

TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee Update

JULY 16, 2019 SUMMER MEETING

2020-21 State Budget

- ❖ \$250 billion state budget
- ❖ No line item vetoes
- ❖ Stayed within the constitutional limits of increasing the budget
- ❖ \$9 billion still in the rainy day fund

Quote from Texas Monthly: **“If every legislative session has its own personality, its own flavor, then the 86th Legislature of 2019 was less juicy brisket and more rice cake-dull, tasteless, and allegedly good for you.”**

Fun Fact: The Legislative Budget Board is a permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature that develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations, completes fiscal analysis for proposed legislation, and conducts evaluations and reviews to improve the efficiency and performance of state and local operations.

Governor's Priorities

- ❖ HB 1 General Appropriations Bill
 - ❖ Public school funding, teacher salaries, early childhood intervention programs, transportation, healthcare, public safety, prisons and more.
- ❖ HB3 Relating to public school finance and public education; creating a criminal offense; authorizing the imposition of a fee.
 - ❖ New public education spending (including a pay raise for teachers and other school professionals)
- ❖ SB 2 Relating to ad valorem taxation; authorizing fees
 - ❖ The “Texas Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2019”

Fun Fact: The Texas Senate is composed of 31 members who serve four year terms.

<u>Bill</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
HB 114	Relating to providing public high school students information regarding the availability of college credit awarded for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service.	Immediately	This bill requires TheCB Board to provide information to all high schools on what credits will be earned via military experience. What isn't clear is whether that will be institution by institution or a shared set.
HB 277	Relating to a requirement that online admissions application forms for public intuitions of higher education including a link to certain comparative gainful employment data.	Immediately	All online common apps must include a "prominent link" to comparative gainful employment data. This of course applies to ApplyTexas but the wording has further implications for apps within university and community college systems.
HB 449	Relating to a requirement that a public or private institution of higher education include a notation on a student's transcript under certain circumstances.	Immediately	Must include a notation on transcripts if a student is ineligible to return for non-academic reasons. If a student withdraws during disciplinary hearings, the hearings must still be completed, and a determination made. Student may request removal of the notation based on defined processes.
HB 476	Relating to certain duties of public institutions of higher education and the Department of State Health Services regarding policies on the use of epinephrine auto-injectors by public institutions of higher education.	9/1/2019	Epi Pen Policy must be in the catalog and on the website.

HB 539	Relating to the automatic admission to general academic teaching institutions and eligibility for certain scholarships of a student who is the valedictorian of the student's high school graduating class.	Immediately	Extends the valedictorian automatic admission rule to 2 years prior to the semester of application from one. Essentially, an applicant now has two full years to use valedictorian status for automatic admission at public universities.
HB 766	Relating to exemptions for disabled peace officers and fire fighters from payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.	Immediately	Exempts disabled peace officers and fire fighters from payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.
HB 1065	Relating to the establishment of a rural resident physician grant program.	Immediately	
HB 1401	Relating to the use of money from the permanent fund for health-related programs to provide grants to nursing education programs.	Immediately	Under current law, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board operates a nursing education grant program through the permanent fund for higher education nursing, allied health, and other health-related programs. Set to expire September 1, 2019, House Bill 1401 extends the grant program until September 1, 2023.
HB 1702	Relating to services provided for students at public institutions of higher education who are or were in foster care.	Immediately	University liaison officer must provide information on support services and financial aid to all former foster kids every semester. The liaison officer must have their name and contact information publicized on the website and through multiple communication methods.

HB 1735	Relating to sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking at public and private postsecondary educational institutions; providing an administrative penalty.	9/1/2019	Comprehensive sexual assault legislation. Updates the policies and procedures required for institutions to follow including the preventive, educational, supportive and disciplinary actions required.
HB 1891	Relating to an exemption from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative for students who achieve a certain score on a high school equivalency examination.	9/1/2019	The bill exempts students who achieved a certain score on a high school equivalency exam from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative. The score that would allow a student to be exempted from this requirement would be set by the THECB, and the commissioner of higher education would establish the period for which the exemption would be valid. The bill applies beginning with the assessment of entering undergraduate students at public institutions of higher education for the 2020 fall semester.
HB 1949	Relating to the criteria for awarding adult education and literacy program performance incentive funds.	9/1/2019	Will affect funding requirements for Community, Junior, and Technical colleges who award certificates.
HB 2140	Relating to creating an electronic application system for state student financial assistance.	Immediately	Requires the THECB to adopt procedures to allow a person to complete and submit the TASFA through the same website as the Apply Texas application.
HB 3217	Relating to certain eligibility requirements for issuance of a teaching certificate.	Immediately	Allows an applicant for a teaching certificate for which the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) requires a bachelor's degree to hold a bachelor's degree with an academic major of education. The bill also removes the cap on baccalaureate-level education course semester credit hours that SBEC could require for a teaching certificate. SBEC is required to include a minimum number of semester credit hours of field-based experience or internship to be included in the credit hours needed for certification.
HB 3601	Relating to the recognition by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of competency-based education degree plans for members of the Texas military forces.	9/1/2019	Reads as allowing institutions to award degrees for years of military service. Does not seem to mandate it but would allow for granting of up to a graduate degree with 6 years of service.

