



THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

The Honorable Molly Cook

State Senator, District 15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Molly Cook Announces the Successful Passage of 7 Bills into Law and Significant Budget Wins for Senate District 15

HOUSTON, TX – Senator Molly Cook is proud to announce the passage of 7 bills she authored and sponsored into law. She also brought home strong budget wins for Senate District 15, including fifty-four million dollars for the Cypress Ditch Regional Flood Mitigation Project led by the City of Bellaire. As a registered nurse, Senator Cook applied her frontline healthcare experience serving on the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Committee on Administration, and the Senate Committee on Local Government to work for her constituents and all Texans. This was Senator Cook’s first legislative session representing Senate District 15; she was present for 100 percent of roll calls and maintained a 100 percent voting record for the 4,488 record votes taken.

Senator Cook said, “I am so proud to bring home these important pieces of legislation for Senate District 15. Each one represents a significant policy change that will affect lives across the State of Texas. Over the past five months, my team and I advanced a legislative package guided by our [“Nurse First” legislative agenda](#), which focuses on improving the health, safety, and quality of life for working and middle-class Texans. I am grateful to every constituent who guided us, my team, and the advocates who poured countless hours into this work. We are already looking ahead to the ninetieth legislative session, and we are ready to fight for policies that prioritize the bread-and-butter issues facing working Texans.”

Budget Wins for Senate District 15

- \$54M for the Cypress Ditch Regional Flood Mitigation Project.
- A continued \$40M for the Federally Qualified Health Centers Incubator Grant Program
- \$10M for the Apprenticeship Training Program at Texas Workforce Commission.
- \$7.2M to increase the timeliness and quality of maternal-child health data at the Department of State Health Services.
- \$2.1M for Infrastructure, Resiliency, and Reliability Full Time Employees at the Public Utility Commission.
- \$2M for Doss Park in Acres Homes
- \$2M for Bordersville Park in Bordersville

- \$1M for Agnes Moffitt Park Pool in Spring Branch West

Senator Cook's Bills Signed into Law

- [SB 1307](#) - directing the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to develop a consumer reference guide to help navigate the health insurance market in Texas.
- [SB 1313](#) - prohibiting smoke shops/e-cig retailers from using signage that may appeal to young children, like depicting cartoon-like characters or images, photos of celebrities, and pictures resembling food products.
- [SB 1316](#) - prohibiting e-cigarette advertisements within 1,000 feet of a school or church.
- [HB 3801](#) - creating the Statewide Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council (HPWCC) to plan and dedicate resources toward healthcare workforce needs.
- [HB 694](#) - improving transparency, fairness, and parental rights in the DFPS system by improving notification timelines.
- [HB 713](#) - granting a limited exception to reporting requirements for health care providers reviewing cases for the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee, in order to timely review and make recommendations to the legislature.
- [HB 3151](#) - allowing federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to achieve expedited credentialing to ensure health care providers are timely paid for their important work serving our most vulnerable populations.

Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed [HB 305](#) sponsored by Senator Cook, which would have required pretrial hearings to occur within 14 days of a defendant's competency restoration. While generally supportive of the concept, Governor Abbott listed concerns in his veto statement that the language was overly broad. Senator Cook looks forward to working with the bill author, Rep. Richard Hayes, and Governor Abbott to develop more tailored language.

For further comment or to arrange an interview, please email daphne.alcala@senate.texas.gov or call 512-463-0115.

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