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Introduction

This is a summary analysis by the County's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA). It is not a complete analysis of all bills with potential county impact, nor is it list of every bill that may impact your department, agency or office.

The report is organized by Category and Bill Number. An explanation of the main headings in the report is as follows.

Category: Bold headings where bills are grouped. Categories appear in alphabetical order and within each category, the bills are in numerical order with House bills appearing first and then Senate bills. The intent is to guide the reader to his or her area or interest; however, some bills belong in more than one category so do not assume that all bills that impact your department or office can be found in a single category. With respect to categorization, the bill is placed where, in the opinion of the IGA Director, it had the most relevance for Tarrant County.

As examples:

HB2560: Authorizes Commissioners' Courts to establish a grant program for county roads. This bill could be in the **Appropriations & Grant Opportunities** category or the **Commissioner's Court & County Administration / Policy** category. The bill was placed in the Commissioner's Court category because it is a program that can be established by the Court.

SB8: Requires all counties to participate in the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement 287(g) program, and it establishes a state grant program to defray the cost of participation. Because Tarrant County already participates in 287(g), this bill was placed in the **Appropriations & Grant Opportunities** category rather than the **Law Enforcement** category.

SB746: The bill amends the Estates Code so it can be placed in the **Personal Property & Probate** category. However, it specifically relates to guardianship procedures and the preservation of a ward's estate. So, the bill was placed in the **Family Law & Juvenile Services** category.

Finally, the "Comprehensive Legislation," category includes several bills that are sweeping in their impact across county departments and offices as well as Texas Statutes.

Bill Number: The Texas House or Senate bill number and a short summary of the legislation. The full text of the bill, state fiscal and policy analyses, and public comments for every bill can be found at: https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx

Code(s): Specific section of Texas Code changed by the legislation. To read any specific section of code impacted by legislation, refer to this website: https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/

Direct Impact: County Departments Agencies, and Offices directly impacted by the Legislation in the opinion of the Director, IGA. Do not assume your office is not impacted if not listed.

- Note: For purposes of this report, Courts-at-Law" can indicate District or County Courts handling criminal or civil cases. There are some references to Family Courts and Probate Courts when it is clearer that those apply.

Other Impact: County Departments, Agencies, and Offices that may be impacted by the Legislation in the opinion of the Director, IGA

Opportunity: This category is filled in if the Director, IGA, assessed an immediate opportunity for additional revenue or economic growth.

Risk: This category is filled in if the Director, IGA, assessed an immediate risk to county personnel, revenue, or budget.

Status: The date the legislation is effective. If the field reads, "Effective," then the legislation is in effect.

List of Departments, Agencies, and Offices Impacted

County Departments / Offices Listed in the Report: Elected Offices & Other Agencies in Report:

Audit County Clerk

Budget Constables MHMR

Commissioners' Court CSCD

Communications Courts-at-Law

County Administrator District Attorney

County Engineer District Clerk

Domestic Relations Office Family Courts

Election Administrator Justices of the Peace

Economic Development Sheriff Magistrates

Emergency Management N. Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Tax Assessor

Facilities Probate Courts Regional Presiding Judge

Fire Marshal Regional Presiding Judge

Fleet Management Tarrant County HFC

Information Technology

Juvenile Services

Medical Examiner

Human Resources

Public Health

Purchasing

Transportation

Veterans' Services

Appropriations & Grant Opportunities

HB 500: Supplemental Appropriations

- \$13.3M in appropriation for the Tx Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to reimburse counties for the cost of holding juveniles for which TJJD does not have capacity to hold
- Grant Funding in the bill
 - \$100M for the Texas Historical Commission Courthouse Preservation Program
 - o \$11.6M for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute's Grant Management Program
 - o \$10M for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants for military/defense impacted communities
 - \$20M for higher education grants from the Governor's university research incentive program
 - \$64M for the Governor's office for disaster grants
 - \$95M from the office of the Governor for Economic Development grants to make grants to local units of government for preparations in advance of major events
 - \$5M from the office of the governor to equip motor vehicles used by peace officers with bullet-resistant components
 - \$100M from the general revenue fund for Strategy D.2.6, Community Mental Health Grant Programs, to establish a one-time community mental health program for county-based collaboratives with the following conditions: (A) a grant awarded under the program may only be used to construct jail diversion facilities, step-down facilities, permanent supportive housing, crisis stabilization units, and crisis respite units, not including office space; and (B) the grantee must provide a local match at least equal to the highest of the following applicable amounts: (i) 25 percent of the grant amount if the collaborative includes a county with a population of less than 100,000; (ii) 50 percent of the grant amount if the collaborative includes a county with a population of at least 100,000 but less than 250,000; or (iii) 100 percent of the grant amount if the collaborative includes a county with a population of 250,000 or more;
 - \$21.4M for IT and Capital Projects Oversight and Program Support for a grants management system for improving mental health outcomes
 - \$1.5M for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant program.
 - \$5.1M to the Office of Court Administration to issue grants to counties for indigent defense
 - \$250M to TxDOT for grants for railroad grade separation projects
 - \$220M for matching funds for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program
 - \$264M for matching funds for FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program

Code(s): Not applicable to an appropriations bill

Direct Impact: Budget, Juvenile Services

Other Impact: Audit, MHMR, Information Technology

Opportunity: potential funding for multiple county departments

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB1500: This bill is the sunset bill for the State Department of Information Resources. Within the bill are some provisions applicable to the county. Specifically, sec.783.052 STATE ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITY ADVERTISEMENT. The summary below only deals with state assistance opportunities. All County IT managers should review this legislation for its potential impact on their operations.

- (a) The comptroller, in coordination with the Department of Information Resources, shall develop an electronic advertising system to post a state assistance opportunity on the electronic state business daily in a manner that:
 - (1) provides a single location for all state agencies to post electronic summaries of state assistance opportunities
 - (2) provides a standard format for announcing a state assistance opportunity; and
 - (3) enables a person to search for a state assistance opportunity provided by a state agency.

(b) Also, an institution of higher education, a university system, or a health and human services agency may elect to post state assistance opportunity advertisements in the same manner as a state agency under this section.

The bill stipulates that the comptroller shall operate the electronic state business daily for state agencies and other eligible entities to advertise pre-solicitation notices, solicitations, [and] contract awards, and grants.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 656.0505-0506, 783.001-010, 2155.083, 2054.003,

Direct Impact: Budget (grants)

Other Impact: Information Technology

Opportunity: May be easier to be aware of and secure state funding

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2217: Establishes a grant program for law enforcement agencies to equip motor vehicles with bullet resistant windshields, windows, and door panels. Money for this grant program was provided in HB500.

Code(s): Government Code 772.013

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Constables

Other Impact: Budget (grants)

Opportunity: Additional Revenue Sources

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB4396: This bill added the American Rodeo at Globe Life Field in Arlington and the American Performance Horseman Event at Dickies' Arena to the major events reimbursement program

Code(s): Government Code 478.0001

Direct Impact: Budget (grants)

Other Impact: Sheriff

Opportunity: Grant Funding for Tarrant County Event

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1: The Biennial Appropriations Act

The Act has a specific set aside for Tarrant County.

Tarrant County Mental Health Capacity. (a) Included in amounts appropriated above in Strategy D.2.1, Community Mental Health Services, is \$5,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2026 to fund additional crisis stabilization facilities and services and provide additional inpatient competency restoration beds at the local mental health authority serving Tarrant County. (b) Any unexpended and unobligated balances remaining as of August 31, 2026, are appropriated for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2026.

Grant Programs and Funds in SB1 Include:

Within the Trusted Programs of the Office of the Governor:

- \$Approximately 89M per year in total funding for Grant Programs. Some of these grant programs are:
 - Anti-Gang activity program
 - Sex Trafficking Prevention Grant Program for Local Law Enforcement
 - Grants to upgrade local government technology infrastructure to improve coordination with Texas Dept of Public Safety and the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan. This is to help implement House Bill 33
 - Grants to Law Enforcement for bullet resistant personal body armor. This is to help implement House Bill 33
 - Grants for bullet resistant shields and training for Law Enforcement Agencies that may need to respond to school emergencies. This is to help implement House Bill 33
 - Grants to offset training for Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training offered by Texas State University. This is to help implement House Bill 33
 - o Grants to Law Enforcement for testing evidence related to crimes involving sex offenses
 - o Grants to establish Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) ready facilities
 - Grants to Law Enforcement, District Attorneys, and Medical Examiners for costs associated with genetic genealogical DNA analysis
 - Grants to counties for the implementation of programs related to the prevention of commercial, sexual exploitation of people
 - Grants to Local Law Enforcement for body-worn cameras
 - o Grants to local government for one-time expenditures on cyber-security services
 - The Project Safe Neighborhood grant program

Veterans Commission

- \$2.4M in grants available to local governments that provide temporary or permanent housing to Veterans and their families.

Health & Human Services

- \$10M for mental health services for veterans and their families IAW Government Code, section 531.0992
- \$45M for a grant program to reduce recidivism, arrest, and incarceration among individuals with mental illness and to reduce wait time for forensic commitment established pursuant to Government Code, Section 531.0993
- \$27.5M for a community mental health grant program established pursuant to Government Code, Section 531.0991
- \$19M for Healthy Community Collaboratives IAW Govt. Code 539.002
- \$14.7M for community based mental health treatment for children and families IAW Govt Code 531.09915
- \$1.5M to expand Jail Diversion Centers IAW Government Code 531.09936

Code(s): Not applicable to an appropriations bill

Direct Impact: Budget, MHMR, Sheriff

Other Impact: Audit

Opportunity: potential grant funding for multiple county departments

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB8: ICE 287(g) agreements. The legislation establishes a grant program for county sheriff departments to implement 287(g) agreements. Counties over 1 million in population are eligible to receive a grant up to \$140K. The Texas Comptroller is required to adopt rules necessary to implement the grant program

Code(s): Government Code Chapter 753

Direct Impact: Sheriff

Other Impact: Budget (grants)

Opportunity: Grant money to implement a program the county has had in place

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 1-1-2026

SB897: Lowers the grant match requirement for mental health programs serving veterans and their families from 100 percent to 75 percent for counties with over 250,000 residents.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 547.0304, 547.0305

Direct Impact: Budget (grants), Veterans' Services Office

Other Impact: MHMR

Opportunity: Grant funding for county veterans

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1555: Amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), for purposes of increasing public safety, enhancing economic development, and reducing traffic, to establish and administer a program to award grants to political subdivisions of the state to fund the following projects:

- Rail-roadway grade separation projects that are located at intersections of railroads and public roadways that are not part of the state highway system; and
- Rail-pedestrian grade separation projects that are located at intersections of railroads and public pedestrian crossings.

Grant fundings requires at least 10% of total project costs come from a source other than the State. The Texas Transportation Commission is required to develop rules necessary to implement the grant program no later than 1 Oct 2025.

