and law enforcement agencies to achieve its purposes, including mitigation and vulnerability reduction efforts. The chief shall employ a director for the Cybersecurity Threat Intelligence Center and a director for the Digital Forensics Laboratory. The command shall establish a Cybersecurity Incident Response Unit to respond to cybersecurity threats or incidents.

Every two years, all state agencies are required to complete an information security assessment and a penetration test to be performed by the command.

Per Section 7, state agencies must submit information security plans every two years, outlining staff responsibilities, protective measures, and risk management strategies. Plans must be signed by top leadership and shall exclude sensitive information. The command may establish a framework for regional cybersecurity task forces.

Section 9 transfers Sections 2054.0591, 2054.603, and 2054.077 to Government Code Chapter 2063, requiring the command to submit a report to the Texas Legislature by November 15 of every even-numbered year. Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the command shall submit a report to the Legislative Budget Board that prioritizes, for the purpose of receiving funding, state agency cybersecurity projects. Each state agency shall coordinate with the command to implement this subsection.

Government agencies must report any cybersecurity breach involving sensitive data to the command within 48 hours. A follow-up report with detailed analysis is due within 10 business days after recovery.

Each agency must also prepare a biennial vulnerability report and a public summary. These reports are shared with the command and several oversight bodies but are kept confidential.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**HB
229****Relating to general definitions for and collection of governmental information regarding biological sex****AUTHOR:** Troxclair**SPONSOR:** Middleton

HB 229 defines biological sex and standards for data collection by governmental entities.

Section 1 outlines findings of the Legislature regarding the definition of biological sex.

Section 2 amends Government Code Section 311.005 and adds definitions for biological sex.

Section 3 amends Government Code Chapter 2051, requiring that data collection on sex by governmental entities only allow for identification as male or female.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
718****Relating to prohibiting a public institution of higher education from partnering with certain private entities for the construction of a student housing facility****AUTHOR:** Bell, Cecil**SPONSOR:** Parker

Section 1 of HB 718 amends TEC, Chapter 51, Subchapter Z to prohibit an institution of higher education from entering into a contract with a private entity to construct a student housing facility if the entity has a pending action or lien against it relating to a claim for nonpayment of a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor.

Section 2 establishes that the act only applies to a contract entered into on or after the act takes effect on September 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
1022****Relating to the course levels offered at Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College****AUTHOR:** Morales, Eddie**SPONSOR:** Blanco

HB 1022 amends TEC Section 96.01, removing the "upper level" designation of the Sul Ross State University educational center known as Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College. The university is managed by the Texas State University System Board of Regents.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
3204****Relating to the polytechnic college at Sam Houston State University, including the college's eligibility to participate in certain programs****AUTHOR:** Metcalf**SPONSOR:** Schwertner

HB 3204 amends TEC Section 96.63 to redesignate the Josey School of Vocational Education at Sam Houston State University as the Polytechnic College under the control of the Texas State University System Board of Regents.

Section 1 states the college shall provide career and technical education designed to lead to career and technical education certificates as defined by THECB. The college is funded in the same manner as public state colleges.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 56.401(2) to add the Polytechnic College to the institutions eligible to participate in the TEOG program.

Section 3 amends TEC 61.09092(a) to add the college to statutes regarding the development of cybersecurity credentials and certifications.

Section 4 amends TEC 61.881(2) to make the college eligible for the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Through Education (TRUE) program.

Section 5 states the changes to TEOG apply beginning with grants awarded for the fall 2026 semester.

Section 6 states the changes to the TRUE program apply beginning with grants awarded for the fall 2025 semester.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt updated rules.
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APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No
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**HB
4361****Relating to establishing policies regarding the timely issuance of emergency notifications at public institutions of higher education****AUTHOR:** Ward Johnson**SPONSOR:** Zaffirini

HB 4361 adds TEC Section 61.070 to require THECB, in consultation with administrators, faculty, staff, and students at institutions of higher education, to adopt rules regarding standardized procedures for timely issuing of emergency notifications required under federal and state statutes. The Coordinating Board is directed to adopt rules as soon as practicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt rules as soon as practicable.
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APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No
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HB 5092

Relating to the operation and dissolution of the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority and to agreements between Texas Tech University and the authority

AUTHOR: Tepper

SPONSOR: Perry

HB 5092 makes several changes to Special District Local Laws Code 3501.001 to amend the administration and operations of the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority and to facilitate cooperation between the authority and Texas Tech University.

Section 2 adds as a purpose of the authority to facilitate the establishment of an applied research site in cooperation and collaboration with Texas Tech University.

Section 5 provides for consultation with the president of Texas Tech or his or her designee in the appointment of a director.

Section 6 allows the interagency agreements between the authority and Texas Tech University to facilitate and support university research and development activities on base property or the transfer of portions of the base property to Texas Tech University to further a purpose of the authority.

Section 7 states that the Legislature intends that the authority transfer ownership of portions of the base property to Texas Tech University as necessary for the purposes of any such agreement.

Finally, Section 8 adds TEC Section 109.105 to state that a facility transferred to Texas Tech University from Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority is not required to be included in a facilities inventory audit and is not subject to the facilities inventory rules of the THECB until the facility is placed in service and assigned an educational or general function by the university.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

AUTHOR: Creighton

SPONSOR: Shaheen

SB 37 makes several changes related to governance and oversight at public institutions of higher education.

Section 1.01 adds TEC Section 51.315 to require that at least once every five years, the governing board of each institution of higher education conduct a comprehensive review of the general education curriculum at that institution. The review must ensure that courses: are foundational and fundamental to a sound postsecondary education; are necessary to prepare students for civic and professional life; equip students for participation in the workforce and in the betterment of society; and ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with applicable accreditation standards. The review must consider the potential costs the curriculum may impose on students. Each institution must annually provide any changes to their general curriculum to the governing board, which may overturn any changes. The governing board may appoint a committee to assist with the review and is required to certify their compliance with this section not later than January 1 of each year a review is conducted.

Section 1.02 amends TEC Section 51.354 to state that the final decision-making authority on matters regarding an institution of higher education's degree programs and curricula belongs to the institution, under the direction of their governing board.

Section 1.03 adds TEC 51.989 to require each institution to adopt and implement a process for reviewing minor degree and certificate programs to identify programs with low enrollment that may require consolidation or elimination. Such review must require that minor degree and certificate programs have specific industry data to substantiate workforce demand, and any consolidation or elimination is subject to governing board decision.

