

**GCD Bills**  
**87th Legislative Session**



## Groundwater Conservation District Bill Tracking Report

3- 5-2021 thru 99-99-9999

03-05-2021 - 10:30:36

A - Action in the date range R - Link to Related Information ( ) - Priority

### Groundwater Conservation Dists

[HB 152](#)      [Buckley, Brad\(R\)](#)      Relating to a study by the Texas Water Development Board of groundwater conditions in certain counties.

**Remarks:** HB 152 commissions a Texas Water Development Board study, involving the compilation of data on aquifer levels, characteristics, and groundwater use and production to assess the effects of current and projected groundwater production on aquifer conditions. The study area includes the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers north of the Colorado River in Bell, Burnet, Milam, Travis, and Williamson Counties. A final report would be due to "each standing committee of the legislature having primary jurisdiction over water" by September 1, 2022.

**Bill History:** 02-25-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources

[HB 666](#)      [Harris, Cody\(R\)](#)      Relating to the regulation of groundwater conservation districts.

**Companions:** [HB 668](#)      Harris, Cody      (Identical)  
3- 1-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources  
[SB 152](#)      Perry, Charles      (Identical)  
3- 3-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

**Remarks:** This bill would amend Chapter 36 of the Water Code in several ways. The bill would amend the attorney's fees language of Section 36.066 to give the court/judge the discretion to award attorney's fees to a groundwater conservation district (GCD) in any lawsuit that the GCD prevails and the GCD did not voluntarily intervene in the lawsuit. This amendment to Section 36.066 would change the current language that establishes a court/judge is required to award attorney's fees to a GCD if the GCD prevails. The bill would also add a petition for rulemaking process to Chapter 36 that is similar to the petition for rulemaking processes applicable to

state agencies in Texas. Finally, the bill would add a new Section 36.1141 to the Water Code to provide specific directives on how a permit applicant shall provide notice of a permit or permit amendment to each person with a real property interest in the groundwater beneath the language within the space established in the GCD's spacing rules for the proposed or existing well.

**Bill History:** 03-01-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources

---

HB 668

Harris, Cody(R)

Relating to the regulation of groundwater conservation districts.

**Companions:** HB 666 Harris, Cody (Identical)  
3- 1-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources  
SB 152 Perry, Charles (Identical)  
3- 3-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

**Remarks:** This bill would amend Chapter 36 of the Water Code in several ways. The bill would amend the attorney's fees language of Section 36.066 to give the court/judge the discretion to award attorney's fees to a groundwater conservation district (GCD) in any lawsuit that the GCD prevails and the GCD did not voluntarily intervene in the lawsuit. This amendment to Section 36.066 would change the current language that establishes a court/judge is required to award attorney's fees to a GCD if the GCD prevails. The bill would also add a petition for rulemaking process to Chapter 36 that is similar to the petition for rulemaking processes applicable to state agencies in Texas. Finally, the bill would add a new Section 36.1141 to the Water Code to provide specific directives on how a permit applicant shall provide notice of a permit or permit amendment to each person with a real property interest in the groundwater beneath the language within the space established in the GCD's spacing rules for the proposed or existing well.

**Bill History:** 03-01-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources

---

HB 966

Burns, DeWayne(R)

Relating to the award of attorney's fees and other costs in certain suits involving a groundwater conservation district.

**Remarks:** This bill would amend Section 36.066 of the Water Code to give the court/judge the discretion to award attorney's fees to a groundwater conservation district (GCD) that prevails on some, but not all, of the issues in a lawsuit other than a lawsuit the GCD voluntarily intervenes. This amendment would change the current standard

that requires a court/judge to award attorney's fees to a GCD. This bill also amends Section 36.102 of the Water Code to provide the court/judge the discretion to award attorney's fees in any suit a GCD brings to enforce its rules and the GCD prevails. Currently, the court/judge is required to award a GCD with attorney's fees if the GCD prevails in a lawsuit to enforce its rules.

**Bill History:** 03-01-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources

---

HB 1495      Dutton, Harold(D)      Relating to the award of court costs and attorney's fees in certain actions challenging certain local laws or the failure of an officer of certain political subdivisions to perform certain acts.

