



Legislative Update & Bills of Interest

November 14, 2024

Legislative Update

- November 12 marked the first day legislators could file bills for the upcoming 89th Legislative Session.
 - 1,511 bills and resolutions were filed the first day – 1,100 bills by the House and 284 bills on the Senate.
 - 1,654 bills and resolutions had been pre-filed as of noon, November 15, with nearly 500 relating to education in some form.
- Important Dates
 - January 14, 89th Legislature Convenes
 - March 14, 60-day filing deadline, bills move through legislative process
 - June 2, last day of regular session
- State Comptroller Glenn Hegar projects the state will have a \$20 billion surplus.
- Following are initial bills of interest. These have not been analyzed - and will likely change during the legislative session – but are being provided for reference.

Bills of Interest

Election Related

[HB 217](#) – Harrison – Supermajority Vote to Raise Property Taxes

Relating to the vote required in an election to approve an ad valorem tax rate that exceeds a taxing unit's voter-approval tax rate; making conforming changes. Requires a 60-percent supermajority vote to raise property taxes.

[HB 919](#) – Harrison – Prevents Using Tax Dollars to Campaign

Relating to the offense of unlawful use of public funds for communications relating to a measure. Prevents tax dollars from being used to campaign for higher property taxes.

[HB 953](#) – Harrison – Prevents Bond Campaign Contributors from Profiting from Bond Projects

Relating to a prohibition on the receipt of bond proceeds by persons who make a contribution to certain political committees. Prevents contributors to bond campaigns from profiting from bond-funded projects.

Property Tax

[**HB 698**](#) – Harrison – Elimination of Property Taxes

Relating to the abolition of ad valorem taxes and the creation of a joint interim committee on the abolition of those taxes. Eliminates property taxes within five years. Establishes an interim committee of House and Senate members to determine how to replace lost property tax revenue.

Student Learning

[**HB 183**](#) – Patterson – State Board of Education Power to Prohibit Certain Library Materials

Relating to the regulation and the review of certain library materials included in public school libraries.

Vouchers

[**HB 212**](#) – Cain – Guardian Reimbursement for Private School

Relating to the establishment of a parental empowerment program administered by the comptroller of public accounts.