Code(s): Transportation Code(s): 471.010

Direct Impact: Economic Development, Transportation, Budget (grants)

Other Impact: Audit

Opportunity: grant funding

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB2004: Adds the INDYCAR Grand Prix of Arlington to the list of events eligible for the Major Events Reimbursement

Program.

Code(s): Government Code 478.001

Direct Impact: Budget (grants)

Other Impact: Sheriff

Opportunity: Grant reimbursement

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2177: Creates a grant program to help local law enforcement solve violent and sexual offenses by funding personnel, forensic testing, technology, and records management. Requires grant recipients to report clearance rates, case resolution

times, and spending details. Prohibits reducing law enforcement funding because of grant awards. The Criminal Justice Division will track program results and may contract evaluations.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 772.00791

Direct Impact: Budget (grants), Sheriff

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: grants

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

Audit & Purchasing

HB3005: A bona fide dispute (over payments for goods and services) with respect to a contract for the construction of a public work does not include an audit of the public work project that continues for more than 60 days after the date of the substantial completion of the project. In other words, an audit that last more than 60 days does not grant a government entity authority to withhold payment

Code(s): Government Code 2251.002

Direct Impact: Audit, Purchasing

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB687: The bill extends to a contract for land surveying services to which a governmental agency is a party the applicability of the following provisions:

- Authorizes the government agency to require the applicable person name the agency as an additional insured under the person's general liability insurance policy and provide any defense provided by the policy.

- The requirement that the government agency require the applicable person to perform the services with a specified standard of care and as expeditiously as is prudent considering the ordinary professional skill and care of a competent person.

Code(s): Local Government Code, 271.904

Direct Impact: County Engineer, Purchasing

Other Impact: Audit

Opportunity: Increases liability protection for the county

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1173: Increases the competitive bidding limit from \$50K to \$100K and makes an exception for the purchase of items available from only one supplier (no limit in this case). The increased bid limit applies to the following:

- The purchase of one or more items under a contract that does not exceed \$100K
- Bids on contracts that involve the construction, repair, or renovation of a structure, road, highway or other improvement or addition to real property
- Purchases recommended by the county engineer if the commissioners court approves

Code(s):

- Local Government Code(s): 262.003(a), 271.024, 271.054

- Transportation Code(s): 451.110(c)

Direct Impact: Purchasing, Budget, County Engineer

Other Impact: Commissioner's Court, Facilities

Opportunity: Cost-savings and efficiency

Risk: N/A

Commissioners' Court & County Administration/Policy

HB1522: Says that all meetings of a government body must be posted in a readily accessible place 3 business days before the scheduled date. Has more specific posting requirements if the government meeting involves the discussion or adoption of a budget, to include a taxpayer impact statement.

Code(s): Government Code 551.043

Direct Impact: County Administration, Communications, Budget, Information Technology

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2253: Authorizes a government authority that ordered an election on a bond measure to cancel that election in certain circumstances

Code(s): Election Code 2.081

Direct Impact: Election Administrator, Commissioners' Court

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB2560: Grants Commissioner's Courts authority to establish an "Adopt a County Road Program," to accept donations for road repairs and maintenance. The bill amends Subchapter A, Chapter 256, of the Transportation Code, by adding Section 256.011, as follows:

Sec. 256.011. ADOPT-A-COUNTY ROAD PROGRAM.

- (a) Authorizes the commissioners court of a county to enter into a partnership agreement with a person under which:
- (1) the person donates a gift or grant of funds to repair and maintain a section of a county road; and
- (2) the county install signs as public recognition that funding for the repair and maintenance of the section of county road has been provided by the person.
- (b) Requires the commissioners court of a county to determine the amount of a donation, gift, or grant required for a person to be recognized
- (c) Provides that funds received by the county through a partnership agreement under this section are authorized to be used only for the repair and maintenance of the county road that is the subject of the agreement, including uses described by Section 256.003 (Use of Revenues from County and Road District Highway Fund).

Code(s): Transportation Code 256.011

Direct Impact: Transportation, County Engineering, Budget, Audit, Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: Revenue for road maintenance

Risk: N/A

HB3112: Permits government bodies to discuss cybersecurity measures, policies, or contracts intended to solely protect critical infrastructure in closed meetings. Information regarding same, including information on insurance regarding cybersecurity for critical infrastructure, does not have to be released under Public Information Act. If the disclosure of information is required to comply with state or federal law, then the government body must notify the person who owns the information and any person who is the subject of the information.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 551.0761, 552.1391

Direct Impact: County Administrator, Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: Information Technology

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB3234: This bill amends Section 245.007(a), Local Government Code, and makes it applicable to all counties of more than 1 million people. Previously, this section of code was bracketed for Harris County only. The section has to do with the Construction and Renovation Work on County-Owned Buildings and Facilities. The code that now applies to Tarrant County is: A political subdivision may not require a county to notify the political subdivision or obtain a building permit for any new construction or any renovation of a building or facility owned by the county if the construction or renovation work is supervised and inspected by an engineer or architect licensed in this state, but this does not exempt a county from complying with the building standards of the political subdivision during the construction or renovation of the building or facility.

Code(s): Local Government Code 245.007(a)

Direct Impact: County Administration, County Engineer, Facilities, Fire Marshall

Other Impact: Budget

Opportunity: This bill preempts all municipal regulations or permitting over county owned buildings. This may provide significant savings to the county.

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3711: This bill adds the Attorney General's office to the list of offices receiving a copy of a report alleging that a government entity violated the Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551 of Government Code). The bill provides the AG's office more oversight and control of how investigations and prosecutions of the Open Meetings Act proceeds.

Code(s):

Code(s) of Criminal Procedure: 2A.067, 2A.112

Government Code: 402.02801

Direct Impact: County Administration, District Attorney

Other Impact:

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

HB4214: The stipulates that not later than October 1 of each year, each government body shall notify the attorney general of the current mailing address and electronic mail address designated by the government body under Subsection (c) of Government Code, Section 552.234 for receiving written requests for public information.

Code(s): Government Code 552.234

Direct Impact: County Administration, Communications

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB4219: This bill relates to request for public information and authorizes the following

- Requestors may submit claims to the attorney general if they believe a government body failed to respond to a request for public information
- If the A.G. determines the claim is valid, then he shall require the public information officer of the government body to attend open records training.
- Government bodies may not charge the requestor a fee for producing open information related to a request.
- A government body that seeks to withhold information in response to a request must request an A.G. decision in accordance with Government Code 552.301 not later than the 5th business day after the request is made.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 552.221, 552.301(b), 552.328

Direct Impact: County Administration, Communications

Other Impact: All Elected Offices in the County

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB5534: This bill allows a County Clerk to post an official and legal notice of a government meeting, to include the agenda for a meeting of the Commissioner's Court by electronic display instead of posting a physical document. The bill also stipulates that the county government body shall post notice of each meeting on:

- (1) a bulletin board at a place convenient to the public in the county courthouse; or
- (2) An electronic display as provided by Section 82.051, Local Government Code

Code(s):

- Local Government Code 82.051(b)
- Government Code 551.049

Direct Impact: County Clerk, County Administrator

Other Impact: Budget, Communications, Information Technology

Opportunity: Reduce printing

Risk: N/A

SB1062: Allows counties to post public notices in a digital newspaper as an alternative to print. The digital newspaper must have an audited paid-subscriber base, have operated for at least three years, employ staff in the jurisdiction, report on local events and government activities, provide news of general interest within the jurisdiction, and update news at least weekly.

Code(s): Government Code 2051.044

Direct Impact: Communications, County Administration

Other Impact: Budget, County Clerk, Purchasing

Opportunity: Reduce cost of posting notices

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB2284: The bill specifies how and whether counties may regulate matters related to firearms, air guns, archery equipment, and other weapons and related supplies.

Code(s): Local Government Code, 229.001, 235.042, 236.002

Direct Impact: Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: County Administrator

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Non-compliance, need to review any existing county policy or regulation for compliance

Comprehensive Legislation

HB33: Relating to active shooter events and other emergencies and the accreditation of agencies that respond to emergencies.

- Creates grants for first responders and telecommunicators to attend training.
- Requires Sheriff to coordinate exercises with Tx DPS.
- Requires county government to implement plans in coordination with the State Department of Emergency Management and Health and Human Services Commission
- Requires counties have written policies for active shooter emergencies
- Requires school districts and public junior colleges to meet with law enforcement to go over emergency operation plans
- Establishes reporting and evaluation requirements for law enforcement and Emergency Management Services (EMS) personal that respond to active shooter events
- Requires active shooter training for law enforcement and EMS
- Requires law enforcement agencies to provide tactical gear for at least 20% of its officers or at least 5 officers (whichever is greater)
- Requires all counties to have a Public Information Officer trained in emergency communications
- Requires mutual aid agreements between Tx DPS and local law enforcement
- Mandates mental health services for first responders involved in active shooter events

Code(s):

- Education Code(s): 12.104(b), Chapter 37 (multiple sections), 51.217(b), Chapter 96
- Government Code(s): Chapter 411, 418, 772
- Local Government Code 85.024, Chapter 391
- Occupations Code, 1701.163, 1701.273, 1701.3526

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Emergency Management, Budget (cost and grants), Communications

Other Impact: Commissioner's Court, MHMR

Opportunity: Grant funding available to implement this legislation. See grant program summaries for HB500 and SB1.

Risk: Unfunded Mandates
Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB9/SJR5: Bail reform. This is a comprehensive package of legislation. Some but not all the provisions are:

- Prosecutors have 10 business days to enter pretrial intervention conditions into the appropriate Tx Department of Public Safety database.
- Magistrates in counties of 200,000 or more are prohibited from granting bail to defendants if the defendant:
 - o was on release on bail, parole, or community supervision for a felony
 - o has already been convicted of two or more felonies
 - o is subject to an immigration detainer
 - is charged with murder, capital murder, aggravated kidnapping, or aggravated sexual assault
- All orders of a magistrate granting bail must state the names of all persons who appointed the magistrate.
- Felony bail decisions by magistrates appointed by county judges may be reviewed by any district judge in the county of venue and must be done not later than 1 business day after request.
 - District judges may order a defendant be rearrested and confined
- Requires confinement between plea of guilty and sentencing for any no-probation-by-judge offense.
- Grants broader right of appeal to prosecutors if bail granted in aggravated offense.
- Grants prosecutors right to appeal insufficient bail in felony cases where a defendant was already out on bail for a different felony
- Require details about any pending charges, including if the defendant is out on bail or in a pretrial intervention program, and the conditions of that release or program.
- With respect to pretrial intervention programs, it requires the state attorney to send the program conditions to the county sheriff within one business day after the defendant enters the program. The sheriff must update the statewide law enforcement database with this information within 10 days. Also requires court judgments to include any related findings.
- Allows a judge or magistrate to order the arrest of a defendant and require a new bond at any time during the case, regardless of whether the defendant was previously released.