**Remarks:** HB 1495 seeks to amend the Civil Practice and Remedies Code by adding Chapter 38A to address attorney's fees in actions that challenge (1) local laws and (2) the failure of an officer to perform acts required of his public office by law. For context, Chapter 38 addresses the recovery of attorney's fees generally in civil suits. HB 1495 seeks to award the prevailing person in the aforesaid actions court costs and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees.

**Bill History:** 02-01-21 H Filed

---

HB 1718      Rodriguez, Eddie(D)      Relating to the equalization of the rates of production fees charged on certain wells by the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District.

**Remarks:** HB 1718 prohibits the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District from increasing the annual production fee for water permitted for nonagricultural purposes by more than 10 cents per thousand gallons per year. The bill provides the restriction begin on September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 02-09-21 H Filed

---

HB 1801      Larson, Lyle(R)      Relating to withdrawals of water from the Edwards Aquifer to supply a military installation.

**Remarks:** This bill amends the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act to authorize the San Antonio Water System ("SAWS") to withdraw groundwater from the aquifer without a permit if (1) the water is used to supply a military installation and (2) SAWS and the military installation enter into a contract that requires the installation to reduce its groundwater withdrawals by the same amount of groundwater it receives from the utility. The bill further clarifies that the groundwater provided through the contract may not exceed the maximum amount of water that the military installation is authorized to withdraw under "a biological opinion issued by a

federal agency." If passed, this law will take effect on September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 02-10-21 H Filed

---

HB 2006      Ashby, Trent(R)      Relating to the notice requirements for permits for the commercial surface disposal of oil and gas wastes.

**Companions:** SB 771      Nichols, Robert      (Identical)  
2-23-21 S Filed

**Bill History:** 02-22-21 H Filed

---

HB 2095      Wilson, Terry(R)      Relating to water research conducted by The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.

**Remarks:** HB 2095 requires the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to collect monitoring data related to surface water and groundwater and their integration. The bill provides that the bureau may also collect data related to soil or atmospheric moisture, if appropriate. The bureau will use the data collected to create a system of comprehensive surface water and groundwater models, including models of the integration of surface water and groundwater. Additionally, the bureau shall make the results available to state agencies and state institutions of higher education. The bureau may cooperate with Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, a state agency, or a private entity to carry out these duties.

**Bill History:** 02-23-21 H Filed

---

HB 2225      King, Tracy(D)      Relating to the powers and duties of the Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the Texas Water Trust.

**Bill History:** 02-24-21 H Filed

---

HB 2580      Leach, Jeff(R)      Relating to the operation and administration of the State Office of Administrative Hearings, including procedures during a declared disaster and the use of videoconferencing technology to conduct administrative hearings.

**Bill History:** 03-02-21 H Filed

---

HB 2652      Larson, Lyle(R)      Relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction.

**Companions:** HB 4570      Larson, Lyle      (Refiled from 86R Session)  
SB 1039      Eckhardt, Sarah (F)      (Identical)  
3- 4-21 S Filed

**Bill History:** 03-02-21 H Filed

---

HB 2745      Rosenthal, Jon(D)      Relating to regulation by the Railroad Commission of Texas of the geologic storage of anthropogenic carbon dioxide.

**Bill History:** 03-03-21 H Filed

---

HB 2851      Lucio III, Eddie(D)      Relating to the consideration of modeled sustainable groundwater pumping in the adoption of desired future conditions in groundwater conservation districts.

**Bill History:** 03-04-21 H Filed

---

SB 152      Perry, Charles(R)      Relating to the regulation of groundwater conservation districts.

**Companions:** HB 666Harris, Cody      (Identical)  
3- 1-21 H Introduced and referred to  
committee on House Natural Resources  
HB 668Harris, Cody      (Identical)  
3- 1-21 H Introduced and referred to  
committee on House Natural Resources

