

# Texas DeMolay Government Day

## Senate Rules of Procedure

### Rule 1: President & President Pro Tempore

- a. **President by Right of Office:** The illustrious knight commander shall serve as president of the senate *ex officio*. He shall convene the senate at the time determined by the government day director, and shall immediately take nominations for and preside over the election of a president pro tempore in substantially the same manner as that specified for conducting ordinary business pursuant to these rules.
- b. **General Duties of President:** The president, with the assistance of the parliamentarian appointed by the government day director, shall enforce, apply, and interpret the rules of the senate in all deliberations of the senate; enforce the legislative rules prescribed by the statutes and the Constitution of Texas; and decide all questions of order.
- c. **Calling the Senate to Order:** The president shall take the chair on each calendar day precisely at the hour to which the senate adjourned or recessed at its last sitting and shall immediately call the members to order.
- d. **Laying Business before the Senate:** The president shall lay before the senate its business in the order indicated by Rule 4 and shall receive propositions made by members and put them to the senate.
- e. **Decorum:** The president shall preserve order and decorum, and shall see that the members of the senate conduct themselves in a civil manner in accordance with accepted standards of parliamentary conduct. The president may, when necessary, order the sergeant-at-arms to clear the aisles, seat members, or remove members or other parties from the senate floor so that business may be conducted in an orderly manner.
- f. **Putting Questions to the Senate:** The president shall put questions to the senate substantially in this form: "The question occurs on \_\_\_\_\_" (here state the question or proposition under consideration). "All in favor say 'Aye,'" and after the affirmative vote is expressed, "All opposed say 'Nay.'" If the president is in doubt as to the result, or if a division is called for, the senate shall divide: those voting in the affirmative on the question or proposition shall signify so by standing first to be counted by the secretary, and after being seated by the president, those voting in the negative on the question or proposition shall do the same. The decision of the senate on the question or proposition shall be announced by the president and recorded by the secretary, including the yeas and nays in cases of division.
- g. **President Pro Tempore:** The president pro tempore shall perform the duties of the chair related to presiding over the senate when the president is absent from the dais.
- h. **Qualifications of President Pro Tempore:** The president pro tempore:
  1. must be an active member of the International Order of DeMolay or the International Order of Rainbow for Girls;
  2. must have attended at least one government day prior to being elected to serve as speaker; and
  3. may not be a current or former state officer of the Texas jurisdictions of the International Order of DeMolay or the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

## Rule 2: Duties of the Parliamentarian, Secretary, & Sergeant-at-Arms

- a. **Parliamentarian:** The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the government day director; shall assist the president in resolving questions of order and legislative procedure; and shall generally assist the president in administering his or her duties.
- b. **Secretary:** The secretary shall be appointed by the government day director; be the custodian of all bills, resolutions, and amendments; and provide for keeping a complete record of the action taken on all bills, resolutions, and amendments.
- c. **Sergeant-at-Arms:** The sergeant-at-arms shall be appointed by the government day director; under the direction of the president, have charge of maintaining order in the senate; execute the commands of the senate; bring in absent members of the senate when so directed; and supervise the door.

## Rule 3: Floor Procedure

- a. **Obtaining the Floor:** When a member desires to speak or deliver any matter to the senate, the member shall rise and respectfully address the president as “[Mr. or Madam, as applicable] President” and, on being recognized, may address the senate from the microphone at the reading secretary’s desk, and shall confine all remarks to the question under debate, avoiding personalities.
- b. **Multiple Members Rising at Once:** When more than one member rises at once, the president shall name who is to speak first. The president’s decision is final and not open to debate.
- c. **Granting Recognition:** When a member seeks recognition, the president shall substantially ask, “For what purpose does the [lady or gentleman, as applicable] rise?” and may then decide if recognition is to be granted, except that the president shall recognize a member who seeks recognition on a question of privilege as defined by Rule 3(j).
- d. **Interruptions:** A member who has the floor shall not be interrupted by another member for any purpose, unless the recognized member consents to yield to the interrupting member, such as in the case of raising a question to the recognized member. A member desiring to interrupt a recognized member in debate should first address the president for the permission of the recognized member. The president shall then ask the recognized member if he or she wishes to yield, and then announce the decision of the recognized member. The recognized member may exercise personal discretion as to whether or not to yield, and it is entirely within the member’s discretion to determine who shall interrupt and when.
- e. **Yielding the Floor:** A member who obtains the floor on recognition of the president and then yields to another thereby loses the floor to the other member.
- f. **Multiple Speeches on Same Question:** No member shall speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the senate, nor more than once until every member choosing to speak has spoken, nor shall any member be permitted to consume the time of another member except as provided by Rule 3(e).
- g. **Opening & Closing Debate:** The mover of any proposition shall have the right to open and close debate.
- h. **Transgressions of Rules:** If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the senate, the president shall call the member to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately be seated.

