



**Arnold Public Affairs
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Once-Stalled Education Bills Live On as Amendments

“Legislation on textbook funding approved by the Senate today breathed new life into left-behind education bills, including three languishing charter school measures. During debate on HB 6, which changes the way districts purchase instructional materials, members tacked on 13 amendments. Two from state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, substantially increased the State Board of Education’s authority over the textbooks available for districts to purchase. One would allow board members to remove curriculum materials placed on the approved list by the commissioner of education. The second would lift a requirement that instructional materials approved by the board are...”

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Race is On to Fund Schools

“Legislative leaders continued to look for a compromise school funding plan Tuesday to allocate \$4 billion worth of public school cuts they say is necessary to avoid a special session this summer. A bill to make those cuts collapsed late Monday because of a procedural flaw that now has lawmakers scrambling back and forth between House and Senate chambers — with a stop Tuesday afternoon to meet with Gov. Rick Perry’s staff — in search of a solution to buy them time until the 2013 session...”

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Senate Leader Warns Against House's Quick Fix On School Aid

“A looming deadline has ratcheted up the pressure on legislative leaders to craft a solution to the school finance problem that has long bedeviled them. But the Senate budget chief warned Tuesday that the quick fix now being envisioned by the House could have serious budget consequences down the line for the state. House and Senate negotiators have until Thursday — based on chamber rules — to reach an agreement on how to apportion a \$4 billion reduction in the state aid school districts are owed under current law... The two sides, however, have starkly different takes on the issue...”

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Texas Lawmakers Can't Get School Funding Right

“State Rep. Jimmie Don Aycok, R-Killeen, was in the unenviable position of midwife Tuesday night to a recently conceived and certainly not yet fully developed public school finance plan being pushed through the House. Make that four alternative plans, each attempting to determine how more than \$37 billion will be distributed to the state's more than 1,000 school districts in the next two years. That's about \$4 billion less than is in the current budget, and each lawmaker wanted to avoid as much hardship as possible...”

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Texas Laws You Could See Soon

“As the final days count down in the Texas Legislature lawmakers are speeding up and pushing bills through that could have a big effect here in the big country. A new bill that passed in the House and Senate will now require a sonogram first before allowing an abortion. On May 19th, the bill was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry. The Voter ID bill passed both chambers and if signed by Perry it will require voters to present a valid state or federal photo ID before marking a ballot. Monday, a bill that would ban public school districts from using old football helmets...”

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Deal on Cutting School Funds Elusive

“Legislative leaders continued to look for a compromise school funding plan Tuesday to allocate \$4 billion worth of public school cuts they say is necessary to avoid a special session this summer. A bill to make those cuts collapsed late Monday night because of a procedural flaw that now has lawmakers scrambling between House and Senate chambers — with a stop Tuesday afternoon to meet with Gov. Rick Perry’s staff — in search of a solution to buy them time until the 2013 session. House leaders prefer a proration, an across-the-board cut for the state’s 1,040 school districts...”

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Texas Senate Blocks Sanctuary Cities Bill

“The state’s contentious sanctuary cities bill failed to move out of the Senate late Tuesday — a move some senators said effectively killed one of the most controversial measures the Texas Legislature has considered this session. As late as 11 p.m., an aide to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said the Senate leader was still intent on bringing up the matter for a vote. (The Senate debates bills on the floor in the order they come in. Going out of order requires a two-thirds vote.) But Republicans’ efforts were unsuccessful on Tuesday. Democratic senators stayed true to their word to block the bill — an item designated by Gov. Rick Perry as an emergency piece of legislation — by voting along party lines to keep the bill from making it to the floor...”

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