



# El Paso County 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Updates

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*Elisa M. Tamayo  
Governmental Affairs Manager*

# 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Updates

## ■ **State Budget**

- House to debate on Thursday 4/10
- **HB 13 by King** – would create the Texas Interoperability Council, which would be tasked with creating and coordinating the implementation of a statewide plan for the use of emergency communication
  - Passed the House, received by the Senate
- **SB 2 / HB 3** – establishment of an education savings account program
  - Passed the full Senate, voted by the House Public Education Committee
- **SB 8 by Huffman** – agreements between sheriffs and ICE to enforce federal immigration law
  - Passed by the Senate, referred in the House
- **SJR 63 by Middleton, SB 1410 by Campbell** – Renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America
  - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25

# *Bills Potentially harmful to County operations*

- **HB 1832 by Gerdes** – Relating to the punishment for certain criminal offenses involving illegal entry into or illegal presence in this state by a person who is an alien; increasing criminal penalties
- **SB 2722 by Bettencourt** – Though this is a Harris County bill, it could set a negative precedent for other cities to try to go after county revenue in the future
- **SB 240 by Middleton** – mandates that restrooms within facilities owned, operated, or controlled by political subdivisions be designated for use based on “biological sex” or be sued by the AG
- **SB 552 by Huffman** – prohibits probation for undocumented immigrants
  - Senate Criminal Justice hearing on 4/8/25

# *Bills Supportive of County Operations*

- **HB 1583 by Hull** – Relating to the peace officer's notification of emergency detention form for persons evidencing mental illness and retention of that form
- **HB 3174 by Rose** – Relating to county and hospital district disease control pilot programs to reduce the risk of certain infectious and communicable diseases
- **HB 1998 by Spiller** – Increases the limit from \$50K to \$100k for which a competitive procurement method may be required
- **SB 1855 by Perry** – Mandates municipal authorities and commissioners' courts to disapprove applications lacking sufficient groundwater evidence
  - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25
- **HB 2413 by Garcia Hernandez** – relating to the authority of a county to dispose of sensitive media devices
  - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25



# *Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (1/6)*

- **SB 909 by Blanco / HB 1275 by Gonzalez** – relating to the issuance of permits for producer dairies in certain areas of this state
  - Already taken a position to support
- **HB 1557 by Moody** – relating to waiver programs for certain veterans provided by toll project entities
  - Scheduled for a hearing 4/7/25
- **HB 365 by Gonzalez** – relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial assistance from the economically distressed areas account that is not required to be repaid
  - On House General State Calendar
- **SB 1268 by Blanco / HB 3628 by Villalobos** – relating to the review and updating by the Texas Water Development Board of guidance principles and rules related to certain plans adopted or approved by the board
  - Passed the Senate, received by the House

# *Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (2/6)*

- **SB 897 by Blanco** – relating to the administration of a grant program to support community mental health programs assisting veterans and their families
  - Senate intent calendar
- **SB 910 by Blanco / HB 464 by Gonzalez** – establishment of a grant program to support the elimination of illegally disposed of scrap tires
  - House hearing, left pending in committee
- **SB 907 by Blanco / HB 4269 by Perez** – relating to bill payment assistance programs for utility customers offered by certain municipalities
  - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25
- **HB 422 by Gonzalez** – limitations on the issuance of bonds by the Texas Water Development Board for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas
  - House General State Calendar

# *Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (3/6)*

- **SB 1143 by Blanco** – relating to certain planning, notification, and evaluation requirements with respect to workforce development programs in this state
  - Economic Development Committee hearing on 4/7/25
- **SB 1249 by Blando / HB 2652 by Ordaz** – establishes a certified caregiver pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area to provide after-hours childcare for single-parent households enrolled in short-term workforce training programs
  - House Subcommittee on Workforce hearing on 4/8/25
- **HB 4063 by Ordaz** – relating to the filing and release of record of a unilateral memorandum of contract concerning residential property
  - House Trade, Workforce, Economic Development hearing on 4/9/25

# *Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (4/6)*

- **SB 908 by Blanco** – regulation of certain firearm transfers, to the unlawful possession or acquisition of a firearm or ammunition, and to report of lost or stolen firearms; creating criminal offense
- **SB 3004 by Blanco** – relating to a policy governing the operation of a motor vehicle by a peace officer in pursuit of certain persons
- **SB 3007 by Blanco / HB 5086 by Ordaz** – relating to establishing a pilot program to increase the supply of child-care services and encourage employer partnerships to meet strategic workforce needs in certain regions of the state
- **HB 4259 by Perez** – relating to the authority of certain counties to employ a county purchasing agent
- **HB 3501 by Perez** – relating to a requirement that certain hospitals prepare and publish a quarterly report on charity care provided by those hospitals



# *Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (5/6)*

- **SB 2603 by Blanco / HB 5390 by Ordaz** – relating to cooperation by economic development program participants with local workforce development boards
- **SB 2928 by Blanco / HB 3065 by Anchia** – relating to the disposition of a firearm surrendered through a firearm buyback program administered by certain local law enforcement agencies
- **HB 3499 by Perez** – relating to the eligibility of an individual to receive an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the individual's residence homestead if the homestead is occupied by a registered sex offender
- **HB 3562 by Perez** – relating to posting and other requirements applicable to meetings of the governing body of a hospital district
- **HB 4270 by Perez** – relating to the authority of certain taxing units to enter into an agreement to abate ad valorem taxes imposed on an individual's residence homestead that is located in a reinvestment zone

# *Juvenile Justice Legislation*

- **HB 31 by Thompson** – relating to procedures related to juvenile justice proceedings and to the treatment of children detained in or committed to a juvenile facility
  - Chief Medina raised concerns, will testify
- **HB 3360 / SB 1727 by Cook** – relating to the protection and detention of a juvenile who engages in delinquent conduct or commits a felony offense while committed to the custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; changing the eligibility for community supervision; redefining habitual felony conduct
  - Chief Medina supports, will testify

# *Broadband Legislation*

- **SB 1217 by Hughes / HB 2825 by Craddick** – relating to sales and use tax exemptions and refunds for certain tangible personal property used to provide cable television services, Internet access services, or telecommunications services
  - The exemption would only apply to the state's portion of the tax, not the local's so the county would remain whole
  - A 2013 study found that for the \$50 million exemption, more than \$800 million was reinvested into broadband infrastructure
  - This kind of exemption currently exists in the manufacturing space
- **SB 1646 by King / HB 3552 by Hefner** – relating to criminal conduct involving the theft or unauthorized possession of copper or brass and to the sale of copper or brass material to metal recycling entities; creating criminal offenses; providing an administrative penalty
  - Critical infrastructure such as emergency services and 911 centers is being impacted





*Discuss and provide  
recommendations or feedback.*