



Bills of Interest

May 3, 2019

Bills in maroon have been passed by both chambers

Bills in blue have been passed by the House or Senate chamber

Yellow highlight indicates bill activity during the preceding week.

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), House and Senate Conferees appointed

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); House and Senate Conferees appointed

SB 1 – Nelson – Senate Budget Bill

- Left pending in Senate Finance Committee.

School Finance

HB 3 – Huberty - School Finance Reform Bill

- House version 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

- Senate version has some similarities and differences:
 - Increases basic allotment from \$5,140 to \$5,880, less than House’s version, and compresses the tax rate to \$0.92
 - Includes \$5,000 salary increase for teachers and librarians
 - Moves to the use of current-year property values
 - Stipulates that Districts of Innovation cannot begin school before third Monday in August
 - Requires a STAAR writing component to all grades 3-8 assessments (currently just grades 4 and 7)
 - Requires assessments to be conducted electronically
 - Requires completion of FAFSA prior to graduating
 - Requires kindergarten reading assessment
- 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); passed by Senate Education Committee (5.1.19); scheduled to be heard on Senate floor (5.6.19)

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 (3.28.19)

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 4 – Taylor – Senate School Finance Bill

- Senate’s School Finance Bill
- Referred to Senate Education Committee (3.11.19); left pending in Senate Education Committee (4.25.19)

Academic Accountability

HB 3904 – Huberty – HB 22 “Clean-up” Bill

- Ensures that dual credit is counted as an accountability measure and adds in complete coherent industry certification course sequences, students who participate in extracurriculars, and ninth graders who are on track to graduate with their cohort
- For K-8, adds indicators accounting for students who participate in full-day pre-K, students who participate in math and literacy academies, and students who participate in extracurriculars.

- Limits how much test scores can count in each of the accountability domains, setting the cap at 50%. For the student achievement domain, 40% would be attributed assessments, 20% from high school graduation, and 40% from CCMR
- Changes accountability for dropout recovery schools
- Continues individual graduation committees
- Passed by House Public Ed Committee (4.17.19); passed to engrossment as amended (5.2.19)

HB 4242 - Bernal – Evaluation of STAAR

- Requires an assessment to be evaluated for readability within the grade level before being field-tested
- Removes the penalties associated with the 2018-19 STAAR
- Requires the STAAR in subsequent years not to be administered if the tests aren't readable
- Passed by House Public Ed Committee (4.24.19); scheduled for general state calendar (5.6.19)

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
- Passed by House Public Ed Committee (5.1.19)

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)

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)

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)

School Safety and Security

SB 11 – Taylor – School Safety

- Provides updates to district emergency operations plans, including training for substitutes, electronic communication device, and building standards
- Creates school safety allotment of \$50 per ADA
- Requires a local mental health authority to employ a mental health and substance abuse professionals for use by school districts
- Approved by Senate (4.29.19); scheduled for House Public Ed Committee public hearing (5.7.19)

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); passed by House Public Health Committee (4.24.19)
- HB 749 passed by House Public Health Committee (4.3.19)

HB 17 – Bonnen – Broad School Security Bill

- Many components, provides updates to district emergency operations plans, training requirements (including substitutes), electronic communication device for staff, and building standards
- Committee discussed substitute to create 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 by the Senate (4.11.19); passed by House (4.25.19); signed in House and Senate – sent to the Governor (4.29.19)

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 (4.25.19)

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
- Passed by House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee (4.15.19); companion bill CSSB 12 considered instead (4.24.19)