HB 3650	Relating to an agreement between a school district and a public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to high school students enrolled in the district.	9/1/2019	Requires consideration of using free or low-cost educational resources.
HB 3652	Relating to the creation of a state repository for open educational resources by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.	9/1/2019	THECB must create an "Open Educational Resource Repository". Includes textbooks, searchable course databases, learning outcomes, etc.
HB 3655	Relating to the administration and operation of the state's programs for paying, prepaying, or saving toward the costs of attending an institution of higher education.	Immediately	This bill modifies the current law relating to the administration and operation of the programs for paying, prepaying, or saving toward the costs of attending an institution of higher education, including the powers and duties of the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board.
HB 3808	Relating to measures to facilitate the timely graduation of and attainment of marketable skills by students in public higher education.	Immediately	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each institution must set at least one liaison officer to connect students to medical and mental health resources, public benefit programs, etc. 2. Students in Associate or Baccalaureate degree programs must file a degree plan after completing 30 semester credit hours. 3. Amends requirements for participation in the Texas college work-study program.
HB 4465	Relating to the student loan program administered by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and to the repeal of a related bond program.	9/1/2019	Revises requirements on eligibility and loan repayment provisions. Rescinds THECB's rulemaking authority.
SB 6	Relating to emergency and disaster management, response, and recovery.	9/1/2019	Consult with institutions of higher ed on development of degree programs in emergency management.

SB 11	Relating to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in public schools and the creation of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (includes public junior colleges within wording).	Immediately	Revises and added requirements for the statutory multihazard emergency operations plan adopted by school districts and public junior college districts. School safety measure that will strengthen mental health initiatives in schools, require classrooms to have access to a telephone or other electronic communication and create teams that identify potentially dangerous students. Includes creation of the Mental Health Consortium.
SB 16	Relating to a student loan repayment assistance program for certain full-time peace officers in this state.	9/1/2019	Administered by THECB.
SB 18	Relating to the protection of expressive activities at public institutions of higher education.	9/1/2019	Under the bill, an institution of higher education would be required to ensure that the common outdoor areas of its campus were deemed traditional public forum. The bill requires each higher education institution to adopt a policy by August 1, 2020, detailing students' rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities at the institution. The bill prohibits higher education institutions from taking action against a student organization or denying an organization any benefit generally available to other student organizations at the institution on the basis of a political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoint expressed by the organization or of any expressive activities of the organization. The bill establishes guidelines around approval of guest speakers and fees for use of facilities, requiring such guidelines to be content-neutral. By December 1, 2020, each institution would have to prepare, post on its website, and submit to the governor and Legislature a report on the institution's implementation of the bill's requirements.
SB 25	Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education.	Immediately	Requires several measures to facilitate transfer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended Course Sequences • Reporting of nontransferable credit • Articulation Agreements • Degree Plan • Study on Core Curriculum

SB 37	Relating to a prohibition on the use of student loan default or breach of a student loan repayment or scholarship contract as a ground for refusal to grant or renew an occupational license or other disciplinary action in relation to an occupational license.	Immediately	
SB 38	Relating to the offense of hazing.	9/1/2019	Extends the definitions of hazing and what groups must be tracked and reported on by institutions
SB 64	Relating to cybersecurity for information resources.	9/1/2019	strategies to incentivize cybersecurity degree program
SB 212	Relating to the reporting of incidents of sexual harassment, assault, dating violence and stalking.	9/1/2019	Extension and companion bill of HB1735
SB 213	Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements (has reporting responsibilities for higher ed)		
SB 502	Relating to requiring certain institutions of higher education to issue reports on the transferability of credit.		Requires same report as SB 25.
SB 709	Relating to the allocation and use of annual constitutional appropriation to certain agencies and institutions of higher education.	08/31/2019	