- Requires written findings of fact if a magistrate finds no probable cause for an arrest.
- Prohibits appointed magistrates from modifying the amount or conditions of a bond set by a district judge.
- Requires magistrates to consider public safety reports before releasing a felony arrestee on bail
- Requires charitable bail organizations to file monthly reports with the Office of Court Administration
- Expands the list of offenses for which an arrestee may not be released on a personal bond to include:
 - Murder as the result of manufacture of delivery of a controlled substance
 - Violation of court orders or conditions of bond in a family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking, or trafficking case
 - Unlawful possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony
 - Any defendant charged with a terroristic threat offense punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or any higher category of offense, regardless of whether the defendant is on bail or community supervision for an offense
 - Any defendant charged with committing any offense punishable as a felony, assault, deadly conduct, or disorderly conduct involving a firearm while released on bail, parole, or community supervision.

According to the Tarrant County Criminal Courts Division, there will be a specific budgetary impact related to software that arises from this bill. Specifically:

A new requirement of the bill is, "the names of each individual who appointed the magistrate" must be included in every order setting bail signed by an appointed magistrate (i.e., the Tarrant County Criminal Law Magistrates appointed under Government Code Chapter 54)

All county magistrates were appointed by a different group of judges. For example, Magistrate Felipe Calzada was appointed by 20 criminal judges (before Tarrant County got an 11th felony court). Only 8 of those 20 still serve. So, any bail order signed by Magistrate Calzada would have a list of 20 names different from the list of 21 names that would go on a bail order signed Magistrate Sarah Sherman who just appointed last month.

Bail orders are created through a program called TechShare. It is not set up to accommodate this change. In the past, Techshare considered these types of fixes to system orders to be "development" and to refuse to make the change based on a stated lack of funds. Now that this is a legislative requirement, a solution to the problem must be determined and paid for to bring the courts into compliance.

SJR5 Amends the Texas Constitution, Article 1 to expand the options available to officials setting bail to include the option to deny bail under certain extraordinary circumstances. Specifically, the joint resolution gives magistrates the ability to deny bail to individuals accused of committing:

- (1) a sexual offense punishable as a felony of the first degree
- (2) a violent offense as defined by the Texas Constitution; or
- (3) continuous trafficking of persons.

For bail to be denied for one of these offenses, a judge or magistrate must determine by clear and convincing evidence that the denial of bail is necessary to ensure either the person's appearance in court, the safety of the community, law enforcement, or the victim of the alleged offense. A judge or magistrate who denies bail is required to issue a written order laying out their findings of fact and explaining why the denial of bail is necessary.

Code(s):

- Code(s) of Criminal Procedure 16.24, 17.021, 17.022, 17.027, 17.029, 17.03, 17.071, 17.092, 27.20, 42.01, 42.0195, 44.01, 56.051(a)
- Government Code 72.038
- Human Resources Code 51A.003(b)
- Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 11d

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, Magistrates, Sheriff, CSCD, Budget, District Attorney, District Clerk

Other Impact: Family Courts

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: SB9 is Effective 9-1-2025 except Articles 16.24, 17.021(c-1), (h), and (h-1), and 17.027(c) and (d), Code of Criminal Procedure, and Section 72.038(c-1), Government Code, as added by this Act, take effect January 1, 2026, and Articles 17.021(b) and 17.027(a) and (a-1), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended or added by this Act, take effect April 1, 2026. SJR5 will be subject to the voters on Nov 4, 2025

SB293: A comprehensive Judicial Conduct and Compensation Reform bill that increases district and business court judges base salary from \$140K to \$175K, as well as compensation for appellate judges and local administrative judges. The bill mandates quarterly work reports, prohibits private reprimands, and expands sanctions for persistent bail violations. It requires public notice of major reprimands and adds disciplinary grounds related to substance abuse.

The bill is supported by SB 1 which appropriates over \$120 million across multiple agencies to fund a 25% judicial and prosecutor pay increase, transparency system upgrades, and related retirement adjustments.

Code(s):

Government Code(s) 22.302(a), large changes to Chapter 33, 72.0396, 73.003(e), 74.055(c), 659.012, 6565.052(b), 814.103, 820.053(c), 834.102, 837.102-103, 840.1027(b),

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, District Clerk, Budget, District Attorney, Regional Presiding Judge

Other Impact: Commissioner's Court

Opportunity: The punitive measures in the bill are intended to incentivize district court judges to clear cases more quickly. If this occurs, it should offset the cost of bail reform provisions in SB9. Furthermore, the county can update its policies for county judges to align them with state policy, so the pay and performance incentives align.

Risk: Not updating pay rates and policies for county court-at-law judges.

Status: Effective 9-1-2025, exception Section 30 which is effective

County Engineer & Land & Water Issues

HB1238: Relates to the application for a permit for a disposal well. The bill allows TCEQ to authorize an engineer or geoscientist in the state to do the inspection

Code(s): Water Code 27.016

Direct Impact: N/A

Other Impact: County Engineer

Opportunity: May be an opportunity to do work on a reimbursable basis for TCEQ

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2512: The bill adds new exclusions to limit release of areas from Fort Worth's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), including land under active development agreements, lots less than 12 acres, and platted subdivisions of 25 or more lots. The bill expands the military base proximity area subject to release by petition from five to fifteen miles. States that any landowner in an area to be released from a municipality's ETJ may petition to remain.

Code(s): Local Government Code(s): 42.023, 42.101, 42.151, 42.152, 42.157

Direct Impact: N/A

Other Impact: Economic Development, County Engineer

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3071: Requires Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to cancel solid waste disposal [landfill] permits if the facility has not accepted waste for 25 consecutive years. This bill was written specifically for Tarrant County and the City of Fort Worth. The bill was filed because an applicant sought to reactivate an old TCEQ permit to open a six-acre recycling center. However, in the two decades since the site's landfill permit was active, the surrounding area experienced significant residential development and residents have expressed concerns regarding their environment, health, safety, and quality of life.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code 361.1201

Direct Impact: County Engineer

Other Impact: Public Health

Opportunity:

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB4630: This bill Applies TCEQ regulations to artesian wells drilled outside groundwater conservation or subsidence districts and repeals certain provisions related to well regulation.

Code(s): Water Code(s) 7.142(a), 11.2011

Direct Impact: County Engineer

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB7/HJR7: These bills are a comprehensive package of changes related to the oversight and financing of water infrastructure. The Texas Water Development Board is given executive authority over the legislation's implementation. There are aspects that may be relevant to county government. Specifically:

- Rule changes on water development projects
- Facilitate interoperable standards between water districts so there is interconnectivity
- Creation of the 'New Water Supply for Texas' fund to provide assistance to political subdivisions for the development of water and wastewater reuse projects and reservoir projects

Code(s):

- Water Code(s): Adds Subchapter H to Chapter 6 and amends dozens of sections of the Water Code
- If passed, HJR7 will amend Article 3 of the Texas Constitution

Direct Impact: N/A

Other Impact: Economic Development, County Engineer, Commissioners' Court

Opportunity: The bill is intended to encourage the development of water resources backed by the newly created Texas Water Development Fund. When paired with economic development opportunities, there may be opportunity to grow county water resources and its tax-base

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025 except Sections 1.04, 1.06, and 1.09 take effect September 1, 2027, but only if HJR 7 is approved by the voters on 11-4-2025

SB565: If a water supply, sewer, wastewater treatment, or solid waste disposal service operated by or for a municipality, county, regional service area, or unincorporated service area being integrated into a regional water supply, sewer, wastewater treatment, or solid waste disposal service administered by another entity, including a retail public utility, the Tx Natural Resource Conservation commission may enter into a compliance agreement with the regional service under which the commission will not initiate an enforcement action against the regional service for existing or anticipated violations resulting from the operation by the regional service of the service being integrated.

Code(s): Water Code(s): 7.0026(b) (c)

Direct Impact: County Engineering

Other Impact: Commissioners' Court, County Administrator

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1202: This bill allows for 3rd party review of development documents and inspection for home backup power installation without submitting requests to regulatory authorities. Requires a regulatory authority post on the authority's Internet website each law, rule, standard, fee schedule, and other document necessary for a person to review a development document or conduct a development inspection; or provide an electronic copy of the same information not later than the second business day after the date the regulatory authority receives the request. If not provided, the 3rd party will use the standards provided in section 233.153 of Local Government Code

Code(s): Amends chapter 247 of Local Government Code

Direct Impact: County Engineer

Other Impact: Fire Marshal, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1566: This bill applies to counties because of Local Government Code 212.012(b)(5). The bill states that an entity (i.e. a county) otherwise prohibited from serving or connecting any land with water, sewer, electricity, gas, or other utility service may serve or connect land formerly located in a municipality's ETJ regardless of whether the entity is presented with or otherwise holds that certificate, under the following conditions:

The land was removed from a municipality's ETJ under statutory provisions relating to the following:

- The release of an area by petition of a landowner or resident from an ETJ; or
- The release of an area by an election from an ETJ; and
- The entity holds a certificate of convenience and necessity to serve the land.

Code(s): Local Government Code(s): 212-012(c)

Direct Impact: Economic Development, County Engineering, Fire Marshall

Other Impact: Commissioners' Court

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: The risk is more to the City of Fort Worth because the city can be required to provide services to homes formerly in the city's ETJ if the city hold a certificate of convenience and necessity for the land formerly in its' ETJ.

Status: Effective

SB1583: Requires groundwater conservation districts to develop and amend management plans using the best available data, including the most recently approved desired future conditions and corresponding modeled groundwater availability; mandates plan amendments within two years of adopting desired future conditions; allows administrative completeness of plans during challenges to desired future conditions if specific information is included; and requires the executive administrator to approve management plans within 60 days if administratively complete.

Code(s): Water Code(s): 36.1071-1072

Direct Impact: County Engineer, North Tarrant Groundwater Conservation District (NTGWCD)

Other Impact: Economic Development

Opportunity: The county is currently working on an interlocal agreement with the NTGWCD on the review of groundwater availability certifications (GACs) required for plat applicants if a subdivision of property is using groundwater as their source. This may give the county an opportunity to have influence on the management plan that has to be developed.

Risk: N/A

Courts-at-Law Administration/Policy

HB40: On the establishment of Business Courts to provide a specialized forum for business litigation. The bill specifies that business court judges must maintain chambers in the most populous county within their division or an adjacent county. Additionally, the chief justice may approve the chamber location, and the Office of Court Administration can contract for the use of facilities with any government unit. Counties must provide courtrooms and facilities equivalent to those of district courts. Counties may seek reimbursement based on the market rate calculated by the Texas Facilities Commission for courtroom usage. Business courts will require security personnel. Officers providing security are entitled to state reimbursement. Sets the pay for business court judges equivalent to district court judges (i.e. \$25K contribution from county per Tx. Government Code 659.012).