Section 1.05 adds TEC Section 61.0522 to direct the Coordinating Board to establish a general education curriculum advisory committee to review the general education curriculum requirements of institutions of higher education. The Coordinating Board shall call for nominations from presidents, chancellors, and chief academic officers for representatives to serve on the committee and shall choose committee members from those nominated, ensuring equal representation for two-year and four-year institutions. The advisory committee will consider methods for determining general education curriculum component courses and for condensing the number of general education curriculum courses. Not later than November 1, 2026, the advisory committee shall produce a report with its findings and recommendations. Not later than December 31, 2026, the Coordinating Board shall review the advisory committee's report and submit to the Legislature the Coordinating Board's recommendations for legislative or other actions.

Section 2.01 amends TEC Section 51.352, regarding the responsibilities of governing boards. It adds to their enumerated duties the authority to approve or deny the hiring of an individual for the position of provost or deputy, associate, or assistant provost. It states the governing board may overturn any hiring decision for the position of vice president or dean made by the administration of a campus and shall annually report to the governor and the Legislature regarding any hiring of administrators in which the governing board approved or denied the hiring decision.

Section 2.02 adds TEC Sections 51.3522, 51.3523, and 51.3541, regarding faculty councils or senates. The legislation states that only the governing board may establish a faculty council or senate and must adopt a policy governing the selection of participants. Such councils or senates are capped at 60 members, must be composed of faculty, and must ensure equal representation of each college or school at the institution.

A faculty council or senate is advisory only and may not be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter. They shall represent the entire faculty of the institution and advise regarding matters related to the general welfare of the institution. Service on the council or senate is an additional duty of the member and is not entitled to any compensation. The institution's president shall appoint a presiding officer. Meetings are subject to requirements regarding being open to the public and having a published agenda.

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Finally, this section states that institutions shall be governed by a principle of shared governance, whereby the governing board of the institution exercises ultimate authority and responsibility while allowing for appropriate consultation with faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders on matters related to academic policy and institutional operations. The principle of shared governance may not be construed to diminish the authority of the governing board to make final decisions in the best interest of the institution, students, and taxpayers.

Section 3.01 amends TEC Section 61.031 to create the Office of Ombudsman at the THECB. The ombudsman is appointed by the governor to serve as an intermediary between the Legislature and the public and institutions of higher education, including by answering questions regarding the obligations of an institution to students, faculty, employees, and the public. The ombudsman will also coordinate the THECB's compliance monitoring functions and serve as the director of compliance and monitoring.

The office shall receive and, if necessary, investigate complaints submitted regarding an institution of higher education's failure to comply with certain specific statutory obligations. The section provides a process by which an individual may submit a complaint to the office and how the office shall receive, handle, resolve, and retain such complaints. It requires the office to notify an institution's governing board of complaints of noncompliance within five days of receiving the complaint. The governing board shall respond to the complaint within 175 days unless granted an extension for good cause.

In investigating a complaint, the office may request information from the institution. The governing board is required to respond in writing to such a request within 30 days after they receive the request (but this should not be construed to require an institution to provide privileged information). The office must submit a report to the governing board of the institution that includes the office's final determination regarding the investigation and recommendations based on the conclusions of the investigation.

If, not later than 180 days after submitting their report, the office determines that the institution has not resolved any noncompliance issues, the office will submit to the ombudsman and state auditor a report on the noncompliance that includes the office's recommendations. The ombudsman may recommend to the Legislature that the institution not be allowed to spend money appropriated for a state fiscal year until the institution's governing board certifies compliance and the state auditor confirms the institution's compliance. The office shall annually submit a report regarding the number of complaints received, investigations conducted, and a summary of results.

Section 3.03 amends TEC Section 61.084 to include additional requirements for training provided to members of the governing boards. These include an overview of the Legislature, the GAA, and the state budget, and an emphasis on the commitment they make to their institutions, this state, and the taxpayers. Upon completion of a training program, a governing board member shall provide a sworn statement affirming their understanding of their duties and responsibilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	\$1.27 million in FY 26 and \$1.21 million in FY 27 to THECB	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
326****Relating to the procedure for determining whether a student's violation of a public school's or public institution of higher education's student code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism****AUTHOR:** King, Phil**SPONSOR:** Capriglione

Section 1 adds TEC Section 37.0095 to state that a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use the definition of antisemitism provided by Government Code Section 448.001 in determining whether a student's behavior that violates the student code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism.

Section 2 adds TEC 51.9791 to apply the same requirement to institutions of higher education.

Section 3 states that it is the intent of the Legislature that this legislation is not to be used to punish speech protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Section 8, Article I, of the Texas Constitution, unless the speech is accompanied by actions that violate the student code of conduct. These changes apply beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION:

No

THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

No

**SB
530****Relating to the accreditation of certain postsecondary educational institutions in this state or of certain programs offered by those institutions****AUTHOR:** Sparks**SPONSOR:** Shofner

SB 530 revises several sections of statute relating to the accreditation of institutions of higher education.

Section 1 amends TEC Section 61.003(13) to change the definition of "recognized accrediting agency" from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to "any association or organization so designated by the Coordinating Board."

Section 2 amends TEC Section 61.051(a) to charge THECB with adopting rules or taking other necessary actions to ensure that each institution is properly accredited as required to participate in the federal financial aid programs and other federal student financial assistance programs.

Remaining sections of the bill remove language in the education code referring to the Southern Association of College and Schools and replace it with "a recognized accrediting agency, as defined by Section 61.003," to conform with the above change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

THECB may adopt rules as necessary.

APPROPRIATION:

No

THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

No

**SB
800****Relating to a public institution of higher education's sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking resources and policy orientation****AUTHOR:** Zaffirini**SPONSOR:** Wilson

Section 1 amends TEC Section 51.282(c) regarding the requirement that institutions provide to each entering freshman and undergraduate transfer student an orientation on the institution's sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking policy. The section adds requirements that such orientation must include a video with certain information on the institution's Title IX office, how to report a sexual assault, information on the crime victim's compensation fund, and a list of local community and statewide organizations that provide support services to survivors of sexual assault.

Sections 2 and 3 amend TEC Section 51.91941 to retitle the section "Suicide Prevention and Sexual Assault Information Required on Student Identification Card" and add a requirement that student identification cards include contact information for the National Sexual Assault Hotline.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
1242****Relating to the acquisition of land and facilities by the Texas State Technical College System****AUTHOR:** Birdwell**SPONSOR:** Wilson

SB 1242 amends TEC Section 135.02(c) to remove language requiring THECB review and approve the Texas State Technical College System's acquisition of any land and facilities valued greater than \$300,000 that the system requests to be added to their educational and general buildings and facilities inventory.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

THECB must repeal existing rules.

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**Sb
1569**

Relating to the availability of certain personal information of a member of the governing board of an institution of higher education, the chief executive officer of the institution, or the chief executive officer of a university system

AUTHOR: King, Phil

SPONSOR: Darby

SB 1569 relates to certain statutes regarding public information and disclosure requests. Specifically, the act adds the members of the governing boards of public and private or independent institutions of higher education, as well as the chancellor, president, or other chief executive officer of institutions or systems, to certain exceptions in such statutes.

