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Senator Bettencourt Sponsors Two Important Transparency Bills That Move To Governor's Desk
House Bill 477 and House Bill 2650 ensure transparency so taxpayers know where their money is going

AUSTIN - Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) sponsored and passed two House bills both with bipartisan support through the full Senate today which will move on to Governor Abbott's desk. House Bill 477 authored in the Texas House by Representative Jim Murphy (R-Houston), passed the Senate with a 28-3 vote. House Bill 2650 authored in the Texas House by Representative Vikki Goodwin (D-Austin), also passed the full senate unanimously. Senator Bettencourt (R-Houston) filed the Senate companion to House Bill 2650.

Key points from HB 477 include:

- Requires political subdivisions to follow certain disclosures and posting requirements when seeking voter approval of new debt or bonds
- Ensures that bond proposals on a ballot are uniform and transparent for taxpayers
- Jurisdictions will be able to post a voter information document publically and on their website with all required information

Key points from HB 2650 include:

- Requires that a licensed auctioneer's commission and fees be included in calculating the amount owed on the property for which a tax warrant was issued
- Allows counties to contract with online vendors to perform the auctions.

"Taxpayers need to be informed and know where their money is going. This is just good public policy to make sure all Texas taxpayers are aware of what they are voting on when they go to the polls. We have to inform the people so we can trust their vote," said Senator Bettencourt. **"We are in the 21st Century so using online auction is just catching up with what is already available in the private sector..."** he concluded.

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