Code(s):

- Civil Practices and Remedies Code(s): 41 sections of the bill change this code

- Government Code(s): 21.010(a), 25A (multiple subsections), 37.001(a), 71.011-013, 74.003(b), 74.055(c), 74.141, 411.171(4-b), 659.012

Direct Impact: Budget (cost), District Clerk, Regional Presiding Judge, County Administration

Other Impact: Sheriff (security)

Opportunity: state reimbursement

Risk: unfunded mandates / capital costs

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB793: Requires courts to protect the mailing address and county of residence of an applicant for or person protected by a protective order upon request. At a hearing on an application for a protective order, the court shall inform each person present at the hearing of the person 's right, on request, to have information excluded from the protective order and specifically ask the person if the person wishes the court to exclude that information from the protective order. Requires clerks to strike personal information from public information of the court if applicable and to maintain confidential records for use only by the court.

Code(s): Family Code 82.011, 85.007, 87.004

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, Family Courts, District Clerk, County Clerk

Other Impact: Sheriff, Budget (maybe)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Failure to coordinate and maintain confidentiality requests between courts or other entities who have a need to know about the protective orders.

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB1445: Currently, state law allows only a judge or the managed assigned counsel (MAC) director to approve any payments to attorneys representing indigent individuals. The size and volume of payment approvals in larger counties has created an administrative burden for the MAC director. If the director is unavailable, attorney payments could be unreasonably delayed. H.B. 1445 allows the director of the (MAC) program the option to establish a designee to assist in approving payments to attorneys if necessary. The bill also amends the compensation of counsel appointed to represent and service indigent individuals in criminal and juvenile proceedings.

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure 26.05(c)

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law (Office of Attorney Appointments)

Other Impact: Juvenile Services

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2017: Related to increased criminal penalties and eligibility for community supervision, mandatory supervision, and parole for certain persons convicted of intoxicated manslaughter.

Code(s):

- Penal Code: 49.09(b-2)

Code of Criminal Procedure 42A.059Government Code 508.145, 508.147

Direct Impact: CSCD, Courts-at-Law, Sheriff, Magistrates

Other Impact: Budget (cost) may increase jail population

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2073: Increases criminal penalties for violations of court orders or conditions of bond in cases that involve family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse.

Code(s): Penal Code(s): 25.07(g), 25.072(e)

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, Family Courts, District Clerk

Other Impact: CSCD

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2282: Requires a defendant convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor to pay certain reimbursement fees to defray the cost of the services provided in the case by a peace officer. Raises fee from \$50 to \$75, for executing or processing an issued arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine for certain services.

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure 102.011(a)

Direct Impact: Justices of the Peace, Constables, Sheriff, Courts-at-Law

Other Impact: County Clerk, District Clerk, Budget, Audit

Opportunity: Increase fees (more revenue)

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2348: Allows courts to order video-recorded depositions for elderly or disabled witnesses in criminal cases. Expands conditions under which written or recorded depositions can be used in the court. Requires authentication of video recordings and permits offering them into evidence without full playback

Code(s): Code(s) of Criminal Procedure 39.025, 39.12

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, District Clerk

Other Impact: Budget (may be a cost-saver for the Prosecutor's office)

Opportunity: Maybe some cost savings for the Prosecutor's office

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2637: Relates to the practice and procedures for summoning or exempting prospective grand jurors and petit jurors. There are also several changes to the duties and responsibilities of the district clerk included in the bill.

Code(s):

- Code(s) of Criminal Procedure: 19A.051(c), 19A.101, 19A.105-107

- Government Code(s): 62.001(a), 62.102, 62.106(a), 62.108-109, 62.113-115

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, District Clerk

Other Impact: Budget (costs)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB53: This bill amends the Health and Safety Code, as follows.

- It **authorizes** a person to file a mental health court proceeding notice with the County Clerk by use of reproduced, photocopied, or electronically transmitted copies of the original signed copies.
- It requires a person who files a reproduced, photocopied, or electronically transmitted paper to maintain possession of the original signed copies and to make the originals available for inspection by the parties or the court on request.
- **It deletes** existing text authorizing a person to file a paper with the County Clerk using reproduced, photocopied, or electronically transmitted paper if the person files the original signed copies of the paper with the clerk not later than the 72nd hour after the hour on which the initial filing is made.
- **It deletes** existing text requiring that written orders declare that an emergency exists because of the weather or the occurrence of a disaster.
- It deletes existing text authorizing a person to be detained until the expiration of the extended filing period. It cleans up inconsistencies in the Health & Safety Code

Code(s): Health and Safety Code(s): 571.013, 571.014(c)

Direct Impact: County Clerk, Constables, Sheriff

Other Impact: Courts-at-Law

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB487: Extends confidentiality protections to victims of invasive visual recording and indecent assault by extending the definition of "victim" to include individuals subjected to invasive visual recording and indecent assault.

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure, Subchapter D, Section 58.151

Direct Impact: District Clerk, Courts-at-Law, District Attorney

Other Impact: Family Courts

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB664: The bill adds statewide qualifications for magistrates, including:

- Being a resident of the state and county in the magistrate is appointed.

- Being licensed to practice law in the state and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas.

- To have not been defeated for reelection to a judicial office.

- To have not been removed from office or resigned in lieu of removal from office.

The bill reiterates that magistrates must remain up to date on the required training regarding bail (new standards of SB9 will apply). To ensure proper oversight and accountability, the bill clarifies magistrates' eligibility for certain removal provisions and directs the local administrative judge to have oversight. The bill does not strip county authority to have additional qualifications, oversight, duties, and other governing provisions if they are following statewide standards.

Code(s): Government Code, Chapter 54, Subchapter A

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, Magistrates

Other Impact: District Clerk

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1537: Requires an interpreter, in any criminal proceeding, when a motion for appointment of an interpreter is filed by any party or on motion of the court if the court determines that a person charged, or a witness does not understand and speak the English language.

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure: 38.30(a)

Direct Impact: Courts-at-Law, Budget (Cost)

Other Impact: District Clerk, Family Courts, District Attorney

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective Immediately

Economic Development

HB14: Creates Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Office with \$350M grant fund; clarifies terminology, duties, legislative oversight, reimbursement rules, project siting, and sunset review. Includes grant evaluation criteria to include applicant quality, resource access, permit status, creditworthiness, and project readiness, environmental impact, and local support.

Code(s): Government Code(s): Adds Chapter 483

Direct Impacts: Budget (grants) and Economic Development

Other Impact: Commissioners' Court

Opportunity: Energy Supplies through grant funding

Risk: None

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB21: Restricts the activities of housing finance corporations (HFCs) to the geographic boundaries of their sponsoring municipality or county unless approved by the affected local governments. It requires HFCs comply with open meetings and records laws, authorizes HFCs to issue bonds under specified geographic limits, and establishes detailed conditions for ad valorem tax exemptions on multifamily developments, including income and rent restrictions, tenant protections, and annual compliance audits by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The bill phases in these provisions, applies them to developments based on acquisition and issuance dates, and requires HFCs outside their authorized areas as of September 1, 2025, to obtain local approvals by January 1,2027, in order to maintain tax exemptions.

Code(s): Local Government Code, Chapter 394

Direct Impact: Economic Development, Housing, Tarrant County HFC

Other Impact: Budget, Audit, Commissioners' Court

Opportunity: None

Risk: May force Tarrant County HFC to change how it does business

Status: Now

HB206: Prohibits counties from requiring cash bonds as a condition for approving pipeline construction. Still allows for alternative forms of financial assurances, such as performance bonds. Further, pipeline companies that prefer to use cash bonds would still have the option to do so voluntarily.

Code(s): Local Government Code: 240.911

Direct Impact: Budget (risk management)

Other Impact: Economic Development

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9/1/2025

SB480: Authorizes local governments to enter into agreements with other governmental entities to participate in joint research or planning regarding water resources.

Code(s): Government Code(s): Adds Section 791.038

Direct Impact: Economic Development, Commissioners' Court

Other Impact: County Engineering, Public Health

Opportunity: To promote coordination and to achieve cost savings through economies of scale via joint research and planning projects related to water supply, infrastructure, drought response, and flood plain management.

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB1106: Sets a seven-day timeline for all public entities to add information about the creation of a public improvement zones on its websites and share that information with the central appraisal district.

Code(s): Local Government Code(s): Section 372.013

Direct Impact: Economic Development, County Administrator

Other Impact: Tax Assessor, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 1-1-2026

SB1261: Authorizes political subdivisions to issue bonds to finance water projects included in the state water plan, with a focus on large projects costing at least \$750M. Sets terms for issuing and securing bonds. Establishes the maximum maturity of bonds as 40 years or the project's useful life.

Code(s): Government Code(s): Chapter 1373, Water Code(s): 15.435(c)

Direct Impact: Economic Development

Other Impact: County Engineer, Budget, Commissioners' Court

Opportunity: Tools to finance water development projects in cooperation with the State.

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1883: Authorizes local governments to impose an impact fee on new development to recoup the cost of capital improvements or facility expansions necessitated by and attributable to the new development. The law requires political subdivisions to issue public notices and hold hearings before adopting or updating impact fees. Political subdivisions must also appoint an advisory committee and prepare a capital improvement plan with land use assumptions before adopting an impact fee. Forty percent of the advisory committee must include representatives of the real estate, development, or building industries. If the political subdivision, however, has a planning and zoning commission, the commission may act as the advisory committee. A political subdivision is not limited to how frequently it may increase an impact fee.

Code(s): Local Government Code(s): 395.043, 395.051(a), 395.053-054, 395.058-059

Direct Impact: Economic Development

Other Impact: Budget, County Engineer, Facilities, Commissioner's Court

Opportunity: Revenue to recoup the cost of county financed development projects

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

Elections

HB521: On accommodating voters with a disability and relating to rules at polling places. Provisions include:

- No loitering or electioneering within 20 feet of a parking space designated for curbside voting
- No loitering or electioneering within 100 of entry doors to a polling place
- Requires voting officers to deliver ballots to voters at the polling place entrance or curb if requested
- Requires polling places have a parking space designated for curb side voting
- Requires the curb side parking space have a sign clearly visible that includes a phone number a voter can call in order to request assistance

Code(s): Elections Code(s): 61.003(a), 64.009, 64.0322, 85.036(a)

Direct Impact: Election Administrator

Other Impact: Budget (cost)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Recruiting enough poll workers to accommodate these new requirements

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3697: Changes the requirements for how an early voting ballot to be voted by mail must be printed.

Code(s): Election Code 84.011(b)

Direct Impact: Election Administrator

Other Impact: Budget (cost)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB510: Authorizes the Secretary of State to withhold state funds under Chapter 19 of election code (financing voter registration) if the voting registrar in a county is not removing voters from the voter roll in a timely manner.

Code(s): Election Code(s): redesignates 16.039 as 12.007 and amends 12.007

Direct Impact: Election Administrator

Other Impact: Budget (cost)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Compliance

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB827: The intent of the bill is to strengthen election integrity by expanding the hand count audit process for electronic voting systems. The bill increases the scope of manual audits, requiring the general custodian of election records to conduct a hand count in a randomly selected percentage of polling locations and precincts, including mail-in ballots.