**Remarks:** This bill amends and adds several sections to the Water Code that create additional procedural rights for certain landowners and groundwater right holders against groundwater conservation districts ("GCDs"). First, the bill amends section 36.066 of the Water Code (relating to suits against GCDs) to change the language for awarding attorneys fees and other costs from "shall" to "may," thus eliminating any guarantee of fee and cost reimbursement for a GCD that successfully brings or defends a lawsuit. Second, the bill adds a section titled "Petition to Change Rules" that authorizes a person with groundwater ownership and rights to petition their local GCD to adopt or modify a rule. This section contains several requirements for such a petition, including an explanation of why a change to the GCD's rules is consistent with certain provisions of the Water Code and a requirement that the petitioner provide written notice to each person with groundwater rights in the area that would be affected by the change. The section also sets deadlines for a GCD to consider such a petition and requires the GCD to provide explanation for any action it takes on the petition. Finally, the bill adds a section that requires a person who submits a groundwater permit or a permit amendment to provide notice by certified mail to "each person with a real property interest in the groundwater beneath the land within the space prescribed by the district's spacing rules for the proposed or existing well." If a person receives notice under this section, they also have a "justiciable interest" that would allow them to participate in any hearings before the GCD. These provisions would take effect on September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 03-03-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

---

SB 234      Hall, Bob(R)

Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying activities.

**Companions:** HB 749 Middleton, Mayes (Identical)  
3- 1-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

**Remarks:** SB 234 amends SECTION 1. Chapter 556, of the Government Code, by adding Section 556.0056 that bars political subdivisions from spending public funds to hire lobbyists, or to pay a non-profit state association or organization that represents political subdivisions and hires lobbyists. The legislation further stipulates that a political subdivision found to have contracted with a lobbyist or lobby organization in violation of this provision can be sued by a taxpayer or resident of the political subdivision. If the suit is successful, the taxpayer or resident is entitled to recover attorney fees and other reasonable costs associated with bringing the action.

**Bill History:** 03-03-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

---

SB 307      Eckhardt, Sarah (F)(D)

Relating to the transmission of water across two or more county lines for the purpose of providing wholesale water service.

**Remarks:** This bill adds a subchapter to the Water Code that provides that only a local government corporation created under Subchapter D, Chapter 431 of the Transportation Code (the Texas Transportation Corporation Act) may transport water by pipeline across two or more counties for the purpose of providing wholesale water service. Eligible transportation corporations may only transmit potable water if acting "to aid and act on behalf of the counties through which the pipeline travels." This restriction only applies to the transmission of water by a pipeline of more than 24 inches in diameter. If passed, this bill only applies to pipelines that begin providing wholesale water service on or after September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 01-11-21 S Filed

---

SB 656      Gutierrez, Roland (F)(D)

Relating to the creation of the Val Verde County Groundwater Conservation District.

**Bill History:** 02-11-21 S Filed

---

SB 771      Nichols, Robert(R)

Relating to the notice requirements for permits for the commercial surface disposal of oil and gas wastes.

**Companions:** HB 2006 Ashby, Trent (Identical)

2-22-21 H Filed

**Bill History:** 02-23-21 S Filed

---

SB 946

Eckhardt, Sarah (F)(D)

Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit.

**Bill History:** 03-02-21 S Filed

<b>Total Bills: 20</b>
------------------------



**Election Bills**  
**87th Legislative Session**

## Elections Bill Tracking Report

2-26-2021 thru 99-99-9999

02-26-2021 - 16:12:20

A - Action in the date range   
 R - Link to Related Information   
 ( ) - Priority

**Elections**

[HB 35](#)      [Swanson, Valoree\(R\)](#)      Relating to an election authorizing the issuance of bonds or an increase in taxes by a political subdivision.

**Companions:**      [HB 3723](#)      Swanson, Valoree      (Refiled from 86R Session)

**Remarks:** This bill amends the Election Code and the Government Code to (1) require bond elections for all political subdivisions and (2) add procedural restrictions for bond and tax increase elections. First, the bill amends the Government Code to require an election when any "political subdivision" plans to issue bonds. Currently, the law requires elections only when a county or municipality plans to issue bonds "to be paid from ad valorem taxes." The bill also eliminates election exemptions for refunding bonds or bonds less than \$2,000.

Second, the bill adds four procedural restrictions for bond and tax increase elections: (1) the election will have no effect unless more than 25 percent of registered voters in the political subdivision vote in the election; (2) the election must be held on the November uniform election date (except for automatic elections authorized under sections 26.07 and 26.08 of the Tax Code); (3) the election must allow in-person early voting; and (4) the election must be held as a joint election. These rules would only apply to bonds or tax increases authorized after the law's effective date.

**Bill History:** 02-25-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions/Investments/Financial Services

[HB 123](#)      [Meza, Terry\(D\)](#)      Relating to participation in the countywide polling place program.