Section 1 amends Government Code Section 552.117 to include these individuals within the list of public employees who are protected from public disclosure of personal information, including address, telephone number, and Social Security number.

Section 2 amends Government Code Section 552.1175(a) to include them in the list of individuals identified as performing sensitive governmental functions.

Section 3 amends Tax Code Sec. 25.025(a) to include them in the list of individuals whose home addresses are protected from disclosure. Individuals must opt to ensure their information is confidential under this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025

THECB RULEMAKING:

No

APPROPRIATION: No

THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

No

**SB
2361**

Relating to the transfer of the University of Houston-Victoria to the Texas A&M University System

AUTHOR: Kolkhorst

SPONSOR: Louderback

Section 1 of SB 2361 adds TEC, Chapter 87, Subchapter M, which allows for the transfer of the University of Houston-Victoria to the Texas A&M University System to become Texas A&M University-Victoria.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act takes effect September 1, 2025, except Section 7(b)(1), which took effect May 27, 2025.

THECB RULEMAKING:

No

APPROPRIATION:

Texas A&M University System is appropriated \$2,500,000 in General Revenue Funds in Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:

No

**SB
2615****Relating to restricting telework for employees of public institutions of higher education****AUTHOR:** Creighton**SPONSOR:** Tepper

Section 1 of SB 2615 adds TEC Section 51.992 to restrict remote work for higher education employees with some exceptions. These include temporary illness, a temporary or permanent medical condition, or a disability that requires reasonable accommodation. An employee is eligible if they are employed in a non-teaching position and are able to work with minimal supervision, understand their duties, manage their time, and are in a position that does not require physical presence. There are also exceptions during a period of catastrophe, which includes an epidemic, riot, or civil disturbance, that poses either a danger to an employee's health or safety, or that may prevent them from performing their duties.

Section 2 specifies that this act begins with the 2025-2026 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
2972****Relating to expressive activities at public institutions of higher education****AUTHOR:** Creighton**SPONSOR:** Leach

Section 1 of SB 2972 amends TEC Section 51.9315 to define "expressive activities" as "any speech or expressive conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or by Section 8, Article I, Texas Constitution," including assembling in groups, protesting, giving speeches, distributing written materials, displaying signs, or circulating petitions; and prohibits commercial speeches and unlawful, obscene, or threatening activities.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 51.9315, establishing provisions regarding the protection of expressive activities of students and employees on campuses of institutions of higher education. Institutions of higher education must adopt policies that allow enrolled students and employees, rather than all persons, to assemble peaceably on the institution's campuses for expressive activities, requires student/employee identification, and prohibits certain activities.

Policies adopted by institutions of higher education must establish disciplinary sanctions regarding interference of expressive activities or policy violations and include a grievance procedure to address complaints. Institutions of higher education may adopt policies to impose restrictions on the time, place, or manner of expressive activities on its campus(es). The governing board of an institution of higher education must designate which areas on the institution's campus(es) are public forums. Policies created by an institution of higher education must be approved by a majority vote of the governing board and be posted on the institution's website.

Section 3 establishes that the act applies starting with the 2025-2026 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

SB 2986

Relating to the protection from adverse action against public schools and institutions of higher education for permitting religious organization use of facilities

AUTHOR: Campbell

SPONSOR: Leach

Section 1 of SB 2986 adds TEC Section 11.173 to allow a school district or open-enrollment charter school to permit a religious organization the use of school facilities, as long as the use does not interfere with the school's educational mission, the organization provides fair market rental value unless waived, the organization is liable for any damages, and the organization is subject to the same terms as other organizations and any additional requirements imposed by other law.

This section further provides clarification of what interference with the district/school's primary educational mission means, specifically engaging in religious activities during regular instructional hours, displaying signs/symbols/books/flyers on the district/school's property at times outside their authorized use time, and any promotion of the organization's use by the district/school or an employee thereof. Any state agency, political subdivision, school district, or other governmental entity is prohibited from imposing a penalty, sanction, or denial of funding to a district/school based on its decision to allow use by religious organizations for religious services. It further clarifies that this legislation shall not be construed to require a district or school to allow religious services if it does not choose to do so.

Section 2 adds TEC Section 51.984, allowing an IHE to permit a religious organization to use campus facilities, so long as they meet the same requirements as required by public schools in Section 1.

Section 3 clarifies that this legislation does not apply to contracts entered into before the effective date, except if they are renewed, modified, or extended on or after the effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

Research



Research

HB 5246

Relating to the administration, powers, and duties of the Texas Space Commission and Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium, to other governmental entities regarding aerospace, aviation, and space exploration initiatives and activities, and to the abolishment of the spaceport trust fund

AUTHOR: Bonnen

SPONSOR: Huffman

HB 5246 makes several changes to the administration, powers, and duties of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC), as well as other governmental entities regarding aerospace, aviation, and space exploration.

Most directly relevant to higher education, [Section 1 amends Government Code Section 481.0066\(d\)](#) to state that the Aerospace and Aviation Office within the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office shall partner with the Coordinating Board to foster technological advancement and economic development for *aerospace* (previously spaceport) activities by strengthening higher education programs and supporting aerospace activities.

[Section 15 amends Government Code Section 482.604](#) to state that an institution of higher education is considered a participating member of the consortium if the institution submits to the executive committee the name of a local campus liaison to represent the institution on the consortium.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

SB 5

Relating to the creation of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

AUTHOR: Huffman

SPONSOR: Craddick

SB 5 creates the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to support research on dementia and related disorders and the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to support the institute.

Section 1 amends Health and Safety Code, Subtitle E, Title 2, to add Chapter 101A to provide for the creation, governance, administration, and oversight of the institute. The institute may award grants to institutions of learning, advanced medical research facilities, public or private persons, and collaboratives to support: research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of dementia-related disorders; the development therapies, protocols, medical pharmaceuticals, or procedures for the mitigation of such disorders; facilities, equipment, and other costs related to research; and prevention programs and strategies to mitigate the detrimental health impacts of dementia-related disorders.

A nine-member oversight committee is the governing body of the institute. Three members are appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House, each of whom must appoint at least one physician or scientist with experience in such disorders. The committee shall elect a presiding officer and assistant presiding officer from among its members every two years and will hire a chief executive officer for the institute.

The legislation establishes three additional committees to assist with grant evaluation and administration: a peer review committee of experts in dementia-related disorders and trained patient advocates; a program integration committee composed of the chief executive officer and senior institute officials; and a higher education advisory committee composed of representatives appointed by public university systems, Baylor College of Medicine, and Rice University. The peer review committee will score grant applications and make recommendations to the program integration committee and the oversight committee regarding the award of grants.