Code(s): Election Code(s): Section 127.201, 127.302

Direct Impact: Election Administrator

Other Impact: Budget (cost)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB985: Allows a commissioner's court or a political party's county executive committee to merge precincts to reduce election costs if the precinct has fewer than 3,000 registered voters.

Code(s): Election Code(s): 42.0051

Direct Impact: Election Administrator, Budget

Other Impact: Commissioner's Court, County Clerk

Opportunity: Cost savings from combining precincts

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2166: Requires additional testing procedures for voting tabulation equipment and electronic pollbook systems. Creates more stringent requirements for testing equipment used in elections, including tests conducted before, during, and after ballot counting at central counting stations and polling places. Introduces new standards for the testing process, including the use of test ballots, electronic media, and hash validation to ensure the integrity of the voting equipment and source code. Mandates that public notice be given before the logic and accuracy test and requires the creation of standardized procedures for testing electronic pollbooks. The bill also introduces penalties for public inspection violations of test materials and clarifies the procedure for retesting after a failure. Provides for a detailed public test of logic and accuracy for voting systems and establishes protocols for unsealing and inspecting test materials post-election.

Code(s): Election Code(s): Chapter 127 and 129

Direct Impact: Election Administrator, Budget (Cost)

Other Impact: County Clerk, Communications, Information Technology

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2216: Requires that equipment used in the operation of a voting system be stored in a locked room and that the inventory of storage media maintained include information on the polling location where the storage media will be used. Security seals must be placed on each unit of voting system equipment to prevent unauthorized access to the equipment. The general custodian of election records shall create a procedure for documenting which seals are placed on each unit of voting system equipment and any instances where the seals are removed, including the identity of the individual who removed the seals and accessed the voting system equipment and the purpose for accessing the equipment.

Code(s): Election Code(s): 123.034, 129.051

Direct Impact: Election Administrator, Budget (cost)

Other Impact: Information Technology

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2217: Requires the custodian of election records, no later than the 30th day after election day, to reconcile the total number of votes cast and the total number of voters accepted to vote by personal appearance at each polling place in the custodian's county during the early voting period and on election day respectively. The bill requires the custodian post the results of reconciliation on the county's website in the same location that the county provides information on election results. Also, many other changes regarding provisional ballots, and the responsibilities of election judges and etc.

Code(s):

- Election Code(s): 15.025, 31.014, 63.0011(b), 65.057, 66.005-006, 121.003, 127.1302, 127.333

Direct Impact: Election Administrator, Budget (cost)

Other Impact: Communications, Information Technology

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2753: The bill makes comprehensive changes to Election Code. A summary of the changes are:

- The gap between early voting and election day is removed so there is a single voting period that runs from the second Monday prior to election day through election day. This includes weekends and holidays.
- 9 hours per day for early voting which can begin no earlier than 6AM and must end no later than 10PM
- Specifies requirements to be eligible to vote by mail
- Allows voting precincts that contain less than 3,000 registered voters to be combined with others to defray the cost of the election so long as the combined precinct is less than 5,000 registered voters.
- Subject to requirements of federal and state law, allows for combined precincts up to 10K registered voters if the county does not utilize countywide polling or for primary elections in which precinct voting is required
- Requires publicly posting vote totals for each candidate and each measure on a ballot by polling location
- Makes changes to when and how ballots can be counted whether manually or by automatic equipment.
- The Secretary of State has until 1 Aug 2027 to adopt rules and procedures for implementing this act.

Code(s): Election Code, multiple sections

Direct Impact: Election Administrator

Other Impact: Budget (Cost and Savings), Commissioner's Court, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: The bill allows for the same precinct combinations as SB985 under the countywide polling program; however, if the Commissioner's Court wanted to return to precinct voting, then greater combinations may be possible and that would result in elections that are less expensive to run. Savings may be possible in primary elections. The bill requires the Secretary of State to consult with County election officials in the drafting of rules and procedures.

Risk: Cost increases given the potential labor required to maintain one continuous voting period from the beginning of early voting up to election day. Securing and deploying equipment in the change over from early voting to election day. Securing legal election locations given the requirement that voting centers be open for nine hours per day and on weekends and holidays.

Status: Effective 9-1-2025. County implementation is dependent on Secretary of States rules and procedures which must be issued prior to 1 August 2027.

Family Law & Juvenile Services

HB109: Authorizes the Tx. Dept. of Family and Protective Services to designate state facilities as residential treatment facilities for emotionally disturbed juveniles

Code(s): Health and Safety Code: 551.007, 554.001-002

Direct Impact: Juvenile Services

Other impact: MHMR

Opportunity: Not presently, but maybe in the future if the legislature appropriates funds against this authorization to expand

Juvenile service facilities

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB1734: The bill adds to the documents a court clerk must transfer electronically when a parental termination case is

transferred

Code(s): Family Code 155.207(a)

Direct Impact: District Clerk

Other Impact: Family Courts, Domestic Relations Office

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2340: Requires training every two years for child custody evaluators who evaluate children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Requires that certain records be made available on written request from an attorney for a party, a party who does not have an attorney, and any person appointed in the suit in which an

evaluator conducted an evaluation.

Code(s): Family Code(s) 107.104, 107.112, 107.114

Direct Impact: Domestic Relations Office

Other Impact: District Clerk, Family Courts

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2350: Modifies standing in suits affecting the parent-child relationship, including who may file for conservatorship or adoption. Expands rights for relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity while removing some previous eligibility criteria. Clarifies intervention rights for foster parents, relatives, and designated caregivers.

Code(s): Family Code 102.003, 102.0035(a)(e), 102.004-006

Direct Impact: Family Courts, Domestic Relations Office, District Clerk

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2524: The bill amends multiple sections of the Tx. Family Code and authorizes the award of attorney's fees and court costs in some, but not all, litigation under the Family Code.

Code(s): Family Code(s): There are 55 sections in the bill that amend or add to sections of the Family Code

Direct Impact: Family Courts, District Clerk

Other Impact: Budget

Opportunity: More revenue for Family courts, District Clerk

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2530: Makes a lot of changes to Family Code with respect to the roles and responsibilities of amicus attorneys appointed by the court in suits affecting the parent-child relationship

Code(s): Family Code(s): 107.001(1), 107.003(a), 107.007(a), 107.009, 107.024-027

Direct Impact: Family Courts, District Clerk, Domestic Relations Office

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3153: Requires certain residential treatment facilities, juvenile detention centers, and shelters to conduct criminal history reviews and employment verifications for all employees, volunteers, and independent contractors who may have direct contact with children. Prohibits hiring or retaining individuals with convictions or prior terminations related to child abuse. Mandates regular electronic updates from the Department of Public Safety on arrests and convictions. Requires training on abuse recognition, reporting procedures, and maintaining professional relationships with children. The training to each employee, volunteer, or independent contractor who may be placed in direct contact with a child must include recognition of the signs of physical and sexual abuse and reporting requirements for suspected physical and sexual abuse, and the facility's policies for maintaining professional and appropriate relationships with children.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code Chapter 811

Direct Impact: Human Resources, Juvenile Services

Other Impact: Budget, Sheriff, MHMR

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Compliance risk given timelines to implement (Sep 1 at latest), unfunded mandate

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3181: Amends and adds to multiple sections of family code. The topics covered include:

Contempt of court for the denial of court-ordered possession of or access to a child

- The appointments of conservators

- Eligibility for community supervision for people found in contempt of court

- Prohibitions on waiving attorney fees and costs

Code(s): Family Code(s): 156.107, 157.165, 157.167-168

Direct Impact: Family Courts, District Clerk, Domestic Relations Office

Other Impact: CSCD

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3783: Prohibits family courts from ordering counseling in which the person conducting the counseling requires:

- The isolation of the child by prohibiting or preventing contacting with a parent or other family member.
- A child to stay overnight or for multiple days in an out-of-state location or other location.
- The transportation of the child by force, threats or coercion
- The temporary or permanent change in the periods of possession of or access to the child; or,
- The use of force, threats of force, coercion, or verbal abuse against a child.

The bill requires a mental health professional providing counseling to have training in the dynamics of family violence and requires the court to consider the history of domestic violence or sexual abuse in determining whether to order family counseling and prohibits the court from ordering victims to participate in any counseling with the offending party.

Code(s): Family Code 153.010

Direct Impact: District Clerk, Family Courts, Domestic Relations Office

Other Impact: MHMR

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB746: Amends the Estates Code to refine guardianship procedures. Authorizes private process servers to serve citations for temporary guardianship. Clarifies the role of a guardian ad-litem in protecting the interests of an incapacitated person. Prohibits individuals with adverse interests from contesting guardianship-related matters or seeking removal of a guardian. Requires guardians of an estate to preserve the ward's estate plan if consistent with the ward's best interests and to obtain court approval before altering beneficiary designations or closing accounts. Establishes court procedures for approving or rejecting annual guardianship accounts and reports, requiring timely resubmission if disapproved.

Code(s): Estates Code(s): 1002.013, 1054.051(a), 1054.054(b). 1054.056(a), 1055.001(b), 1163.005, 1163.104,

Direct Impact: County Clerk, District Clerk

Other Impact: Family Courts, Probate Courts, Constables

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

SB1141: Requires Dept, of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to inform individuals under investigation of their rights before conducting interviews. Requires courts verify in writing and in open court that DFPS provided the required notice before considering evidence.

Code(s): Family Code, adds Section 262.2011

Direct Impact: Family Courts, District Clerk

Other Impact: Domestic Relations Office

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1403: Requires court to consider due process requirements for notice. Makes several changes to child support enforcement procedures and AG's representation. If the AG has contracted with an attorney or political subdivision for child support service, a court may dismiss a claim against the attorney or political subdivision under same conditions for dismissing claims against AG. Permits court clerk to collect fee upon the filing of an administrative adjustment order.

Code(s): Family Code(s): 201.1045, 231.002, 231.016, 231.1015-1016, 231.104, 231.109, 231.121, 232.006, 233.006-007, 233.0155, 234.012.

Direct Impact: Family Courts, District Clerk

Other Impact: Domestic Relations Office, District Attorney, Sheriff

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1559: This bill requires the mandatory transfer of a protective order to the court overseeing a related divorce or suit affecting the parent-child relationship if the case is filed after the protective order is issued. This ensures that one court has the authority to align the protective order with its rulings in the custody or divorce case, eliminating conflicts and improving legal consistency. By consolidating authority within the court responsible for determining the child's best interests, the bill enables modifications to protective orders to reflect changes resulting from ongoing legal proceedings.

Code(s): Family Code(s): Adds section 81.012 and Amends 85.026 and 85.064

Direct Impact: Family Courts, District Clerk

Other Impact: Domestic Relations Office

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Fire Marshal

HB554: Allows Commissioner's Court to approve the sale of fireworks between June 14 and June 19.