**Companions:**      [HB 177](#)      Bernal, Diego      (Refiled from 86R Session)

[HB 2142](#)      Meza, Terry (F)      (Refiled from 86R Session)

<a href="#">SB 101</a>	Menendez, Jose	(Refiled from 86R Session)
<a href="#">SB 99</a>	Menendez, Jose	(Identical)
	11- 9-20 S Filed	

**Remarks:** Repeals Section 43.007(i) of the Election Code relating to the Countywide Polling Place Program. The Program allows each county commissioners' court participating in the program to eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish countywide polling places for each general election for state and county officers, each election held on the uniform election date in May, and each election on a proposed constitutional amendment. Subsection (i) specifically provides that the SOS may only select to participate in the program six counties with a population of 100,000 or more and four counties with a population of less than 100,000.

**Bill History:** 02-25-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

---

<a href="#">HB 481</a>	<a href="#">Gonzalez, Jessica(D)</a>	Relating to days and hours for voting during the early voting period.
------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------

**Companions:** [HB 1461](#) Gonzalez, Jessica (F) (Refiled from 86R Session)

**Bill History:** 02-25-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

---

<a href="#">HB 574</a>	<a href="#">Bonnen, Greg(R)</a>	Relating to the prevention of fraud in the conduct of an election.
------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------

**Remarks:** This bill amends Chapter 276 of the Texas Election Code to expand the definition of election fraud under that Chapter. This bill amends Section 276.013 of the Election Code to expand the definition of election fraud to include (1) counting invalid ballots or altering a report to include invalid votes or ballots, and (2) failing to count valid ballots or altering a report to exclude valid votes or ballots. This bill would also increase the punishment for election fraud from a Class A misdemeanor to a second degree felony.

**Bill History:** 11-16-20 H Filed

---

<a href="#">HB 752</a>	<a href="#">Israel, Celia(D)</a>	Relating to the election of certain unopposed candidates.
------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

**Companions:** [HB 1852](#) Israel, Celia (Refiled from 86R Session)

**Remarks:** This bill amends Sections 2.053 and 2.056 of the Election Code to require political subdivisions to declare unopposed candidates elected to office.

Currently, the law provides that a political subdivision "may" declare each unopposed candidate elected to office. This bill removes the instances of "may" in this context and replaces them with "shall." If passed, these changes will take effect on September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 12-08-20 H Filed

---

HB 1183      Dutton, Harold(D)      Relating to eligibility requirements for public office and to the form of an application for a place on the ballot.

**Remarks:** This bill amends Chapter 141 of the Texas Election Code to amend the form Application for a Place on the Ballot used in Texas elections and to require certain candidates to submit additional paperwork with their applications. Specifically, this bill amends Section 141.039 of the Election Code to require a statement to be added to the form Application for a Place on the Ballot that reads "restoration of voting rights is not the same as removal of disability for purposes of satisfying eligibility requirements for public office". Additionally, this bill also amends Section 141.031 of the Election Code to require certain candidates to include a certified copy of the candidate's pardon or other documentation evidencing the removal of disability if that candidate has been convicted of a felony and subsequently pardoned.

**Bill History:** 01-19-21 H Filed

---

HB 1184      Dutton, Harold(D)      Relating to eligibility requirements for public office for persons finally convicted of a felony.

**Bill History:** 01-19-21 H Filed

---

HB 1242      Cole, Sheryl(D)      Relating to the early voting period.

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 85.001 of the Texas Election Code to expand the early voting period in Texas from the 17th day before election day to the first business day after the last day a voter registration becomes effective for that election. Under current law, the last day to register to vote for each election is 30 days before election day, so this bill would expand the early voting period to 30 days before election day.

**Bill History:** 01-21-21 H Filed

---

HB 1314      Hefner, Cole(R)      Relating to a requirement that all components of a voting system used in an election in this state be manufactured, stored, and held in the United States by a company headquartered in the United States.

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 122.032 of the Election Code to require that voting systems used for

elections contain only U.S. components and be sold only by U.S. companies. First, the bill requires that all voting system components—including “equipment, individual component pieces, and data storage”—be “manufactured, stored, and held” in the U.S. Second, the bill requires all voting systems to be sold by a company (1) whose headquarters are in the U.S. and (2) whose parent company’s headquarters are in the U.S. If the bill passes, these requirements will apply to any voting system used in elections after September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 01-25-21 H Filed

---

[HB 1368](#)      [Leach, Jeff\(R\)](#)      Relating to election fraud.