The legislation establishes the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund as a special fund in the treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the institute. The fund may only be used for authorized purposes, including the award of grants for research on or prevention of dementia-related disorders, the purchase of research facilities by or for a state agency or grant recipient, and the operation of the institute. The bill establishes standards for conflicts of interest, compliance, and audit and oversight of funds. Creation of the fund is contingent on voter approval of a Constitutional amendment.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 25, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	\$3 billion transferred to Dementia Prevention and Research Fund upon voter approval, with \$3 million per year appropriated to the institute	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
1273****Relating to establishing the Higher Education Research Security Council****AUTHOR:** Hughes**SPONSOR:** Wilson

Section 1 of SB 1273 adds TEC Section 51.957 to create the Higher Education Research Security Council to promote secure academic research at Tier 1 research institutions while mitigating the risk of foreign espionage and interference. Additionally, the council must report to the governor, the attorney general's office, and the presiding officer of each legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education an annual report on the status of research security at Tier 1 research institutions and any associated recommendations. The council is composed of research security officers from each governing board of a public university and those from private or independent institutions of higher education that elect to participate in the council.

The council will identify best practices to conduct research securely, develop a research security policy to be adopted by Tier 1 research institutions to improve research security, and establish an accreditation process under which a Tier 1 research institution can be awarded an accreditation for security excellence. They must also promote attendance at the annual academic security and counter exploitation program seminar offered by the Texas A&M University system and develop and offer an annual training program for Tier 1 research institution officers.

Section 2 requires that no later than October 1, 2025, the appropriate entities shall designate the members of the council, and the first meeting should be held no later than January 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
2066****Relating to the repeal of the Texas Research Incentive Program****AUTHOR:** Huffman**SPONSOR:** Bonnen

Section 1 of SB 2066 amends TEC, Chapter 62, Subchapter F and repeals the Texas Research Incentive Program. TRIP provided matching funds to assist eligible public institutions of higher education in leveraging private gifts for the enhancement of research productivity and faculty recruitment.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 19, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	Funding was allocated to address the current backlog in eligible unmatched donations received through the program and certified by THECB as of its January 2025 quarterly board meeting, if the program is repealed.	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

A silhouette of a person holding a diploma high in the air against a sunset background. The person is on the left, and the diploma is in the center. The background is a gradient of dark blue at the top, transitioning through purple and pink to a bright yellow-orange at the bottom. A yellow rectangular box is positioned to the right of the diploma.

Student Success

**HB
126****Relating to the compensation and professional representation of prospective student athletes and student athletes participating in intercollegiate athletic programs at certain institutions of higher education****AUTHOR:** Tepper**SPONSOR:** Creighton

Section 1 of HB 126 amends TEC Section 51.9246, restricting institutions of higher education from adopting or enforcing policies that limit or prohibit a student athlete from profiting from their name or likeness or obtaining professional representation. A student athlete may not use an institution's facility, uniform, registered trademark, copyright-protected product, or official logo, mark, or other indicia in connection with a contract for the use of the student athlete's name, image, or likeness without the institution's express permission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:** No**APPROPRIATION:** No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:** No**HB
1211****Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain students who were under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services****AUTHOR:** Lujan**SPONSOR:** Menendez

Section 1 of HB 1211 amends TEC Section 54.366, increasing the maximum age to 27 for an eligible student who was under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services and who enrolls at a public institution of higher education as an undergraduate, or in a dual credit or course, to receive tuition and fee exemption.

Section 2 establishes that changes made by this act apply only to tuition and fees charged for the fall 2025 semester.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:** No**APPROPRIATION:** No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:** No

**HB
2081****Relating to the establishment of the Building Better Futures Program to support educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public and private institutions of higher education****AUTHOR:** Bucy**SPONSOR:** Menendez

Section 1 of HB 2081 amends TEC Chapter 61, establishing the Building Better Futures Program to facilitate educational and occupational skills training and support services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The bill directs the THECB to administer the program, to adopt any rules necessary to do so, and to develop a competitive application process. The bill also lays out institution and student eligibility requirements for the program. Semester credit hours completed through the program may not be transferred to an associate or baccalaureate degree program. Only eligible institutions may be awarded grant funds under this program. The THECB may accept or solicit gifts or donations from a public or private source for purposes of this program.

Section 2 requires the THECB to adopt rules to administer the Building Better Futures Program as soon as practicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
3041****Relating to measures to support the enrollment of students with a nontraditional secondary education at public institutions of higher education, including eligibility for certain student financial assistance programs****AUTHOR:** Paul**SPONSOR:** Middleton

Section 1 amends TEC Section 51.803 to include graduates of nontraditional secondary schools in the automatic admissions process at The University of Texas at Austin. Instead of offering admission to nontraditional secondary school applicants based on high school class rank, the university is to offer admission to such applicants based on their meeting or exceeding a score set by the university on a standardized college entrance examination.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 51.9241 regarding the calculation of class rank of nontraditional secondary students for admissions purposes. It requires the calculation of a median college entrance examination score for each class rank achieved by other students and that nontraditional secondary students be assigned the highest rank equivalent to their test score.

Section 3 adds TEC Section 51.9675 to require that institutions admitting or enrolling high school students in a dual credit course apply the same criteria and conditions to each student without regard to whether the student attends a public school or a private or parochial school, including a home school.

Section 4 amends TEC Section 56.013 to require the THECB to post information regarding financial aid programs funded through designated tuition on its website.

Sections 5 and 6 amend TEC Section 56.304 to allow students with a nontraditional secondary education to qualify for a TEXAS Grant, including the priority model.

Section 7 amends TEC Section 56.308 to direct the THECB to post the TEXAS Grant program rules on its website, in addition to disseminating the rules to eligible institutions and school districts.

Section 8 amends TEC Section 56.484 to allow students with a nontraditional secondary education to qualify for the Top 10 Percent Scholarship Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

THECB will amend rules regarding the TEXAS Grant program.

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
769****Relating to a report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding enrollment and success in higher education for students with disabilities****AUTHOR:** Menendez**SPONSOR:** Gonzalez, Mary

SB 769 adds TEC Section 61.06642 to direct the Coordinating Board to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on higher education enrollment and success for students with a disability.

Section 1 defines a "student with a disability" as a student covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The report must identify, to the extent practicable: the number and percentage of students with a disability who enroll in public or private independent institutions of higher education; barriers to enrollment for students with a disability; policies of such institutions that promote enrollment and success for students with a disability; what accessibility services and accommodations are provided for such students; what institutions do to provide to students sufficient and accurate information regarding the educational rights and protections for persons with a disability; and any recommendations for legislation or other action.