- i. **Privileged Questions:** Questions of privilege are those affecting the rights of the senate collectively, its safety and dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; and those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of members individually in their representative capacity only.
- j. **Division:** By a majority vote of the senate, a quorum being present, the questions shall be divided, but only when a motion to divide the senate has first been seconded.
- k. **Tie Vote:** All matters on which a vote may be taken by the senate shall require for adoption a favorable affirmative vote as required by these rules, and in the case of a tie vote, the matter shall be considered lost.
- l. **Record Vote:** On motion of any member, the president shall require the secretary to perform a record vote, provided the motion has been seconded.
- m. **Leadership Right to Floor Reserved:** Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, the government day director and executive officer retain the right to obtain the floor at any time and for any reason.

## Rule 4: Order of Business & Calendars

- a. **Order of Business Upon Convening:** When the senate convenes on a new legislative day, the daily order of business shall be as follows:
  - 1. Call to order.
  - 2. Roll call of members.
  - 3. Unfinished business.
  - 4. The calendar assigned for the day by the government day director.
- b. **Order of Business Upon Reconvening:** When the senate reconvenes for the first time following a recess, the daily order of business shall be:
  - 1. Call to order.
  - 2. Roll call of members.
  - 3. Pending business.
  - 4. The calendar assigned for the day by the government day director.
- c. **Calendars Controlling:** Legislative business of the senate shall be controlled by the calendar assigned by the government day director.
- d. **Suspension of Regular Order of Business:** A motion to suspend the regular order of business to take up and consider a specified measure out of its regular order may not carry unless by a vote of five ninths of the senate.

## Rule 5: Motions

- a. **Motions Decided Without Debate:** The following motions, in addition to any elsewhere provided herein, shall be decided without debate unless otherwise provided by these rules:
  - 1. Motions for adjournment or recess.
  - 2. Motions to lay on the table.
  - 3. Motions to lay on the table subject to call.
  - 4. Motions to order a call of the senate, and all motions incidental thereto.
  - 5. Motions to extend the time of a member speaking under the previous question or to allow a member who has the right to speak after the previous question is ordered to yield the time, or a part of it, to another.
  - 6. Motions to order the previous question.
  - 7. Motions to divide the question.

- b. **Motions Subject to Debate:** The president shall permit the mover and one opponent of the motion three minutes each during which to debate the following motions without debating the merits of the bill, resolution, or other matter, and the mover of the motion may elect to either open the debate or close the debate, but the mover's time may not be divided:
1. Motions to suspend the regular order of business to take up a specified measure out of its regular order.
  2. Motions to place a bill or resolution on the calendar assigned by the government day director.
  3. Motions to take up a bill or resolution laid on the table subject to call.
  4. Motions to suspend the rules.
  5. Motions to suspend the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days.
  6. Motions to order the previous question.
  7. Motions to order the limiting of amendments to a bill or resolution.
- c. **Motions Allowed During Debate:** When a question is under debate, the following motions, and none other, shall be in order, and such motions shall have precedence in the following order:
1. Motions to adjourn.
  2. Motions to recess.
  3. Motions to lay on the table.
  4. Motions to lay on the table subject to call.
  5. Motions to order the previous question.
  6. Motions to amend.
- d. **Statement or Reading of a Motion:** When a motion has been made, the president shall state it, or if it is in writing, order it read by the secretary, and it shall then be in possession of the senate.
- e. **Withdrawal of a Motion:** A motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before a decision on the motion, even though an amendment may have been offered and is pending. It cannot be withdrawn, however, if the motion has been amended. After the previous question has been ordered, a motion can be withdrawn only by unanimous consent.
- f. **Motions to Adjourn or Recess:** A motion to adjourn or recess shall always be in order, except:
1. when the senate is voting on another motion;
  2. when the previous question has been ordered and before the final vote on the main question, unless a roll call shows the absence of a quorum;
  3. when a member entitled to the floor has not yielded for that purpose; or
  4. when no business has been transacted since a motion to adjourn or recess has been defeated.
- g. **Matters Tabled Subject to Call:** When a bill, resolution, or other matter is pending before the senate, it may be laid on the table subject to call, and can be taken from the table at any time except when there is another matter pending before the senate. A bill, resolution, or other matter can be taken from the table only by a majority vote of the senate.
- h. **Motions to Order the Previous Question:** Motions to order the previous question shall be admitted only when seconded, but are out of order when made subsequent to a motion to table that is still pending before the senate. A motion to order the previous question is not itself subject to a motion to table. As in all other propositions, a motion to order the previous question may be taken by a record vote if demanded by any member. If ordered by a majority of the members voting, a quorum being present, the motion shall have the effect of cutting off all debate except as allowed by Rule 5(i).