**Companions:**      [HB 3682](#)      Middleton, Mayes (F)      (Refiled from 86R Session)

**Remarks:** This bill amends section 276.013(b) to increase the penalty for election fraud from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony. The bill does not retroactively apply to an offense committed before the bill’s effective date. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 01-26-21 H Filed

---

[HB 2057](#)      [Klick, Stephanie\(R\)](#)      Relating to the timing of changes to county election precincts.

**Bill History:** 02-22-21 H Filed

---

[SB 131](#)      [Johnson, Nathan\(D\)](#)      Relating to authorizing cities to change the date on which their general election for officers is held.

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 41.0052 of the Texas Election Code to allow the governing body of a city to change the date on which it holds its general election. Cities may change their general election date to the November uniform election date with two-thirds vote by the city’s governing body. This change supersedes the city’s charter. Previously under Section 41.0052(a) cities could change their general election date to the November uniform election date, but they had to do so by December 31, 2016.

**Bill History:** 11-09-20 S Filed

**Total Bills: 12**

Open Government Bills  
87th Legislative Session



## Open Government Bill Tracking Report

3- 5-2021 thru 99-99-9999

03-05-2021 - 10:19:35

A - Action in the date range R - Link to Related Information ( ) - Priority

### Open Government

[HB 327](#)

[Howard, Donna\(D\)](#)

Relating to the Internet broadcast or audio recording of certain open meetings.

**Companions:** [SB 341](#) West, Royce (Identical)  
1-14-21 S Filed

**Remarks:** This bill amends the Texas Open Meetings Act ("TOMA") to require certain state agencies to broadcast their open meetings online and archive past recordings. First, the bill adds a section that requires any agency that receives over \$10 million in appropriations and employs over 100 full-time workers to broadcast "live video and audio" of each open meeting online and to provide access to these broadcasts on the agency's website. This section also requires the agency to post meeting recordings on its website within 7 days of the event and subsequently maintain the recording online for two years. Additionally, these agencies must post full TOMA notice on their website prior to an open meeting. The bill exempts agencies from these requirements during any "catastrophe" as defined in section 551.0411 of the Government Code (which includes natural disasters, power outages, and epidemics) or for any "technical breakdown" that prevents the agency from complying. The bill also notes that agencies should consider contracting out these duties to minimize costs.

The bill also adds a separate section to the Government Code that requires any agency regardless of size to publish audio recordings of public meetings on their website or on a social media account. Prior to the meeting, the agency must post notice on their website or on a social media account. This section provides the same exemptions for catastrophes and technical breakdowns. The provisions in this bill would apply to an open meeting held on or after September 1, 2023.

**Bill History:** 02-25-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 590

Turner, Chris(D)

Relating to public access to personal financial statements filed by public officials and candidates.

**Companions:** SB 290 West, Royce (Identical)  
3- 3-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

**Remarks:** This bill amends Chapter 572 of the Government Code which governs the financial statements and disclosures candidates for elected office must file with the Texas Ethics Commission. Specifically, this bill amends section 572.032 to require the Texas Ethics Commission to make candidates' financial statements publicly available on the Commission's website. Under this bill, the Texas Ethics Commission would post candidates' filed financial statements within 15 days of receiving them. The Commission would maintain these records on its website until two years after the date that individual ceases to be a state officer. Information regarding the candidate or elected officers' homes address, telephone number, and the names of their dependent children will be redacted from the forms before the Commission posts them on its website.

**Bill History:** 03-01-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

---

HB 768

Patterson, Jared(R)

Relating to the requirement that certain governmental bodies make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet.

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 551.128 of the Government Code to expand the types of governmental entities required to publish video and audio recordings of their open meetings. The bill adds political subdivisions located wholly or partly in a county with a population of 5,000 or more, as well as the counties themselves to the list of entities subject to the video recording requirements. Any transportation authority subject to Chapter 451, 452, 453, or 460 of the Transportation Code (which includes metropolitan rapid transit authorities, regional transport authorities, municipal transit departments, and coordinated county transportation authorities) must also comply with this law. If the bill passes, these requirements will apply to open meetings held after September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 03-01-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

---

HB 1030

Shaheen, Matt(R)

Relating to the publication of required notice by a political subdivision by alternative media.