An institution of higher education shall provide on request, and the THECB may request from a private or independent institution of higher education, any information necessary to prepare the report.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

Report due December 1, 2027

**SB
1418****Relating to the terminology used to refer to certain assessment instruments administered to public school students****AUTHOR:** Campbell**SPONSOR:** Ashby

Sections 1, 2, and 3 of SB 1418 amend TEC Section 39.025 (a-2), Section 39.0263(c), and Section 39.202 to replace references to "ACT-Plan" with references to "PreACT" in statutory provisions relating to certain tests administered to public school students and to academic distinction designations for public school districts and campuses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 24, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
2055****Relating to participation in the Texas Leadership Scholars Program****AUTHOR:** West**SPONSOR:** Lalani

Section 1 of SB 2055 amends TEC Section 61.891(4) and defines eligible institutions as a general academic teaching institution.

Section 2 amends TEC Sections 61.897 (a) and (a-1) and stipulates that within the rules that define the administration of the Texas Leadership Scholarship program, a student may not receive a scholarship under either the leadership or research scholarship program for more than four years per student per program. It further stipulates that the rules must include that each eligible institution receives at least one research scholarship award with remaining research scholarship awards to eligible institutions based, in part, on the number of research doctoral degrees awarded by each institution. This section further defines that the THECB may not adopt a rule that limits the GAIs that may participate in the program or give preference to students enrolled in certain GAIs.

Section 3 requires THECB to adopt rules to implement this act as soon as practicable after the effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt rules as soon as practicable.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
2786****Relating to the applicability of the Texas Success Initiative to certain public service officers and employees****AUTHOR:** Creighton**SPONSOR:** Lambert

Section 1 of SB 2786 amends TEC Section 51.332 to exempt a student who is an emergency medical technician employed by a political subdivision; is fire protection personnel; or is elected, appointed, or employed to serve as a peace officer from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative.

Section 2 specifies that this change in law applies beginning with the assessment of entering undergraduate students at public institutions of higher education for the fall 2025 semester. The assessment of an entering undergraduate student for an academic term before that semester is covered by the law in effect before the effective date of this act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No



HB 120

Relating to college, career, and military readiness in public schools, including career and technology education programs, the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, and the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program, funding for those programs under the Foundation School Program, and workforce reporting to support those programs, to the public school accountability system, and to the new instructional facility allotment and the permissible uses of funding under the Foundation School Program

AUTHOR: Bell, Keith

SPONSOR: Schwertner

HB 120 amends the TEC to expand and fund several educational programs, with a primary focus on career and technology education, rural partnerships, and high school advising.

Section 1 amends TEC Section 4.002, adding two academic goals regarding the public education system. The bill adds a goal that public high school graduates will have obtained the skills and credentials necessary to immediately enter the state's workforce. The bill also adds a goal that public high school graduates will be adequately prepared for postsecondary coursework.

Section 2 amends TEC, Chapter 7, Subchapter B, requiring the TEA to post and distribute data on enrollment and postsecondary outcomes to assist in the adoption of college, career, and military readiness plans.

Section 3 amends TEC Section 11.186, adding specific goals for public high school graduates to obtain postsecondary credentials, including Level 1 and Level 2 certificates, associates degrees, and industry-based credentials. The bill also adds annual outcomes goals and goals regarding enrollment percentages, certificate completion, and wages earned. The bill requires annual reporting from TEA.

Section 4 amends TEC Section 28.0095, allowing students enrolled in a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs to enroll in a dual credit course under the program at no cost.

Section 5 amends TEC Section 29.182, to designate courses of study offered under a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program as career and technology education programs.

Section 6 amends TEC Section 29.190, imposing a restriction that a student may not receive more than two subsidies under this program.

Section 7 amends TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter Z to require school districts to provide notice of any early registration or scholarship opportunities available to students participating in military-related training programs at public institutions of higher education.

Section 8 amends TEC Section 29.912, allowing school districts to continue the program regardless of average attendance and limits the total amount of grants awarded per school year to \$5 million.

Section 9 amends TEC Section 33.007, requiring high school counselors to provide information to students on career readiness and workforce training opportunities, as well as a link to the THECB My Texas Future website and how to create a profile. The bill requires TEA to provide online training to school counselors regarding trends identified through My Texas Future data.

Section 10 amends TEC Section 39.0261 to include career readiness in the heading.

Section 11 amends TEC Section 39.0261 to establish that the college preparation or career readiness assessment instrument may be designated by the THECB under Section 51.334 or a nationally recognized career readiness assessment instrument that measures foundational workforce skills and must be approved by commissioner rule.

Section 12 amends TEC Section 45.105 to allow school districts to use local school funds from taxes and tuition for the purposes of college and career advising. This can include education on My Texas Future.

Section 13 amends TEC Section 48.003, permitting students enrolled in P-TECH and Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) programs to receive Foundation School Program benefits.

Section 14 amends TEC, Chapter 48, Subchapter A to permit school districts to use Foundation School Program funds to support graduates for two years after high school by providing career and degree advising services.

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Section 15 amends TEC Section 48.106, to allocate \$150 per student enrolled in a P-TECH or R-PEP program.

Section 16 amends TEC Section 48.106 to include JROTC programs.

Section 14 amends TEC, Chapter 48, Subchapter A to permit school districts to use Foundation School Program funds to support graduates for two years after high school by providing career and degree advising services.

Section 15 amends TEC Section 48.106 to allocate \$150 per student enrolled in a P-TECH or R-PEP program.

Section 16 amends TEC Section 48.106 to include JROTC programs.

Section 17 amends TEC Section 48.118 to allow school districts to receive funding for 110% of students eligible under this section for the school year immediately preceding the year the district's enrollment first reached 1,600 or greater. This section of the bill also increases the total amount of state funding allotments from \$5 million to \$20 million per year.

Section 18 amends TEC Section 48.152 to include a renovated portion of an instructional facility to be used for the first time to provide high-cost and undersubscribed career and technology education programs in the list of eligible "new instructional facilities," as determined by the commissioner.

Section 19 amends TEC Section 48.152 to increase the allotment under this section from \$100 million to \$150 million per school year.

Section 21 amends TEC Section 48.156, increasing allowable reimbursements for industry certification exam costs.

Sections 22 and 23 apply due to the passage of SB 1786 89(R) and amend Labor Code Section 204.0025, requiring the reporting of certain workforce data.

Section 25 amends Labor Code Section 312.003, directing the industry-based certification advisory council to develop an inventory of industry-related certifications that may be earned by public high school students through career and technology education programs. The bill allows the advisory council to consult with THECB and other agencies to develop the inventory.

Section 27 directs the TEA to update statewide goals for career and readiness by the 2028-2029 school year.

