



Bills of Interest

April 12, 2019

State Budget

HB 1 – Zerwas – House Budget Bill

- House version allocates \$251 billion for the biennium; includes more than \$6.3 billion in new funding for public schools and \$2.7 billion for property tax relief
- Senate’s version allocates \$248 billion for the biennium; includes \$6.3 billion in new funding for public schools – with \$4 billion of that dedicated to teacher and librarian salary increases; includes \$2.7 billion for property tax relief
- Passed by House (3.28.19); passed by Senate (4.9.19)

SB 1 – Nelson – Senate Budget Bill

- Left pending in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 500 – Nelson – Supplemental Budget Bill

- Senate’s version is \$6 billion, with \$4.3 coming from the rainy day fund, and includes:
 - \$100 million for school safety
 - \$542 million for TRS pension plan and an extra payment for retirees
 - \$3 billion total for Hurricane Harvey costs, with \$900 million for schools
- House’s version is \$9 billion, with \$4.3 coming from the rainy day fund, and includes:
 - \$1.3 billion for TRS pension plan and an extra payment for retirees
 - \$2 billion for Hurricane Harvey costs, with \$900 million for schools
- Passed by Senate (3.13.19) and House (3.28.19)

School Finance

HB 3 – Huberty - School Finance Reform Bill

- Provides \$6.3 billion in new funds for public schools and \$2.7 billion for property tax reform
- Many components, including increasing basic allotment from \$5,140 to \$6,030 and compressing the tax rate to \$0.96
 - New and/or changes to allotments for Dyslexia, Compensatory Education, Bilingual, Career and Tech, Early Reading, Transportation, and New Instructional Facilities
 - Repeals High School Allotment and Gifted and Talented Allotment
 - Includes funding for full-day PreK
 - Dedicates portion of the basic allotment increase for raises for all full-time, non-administrative staff, approximately \$1,850
- Initial Northwest ISD impact/evaluation from the Legislative Budget Board:
 - \$13.8 million (2020) and \$11.6 million (2021) additional M&O Revenue
 - \$567 (2020) and \$454 (2021) increase of M&O Revenue per ADA compared to current formula
 - \$1.00 (2020) and \$1.01 (2021) decrease in tax rate compared to current \$1.04
- Passed by House (4.4.19); scheduled for Senate Education Committee hearing April 16

HJR 24 / HB 462 - Geren – 50% Cost of Education

- Proposes constitutional amendment requiring state to pay at least 50% of cost of maintaining and operating public school system
- Imposes a duty on the Legislature to set the basic allotment and guaranteed yield to accomplish covering 50% of the cost of public education
- Left pending in House Public Education Committee (3.19.19)

SB 3 – Nelson - \$5,000 Teacher Raise

- Dedicates \$4 billion for \$5,000 pay raise for teachers and librarians
- Passed by Senate (3.4.19), referred to House Public Ed Committee

SB 4 – Taylor – Senate School Finance Bill

- Senate’s School Finance Bill
- Referred to Senate Education Committee (3.11.19)

Academic Accountability

HB 108 – Gonzalez / SB 837 West - Digital Portfolio Pilot, Grades 3-8

- Establishes a pilot program to allow use of digital portfolios in grades 3-8 as a percentage of student performance on assessments
- HB 108 left pending in committee (2.19.19); SB 837 referred to Senate Education Committee (3.1.19)

HB 525 - Tinderholt – Limits State Tests to Federal Law

- Limits tests to those required by federal law
- Left pending in House Public Ed Committee (3.5.19)

HB 2113 – Krause – Limits High School Assessments

- Limits high school assessments to those required by federal law
- Requires TEA to develop means for districts to select and administer assessment instruments from nationally normed assessments (TSI, SAT, ACT, PSAT, etc.)
- Referred to House Public Ed Committee (3.6.19)

HB 736 - Landgraf - STAAR and Accountability

- Leaves the STAAR test in place but removes high-stakes attached to the exams
- Referred to House Public Ed Committee (2.21.19)

HB 1687 – White – Eliminates Non-Federal Law Assessment

- Eliminates all assessments that are not required by federal law
- Referred to House Public Ed Committee (3.4.19)

HB 2572 – Patterson – Portfolio Pilot – Social Studies & History, Grade 8

- Establishes a portfolio pilot program to assess student performance in eighth grade social studies and U.S. History EOC
- Referred to House Public Ed Committee, scheduled for public hearing on 4.16.19.

SB 96 - Menendez - Limits State Assessments to Federal Law, Grades 3-8

- Limits state-required assessments for students in grades 3-8 to those required by federal law
- Referred to Senate Education Committee (2.1.19)

HB 108 – Gonzalez / SB 837 West - Digital Portfolio Pilot, Grades 3-8

- Establishes a pilot program to allow use of digital portfolios in grades 3-8 as a percentage of student performance on assessments
- HB 108 left pending in committee (2.19.19); SB 837 referred to Senate Education Committee (3.1.19)

School Safety and Security

SB 21 – Huffman / HB 749 – Zerwas – Raising Age Limit to 21 for Cigarettes and E-Cigarettes

- Increases the age limit for purchasing and consumption of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and tobacco products to 21
- SB 21 passed by Senate (4.9.19); referred to House Public Health Committee (4.11.19)
- HB 749 passed by House Public Health Committee (4.3.19)

HB 17 – Bonnen – Broad School Security Bill

- Many components, including Commissioner to create standards to ensure a secure/safe environment and requirements for policy, training, and emergency operation plans
- Committee substitute creates a school safety allotment to be used to improve school safety and security through school infrastructure, equipment, as well as counseling and threat assessment costs
- Left pending in House Public Ed Committee (3.26.19)

HB 1754 – Bonnen – School Safety Allotment

- Provides annual school safety allotment of \$50, or greater by appropriation, for each student in ADA
- Funds to be used for securing facilities, providing security, and training
- Recapture districts entitled to a credit in the amount of the allotments to which they would be entitled to purchase attendance credits
- Left pending in House Public Ed Committee (3.26.19)

Other

SB 213 - Seliger – Individual Graduation Committees

- Permanently establishes individual graduation committees as a path to meet high school graduation requirements
- Passed out of Senate Education Committee (4.2.19); referred to House Public Ed Committee (4.12.19)

SB 12 – Huffman - TRS Pension

- Would make the Teacher Retirement System actuarially sound

- Increases state contribution from 6.8% to 8.25% by 2024, as well as increases school district and active employee contributions
- Provides all retirees \$500 bonus check
- Passed by Senate (3.25.19); passed by House Pensions, Investments and Financial Services Committee (4.4.19); placed on House calendar for 4.16.19

HB 9 – Bonnen - TRS Pension

- Increases state contribution to TRS from 6.8% to 8.8% (higher than SB 12), does not increase school district or active employee contribution
- Provides all retirees additional payment same amount as regular monthly annuity
- House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee reported favorably as substituted (4.11.19)