

Legislation Pre-Filed by Senator Judith Zaffirini for the 80th Legislative Session

- SB 49 Tax-Free Textbooks:** Provides financial relief to college students by allowing them to purchase textbooks tax-free during the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.
- SB 50 Early Childhood Education:** Build on the success of the early childhood education integration model established by Senator Zaffirini's SB 76 (2003) and SB 23 (2005) by expanding Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) sites throughout Texas while increasing quality; raising reimbursement rates for child care providers; and improving the recruitment, retention, and quality of early childhood education professionals, while establishing the field as a multi-level career path.
- SB 51 Assault Leave for Higher Education Employees:** Extends to higher education employees the same protections against the effects of physical assault that are provided to school district employees.
- SB 52 Universal Kindergarten:** Lowers the age for compulsory school attendance from six to five years-old, provides parents with the flexibility under current law regarding where their child may attend kindergarten, and creates a user-friendly waiver system for parents who choose not to send their five year-old to kindergarten.
- SB 53 Sexual Exploitation:** Modifies the liability provisions for mental health institutions to prevent repeated cases of sexual exploitation by providers.
- SB 54 Prosthetic Parity:** Protects individuals and families who purchase health insurance by providing that prosthetic and orthotic devices be included in health plans.
- SB 55 Discount Health Plans:** Provides for common-sense regulations of discount health plans, including registration with the Texas Department of Insurance and guidelines for advertising.

- SB 56 Human Cloning Ban:** Because both opponents and advocates of stem cell research agree that human reproduction through cloning is scientifically problematic and morally objectionable, this bill prohibits institutions of higher education from cloning human beings.
- SB 57 Prioritize Property Tax Disputes:** Provides appraisal districts and school districts with a clearer picture of their expected tax revenues by giving ad valorem tax disputes priority and expedited status in local district courts of counties with fewer than 675,000 persons.
- SB 58 Collection of Assault Information:** Improves the collection and analysis of information relating to sexual offenses through the use of improved reporting by law enforcement agencies.
- SB 59 Sobriety Checkpoints:** Authorizes law enforcement agencies to establish a checkpoint to determine whether persons are driving while intoxicated.
- SB 60 Child Passenger Safety:** Strengthens current child passenger safety protections by providing that children younger than eight years old, unless they are taller than four feet, nine inches, are to be properly secured while riding in an operating vehicle. It also will provide for a temporary grace period to inform Texas drivers about the new measure.
- SB 61 County Emergency Authority:** Allows counties to adopt an internal plan for delegation of administrative authorities, chain of succession to cover essential county functions, and meeting procedures during a catastrophic event or declared disaster.
- SB 62 Individual Development Accounts (IDAs):** Assist persons with low-incomes to build a modest savings account, budget against unexpected expenses, and plan for future expenditures by authorizing the creation of an IDA program to provide savings incentives and opportunities to eligible low-income, working individuals, or households.
- SB 63 Jim Hogg County Ordinance Authority:** Helps rural communities provide more efficient county services and prevent the proliferation of

colonias by authorizing counties with no incorporated cities, more than 5,000 people, and that are located within 100 miles from the border to have the same authority as general-law municipalities.

SB 64 Political Action Committee Contribution Reform: Closes a loophole in the Election Code by requiring PACs to disclose contributions of more than \$1,000 during the last nine days of a campaign, which is an identical requirement of candidates and their committees.

SB 65 System Benefit Fund: Modifies and protects the System Benefit Fund (SBF) to ensure that low-income customers receive the benefits of rate discount and weatherization programs. Specifically, it will change the structure of the SBF to look more like the Universal Services Fund (USF), which is managed by the telecommunications industry and the funds from which are directed to a private bank outside of the state treasury and cannot be used for general revenue (GR).

SB 66 Cattle Guards on County Roads: Authorizes counties with more than 60,000 persons to construct cattle guards on county roads.

SB 98 Child Impact Statement: Requires the Office of Senate Research and the House Research Organization to include a Child Impact Statement for all legislation. The statements will address whether and to what extent the legislation will affect all aspects of children's wellbeing, specific groups of children, and parents and caregivers of children.

SB 99 Colonias Classification System: Modifies the semi-annual colonias classification report by adding additional state agencies to the list of those required to submit data regarding projects that serve colonias; directing agencies to report the exact dollar amount by colonia spent on projects; and requiring when funds are received to improve a colonia, the local government must include the most recent demographic data about the colonia.