Section 29 establishes that the act takes precedence over any other act of the Texas 89th Legislature, Regular Session.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025, except Sections 13-21, which take effect September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**HB
3800****Relating to an advisory board established to develop a resource guide that facilitates collaboration in identifying and addressing local health care workforce needs****AUTHOR:** Orr**SPONSOR:** Morales Shaw

HB 3800 directs the Texas Workforce Commission to establish an advisory board to develop a resource guide that facilitates collaborations among health care providers and institutions of higher education to more effectively identify and address local health care workforce needs. The advisory board consists of members appointed by the executive director of TWC, including representatives from two-year institutions, four-year institutions, local workforce boards, and organizations representing hospitals, health care professionals, and community health centers.

TWC is directed to submit the resource guide to the Legislature no later than November 1, 2026, and the advisory board is abolished September 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
1143****Relating to certain planning and evaluation requirements with respect to certain workforce development programs in this state****AUTHOR:** Blanco**SPONSOR:** Talarico

SB 1143 amends certain statutes of the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards to establish goals, objectives, and performance measures regarding the workforce participation of individuals aged 14 to 25.

Section 1 adds Government Code Section 2308.304(c-1) to require that local workforce development boards, in developing their local plan, must establish specific goals, objectives, and performance measures for individuals who are at least 14 years of age but younger than 25 years of age.

Section 2 amends Labor Code Section 302.087 to direct TWC to annually evaluate the commission's federally funded youth programs. Among other requirements, the evaluation must include a calculation of funds spent to increase employment among those age 14-25, to reenroll such individuals who dropped out of school, and to facilitate their participation in postsecondary education, technical education, or the military. It must also include data, by workforce development region, regarding individuals aged 14-25 who are eligible for and receive workforce development services. The evaluation must report examples of efforts to reach these individuals in coordination with other state agencies, including the Coordinating Board.

TWC shall report the evaluation to the Legislature no later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year, to also include disaggregated and trend data regarding employment outcomes for 14-25-year-olds and any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
1535****Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of an Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce Development Program****AUTHOR:** Zaffirini**SPONSOR:** Button

Section 1 of SB 1535 adds Labor Code Section 302.0081 and creates the Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce Development Program. The TWC, in collaboration with the TEA and THECB, and in consultation with representatives of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), will administer the advanced nuclear energy workforce development program for the purpose of addressing urgent skilled labor demands in the advanced nuclear energy industry in this state.

TWC is required to create a strategic plan to address labor supply gaps and talent retention issues in the advanced nuclear energy industry and to provide financial assistance to incentivize and support: the creation of academic pathways from secondary school to education and training programs at institutions of higher education in the field of advanced nuclear energy, the creation of those education and training programs, and research and leadership development in the field of advanced nuclear energy.

TWC, in consultation with TEA, THECB, four-year institutions, public technical and junior colleges, PUC, and employers in advanced nuclear energy industry, will develop the curriculum requirements for degree and certificate programs to prepare students for high-wage jobs in the advanced nuclear energy industry that may be offered by institutions of higher education, subject to THECB approval.

A report that summarizes activities under the program, including recommendations for legislative or other action, must be sent to each legislative committee over workforce development, higher education, and energy industry matters by September 1 of each year.:

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	THECB must coordinate with TEA and TWC on a report.

**SB
1786****Relating to public higher education****AUTHOR:** Creighton**SPONSOR:** VanDeaver

SB 1786 makes changes to the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer program relating to student eligibility and program administration, as well as authorizing the THECB to adopt manuals or policy documents by reference.

Section 1 updates the definitions of a school district in TEC Section 28.0095 (a) to include Windham School District, thereby including the district in being able to participate in the FAST program.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 28.0095(c) to clarify student eligibility provisions for the FAST program. This includes updating to reflect that students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 are eligible, clarifying the statute to more accurately align with the current practical definition of high school student and allowing a student to establish educationally disadvantaged status in the current year of enrollment or the prior four years. Subsection (f) is amended to direct the TEA to provide school districts and charter schools with the data necessary to make eligibility determinations.

Section 3 amends TEC Section 56.0035, authorizing the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to carry out the purposes of Chapter 56, including any rules necessary to administer federal financial aid or grant programs or provide federal money to institutions under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. For the latter purpose, negotiated rulemaking would not be required.

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Section 4 amends TEC Section 61.003(2) to change the definition of “public junior college.” It removes the reference to TEC Section 61.063, which relates to an official list of junior colleges as compiled and reported by THECB, and instead defines public junior colleges by reference to Chapter 130 (Junior College Districts), Subchapter J (Junior College District Service Areas), which contains a list thereof.

Section 5 adds TEC Section 61.0275, which authorizes THECB to adopt, by reference, a manual or policy document as a rule.

Section 6 amends TEC Section 130A.005, which grants THECB the authority to conduct emergency rulemaking as necessary to align funding formulas under Chapter 130A with appropriations or other legislative action.

Section 7 amends TEC Section 130A.101(c)(1)(A) by adding private or independent four-year IHEs to the description of the IHE that students must transfer to (in addition to GAIs).

Section 8 adds TEC Section 130A.102 and requires THECB to designate a credential as a credential of value if it meets the stated factors. THECB is required to adopt rules as necessary to implement the section.

Section 9 adds Government Code Section 2308A.0115 and requires THECB, TEA, and TWC to coordinate competitive grant programs for career and technical education programs aligned with state workforce development goals. This includes the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program, P-TECH, TRUE, and Perkins grant programs.

Section 10 amends Labor Code Section 204.0025 to make TWC’s efforts to work with employers to enhance reporting data mandatory rather than aspirational and to add additional specificity to the enhanced wage filing information categories.

Section 11 adds Labor Code Section 302.0205 and requires TWC to conduct a biennial assessment of regional labor demand across the state to allow IHEs to better align educational programs with workforce needs. It also allows TWC to coordinate with other state agencies, including THECB and TEA, to conduct the assessment. If TWC contracts with an IHE for the assessment, TWC and TEA shall enter into a data sharing agreement with the IHE to provide data as necessary to conduct the assessment. TWC is then required to provide a report every odd-numbered year by March 1.

Section 12 provides that TEC Section 28.0095 applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Section 13 authorizes THECB to identify rules required by the passage of TEC Section 56.0035 that must be adopted on an emergency basis and permits the use of emergency rulemaking procedures.

Section 14 requires THECB to evaluate the data available under Labor Code Section 205.0025 no later than December 1, 2026, to identify the effects of transitioning to a county-by-county definition of individual self-sufficient wage for purposes of this legislation.