- i. **Limitation of Debate After Previous Question Ordered:** After the previous question has been ordered, there shall be no debate upon the question on which it has been ordered, except that the mover of the proposition or amendment upon which the previous question has been ordered shall have the right to close the debate on the particular proposition or amendment. Then a vote shall be taken immediately on the proposition or amendment.
- j. **Application of the Previous Question:** The previous question may be ordered only on the proposition or amendment before the senate at the time for which it is moved.

## **Rule 6: Bills, Joint Resolutions, & Resolutions**

- a. **Contents of Bills:** Proposed laws or changes in laws must be incorporated in bills, which shall consist of:
  - 1. a title or caption, beginning with the words "A Bill to be Entitled An Act" and a brief statement that gives the legislature and the public reasonable notice of the subject of the proposed measure;
  - 2. an enacting clause, "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas"; and
  - 3. the bill proper.
- b. **Amendments to the Texas Constitution:** A proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution shall take the form of a joint resolution, which shall be subject to the rules that govern the proceedings on bills except Rule 6(f).
- c. **Authorship and Sponsorship:** A senate bill or resolution may have only one author. A senate bill may have only one sponsor before the senate.
- d. **Order of Consideration:** All bills and resolutions before the senate shall be taken up and acted on in the order in which they appear on their respective calendars.
- e. **Second Reading Presumed:** A bill shall not have the force of law until it has been read on three several legislative days in each chamber and free discussion allowed, unless this provision is suspended by a vote of four fifths of the members present and voting, a quorum being present. The yeas and nays shall be taken on the question of suspension by record vote. Bills listed on the calendar assigned by the government day director shall be presumed have been read the first time already.
- f. **Limiting a Bill to a Single Subject:** Each bill shall contain only one subject.
- g. **Adoption of Joint Resolution:** A joint resolution shall be adopted on any reading after the first if it receives a vote of two thirds of the elected membership of the senate. A joint resolution that does not receive a vote of two thirds of the elected membership of the senate may be adopted only if it receives a simple majority vote of the elected membership of the senate on both second and third reading, unless the joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution, in which case if it does not receive a two thirds vote of the elected membership of the senate it fails of adoption.
- h. **Resolutions:** Resolutions shall be considered by the senate only at the time assigned for their consideration on the calendar assigned by the government day director, and shall require only a simple majority vote on first reading for adoption.
- i. **Filing:** Bills, joint resolutions, and resolutions listed on the calendar assigned by the government day director are presumed filed. Before being added to the calendar or otherwise taken under consideration by the appropriate motion, other bills, joint resolutions, and resolutions must first be filed with and appropriately numbered by the secretary.

