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## Senator César Blanco's Bills Moving Through the Legislature

**Austin, Texas** – Four more bills by Senator Blanco have made progress in the Legislature. Senate Bill 1526 and House Bill 591 were approved by the Senate, while Senate Bill 850 and Senate Bill 1524 were both passed by the House and now head to the Governor for final approval.

## Passed by the Senate:

• <u>SB1526</u> regionalizes Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the Big Bend Region for Better <u>Life-Saving Care.</u>

"Access to emergency medical services can mean the difference between life and death. However, the Big Bend region is plagued with EMS shortages and long response times to emergency care when our families need it the most. Senate Bill 1526 will authorize the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to provide EMS services and regionalize EMS operations to better coordinate the response and delivery of life-saving care in the region."

• HB591 reduces flaring and air pollution from oil and gas.

"Routine flaring across Texas is economically wasteful, harmful to human health, and damaging to our environment. House Bill 591 will reduce flaring and greenhouse gas emissions by incentivizing the capture of flared gas for economic use on the well site."

## Passed by the House and Senate:

• SB850 connects rural schools to mental health services and resources for kids.

"Across West Texas, especially in our rural communities, there is a growing need for children's mental health services and resources. This bill will add a rural Education Service Center (ESC) representative to the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium to be a bridge for our rural kids to a statewide network of mental health services and resources, including tailored delivery for rural school districts."

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• SB1524 improves roads and infrastructure on military bases.

"Last session, I proudly passed a bill to create a historic intergovernmental partnership between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Department of Defense to provide road services on military installations to assist with the maintenance of existing roads. SB1524 builds on this historic relationship to continue improving military installation's infrastructure so they can keep protecting our communities and contributing to our local economies."

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