

The Texas Legislature has returned for a 30 day Special Session to complete the work of passing legislation so that the budget for 2012-2013 will balance.

Here are the education related bills that have been filed:

HB 1 (Pitts) Relating to certain state fiscal matters; providing penalties.

HB 2 (Pitts) Relating to appropriating money for the support of state government for the period beginning September 1, 2011, and ending August 31, 2013; and authorizing and prescribing conditions, limitations, rules, and procedures for allocating and expending the appropriated funds; and declaring an emergency.

HB 7 (Zerwas) Relating to the administration, quality, and efficiency of health care, health and human services, and health benefits programs in this state.

SB 1 (Duncan) Relating to certain state fiscal matters. This was SB 1811 during the regular session, the fiscal matters bill that freed up about \$2.5 billion in state revenue and included the negotiated school finance plan for next biennium. The death of SB 1811 is considered to be the impetus for this special session. A summary for SB 1 is available [here](#).

SB 2 (Ogden) Relating to appropriating money for the support of state government for the period beginning September 1, 2011, and ending August 31, 2013. This bill restores \$34 billion to the state budget bill that was originally contingent upon SB 1811 passing. It is essentially a technical bill that avoids having deficits in both public education spending and Medicaid at the same time.

SB 5 (Huffman) Relating to the Interstate Health Care Compact.

SB 7 (Nelson) Relating to the administration, quality, efficiency, and funding of health care, health and human services, and health benefits programs in this state. This bill creates cost savings in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

SB 6 (Shapiro) Relating to the foundation curriculum, the establishment of the instructional materials allotment, and the adoption, review, and purchase of instructional materials and technological equipment for public schools. This was HB 6 during the regular session. A more detailed summary is available [here](#).

SB 8 (Shapiro) Relating to the flexibility of the board of trustees of a school district in the management and operation of public schools in the district. This was Sen. Shapiro's SB 12 during the regular session. It would allow districts to enact salary reductions and furloughs across all employees. A full summary is available [here](#).

HB 6 (Eissler) Relating to foundation curriculum, the establishment of the instructional materials allotment, the adoption review, and purchase of instructional materials and technological equipment for public schools, and assessment.

HB 8 (Eissler) Relating to flexibility for public schools to administer primary and secondary education efficiently.

HB 9 (Solomons) Relating to the enforcement of state and federal laws governing immigration by certain governmental entities.

HB 17 (Callegari) Relating to the minimum salary for and minimum service required of certain public school employees.

HB 18 (Eissler) would require the commissioner to approve all district class-size waiver applications, unless granting the waiver would allow the district to enroll more than 25 students in a K-4 class, result in a district-wide average enrollment of more than 22 students in a K-4 class, or would negatively impact the education of the district's students. The board of trustees may adopt a policy authorizing the superintendent to apply for class size waivers, as needed. Instead of sending written notification of the class size waiver to the parents of the affected students, the district could prominently post the notice on the district's website.

HB 19 (Aycock) would streamline the due process available for mid-contract terminations resulting from a reduction-in-force (RIF) brought about by a district's financial exigency declaration. In such cases, teachers would be entitled to protest their RIF termination at a hearing before the school board or, at the board's discretion, at a hearing before a TEA-appointed independent hearing examiner, with a further appeal to the commissioner and ultimately to the courts. The bill also would expedite nonrenewal hearings before the school board, allowing a school board to designate an independent attorney to conduct the evidentiary hearing, create a hearing record and make a recommendation to the board. HB 19 would also clarify that a financial exigency declaration expires at the end of the fiscal year during which board adopts the financial exigency resolution, unless, by subsequent resolution, the board continues the financial exigency declaration for the next fiscal year(s). The board could terminate the financial exigency declaration at any time. School boards would be required to notify the commissioner of education each time a board adopts a financial exigency resolution.

HB 20 (Huberty) would move the nonrenewal notice deadline to the 15th day before the last day of instruction. The bill would also authorize school boards to deliver a nonrenewal notice in person or by certified mail to the teacher's address of record with the district. The effective date of the notice would be the mailing date.

HB 21 (Shelton) would eliminate the requirement that a school board terminate the continuing contract of a teacher during a reduction in personnel in reverse order of seniority.

HB 26 (Madden) Relating to the containment of costs incurred in the correctional health care system.

HB 27 (Hochberg) Relating to reducing costs in public school extracurricular activities. This bill has been referred to the House Public Education Committee.

HB 28 (Hochberg) Relating to the eligibility of a student to participate in extracurricular activities or competitions after transferring or moving from one public school to another. This bill has been referred to the House Public Education Committee.

HB 29 (Hochberg) Relating to requirements for students to be assessed in certain subjects and in certain grades. This bill has been referred to the House Public Education Committee.

HB 31 (Callegari) Relating to school district personnel. This bill makes several changes to minimum salary requirements and contract termination notifications.

HB 33 (Miller, Sid) Relating to providing efficient government resource allocation. This bill proposes a school voucher program.

HB 38 (Guillen) Relating to the optional flexible school day program provided by school districts.