Code(s): Occupations Code(s): 2154.202(g)

Direct Impact: Fire Marshal, Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: Sheriff (law enforcement?)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Weighing business interests against public safety

Status: Effective

HB3687: On requirements to be certified as a Fire Marshal and related personnel.

Code(s):

Health and Safety Code: 775.1025Local Government Code: 352.0125

Direct Impact: Fire Marshal, Human Resources (new requirements for hiring people in certain jobs)

Other Impact: Commissioners' Court

Opportunity: The quality of people should increase as this bill seeks to professionalize many of the positions in the Fire Marshal's office

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3824: This bill seeks to increase the safety of battery storage facilities with a capacity of one megawatt hour or greater and a commercial operations date that occurs on or after January 1, 2027. The bill directs the State Commissioner of Insurance to adopt standards for storage and inspection of battery energy storage facilities in accordance with NFPA fire safety standards and the Underwriters Laboratories standards for design, installation, operation, and safety of battery energy storage facilities. The bill states these standards must be followed when applying for a permit to the relevant political subdivision. The bill states that local government entities may not adopt any rule inconsistent with the standard the Commissioner of Insurance establishes.

Code(s):

- Utilities Code Chapter 187

Government Code 417.010

Direct Impact: Fire Marshal, County Engineer

Other Impact: Economic Development, Commissioner's Court

Opportunity: Battery energy storage facilities are a growing industrial solution for the requirements of data processing centers required for the A.I. industry. This will be a growth industry.

Risk: N/A

HB5084: This bill expands fireworks sales, with Commissioner's Court approval, to five days before Lunar New Year up to midnight on the day of the Lunar New Year. For 2025, the Lunar New Year has already passed. For 2026, the Lunar New Year is 17 Feb.

Code(s): Occupations Code 2154.202(g)

Direct Impact: Fire Marshal, Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1177: Requires fire safety inspections at public and private schools, including charter schools, to include checks on automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to ensure they are not expired. Mandates that inspection reports document findings and how and when school administrators were notified. Updates training requirements for fire protection personnel to include conducting fire safety inspections at schools.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 419.029, 419.909

Direct Impact: Fire Marshall

Other Impact: Budget (Cost)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Human Services/Vital Records & Statistics

HB229: Requires government entities that collect vital statistics information in order to comply with antidiscrimination laws or for gathering public health, crime, economic, or other data to identify everyone as either male or female.

Code(s): Government Code 311.005, 2051.251-252

Direct Impact: Human Resources, County Clerk, Tax Assessor

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB331: Provides that a firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician who suffers an acute myocardial infarction or stroke resulting in disability or death is presumed to have suffered the disability or death during the course of employment as a firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician if:

- (1) the firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician was engaged in a situation that involved stressful or strenuous physical activity involving fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, law enforcement, or other emergency response activity; and
- (2) the acute myocardial infarction or stroke occurred not later than eight hours after the end of a shift in which the firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician was engaging in the activity described does not include clerical, administrative, or nonmanual activities.

Code(s): Government Code: 607.056

Direct Impact: Human Resources, Sheriff

Other Impact: Fire Marshal, Constables, Budget (potential costs)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB334: Allows Commissioners' Courts to establish a County Employee Family Leave Pool Program, so employees may voluntarily transfer sick or vacation leave to a shared pool. Employees can contribute leave and use the pool for specific reasons such as childbirth, adoption, serious illness, or pandemic-related circumstances. The withdrawal process requires documentation, and there are limits on the amount that can be withdrawn. Time taken from the pool is treated as earned sick leave, and there is no entitlement to unused pool time by a deceased employee's estate

Code(s): Local Government Code: Chapter 157

Direct Impact: Human Resources, Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: Authorizes additional employee benefits program

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB762: Limits severance pay for employees and contractors of political subdivisions (i.e. county government) to a maximum of 20 weeks' compensation funded by tax revenue and prohibits severance pay when an employee or contractor is terminated for misconduct. Requires the county to post severance agreements on its public facing website.

Code(s): Local Government Code(s): 180.011

Direct Impact: Human Resources and any other county offices that manage employment agreements or contracts or payroll independent of the County Human Resources Department

Other Impact: Budget, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB1193: Requires the county clerk to provide a printed box on the marriage declaration that allows either party to check, "Yes, please keep the identifying information on this form confidential."

Code(s):

Family Code(s): 2.402(b), 2.406 Health & Safety Code: 194.004

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: Budget (costs for new forms?)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB1306: This bill adds medical examiners, coroners, and justices of the peace to the list of eligible employees entitled to reimbursement of medical expenses incurred in treatment for prevention of a disease. This includes preventative immunizations. Also, if a public safety employee suffers a serious bodily injury in the scope of employment, then the county and insurance carrier shall accelerate and give priority to an investigation professional's claim for medical benefits, including all health care required to cure or relieve the effects naturally resulting from a compensable injury. Code(s):

Government Code(s): 607.001-004, 615.003 Labor Code(s): 415.021(c-2)504.057

Direct Impact: Human Resources, Budget, Medical Examiner, Justices of the Peace

Other Impact: Any other public safety officers covered by the changes to existing government code

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2513: Relates to a paid leave of absence for public employees who are engaged in certain military service.

Code(s): Government Code 437.202

Direct Impact: Human Resources (policy/payroll) and all County Offices not under the management of the County **Human Resources department**

Other Impact: Budget

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: 9-1-2025

HB3686: Changes requirements for the contents of I.D. cards issued to retired peace and law enforcement officers.

Code(s): Government Code 614.124

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Fire Marshall, Constables

Other Impact: Human Resources, County Clerk, Tax Assessor

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB4144: This bill requires state and governmental entities to provide a supplemental benefit to retired firefighters and peace officers diagnosed with cancer or stroke within 3 years of retirement. Benefit is lesser of annual salary at retirement or \$100,000, adjusted for inflation every 10 years. A government entity is exempted if the retiree is already offered comparable health coverage. The basis for inflation is the State Commissioner of Worker's Compensation.

Code(s): Government Code Chapter 607, Subchapter D

Direct Impact: Human Resources, Budget

Other Impact: Sheriff, Constables, Fire Marshall

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB4466: This bill requires the state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk, on request of a county or a child welfare board appointed by the commissioners' court of a county under Section 264.005 (County Child Welfare Boards) of the Family Code, to issue without a fee a certified copy of a birth record to the county or board if the request is related to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity under Subtitle E (Protection of the Child), Title 5 (The Parent-Child Relationship and the Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship), Family Code

Code(s): Health & Safety Code(s): 191.0046

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: Domestic Relations Office, Budget

Opportunity: This should result in a cost savings as it requires the State serve County requests

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2237: Requires a political subdivision that enters into an employment agreement, renewal, or renegotiation of an existing employment agreement, that contains a provision for severance pay with an employee to include the following:

- A requirement that severance paid from tax revenue may not exceed the amount of compensation the employee would have been paid for 20 weeks, excluding paid time off or accrued vacation leave; and
- A prohibition on severance pay when the employee is terminated for misconduct.

The bill requires a political subdivision to post each severance agreement on its website. The bill prohibits a court from issuing a writ of execution or mandamus in connection with a judgment in an action brought against a political subdivision by an employee of the political subdivision arising from the termination of the person's employment.

Code(s): Local Government Code, Chapter 180

Direct Impact: Human Resources

Other Impact: Budget, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Information Technology

HB3512: The bill requires local government to identify employees and elected and appointed officials who have access to a local government computer system or database and use a computer to perform at least 25 percent of the employee's or official's required duties; and, require the employees and officials identified to complete a cybersecurity training program certified under Section 2054.519 of Government Code. If this requirement is not met, then the local government entity will not be able to apply for grants under Chapter 772.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 772.012, 2054.5191, 2054.5193, 2056.002

Direct Impact: Budget (grants), Information Technology, Human Resources

Other Impact: All departments and elected offices

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Loss of grant eligibility

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1079: Authorizes the commissioners' court of a county to order the destruction of a sensitive media device that is salvage or surplus property and for which the commissioners' court determines that the destruction of the device is necessary to prevent inadvertent disclosure of information.

Code(s): Local Government Code, adds section 263.1521

Direct Impact: Information Technology, Commissioner's Court

Other Impact: County Clerk, District Clerk

Opportunity: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1964: Requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to establish an AI system code of ethics for use by state agencies and local governments that procure, develop, deploy, or use AI systems. The AI system code of ethics must include guidance for the deployment and use of AI systems that aligns with the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0) published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The bill defines a "heightened scrutiny AI system" as an AI system specifically intended to autonomously make, or be a controlling factor in making consequential decisions, excluding an Al system intended to do the following:

- perform a narrow procedural task:
- improve the result of a previously completed human activity;
- perform a preparatory task to an assessment relevant to a consequential decision;
- detect decision-making patterns or deviations from previous decision-making patterns.

Code(s): Government Code Chapter 2054

Direct Impact: Information Technology

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Law Enforcement

HB45: On prosecuting human trafficking offenses, grants the State Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute human trafficking offenses if a law enforcement agency submits a probable cause report to both the local prosecutor and the AG and six months pass without the local prosecutor initiating action.

Code(s):

- Government Code: Chapter 402, Subchapter D

- Penal Code: 20A.05

Direct Impact: Sheriff, District Attorney

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB75: On the duties of a magistrate; not later than 24 hours after the time a magistrate determines that no probable cause exists to believe that a person committed the offense for which the person was arrested, the magistrate shall enter in the record written findings to support that finding.

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure: 15.17

Direct Impact: Magistrates, District clerk

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB742: Requires fire protection, emergency medical services personnel, and any peace officer that performs law enforcement duties to attend training prepared by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission on identifying, assisting, and reporting victims of human trafficking.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code, Chapter 763

Direct Impact: Fire Marshal

Other Impact: Sheriff, Constables, Budget

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB1024: A law enforcement agency shall execute, as soon as practicable, a warrant that is directed to the agency and issued for the return of a releasee in the super-intensive supervision program based on a violation of a condition of parole or mandatory supervision related to the electronic monitoring of the releasee.

Code(s): Government Code: 508.2525

Direct Impact: CSCD, Sheriff

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB1261: Adjusts procedures for the disposition of unclaimed or abandoned property seized by peace officers. Adds requirements for notifying property owners via certified mail or online posting, with a 90-day window for claiming the property before disposal. Introduces new publication requirements for property valued at \$500 or more, including notice in a local paper or online. Specifies that proceeds from the sale of unclaimed property will be deposited into the treasury of the municipality or county, after covering storage and sale costs

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure 18.17(a)-(d)

Direct Impact: Sheriff

Other Impact: Budget (Cost), Communications, Constables, Information Technology

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2492: Requires the head of an arresting agency to hold a person for certain family violence offenses for 4 hours after bond is posted if there is probable cause that the violence will continue if the person is released.