**Remarks:** HB 1030, relating to the publication of required notice by a political subdivision by alternative media, amends SECTION 1. Chapter 2051, Government Code, by adding a new Subchapter G,



"NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IN MEDIA OTHER THAN NEWSPAPER." Included is a new Sec. 2051.251, that requires a political subdivision may satisfy public notice requirements by providing notice in the newspaper with the greatest circulation in the political subdivision, or on Internet websites maintained by the political subdivision and the comptroller. The political subdivision may use alternative media, including social media, free newspapers, school newspapers, a homeowners association newsletter, utility bills, direct mailings, or any other form authorized by the Comptroller. However, before providing notice by an alternative method, a political subdivision must hold a public meeting about the alternative notice method. During the meeting, the political subdivision must demonstrate that the circulation of the alternative media will be greater than the circulation of the newspaper with the greatest circulation in the political subdivision. A political subdivision that provides notice using shall submit notice to the comptroller describing the alternative notice method. A political subdivision may request from the comptroller, and the comptroller may grant, a waiver from the alternative disclosure requirements if the political subdivision provides sufficient proof that Internet access is limited in the political subdivision. If the comptroller grants the waiver, the political subdivision must provide additional notice on a public agenda board within the political subdivision.

In addition, a new Sec. 2051.252. requires the comptroller to prepare a report that identifies and compares the effectiveness of different methods of notice publication used by political subdivisions. Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the comptroller shall submit the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. The section sunsets on Jan. 1, 2025.

**Bill History:** 03-04-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

---

HB 1082

King, Phil(R)

Relating to the availability of personal information of an elected public officer.

**Remarks:** This bill reenacts and amends Section 25.025 of the Tax Code and Sections 552.117 and 552.1175 of the Government Code (all relating to personal contact information exceptions for public information requests) to add any "elected public officer" to the list of protected officials. If the bill passes, these changes will apply only to public information requests received after September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 03-04-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

---

HB 1118

Capriiglione, Giovanni(R)

Relating to state agency and local government compliance with cybersecurity training requirements.

**Companions:** SB 345 Paxton, Angela (Identical)  
1-14-21 S Filed

**Remarks:** HB 1118 establishes stricter cybersecurity requirements for state and local entities. First, to receive a grant under chapter 772, a local government must submit written verification of their compliance with cybersecurity training requirements. If a grantee fails to comply with cybersecurity requirements, this bill requires them to repay their grant and prevents them from applying for a new chapter 772 grant for two years. The bill also adds a requirement that local governments train appointed and elected officials in cybersecurity. Finally, the bill requires state agencies to include a certification of their compliance with cybersecurity training requirements in their strategic plans.

**Bill History:** 03-04-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

---

HB 1154

Jetton, Jacey (F)(R)

Relating to the requirement that certain political subdivisions cause certain information to be posted on an Internet website.

**Remarks:** This bill adds a section to the Government Code that requires certain special purpose districts—political subdivisions with geographic boundaries defining their jurisdictions—to post certain information on publicly accessible websites. These posting requirements apply to a special purpose district that meets four requirements: (1) it is authorized to impose ad valorem taxes, (2) it imposed an ad valorem tax in the previous year, (3) it has outstanding bonds, or it had gross receipts from operations, loans, taxes, or contributions in excess of \$250,00 or cash and temporary investments in excess of \$250,000 in the previous year, and (4) it encompasses a population of 500 or more people. The bill provides that a special purpose district that meets these requirements must post a variety of information online, including names of the members of its governing body, ad valorem tax rates, sales and use tax rates (if applicable), notices for meetings, and meeting minutes. These requirements do not apply to municipalities, counties, junior college districts, independent school districts, or any political subdivision with a statewide jurisdiction. The bill also amends Section 49.0631 of the Water Code to require utilities that fall under these requirements to list their informational websites on customer water bills. If passed, this law will take effect on September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 03-04-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

---

HB 1416      Capriglione, Giovanni(R)      Relating to the definition of business day for purposes of the public information law.

**Companions:** SB 925      Zaffirini, Judith      (Identical)  
3- 2-21 S Filed

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 552.003 of the Government Code—which sets out the definitions for the Texas Public Information Act—to add a definition for “business day.” Under the proposed law, “business day” means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, or a national or state holiday. If the bill passes, this new definition will apply only to public information requests received after September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 01-27-21 H Filed

---

HB 1473      Gates, Gary(R)      Relating to the requirements for meetings held and Internet websites developed by certain special purpose districts.

