



## **Capitol Update: Special Session Edition** **7/28/17**

Greetings from your Texas Capitol! As I'm writing to you, we have just completed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the special session called by Governor Abbott. Thus, this edition of the Capitol Update is much different than usual. Unlike a regular session, special sessions are so compressed—both in time and in content—that it is difficult to walk constituents through legislation due to how quickly individual bills can change. Instead of digging into a few key issues in great detail, I'd like to share a broad overview of what has happened thus far and what we expect to happen next. Rest assured that like our *Sine Die* edition of the Capitol Update at the end of each regular session, I will be sending out a similar newsletter at the end of this special session to detail all that occurred. So—here's what we know thus far...

Between committee meetings and floor debate, the Texas Senate was in action on each of the first nine days of the special session. As of Wednesday evening, 18 of the 20 items outlined by the governor in his call were passed by the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives for action. Each is enumerated in the list below. Of most urgent concern was the "Sunset" legislation to continue the funding and existence of several key state agencies, which the Senate passed immediately. Among the agencies extended was the Texas Medical Board, which handles licensing and regulation of all physicians in our state.

### **Bills passed by the Texas Senate (7/18 - 7/26)**

Senate Bill 1	Property Tax Reform and Relief
Senate Bill 2	School Choice for Children with Special Needs
Senate Bill 3	The Texas Privacy Act
Senate Bill 4	Expanding the Prohibition on Taxpayer Dollars for Abortion Providers
Senate Bill 5	Preventing Mail-In Ballot Fraud
Senate Bill 6	Ending Forced Annexation
Senate Bill 7	No Taxpayer Dollars to Collect Union Dues
Senate Bill 8	No Texan will be Forced to Pay for Anyone's Abortion Insurance
Senate Bill 9	Cap on State Spending
Senate Bills 10/73	Strengthening Reporting Requirements for Abortion Procedures
Senate Bill 11	Clarifying the Operation of "Do Not Resuscitate" Orders
Senate Bill 13	Speeding up the Local Government Permitting Process
Senate Bill 14	Preventing Cities from Regulatory Overreach on Trees
Senate Bill 15	Making All Texting and Mobile Device Use Regulations Uniform
Senate Bill 16	Establishing the School Finance Reform Commission
Senate Bill 17	Maintaining the Maternal Mortality Task Force
Senate Bill 19	Classroom Teacher Bonuses + Retired Teacher Insurance Premium Assistance
Senate Bills 20/60	Sunset Legislation

As of this writing, 21 days remain in the special session. The Senate is now in a holding pattern for the next several days in order to allow the House to consider action on these and related pieces of pending legislation. I am eager to continue the debate and discussion on these issues with my colleagues from both chambers as the session continues. I am confident that we will be able to make important strides on many of these bills, but equally as important, this special session is spurring rigorous discussions on several critical issues that the Legislature must address, including long-term school finance reform.

In closing, I want to reiterate that just like in the regular session, my team and I want to hear from you on these issues during the special session. Though I hear from countless citizens on many subjects, input from those I serve is always fully considered, regardless of differing politics or viewpoints.

Thank you again for reading this update from 'Team Birdwell.' I hope you found it to be informative and that you'll share it with your friends, family and colleagues in Senate District 22, who may subscribe to the Capitol Update [by clicking here](#).

God Bless,

Brian Birdwell  
State Senator, District 22