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure: 17.291(b)

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Magistrates

Other Impact: District Clerk, Courts-at-Law, District Attorney

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB3464: The bill enhances penalties faced by correctional officers found guilty of smuggling and selling narcotics in correctional facilities. The bill enhances the penalty from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony, and, in cases that the inmate who received the narcotics dies from an overdose, a first-degree felony carrying a sentence of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Code(s): Penal Code: 38.11,

Direct Impact: Sheriff

Other Impact: District Attorney

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

HB4264: Authorizes law enforcement agencies to apply for a one-time award of up to \$6,500 for individual peace officers who hold a master proficiency certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under section 1701.402 of the Occupations Code.

Code(s): Government Code 772.013

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Fire Marshal, Constables

Other Impact: Budget (grants and awards)

Opportunity: To reward and incentivize outstanding performance

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB608: Requires Tx. Department of Public Safety to report to the Governor, Lt. Governor and legislature annually on the number of evidence collection kits that a law enforcement agency did not take possession of within seven days after the agency is notified by a heath care facility that medical examination to collected evidence of a sexual offense has been performed or 14 days if the health care facility is more than 100 miles from the law enforcement agency.

Code(s): Government Code 420.034

Direct Impact: Sheriff

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB761: Aims to provide meaningful access to justice for victims of sexual violence, including:

- Right to meaningful notice: Survivors would be given at least five days' notice that a plea bargain hearing has been set, rescheduled, or canceled, in addition to other relevant court proceedings.
- Right to be informed that the prosecutor does not represent the victim. The victim would be informed early in the criminal case that the state's attorney is not their attorney
- Right to counsel: Clarifies that victims may have an attorney assert their rights on their behalf.
- Right to an advocate: This imposes consequences on Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)-Ready facilities that do not offer survivors the opportunity to have an advocate present during the forensic exam. Consequences could include loss of SAFE-Ready designation and a civil penalty.
- Additionally, the bill allows victims to have an advocate or attorney present in an investigative interview, even when that interview takes place outside of a law enforcement agency (i.e., via an adult forensic interviewer).

Code(s): Code of Criminal Procedure Article 26.13(e), 56A.051(a), 56A.351, 56A.3515, 56A.451, 56A.452, 56A.453, 22.011(c).

Direct Impact: District Clerk, Courts-at-Law

Other Impact: District Attorney, Sheriff

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1164: Expands criteria for emergency detention and court-ordered mental health services by allowing severe emotional distress and deteriorating mental condition to be considered when determining if a person cannot remain at liberty. Requires

peace officers and emergency medical services personnel to file an emergency detention notification immediately upon transport. Clarifies that facilities cannot require additional paperwork beyond the standard notification form. Updates procedures for court-ordered inpatient and mental health services, including expert testimony and evidence of deterioration in decision-making capacity.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code(s): Multiple Changes to Chapter 573 and 574

Direct Impact: Sheriff, District Clerk, Courts-at-Law

Other Impact: Budget, MHMR

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1333: Presenting false or fraudulent documents related to real property is now a class A misdemeanor. The fraudulent sale or rental of residential real property is now as a first-degree felony. Establishes procedures for property owners or their agents to request the sheriff or a constable to remove unauthorized occupants from residential properties. The sheriff or constable is required to verify complaints, serve notice to vacate, and may charge a fee like executing a writ of possession. Liability protections are provided, including immunity for sheriffs concerning property damage during removals and limited liability for property owners regarding personal property loss during the process.

Code(s):

Penal Code(s): 28.03(b), 32.56, 32,57 Property Code(s): Adds Chapter 24b

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Constables, Justices of the Peace

Other Impact: County Clerk, Budget

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1723: Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a pilot program to optimize the process of reporting DNA records and to decrease the number of arrests for which a DNA sample is not collected and analyzed by law enforcement agencies. Not later than September 1, 2025, DPS shall update information technology systems as necessary to support the pilot program; and not later than September 1, 2026, DPS shall implement the pilot program in two counties as determined by DPS. DPS is authorized to expand the pilot program to additional counties and authorizes DPS and each law enforcement agency participating in the pilot program to consult with the FBI regarding rapid DNA analysis. Not later than January 1, 2028, DPS shall review the pilot program and submit a written report to the legislature with recommendations for its continuation or expansion. The bill authorizes DPS to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source to fund the pilot program; and adopt rules as necessary to implement the program. The bill defines "rapid DNA analysis" as the fully automated processing of a reference buccal swab sample to provide a DNA record that is eligible for comparison in the CODIS database in not more than two hours without submitting the sample to a crime laboratory.

Code(s): Government Code 411.141-144, 411.146, 411.146-7

Direct Impact: Sheriff

Other Impact: Budget (grants), District Attorney

Opportunity: The bill's sponsors are from Jefferson and Dallas Counties so it is assumable that is where the pilot programs will be; however, nothing says Tarrant County cannot be a part of this pilot during its implementation.

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB2569: Removes the reporting requirements for each state law enforcement agency and each county or municipal law enforcement agency in a county or municipality with a population greater than 150,000, that used or operated an unmanned aircraft during the preceding 24 months:

- Issue a written report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature.
- Retain the report for public viewing; and
- Post the report on the law enforcement agency's publicly accessible website, if one exists.

Now, the law only requires a law enforcement agency post a report regarding the agency's use or operation of unmanned aircraft on the agency's publicly accessible website or, if the agency does not have a publicly accessible website, otherwise make the report available to the public.

Code(s): Government Code 423.008

Direct Impact: Sheriff

Other Impact: Constables, Budget (cost)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

Personal Property & Probate

HB2468: Allows a purchaser to terminate a contract of purchase of real property if there was failure to provide notice that the property is in a public improvement district. This right applies if the municipality or county filed a copy of the service plan with the county clerk in accordance with Section 372.013 (Service Plan), Local Government Code, before the date the contract was entered into.

Code(s): Property Code: 5.0141

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: Economic Development

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB3421: Fixes an error that required clerks to electronically send a will when a probate case is transferred. Permits clerks to use any qualified delivery method for an original will if a paper copy to prove an original cannot be produced. The transfer requestor is responsible for covering costs.

Code(s):

- Estates Code(s): 33.105, 256.156, 256.202, 309.051(a), 309.052, 354.001(b), 452.006(c), 453.003(a)

Government Code: 80.002(b)

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: Probate Courts, Budget (possible savings)

Opportunity: Savings

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB4063: The bill requires a person who files for recording a unilateral memorandum of contract concerning residential property to provide to **the county clerk** the person's mailing address and a certificate of mailing that complies with relevant property code for recording the unilateral memorandum of contract; and then, send a copy of the filed memorandum and a letter notifying the owner of the property of the filing of the memorandum. This must be done by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the property and any mailing address shown for the owner on the filed memorandum, in the real property records for the property, or in the records of the relevant appraisal district with respect to the property

Code(s): Property Code: 12.020

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB4350: Allows peace officers to request their personal information, specifically social security numbers, driver's license numbers, and residential addresses, be redacted from online real property records. The bill requires the following:

- The county clerk shall, on receipt of a written request from a peace officer as described by Article 2A.001 (Peace Officers Generally), Code of Criminal Procedure, or a person having power or authority under Article 2A.002 (Special Investigators), omit or redact from an instrument available in an online database made public by the county clerk, or
- By a provider with which the county commissioners' court contracts to provide the online database, the social security number, driver's license number, and residence address of those persons requesting
- Requires a county clerk or provider with which the county commissioners' court contracts who omit or redact information from an instrument on the Internet website to provide to the public a clear and conspicuous statement that, in accordance with state law, information has been redacted from certain instruments in the database and the online database does not constitute the official repository of real property records and may not reflect the complete or unaltered contents of those records.

Code(s): Property Code 11.008

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: Sheriff, Fire Marshall, Constables, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

SB17: This bill prohibits certain foreign individuals, organizations, and governments from purchasing or acquiring real property. The restrictions apply to entities associated with countries identified by U.S. Intelligence agencies as national security risks except for U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents and those purchasing residential homesteads or entering short-term leases.

Code(s):

Civil Practices and Remedies Code 64.001(a)

Property Code(s) 5.005, Subchapter H

Direct Impact: County Clerk, Probate Courts

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Implementation and interpretation of this statute

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB38: This was referred to as the squatter's bill. It amends, revises, removes, and repeals provisions regarding the eviction process in Texas with respect to the following general matters:

- jurisdiction and venue (justice courts)
- computation of time
- the authority to modify or suspend eviction procedures.
- the notice required before filing an eviction suit
- the petition to initiate an eviction suit
- rules of court
- procedures applicable in a suit to evict and recover unpaid rent
- electronic proceedings
- summary disposition and trial
- appeals to county courts
- appeal bonds for certain evictions suits
- contest of appeal bonds
- tenant appeal on the inability to afford payment of court costs

payment of rent during an appeal of evictiona tenant's failure to pay rent during appeal

- a writ of possession

nonlawyer representation

Code(s): Property Code(s): Significant rewrite of Chapter 24

Direct Impact: Justices of the Peace, County Clerk, Constables

Other Impact: Budget (maybe cost), Probate Courts

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 1-1-2026 except Section 16 which takes effect 9-1-2025

SB503: The bill requires the Texas Animal Health Commission to create an online platform to house registered brands in a centralized database and ensure they remain accessible to law enforcement, producers, and county clerks. The bill does not alter the role of county clerks. It simplifies the process of brand registration.

However, the county clerk is required to make and keep an electronic record of the marks and brands of each person who applies to the clerk for recording of a mark or brand and deliver it to the Texas Animal Health Commission.

For law enforcement, the intent is to be able to identify stray or stolen livestock quicker, reducing the need to hold animals for extended periods and expedite the return of livestock to their rightful owner.

Code(s): Agriculture Code(s): Sections 144.001(a), 144.041 (a) (c) (f) (h), 144.042, 144.044(a) (d), 144.101, 144.102, 161.002(a)

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: Sheriff, Budget (may cost money to comply)

Opportunity: The bill requires electronic registration if not already in use

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB647: Requires clerks who believe a filed or recorded document conveying an interest in real or personal property is fraudulent to notify affected parties and seek assistance from county or district attorneys before filing or recording. Presumes documents are fraudulent if they originate from unrecognized courts, lack required consent, or are filed by inmates. Allows clerks to request supporting documentation from filers and refuse filing if probable fraud exists or documentation is not provided. Grants immunity to clerks in filing or refusing documents under these provisions.

Code(s): Government Code 51.901, Civil Practices and Remedies Code 12.003(b)

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: District Attorney, Probate Courts

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB693: The bill says that a person commits a class A misdemeanor if, as a notary public, the person performs any notarization with knowledge that the signer, grantor, maker, or principal for whom the notarization is performed did not

personally appear before the notary public at the time the notarization is executed. If the document being notarized involves the transfer of real property or any interest in real property, then the offense is a felony. The bill tells the Secretary of State to establish rules and education requirements for appointments and reappointments as a notary public.