## Rule 7: Amendments

- a. **Acceptable Motions to Amend:** When a bill, joint resolution, or resolution is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order.
- b. **Motions on a Different Subject Offered as Amendments:** No motion or proposition on a subject different from the subject under consideration shall be admitted as an amendment.
- c. **Amendments Affecting Original Purpose:** No bill shall be amended so as to change its original purpose.
- d. **Filing of Amendment:** Amendments must be filed with the secretary.
- e. **Amending Titles & Captions:** It shall not be in order to amend a title or caption of a bill.
- f. **Motion to Limit Amendments:** A motion to limit amendments, having first been seconded, shall be put to a vote of the senate, and if it carries, shall preclude the filing of any further amendments to the proposition then under consideration before the senate.

## Rule 8: Interactions with House

- a. **Messages from the House:** All messages from the house shall be announced to the senate by the sergeant-at-arms upon arrival, and shall be received by the president and read to the senate by the messenger when announced.
- b. **Messages to the House:** Messages to the house may be adopted by resolution, and must instruct the sergeant-at-arms to deliver the message to the house at a specified date and time.

TEXAS DEMOLAY GOVERNMENT DAY 2025  
CALENDAR FOR SENATE

**REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

SR 1

Urging the leadership of the Texas jurisdictions of the International Order of DeMolay and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls to create a Blood Drive Award to be given to members who donate blood or volunteer at a donation center or blood drive event no less than three times.

SR 2

Urging United States President Donald J. Trump to annex the Dominion of Canada and the Autonomous Territory of Greenland.

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS  
(Second Reading)**

SJR 1

Proposing a constitutional amendment legalizing lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance and authorizing the Legislature to regulate lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance by general law.

**SENATE BILLS  
(Second Reading)**

SB 1

Relating to the transfer for an athletic participation purpose of a student from the school district of the student's residence to another district.

SB 2

Relating to requiring the presentation of photo identification for a voter to be accepted at a polling location.

SB 3

Relating to prohibiting the use of photographic traffic enforcement systems.

SB 4

Relating to prohibiting protests on the campus of a school.

SB 5

Relating to eliminating the death penalty for capital felonies.

SB 6

Relating to the purpose of public institutions of higher education and a prohibition on compelling students enrolled at those institutions to adopt certain beliefs.

SB 7

Relating to access to social media websites by minors.

SB 8

Relating to prohibiting public schools from requiring students or employees to receive coronavirus vaccinations.

SB 9

Relating to participation by private school students in University Interscholastic League sponsored activities.

SB 10

Relating to prohibiting campaign contributions by registered lobbyists.

SB 11

Relating to renaming the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America.

SB 12

Relating to the Texas Commission on Government Efficiency.



**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1**

**WHEREAS,** The national supply of blood donated for medical use is at critically low levels according to the Blood Centers of America and other blood banks across the country; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the patriotic duty of International Order of DeMolay and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls to encourage young men and women to support our blood banks by donating their blood or volunteering at donation centers and blood drive events; and

**WHEREAS,** An award for members of the two organizations who donate blood and volunteer at at donation centers and blood drive events would encourage members of appropriate age and weight, as required by law, to do so; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 2025 Texas DeMolay Government Day, hereby urge the leadership of the Texas jurisdictions of the International Order of DeMolay and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls to creat a Blood Drive Award to be given to members who donate blood or volunteer at a donation center or blood drive event no less than three times; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be delivered to the executive officers of said jurisdictions.

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2**

**WHEREAS,** The threats to the national security of the United States of America imposed by its geopolitical adversaries, including Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran, are serious and require immediate attention; and

**WHEREAS,** The economic security of the United States of America requires access to additional natural resources and the protection of our primary routes of trade and transportation by air, land, and sea to the greatest extent practicable; and

**WHEREAS,** The lands and waters of Canada and Greenland contain bountiful natural resources; and

**WHEREAS,** Canada and Greenland are well position to serve as bases of operations for the United States armed forces in protecting our merchant fleet at sea and our commercial aerial assets as they are engaged in international travel and trade; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 2025 Texas DeMolay Government Day, hereby urge United States President Donald J. Trump immediately take all action he believes to be necessary and appropriate, including entering into negotiations or engaging in military operations, to secure the Dominion of Canada and the Autonomous Territory of Greenland as territories

of the United States of America; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be delivered to the Executive Office of the President of the United States of America.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment legalizing lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance and authorizing the Legislature to regulate lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance by general law.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 47, Article III, Texas Constitution, is repealed.