Section 15 identifies the added TEC Section 130A.102 to apply to associate degrees awarded by a public junior college beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year. That section further applies to other degrees and certificates awarded by a public junior college beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year. By August 1, 2027, THECB must adopt rules implementing this section, in consultation with the standing advisory committee, for each certificate program offered by a public junior college.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 27, 2025, except Sections 7 and 8, which take effect September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt rules by August 1, 2027.
APPROPRIATION:	Appropriations to the Public Community/Junior Colleges will see a reduction of \$17,674,937 in the biennium to implement legislation.	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
2448****Relating to the establishment of the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program****AUTHOR:** Sparks**SPONSOR:** Ashby

Section 1 of SB 2448 adds Labor Code, Chapter 302, Subchapter J to create the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program. The TWC, in consultation with the TEA and the THECB, will establish and administer the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program to provide grant funds and technical assistance to one or more nonprofits that would, in turn, support institutions of higher education and school districts in rural areas to align and deliver workforce training and higher education programs to address skills gaps to meet urgent workforce demands in rural areas.

Section 2 requires the Texas Workforce Commission to adopt rules.

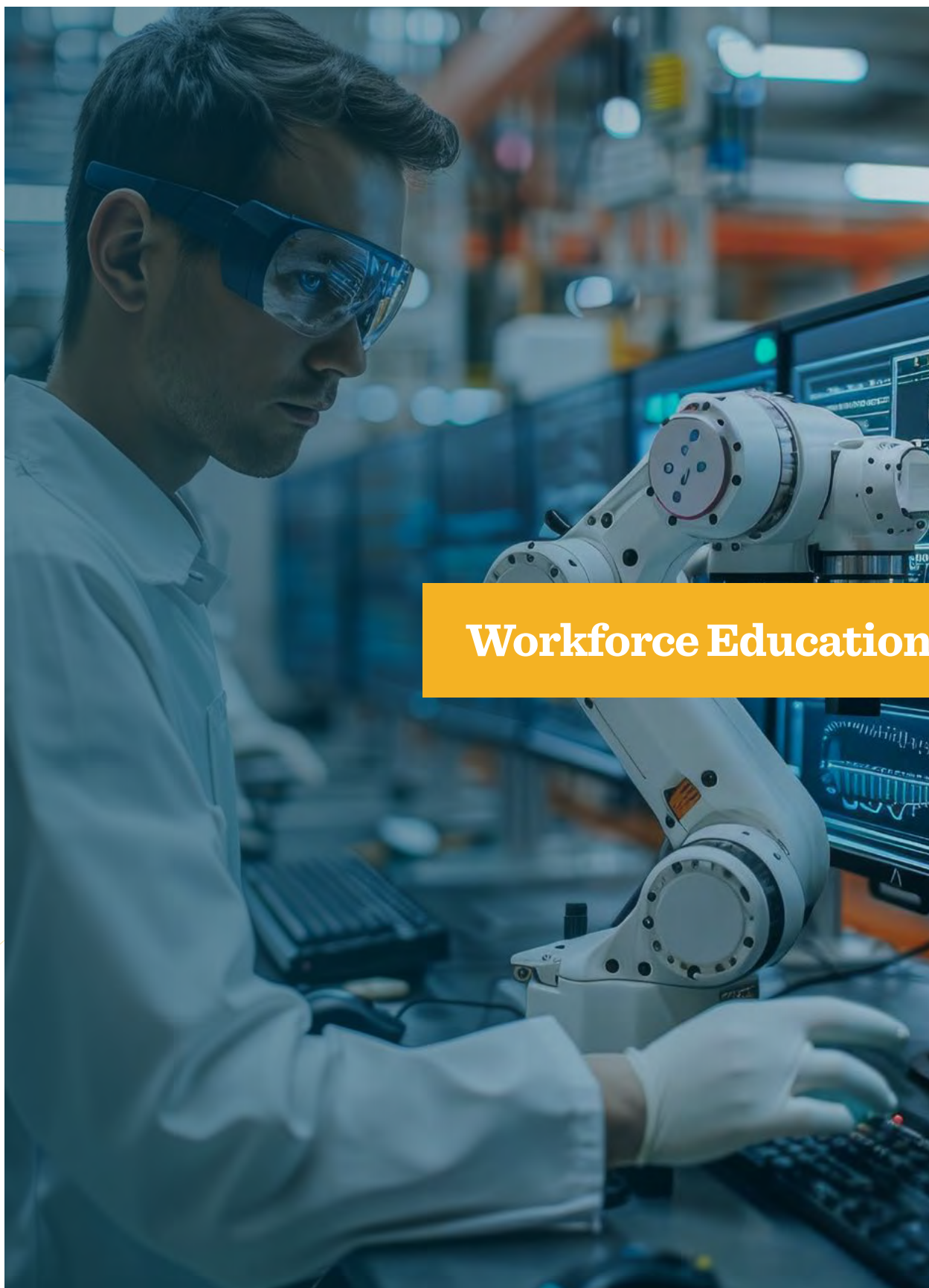
EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
2925****Relating to the establishment of the Task Force on Modernizing Manufacturing****AUTHOR:** Blanco**SPONSOR:** Ordaz

SB 2925 adds Subchapter HH to Government Code Chapter 481, creating the Task Force on Modernizing Manufacturing to study the modernization of manufacturing in this state. The task force is administratively attached to the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism and is composed of 15 members, including a representative of the Coordinating Board.

The task force is directed to: study the current state of manufacturing in Texas with a focus on the adoption of automation and digital technologies; identify barriers to the adoption of automation and digital technologies in manufacturing; develop recommendations for policies and programs to support the modernization of manufacturing in this state; and evaluate the potential economic effect of modernizing manufacturing, including job creation and retention, increased productivity, and competitiveness. The task force is to deliver a report no later than October 1, 2026, on their findings and recommendations for legislative or other action.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No



Workforce Education

**HB
20****Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program****AUTHOR:** Gates**SPONSOR:** Schwertner

Section 1 of HB 20 adds Section 29.914 to TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter Z (Miscellaneous Programs), which requires the Commissioner of Education to establish and administer the Applied Sciences Pathway program. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for students to earn their high school diplomas while also receiving career certificates from institutions of higher education in high-wage, high-growth jobs from the following list of in demand industries: plumbing and pipe fitting, electrical, welding, sheet metal, carpentry, masonry, diesel and heavy equipment, aviation maintenance, HVAC, construction management and inspection, mechanical and aerospace engineering, industrial maintenance and processes, robotics and automation, information technology and cybersecurity, oil and gas exploration and production, refining and chemical processes, transportation distribution and logistics, manufacturing and industrial technology, electronics technology, or automotive technology.

The commissioner may revise the list of specified industries every five years, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

A partnership participating in the program must be able to provide the instruction necessary for a Level 1 or Level 2 certificate, as defined by the THECB, or a credential recognized as a credential of value by THECB rule and approved by the Commissioner of Education for purposes of the program, and be governed by an institutional agreement between the school district or open-enrollment charter school and an institution of higher education that meets the THECB requirements for a dual credit partnership.

