



TARRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

G. K. MAENIUS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

TO: Tarrant County Commissioners Court

FROM: Russell Schaffner, Asst. County Administrator

DATE: March 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

Overview

The unrestricted bill filing deadline ended on March 10 with 8,153 bills filed or fourteen (14) percent more bills than the 87th Session. Local bills can be filed through March 24.

The House and the Senate continue to work on the biennial appropriation bill and supplemental appropriation bill. Chairman Capriglione submitted a budget rider directing the Health and Human Services Commission to fund a \$15.5 million study and planning grant for a Tarrant County State Hospital. The rider was evaluated by the House Article II subcommittee and placed in Article XI along with most rider requests for state hospitals. The Senate Article II workgroup is reviewing the rider.

Bills of Interest

SB 3 (Bettencourt)/**HB 5046** (Toth) will increase the amount of the residential homestead exemption for school district from \$40,000 to \$70,000. The constitutional amendment is SJR 3. The bill would also reduce the 65 and older or disabled tax ceiling by the same amount as the exemption. **SB 4** (Bettencourt) would reduce the maximum compressed tax rate for school districts. The compression rate would be reduced from ninety (90) percent to eighty (80) percent. The Legislature will appropriate funds necessary for the compression. **SB 5** (Parker) would increase the exemption passed last session for income-producing tangible personal property from \$2,500 to \$25,000. The exemption is contingent on the passage of **SJR 2**. The bill also includes \$400 million for franchise tax credits for ad valorem taxes paid on inventory in an amount not to exceed twenty (20) percent of the entity's franchise tax.

SB 2353 (Hughes) would create an alternative appeal mechanism for appraisal review board orders on appraisals. Instead of filing an appeal in District Court, a property owner could file in a justice court. The appeal only relates to the determination of an appraisal or exemption and the amount of taxes in dispute is \$20,000 or less.

SB 1750 (Bettencourt)/**HB 3876** (Cain)/**HB 4027** (Schofield) would abolish the position of the county elections administrator for all counties with a population greater than one million. **SB 1937** (Bettencourt) would add the elections administrator as a non-voting member of the county election board. **SB 1934**

(Bettencourt) would reduce the necessary votes to suspend or terminate an elections administrator from four-fifths to three-fifths.

HB 2127 (Burrows)/SB 814 (Creighton) would establish “field preemption” for counties and municipalities in certain statutes. A city or county could not by ordinance or order adopt a regulation that is not expressly authorized by the statute. A person may bring a claim against a municipality or county if the municipality or county has adopted a regulation that is not authorized in certain statutes. Governmental immunity is waived for an action brought under this legislation. The person bringing action against a municipality or county under this legislation can file in the county against which the action is being brought or a contiguous county.

Important Dates:

March 10 – Unrestricted bill filing deadline

May 11 – Last day for the House to consider second reading House bills

May 23 – Last day for the House to consider second reading Senate bills

May 24 – Last day for the Senate to consider all bills on second or third reading

May 29 – sine die

June 18 – Last day the Governor can sign or veto bills