SECTION 2. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by adding Section 47a to read as follows:

Sec. 47a. LOTTERIES, GIFT ENTERPRISES, AND GAMES OF CHANCE AUTHORIZED; LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZED TO REGULATE. (a) The Legislature shall pass no law generally prohibiting lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance, and any law having such effect is void and unenforceable.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the Legislature may, by general law, regulate lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance to vindicate the interests of the citizens of this state as they relate to their health, welfare, and morals.

SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be

submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment legalizing lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance and authorizing the Legislature to regulate lotteries, gift enterprises, and games of chance by general law."

S.B. No. 1

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transfer for an athletic participation purpose of a student from the school district of the student's residence to another district.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 25.036, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Any child, other than a high school graduate, who is younger than 19 years of age and eligible for enrollment in grades 9 through 12 on September 1 of any school year may transfer not more than once for an athletic participation purpose from the child's school district of residence to another district in this state if both the receiving district and the applicant's parent or person standing in parental relation to the applicant jointly approve and timely agree in writing to the transfer for an athletic participation purpose. The receiving district may not deny a transfer application under this subsection on the basis of a child's sex, race, national origin, ancestral language, or disability. A transfer under this

subsection remains effective until the child graduates from the receiving district, unless the child withdraws from the receiving district.

SECTION 2. Section 33.081, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) The University Interscholastic League may not penalize or sanction a student for transferring to a school district for an athletic participation purpose, or penalize or sanction the school district that receives the transferring student, if the transfer meets the requirements of Section 25.036(a-1).

SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the presentation of photo identification for a voter to be accepted at a polling location.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 63.0111 to read as follows:

Sec. 63.0012. VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED. (a) To be accepted for voting under this chapter, a voter must present to an election officer at a polling place on offering to vote:

(1) a driver's license, election identification certificate, or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that expired no earlier than four years before the date of presentation;

(2) a United States military identification card that contains the person's photograph that has not expired or that expired no earlier than four years before the date of presentation;

(3) a United States citizenship certificate issued to the person that contains the person's photograph;



(4) a United States passport book or card issued to the person that has not expired or that expired no earlier than four years before the date of presentation; or

(5) a license to carry a handgun issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety that has not expired or that expired no earlier than four years before the date of presentation.

(b) A person 70 years of age or older may use a form of identification listed in Subsection (a) that has expired for the purposes of voting if the identification is otherwise valid.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting the use of photographic traffic enforcement systems.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 707, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Sections 707.020 and 707.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 707.020. RED LIGHT CAMERAS PROHIBITED. (a)  
Notwithstanding any other law, a local authority may not implement or operate a photographic traffic signal enforcement system with respect to a highway or street under the jurisdiction of the authority.

(b) The attorney general shall enforce this section.

Sec. 707.021. USE OF EVIDENCE FROM RED LIGHT CAMERAS PROHIBITED. Notwithstanding any other law, a local authority may not issue a civil or criminal charge or citation for an offense or violation based on a recorded image produced by a photographic traffic signal enforcement system.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting protests on the campus of a school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The Legislature finds the following:

(1) The campuses of schools that offer pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary school, and secondary school classes are not public forums for purposes of speech or expression contemplated by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

(2) Maintaining order and preventing disruption are essential to creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning for schoolchildren.

SECTION 2. Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.090 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.090. PROTESTS ON CAMPUSES OF PRE-KINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY, AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROHIBITED. (a) A person may not engage in a protest on the campus of a school that offers pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary schooling, or secondary schooling, or any combination of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary schooling, and secondary schooling.

(b) Each school district must incorporate into the student code of conduct required by Section 37.001 a policy prohibiting a student from engaging in a protest described by Subsection (a).

(c) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) engages in a protest on the campus of a school that offers pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary schooling, or secondary schooling, or any combination of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary schooling, and secondary schooling;

(2) is 18 years of age or older; and

(3) is not a student on the campus of the school at which the protest occurred.