Code(s): Government Code, Subchapter A, Chapter 406

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: District Attorney, Probate Courts

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1448: Revises the requirement for the clerk of the court from which a probate proceeding is transferred to a court in another county to send to the clerk of the court to which the proceeding is transferred certain probate proceeding information by doing the following:

- Removes the requirement for the clerk to send a copy of the original papers filed in the transferring court using the state's electronic filing system; and
- Allows for a qualified delivery method for the original will, or the paper copy of the will offered to prove a will that cannot be produced in court, as applicable.
- Requires the applicant who requested to transfer a probate proceeding, if applicable, to pay that delivery cost.

Code(s): Estates Code(s): 33.105, 51.057, 256.156, 256.202, 309.051(a), 309.052, 354.001(B), 452.006(C), 453.003(A), Government Code 80.002(b)

Direct Impact: County Clerk, Probate Courts

Other Impact: Budget (potential savings)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1734: Establishes procedures for addressing fraudulent documents or instruments purporting to convey title to or an interest in real property, allowing property owners who suspect fraud to file a verified petition for expedited judicial review without testimony or notice, and enables district courts to issue *exparte* rulings on the validity of such documents; it creates a presumption of fraud for documents filed by inmates or associated with criminal conduct, requires recording and notice of court findings, exempts filing fees, and protects bona-fide purchasers and mortgagees.

Code(s): Government Code(s): 51.901(c)

Direct Impact: County Clerk, Probate Courts

Other Impact: Courts-at-Law

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2550: Amends the Natural Resources, Property, and Water Code to exempt a transfer of a ground or surface water rights from required disclosures applicable to the transfer of interests in real property: Some notices exempted are:

- Notice regarding possible municipal annexation under the Property Code;
- Notice of obligation to pay public improvement district assessments under the Property Code; and

- Notice regarding a property's location in a certificated service area of a utility providing water or wastewater service under the Water Code and charges for such service

Code(s):

- Property Code, 5.011(c), 5014(c)

- Water Code, 13.257(c)

- Natural Resources Code, 33.135(a),

Direct Impact: County Clerk

Other Impact: County Engineer

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Public Health

HB519: States that a local government authority or local health department may not regulate the production of honey or honeycomb at a honey production operation. A honey production operation is defined as a beekeeper that sells or distributes honey or honeycomb that the beekeeper produces, and which is raw and not blended with any other product.

Code(s): Health and Safety Code(s) 437.001(7), 437.0197-0199

Direct Impact: Public Health

Other Impact: Economic Development, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Opportunity: Beekeeping businesses!

Risk: Public Safety (those beekeepers that don't really know what they are doing)

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB2844: Exempts all food producers whose annual revenues are less than \$1.5M from local public health inspections and fees if they have a state license. Creates a state-wide mobile food vendor licensing system. Preempts local prohibitions or conflicting regulations of food producers. Repeals all prior laws regulating mobile food producers.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code(s): 437.0063, 437B, 437.0055(a)

Direct Impact: Public Health

Other Impact: Budget, Audit (revenues)

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: This bill eliminates county oversight, inspection, and permitting of food producers which is defined as a person who grew, raised, processed, prepared, manufactured, or otherwise added value to the food product the person is selling.

Status: Effective 7-1-2026 except Section 437B.004 of the Health & Safety Code which is effective 9-1-2005

SB541: Expands the definition of cottage food production operations to include nonprofit organizations. Increases the annual gross income limit of a cottage food operation to \$150,000. Prohibits local governments from requiring permits or licenses and mandates penalties for violations. Prohibits local governments from employing a person who requires a cottage food producer to obtain a license or permit. Required cottage food vendors to display disclosures and register with the Department of State Health Services.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code(s): 437.001 (2-b) (3)(5-a), 437.0196(a) redesignated to 437.001(8), 437.0191, 437.0192, 437.0193, 437.0194, 437.01953, 437.01955, and 437.01965

Direct Impact: Public Health

Other Impact: Budget (fees, maybe), Economic Development

Opportunity: Expands business opportunities

Risk: public health risks

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB1008: Restricts localities from charging fees higher than those set by the state for food service permits (except for counties more than 2 million people which can charge 20% above the state rate). Prohibits counties from requiring additional permits or certifications not required by the state. Requires local entities to notify stakeholders of any changes to fees or regulations 60 days prior to revisions. Removes the ability of counties and municipalities to enforce sound regulation permits for food establishments operating in compliance with noise standards. Prohibits local governments from collecting local food and alcohol fees from a single business. Prohibits local government entities to require food managers pay a local fee or get a local permit when already certified by the state.

Code(s): Health & Safety Code(s): Multiple sub-sections within section 437 and section 438.1055, Civil Practices and

Remedies Code(s): Chapter 102A

Direct Impact: Public Health, Budget, Tax Assessor

Other Impact: Audit

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: To the Public Health Department

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

Tax & Appraisal Bills

HB9/HJR1: Provides a \$125,000 exemption from property taxes for income-producing tangible personal property per business location, including aggregation of related entities under a unified business enterprise.

Code(s): Tax Code 11.145, 22.01, 22.24(c)

Direct Impact: Tax Assessor
Other Impacts: Budget, Audit

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Decreasing tax revenue

Status: Governor signed HB9 on June 12; resolution will be considered on 11-4-25 election date, becomes law on Jan 1, 2026, if passed by the voters.

HB22: Exempts all intangible personal property from property taxes

Code(s): Tax Code(s), 11.02(a), 42.05,

Direct Impact: Tax Assessor

Other Impacts: Budget, Audit

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Decreasing Tax Revenue

Status: Effective Jan 1, 2026

HB30: Relates to the voter approval rate for property taxes in the years following a natural disaster as declared by the Governor or the President of the United States.

Code(s): Tax Code 26.042

Direct Impact: Budget

Other Impact: Audit, Tax Assessor

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective Jan 1, 2026

HB103: The bill requires county government (i.e. Tax Assessor and Administration) to provide tax and bond data to the State Comptroller for tax years 2015 to 2025. A civil penalty may be assessed against tax entities that do not comply. This is an unfunded mandate for county government.

Code(s): Government Code(s): Chapter 403

Direct Impact: Tax Assessor, Budget

Other Impact: Audit, County Administrator

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Noncompliance will result in a fine. There is a tight timeline for complying with the reporting requirements (Jan 1,

2026)

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

HB135: Amends Section 151.316(a), Tax Code, to exempt exotic and game animals from sales and use taxes.

Code(s): Tax Code: 151.316(a)

Direct Impact: Tax Assessor

Other Impact: Budget

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB1109: Exempts counties from motor fuels taxes for fuel used in county vehicles

Code(s): Tax Code: 162.104(a), 162.125, 162.204(a), 162.227

Direct Impact: Fleet Management, Budget, Tax Assessor

Other Impact: Sheriff, Constables

Opportunity: Savings

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective

HB2508/HJR133: Provides a 100% property tax exemption for the residence homestead of a surviving spouse of a veteran who died from a service-connected condition, provided the spouse has not remarried. The exemption applies retroactively regardless of the veteran's date of death and transfers to a new homestead in an equivalent amount.

Code(s):

- Tax Code(s), 11.36, 11.42(c), 26.10(b)
- Government Code(s), 403.302(d-1)

Direct Impact: Tax Assessor, Budget, Audit

Other Impact: N/A

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Governor signed HB2508 on June 20; resolution will be considered on 11-4-25 election date, becomes law on Jan

1, 2026, if passed by the voters

SB1023: This bill requires tax rate calculation worksheets to include hyperlinks to underlying data and mandates separate truth-in-taxation calculations for each exemption on the worksheet.

Code(s): Tax Code(s): 5.07(g), 26.03, 26.04(d-1)

Direct Impact: Budget, Tax Assessor

Other Impact: Audit

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: Compliance, security and accuracy of data. The intent of this bill is to make it easier for public transparency groups to data mine county tax rates and expenditures.

Status: Effective 1-1-2026

SB1453: The Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate declines as the total amount of debt outstanding from issuances is paid off over time. However, some governing bodies of some taxing units elect to retire debt earlier than required. These decisions require that the taxing unit's I&S tax rate be set higher than otherwise would be required. This leads taxpayers to pay higher tax bills than they otherwise would. The bill amends the definition of "current debt" for purposes of calculating an I&S tax rate, to include only the minimum amount required by the bond issuances' schedules. Taxing entities are allowed to adopt an I&S rate higher than the minimum tax rate if there is a motion that states what the minimum I&S tax rate would be, the proposed rate, and the difference between the minimum and proposed I&S tax rates. Also, there must be a described purpose for which the excess collected from the proposed rate will be used, and the motion must be approved by at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body. All of this must be posted prominently on the home page of the taxing unit's Internet website in a form to be prescribed by the comptroller, including a schedule of the taxing unit's debt obligations showing the minimum dollar amount of principal and interest required to be paid, rather than the amount of principal and interest that will be paid in the next year from property tax revenue.

Code(s): Tax Code(s): 26.04-05

Direct Impact: Budget, Commissioner's Court, County Administration

Other Impact: Tax Assessor, Economic Development, Information Technology, Communications

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Veteran's Services

HB114: Veteran's Mental Health Services. The bill transfers authority from Tx. HHSC to the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) and directs TVC to develop and administer a mental health program for veterans that includes peer-to-peer counseling, access to mental health professionals, and training for peer service coordinators and licensed mental health professionals. The commission must also establish veterans' jail diversion centers and treatment courts. The bill establishes a matching grant program for community mental health programs that support veterans and their families.

Code(s): Government Code: Chapter 434, multiple sections

Direct Impact: Veteran's Service Office, MHMR, Budget (grants)

Other Impact: Sheriff (County Jail)

Opportunity: Grant Funds

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB651: Requires that in counties with 200,000 or more residents, the veterans' service office report directly to either the commissioners court or a designated county executive official.

Code(s): Government Code 434.032(a)

Direct Impact: Veteran's Service Office

Other Impact: Commissioner's Court, County Administration

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Status: Effective 9-1-2025

SB2938: A county sheriff shall investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner during the intake process and:

- Provide the prisoner with a prepaid postcard supplied by TVC in order to request assistance in applying for veterans benefits;
- Submit a weekly report identifying for each verified veteran to TVC and, as applicable, the veteran's county services officer (VSO) and each court in which charges against the prisoner are pending; and
- Allow the prisoner to have in-person or video visitation with the county VSO or a peer service coordinator at no cost to the prisoner.

Code(s):

- Code of Criminal Procedure
 - 0 42.09
- Government Code
 - o 501.024(b), 511.009(a)

Direct Impact: Sheriff, Veteran's Service Office

Other Impact: Budget (cost), Courts-at-Law, District Clerk

Opportunity: N/A

Risk: N/A

Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the assistance of the Texas Conference of Urban Counties (CUC) and its outstanding legislative analyst, Windy Johnson and CUC's all-around legislative expert, Adam Haynes.

The author also wants to acknowledge Regina Calderon and the outstanding support from the Tarrant County Communications team which made the appearance, formatting, and layout of this document much better than he possibly could have achieved.

