



April 16, 2021



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We wrapped up week 13 of the 87th Legislative Session this week. With six and a half weeks to go, we are spending hours each day in multiple committees hearing testimony on Senate bills and considering bills on the Senate floor that have survived the Senate Committee process. [Click here](#) to track legislation of interest to you.



## IMPORTANT LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE

- ❖ **Senate Bill 10** (Paxton co-authored) ends the practice of taxpayer funded lobbying by barring cities and counties from using taxpayer funds to hire contract lobbyists to influence the Texas Legislature. The primary role of our government is to represent the will of the voters, and those who are elected should be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, I have witnessed local governments using taxpayer dollars to lobby the Legislature on issues against taxpayer interests. Taxpayers should not have to pay for influencing legislators for a cause they do not support, such as tax rates increases.

- ❖ **Senate Bill 14**, the Business Freedom and Uniformity Act, protects our small businesses from an ever-increasing patchwork of mandates imposed by local governments. Small businesses often have the unnecessary burden of complying with local government orders that exceed state and federal mandates and ultimately kill jobs.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 15**, the Texas Consumer Privacy Act (Paxton co-authored), secures Texans' right to privacy by allowing them to have their personal information, such as name, driver license number, and address, protected from disclosure by state agencies for non-essential purposes, such as sale to private entities for marketing purposes.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 19** and **Senate Bill 20** (both Paxton co-authored) protect Texans' rights to keep and bear arms. SB 19 prevents banking institutions from adopting internal practices that discriminate against lawful gun owners and firearm and ammunition manufacturers. SB 20 ends discrimination by hotels and motels that prohibit guests from keeping their firearms with them while staying at their establishments.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 21** is a public safety bill that protects law-abiding citizens by ensuring the most violent and serial criminals will no longer secure personal recognizance bonds. Some areas of our state often release individuals accused of violent crimes on bail without requiring a financially-supported bond. This bill will put an end to the practice of using personal recognizable bonds for those charged with violent or serial crimes.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 23** (Paxton co-authored) requires an election to secure voter-approval of a city or county's effort to decrease law enforcement expenditures. SB 23 promotes citizen safety by requiring cities and counties to secure a vote of the people if a municipality or county seeks to "defund the police."
- ❖ **Senate Bill 29** (Paxton co-authored) defends girls' sports programs across Texas by ensuring that biological boys are barred from competing in girls' sports. This bill protects girls who participate in UIL sports from having to compete with biological boys wishing to play against the girls instead of other boys.

- ❖ **Senate Bill 1025** and **SJR 45** (Paxton co-authored) requires that a special session of the Texas Legislature be convened, should a declared disaster exceed 30 days. This past year, our state has lived under a number of executive orders that were put in place without legislative approval. These decisions affect individuals, businesses, churches, etc., and Texans will benefit from the legislative process of public hearings, written testimony, public forum and discussion, and a vote by members of the Texas Legislature, who are elected to serve you.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 1336** - (Paxton co-authored) limits our state's budget growth to the growth of population and inflation. This bill puts reasonable restraints in place for future legislatures to ensure fiscally-sound budgeting and less reliance on Texans' hard-earned tax dollars.

Each of these bills has moved to the Texas House of Representatives for consideration.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- ❖ **Senate Bill 4** (Paxton co-authored) ensures that Texas' sports teams play the national anthem before each professional sports game played at a taxpayer-supported venue. This bill passed in the Texas Senate last week with bi-partisan support to ensure that honoring our nation, servicemen and women, and veterans are linked to any tax dollars used to advance professional sports in our state.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 1065** (Paxton co-authored) relates to the improvement of coverage for diagnostic imaging for breast cancer. Early detection is important, and this legislation would provide women with more timely access to diagnostic services and treatment by eliminating out-of-pocket costs associated with mammograms.

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