(d) An offense under Subsection (c) is a Class B Misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eliminating the death penalty for capital felonies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 12.31, Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12.31. CAPITAL FELONY. (a) ~~[An individual adjudged guilty of a capital felony in a case in which the state seeks the death penalty shall be punished by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life without parole or by death.]~~ An individual adjudged guilty of a capital felony ~~[in a case in which the state does not seek the death penalty]~~ shall be punished by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for:

(1) life, if the individual committed the offense when younger than 18 years of age; or

(2) life without parole, if the individual committed the offense when 18 years of age or older.

(b) ~~[In a capital felony trial in which the state seeks the death penalty, prospective jurors shall be informed that a sentence of life imprisonment without parole or death is~~

~~mandatory on conviction of a capital felony.]~~ In a capital felony trial ~~[in which the state does not seek the death penalty]~~, prospective jurors shall be informed [that the state is not seeking the death penalty and] that:

(1) a sentence of life imprisonment is mandatory on conviction of the capital felony, if the individual committed the offense when younger than 18 years of age; or

(2) a sentence of life imprisonment without parole is mandatory on conviction of the capital felony, if the individual committed the offense when 18 years of age or older.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to capital felonies committed on or after September 1, 2025. Capital felonies committed before that date are governed by the law in effect at the time the capital felonies were committed, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the purpose of public institutions of higher education and a prohibition on compelling students enrolled at those institutions to adopt certain beliefs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 50 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50. HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSE

Sec. 50.001. HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSE. A public institution of higher education must be committed to creating an environment of:

(1) intellectual inquiry and academic freedom so that all students are equipped for participation in the workforce and the betterment of society; and

(2) intellectual diversity so that all students are respected and educated regardless of race, sex, or ethnicity or social, political, or religious background or belief.

SECTION 2. Section 51.942, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) For purposes of Subsection (c)(5), good cause for

taking disciplinary action against a faculty member, including revoking the tenure of the faculty member, includes the faculty member's violation of Section 51.982.

SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.982 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.982. PROHIBITION ON COMPELLING CERTAIN BELIEFS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Institution of higher education" and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) A faculty member of an institution of higher education may not compel or attempt to compel a student enrolled at the institution to adopt a belief that any race, sex, or ethnicity or social, political, or religious belief is inherently superior to any other race, sex, ethnicity, or belief.

(c) If an institution of higher education determines that a faculty member of the institution has violated this section, the institution shall discharge the faculty member.

SECTION 4. Section 51.982(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a person who enters into or renews an employment contract as a faculty member at a public institution of higher education on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.



A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to social media websites by minors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 509, Business & Commerce Code, is amended by adding Section 509.153 to read as follows:

Sec. 509.153. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES BY MINORS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT. (a) In this section:

(1) "Social media website" means a website, an application, a program, or software that collects or processes personal identifying information with Internet connectivity.

(2) "Minor" means a child who is younger than 18 years of age who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes.

(3) "Personal identifying information" means any information, including sensitive information, that is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable individual. The term includes pseudonymous information when used by a controller or processor in conjunction with additional information that reasonably links the information to an identified or identifiable individual.

(4) "Verified parent" means the parent or guardian of a known minor whose identity and relationship to the minor have been verified.

(b) The owner of a social media website may not permit use of the site in any way by a minor without the consent of the minor's verified parent.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

S.B. No. 8

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting public schools from requiring students or employees to receive coronavirus vaccinations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.854 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.854. PUBLIC SCHOOL CORONAVIRUS VACCINE MANDATES PROHIBITED. A public school may not adopt or enforce a mandate requiring a student or employee to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to participation by private school students in University Interscholastic League sponsored activities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0832 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0832. PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. (a) In this section, "private school" has the meaning assigned by Section 39.033(d).

(b) The University Interscholastic League may not deny a school or its students the opportunity to become a member of the league or otherwise discriminate against a school or its students because the school is a private school.

(c) This section does not exempt a private school or its students from satisfying each rule or eligibility requirement imposed by this subchapter or the league for participating in an activity or league district sponsored by the league.

(d) A private school seeking to participate in a league activity or to become a member of a league district shall apply to the league on a signed form prescribed by the league. The private school must certify its eligibility under this

subchapter and league rules in the application and must attach proof of accreditation. The league may not impose eligibility requirements for private schools that exceed the requirements of this subchapter or league rules for public schools or require proof of eligibility that exceeds the proof required of public schools. On approval of an application, the league shall issue a certificate of approval to the applicant school. The application and certificate of approval are governmental records for purposes of Section 37.10, Penal Code.