Section 2 establishes that the act applies starting with the 2025-2026 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 20, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
322****Relating to the use of funds awarded under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program****AUTHOR:** Guillen**SPONSOR:** Zaffirini

Section 1 of HB 322 amends TEC Section 134.004, allowing for grants awarded under the JET program to pay costs for the acquisition, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of technology solutions necessary to support certain programs.

Section 2 amends TEC Section 134.006, allowing JET grant funds to be used to finance the acquisition, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of technology solutions necessary to support certain courses or programs.

Section 3 establishes that changes made in this legislation apply only to grants awarded after the act takes effect on September 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**HB
1105****Relating to the exemption of tuition and laboratory fees at public institutions of higher education for certain paramedics****AUTHOR:** Cole**SPONSOR:** Eckhardt

Section 1 of HB 1105 amends TEC, Chapter 54, Subchapter D, providing tuition exemption for students enrolled in courses offered as part of an emergency medical services curriculum and who are currently employed as a paramedic by a political subdivision of the state.

THECB shall adopt rules governing the granting or denial of an exemption provided under this section, including rules prescribing the educational attainment or level of certification necessary to qualify for an exemption as a paramedic; relating to the determination of a student's eligibility for an exemption; and relating to the exclusion from the exemption under Subsection (f) of a distance education course, including prescribing the maximum number of distance education courses that may be excluded from the exemption under that subsection; and a uniform listing of degree programs covered by the exemption provided under this section.

Section 2 directs the THECB to adopt the rules required by TEC Section 54.3532, as added by this act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	June 20, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	THECB must adopt rules as soon as practicable.
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**HB
2768****Relating to the development of a state information technology apprenticeship credential offered by public junior colleges or public technical institutes to address shortages in the state information resources workforce****AUTHOR:** Capriglione**SPONSOR:** Hinojosa, Adam

Section 1 of HB 2768 amends Government Code, Chapter 2054, Subchapter C to authorize state agencies to enter into an agreement with a public junior college district or public technical institute to offer a program leading to a state information technology (IT) apprenticeship credential, addressing shortages in the state's information resources workforce.

Requirements for the apprenticeship programs include that a program must be approved by THECB, must develop the knowledge and skills necessary for a journey-level or senior-level IT position in a state agency, and must include a one-year apprenticeship with a relevant state agency or organization.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

**SB
856****Relating to the use of the skills development fund by certain entities****AUTHOR:** Flores**SPONSOR:** Bell, Keith

SB 856 amends the Labor Code by adding the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) to the list of organizations eligible to use funds from the Texas Skills Development Fund for job training purposes.

Section 3 amends Labor Code Section 303.003(b) to add TEES to the entities identified in statute as eligible to participate in the fund. Remaining sections make conforming changes in the statute.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
1728****Relating to the participation of certain juvenile justice entities in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program****AUTHOR:** Perry**SPONSOR:** Lalani

Section 1 of SB 1728 amends TEC Section 134.04 by adding the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, juvenile boards, and juvenile probation departments to the list of state entities eligible to apply for grants under the JET Grant Program.

Section 2 amends TEC Sections 134.006 (a) and (c) and allows the TWC to award JET grants to these entities and allows them to consider whether the proposed course or program is part of an existing juvenile justice educational program.

Section 3 amends TEC Section 134.07 and allows TWC to award a grant to these entities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2025**THECB RULEMAKING:**

No

APPROPRIATION: No**THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:**

No

**SB
2405****Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and to the functions of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee, the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, and the Windham School District****AUTHOR:** Parker**SPONSOR:** Canales

SB 2405 implements recommendations of the Texas Sunset Commission and authorizes the continuing functions of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Relevant to higher education, Section 6 amends TEC Section 19.0041(a) to require the Windham School district to compile and analyze certain disaggregated data relevant to their career and technical education and postsecondary programs.

Section 9 adds TEC Section 19.011(c), stating that the district may enter into an agreement with a governmental entity, including the Coordinating Board, to obtain and share data necessary to support and evaluate district and postsecondary education programs. The bill also updates references to “vocational” education throughout the code to “career and technical” education.

Section 10 adds TEC Section 19.013 to create a postsecondary education advisory board to advise Windham and TDCJ regarding postsecondary education programs. A representative to the Coordinating Board is included as a statutory member of the advisory board.

EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 1, 2025	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	No	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No

Addendum: Special Called Sessions of the 89th Texas Legislature

After the conclusion of the 89th Texas Legislature's regular session, Gov. Greg Abbott called the Legislature back for two special sessions. The first special session began July 21, 2025. That session adjourned August 15, 2025, without passing any legislation. The same day, the governor called the Legislature into a second special session, identifying 19 items he wished the Legislature to address during the session, including "Legislation to eliminate the STAAR test and replace it with effective tools to assess student progress and ensure school district accountability."

To address this charge, the Legislature considered and ultimately passed [House Bill 8](#) (Second Called Session) by Rep. Brad Buckley and Sen. Paul Bettencourt. This legislation eliminates the STAAR test in favor of three shorter assessments taken over the course of the school year, beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year. It also makes modifications to end of course assessment requirements, including eliminating the English II EOC. The legislation amends how school district accountability ratings are calculated and makes other changes to public school administration and accountability.

HB 8 Relating to public school accountability and transparency, including the implementation of an instructionally supportive assessment program and the adoption and administration of assessment instruments in public schools, indicators of achievement, public school performance ratings, and interventions and sanctions under the public			
AUTHOR: Buckley		SPONSOR: Bettencourt	
House Bill (HB) 8 also adds Texas Education Code (TEC) Sections 39.0531 through 39.0535, regarding industry certifications that are eligible as performance indicators for school districts. The legislation makes the Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) jointly responsible for developing and distributing an industry certifications list. To be eligible, certifications must be aligned to a program of study that prepares students for high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations; allow students to demonstrate mastery within an approved program of study; be obtained through an assessment provided by or determined by an independent, third-party certifying entity; and, for a postsecondary credential, be designated as a credential of value. HB 8 provides for a regular list review and update process, and procedures for removing certifications from the list. HB 8 also amends Government Code Section 2308A.007 to make creation of a credential library by TWC and THECB mandatory, and it must include the industry certification list developed under TEC 39.0531. This legislation was signed into law by Gov. Abbott on September 17, 2025.			
EFFECTIVE DATE:	December 4, 2025, except Section 4.020 takes effect September 1, 2026	THECB RULEMAKING:	No
APPROPRIATION:	None related to THECB	THECB REPORTING REQUIREMENT:	No



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Texas Higher Education COORDINATING BOARD

This document is available on the
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
website: <https://highered.Texas.gov>

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