SB 1017	Relating to the creation of the advisory council on postsecondary education for person with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	immediately	Requires THECB to establish an advisory council to advise the board on improving access to postsecondary educational opportunities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
SB 1276	Relating to an agreement between a school district and public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to high school students enrolled in the district.	immediately	Specifically affects agreements between school districts and public institutions of higher education regarding dual-credit programs.
SB 1324	Relating to the filing of a degree plan by students at public institutions of higher education.	Immediately	Requires dual credit students to file a degree plan after completing 15 semester credit hours (also included in SB 25).
SB 1378	Relating to meeting the graduate medical education needs of medical degree programs offered or proposed by public institutions of higher education.	Immediately	Relates to truth in advertising when schools adjust their enrollment targets; they must also address the need for residency spaces
SB 1413	Relating to consolidation of annual reporting requirements of the Texas Workforce Commission – <u>has information about credit for military experience</u>	9/01/2019	
SB 1441	Relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board comparing postsecondary educational outcomes for certain traditional and nontraditional students	Immediately	THECB must conduct a study comparing postsecondary educational outcomes of students who graduate from high school compared to those who complete a GED.

SB 1504	Relating to the abolition of the B-On-time student loan account and the allocation of funds remaining in that account.	immediately	Specifies the circumstances in which B-On-Time funds can be used after the account is abolished in 2024.
SB 1680	Relating to the approval of certain private or independent institutions of higher education to participate in the tuition equalization grant program. An increase of nearly 4 percent for the coming biennium. Will serve approximately 26,200 students per year. To provide grant aid to students with financial need to enable them to attend private, non-profit colleges or universities in Texas.		
SB 1757	Relating to loan repayment assistance for those under math and science scholars' program.	9/1/2019	Changes the cumulative GPA required in order to receive loan payment assistance under the Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program.

Bills Effective Immediately Community College/University Specific

HB 826 – Relating to the creation of the **University of Houston College of Medicine** at the University of Houston

HB 1277 – Relating to authorizing a wellness and success center fee at the **University Of Houston-Downtown**

HB 1439 – Relating to the intercollegiate athletics fee at **Texas A&M University-San Antonio**; authorizing a fee

HB 1516 – Relating to the intercollegiate athletics fee at **Texas Southern University**; authorizing the continued imposition of a fee

SB 1788 – Relating to the payment of certain costs associated with certain programs of **The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio**

HB 2680 – Relating to the student recreational facility fee at **The University of Texas at Tyler**

HB 2709 – Relating to authorization for the sale of certain **Texas Tech University** property

HB 3124 – Relating to tuition and fees charged by **The Texas A&M University System** for certain national laboratory or national laboratory operator employees and dependents

HB 3312 – Relating to authorizing a health and wellness center fee at the **University of Houston-Victoria**

SB 479 – Relating to the inclusion in the definition of a medical and dental unit of **the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin** and the **School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley** and the participation of those schools in certain programs and funding

HB 2867 – Relating to the creation of the **Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine**

HB 3165 – Relating to an occupational and life skills associate degree program offered by the **Lone Star College System District**

Fun Fact: The Texas House of Representatives is composed of 150 members who serve two year terms.

Bills Effective September 1

Community College/University specific

HB 1101 – Relating to the name of the **Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf**

HB 1592 – Relating to health care professional liability coverage for certain public institutions of higher education – **SFA, TAMU, TSU, UH, TTU, UNT, and UT Only**

HB 2718 – Relating to the authorizing an increase in the student union fee at **The University of Texas at Arlington**

HB 4182 – Relating to an intercollegiate athletics fee at the **University of North Texas at Dallas**

HB 4260 – Relating to the possession and administration of an epinephrine auto-injector by certain entities – **private or independent institutions only**

SB 440 – Relating to a suit against the **University of Texas at Tyler**

Fun Fact: The Legislature of the State of Texas convenes its regular sessions at noon on the second Tuesday in January in odd-numbered years.

Teacher Retirement System Related Bills

SB 12 – Relating to the contributions to and benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas

HB 1612 – Relating to the authority of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to invest in certain hedge funds

87th Legislative Session

- ❖ Interim charges should be announced in a few months for the 87th legislative session
- ❖ Legislative and congressional redistricting will occur in 2021

Fun Fact: Pre-filing of bills will begin in November.

Resources

- ❖ <https://Comptroller.texas.gov>
- ❖ <https://Capitol.texas.gov>
- ❖ [Texas Association of Community Colleges Bill Summary – Relevant Bills Enacted in the 86th Legislature.](#)
- ❖ https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-07/tacc_86th_legislature_final_bill_report.pdf
- ❖ [Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas \(ICUT\) Monthly Newsletter 2019](#)

2018/19 TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee

Bobbye Fry

Debbie Gilchrist - Chair

Sheila Gray

Chris Reed - Chair Elect

Jodie Rexroat

Madelyne Tolliver

University of the Incarnate Word

University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley

Texas Tech University

Texas A&M University

Dallas County Community College District

Victoria College