(e) To determine the appropriate league district in which an eligible private school will participate, the league must multiply the private school's enrollment by two and place the private school in an appropriate league district based on that enrollment figure, provided that the private school is placed in a league district not lower than the 4A level.

(f) The league may adopt rules designed to discourage an eligible private school from recruiting any student to attend the school for the purpose of participating in a league activity. A rule adopted under this subsection may not be designed to discriminate against an eligible private school.

(g) To be eligible under this section, a private school must:

(1) be accredited by an accrediting organization

recognized by the agency;

(2) not have had its ability or eligibility to participate in an association similar to the league compromised, revoked, or suspended for violating the rules or codes of that association;

(3) offer a four-year high school curriculum;

(4) offer interscholastic competition; and

(5) require daily student attendance at a specific location.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

S.B. No. 10

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting campaign contributions by registered lobbyists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 253, Elections Code, is amended by adding Section 253.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 253.007. PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY REGISTERED LOBBYISTS. A person required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, may not make or authorize a campaign contribution to a candidate for state office.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a campaign contribution made on or after the effective date of this Act. A campaign contribution made prior to the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the contribution was made, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to renaming the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 1.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.004. GULF OF AMERICA. (a) In this section, "state agency" means:

(1) a department, commission, board, office, or other agency that is in the executive branch of state government and that was created by the constitution or a statute of this state;

(2) a university system or institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; or

(3) the supreme court, the court of criminal appeals, a court of appeals, or the Texas Judicial Council.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2026, a state agency shall alter all official maps and documents in contemporary use by the state agency such that the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico is henceforth labeled the Gulf of America.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to maps and documents the state agency deems to be of historical value.



SECTION 2. Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.021. GULF OF AMERICA. (a) Not later than September 1, 2026, the commissioner shall update all references to the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico in the social studies curriculum required by Section 28.002(a)(1)(D) to refer to the body of water as the Gulf of America.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the commissioner may incorporate into the social studies curriculum required by Section 28.002(a)(1)(D) an explanation that the Gulf of America was once known as the Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 3. Chapter 1, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 1.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.006. GULF OF AMERICA. (a) In this section, "political subdivision" means a county, municipality, special district, school district, junior college district, housing authority, or other political subdivision of this state.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2026, a political subdivision shall alter all official maps and documents in contemporary use by the political subdivision such that the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico is henceforth labeled the Gulf of America.

(c) Subsection (b) does not apply to maps and documents the political subdivision deems to be of historical value.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Government Efficiency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 4, Subtitle E, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 471 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 471. TEXAS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Sec. 471.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Government Efficiency.

(2) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section 2052.002(e).

(3) "Political subdivision" has the meaning assigned by Section 172.003(3).

Sec. 471.002. ESTABLISHMENT. The Texas Commission on Government Efficiency is established in the office of the governor to advise the office on identifying opportunities to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in state government.

Sec. 471.003. COMPOSITION; TERMS. (a) The commission is composed of nine members as follows:

(1) one ex officio member of the legislature

appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) one ex officio member of the legislature appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) seven members appointed by the governor.

(b) Members of the commission serve four-year staggered terms, with either four or five members' terms expiring January 1 of each odd-numbered year. The governor shall assign a schedule for terms.

(c) The governor shall designate the chair and vice chair of the commission from among the members of the council.

Sec. 471.004. MEETINGS, COMPENSATION, AND DUTIES. (a) The commission shall meet at least quarterly each fiscal year. Meetings may be held by videoconference or conference call.

(b) No member of the commission is entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses resulting from the performance of commission duties.

(c) The commission shall study the purpose and operations of state agencies to identify opportunities to reduce redundancy, inefficiency, waste, fraud, and abuse, and shall make relevant recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker not later than December 31 of even-numbered years.

Sec. 471.005. ASSISTANCE OF STATE AGENCIES. State agencies and political subdivisions of this state shall

cooperate with the commission to the greatest extent practicable  
to fully implement the commission's duties.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.