

# Capitol Update

SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON



84th Legislative Session

## Under the Dome

**Securing our Border (SB 3):** On Monday, the Texas Senate passed their Border Security Package (SB 3) including much of the House's bill language and adding the following to strengthen the legislation:

- Reinforcing the role of the National Guard
- Immediately allowing DPS to implement southbound checkpoints
- Providing funding for a statewide 10-hour work day for DPS
- Reorganizing the Transnational and Organized Crime Division of the Office of the Attorney General to assist with border prosecutions with an enhanced focus on human trafficking and other transnational crimes
- Creating a multi-agency training facility in the Rio Grande Valley which will serve local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities



**Tax Credit Scholarships (SB 4):** This week, the Texas Senate passed legislation that allows for tax credit scholarships for students who are stuck in failing schools and those with disabilities to attend the school of their choosing. Businesses who participate in donating toward a scholarship fund will receive a tax credit to help lower a portion of their franchise tax liability.

## Creighton's Legislation Station

**Montgomery County Desalination of Brackish Water (SCR 34):** On Monday, the Texas Senate passed my brackish water legislation. SCR 34 directs the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a feasibility study on the use of brackish ground water sources in Montgomery County. We've made significant strides on infrastructure and water planning, but we're going to have to get to the details. We have limited amounts of water in some of the thirstiest communities in Texas and we're going to have to look at desalination for making use of our brackish water supply.

**Beaumont Board of Managers Extension (SB 1825):** This week, I presented legislation to the Senate Education Committee that would give the Texas Education Agency Commissioner the option to add up to two additional years for board managers to serve, if needed. Currently, the TEA Commissioner can relieve a local school board of its management duties and bring in a new board or "Board of Managers" to fulfill management duties of a school board for a failing school district and the time period for that board to turn around that school district is two years. Two more years is desperately needed in some situations. This legislation would only apply to school districts under the management of a board of managers, such as



Beaumont ISD.

### **In the News**

- State Senate votes to allow Sabine-Neches dredging project move forward, *Beaumont Examiner*
- Texas Senate Passes Bill to Decriminalize Truancy, *Breitbart*
- Senate OKs Medicaid watchdog overhaul, *Bellaire • River Oaks • West University Examiner*

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