**Companions:** SB 526      Kolkhorst, Lois      (Identical)  
1-29-21 S Filed

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 551.128 of the Government Code to require boards of certain water districts to maintain a website with required information listed on the website. The requirements for information on these websites are: (1) contact information for board members; (2) time and place of board meetings; (3) a live video stream of the board meeting; (4) a video recording of each meeting posted to the website no later than 5 business days after the meeting takes place and kept on the website for at least one year; (5) the minutes for each meeting; and (6) information on district’s budget and any tax rate set by the district. This bill only applies to special purpose districts subject to Chapters 51, 53, 54, or 55 of the Water Code that has a population of 500 or more.

Section 49.062(b) of the Water Code is amended to provide that when a board cannot meet within the district, it must provide notice and justification for a meeting that takes place outside of the district. This bill takes effect September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 01-29-21 H Filed

---

HB 1563      Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara(D)      Relating to the disclosure of information in department files of fire fighters or police officers in certain municipalities.

**Remarks:** HB 1563 amends the Public Information Act to require that police and fire departments make fire

fighters' and police officers' personnel files public information subject to public disclosure. The bill requires each department to provide the fire fighter or police officer with a copy of the request for public information and written notice of the department's intent to comply with the request.

**Bill History:** 02-03-21 H Filed

---

[HB 1704](#)      [Middleton, Mayes\(R\)](#)      Relating to filing and publishing lobbyist activity reports.

**Remarks:** HB 1704 amends the Government Code to require registrants to file a report of lobbying expenditures by the first day of each month. The bill removes the requirement that full, verified accounts of the expenditures must be provided seven days before the report is due. Additionally, the bill removes the section providing that an expenditure does not have to be included in a modified report until the year that the amount is readily determinable. Lastly, the bill requires that the Texas Ethics Commission make the information included in a monthly report available on its website by the 15th day of the following month.

**Bill History:** 02-09-21 H Filed

---

[HB 2560](#)      [Martinez, Armando\(D\)](#)      Relating to remote meetings under the open meetings law.

**Companions:** [SB 639](#)      Menendez, Jose      (Identical)  
2-10-21 S Filed

**Bill History:** 03-02-21 H Filed

---

[HB 2618](#)      [Hernandez, Ana\(D\)](#)      Relating to the exception to disclosure under the public information law of certain personal information contained in a citation issued for a violation of a state traffic law or local traffic ordinance.

**Bill History:** 03-02-21 H Filed

---

[SB 341](#)      [West, Royce\(D\)](#)      Relating to the Internet broadcast or audio recording of certain open meetings.

**Companions:** [HB 327](#) Howard, Donna      (Identical)  
2-25-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

**Remarks:** This bill amends the Texas Open Meetings Act ("TOMA") chapter of the Government Code to require certain state agencies to broadcast their open meetings online and archive past recordings. First, the bill adds a section that requires any agency that receives over \$10 million in appropriations and employs over 100 full-time workers to broadcast "live video and audio" of each open meeting online and to provide access to

these broadcasts on the agency's website. This section also requires the agency to post meeting recordings on its website within 7 days of the event and subsequently maintain the recording online for two years. Additionally, these agencies must post full TOMA notice on their website prior to an open meeting. The bill exempts agencies from these requirements during any "catastrophe" as defined in section 551.0411 of the Government Code (which includes natural disasters, power outages, and epidemics) or for any "technical breakdown" that prevents the agency from complying. The bill also notes that agencies should consider contracting out these duties to minimize costs.

The bill also adds a separate section to the Government Code that requires any agency regardless of size to publish audio recordings of public meetings on their website or on a social media account. Prior to the meeting, the agency must provide full TOMA notice on their website or on a social media account. This section provides the same exemptions for catastrophes and technical breakdowns. The provisions in this bill would apply to an open meeting held on or after September 1, 2023.

**Bill History:** 01-14-21 S Filed

---

SB 345

Paxton, Angela(R)

Relating to state agency and local government compliance with cybersecurity training requirements.

**Companions:** HB 1118 Capriglione, Giovanni (Identical)  
3- 4-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

**Remarks:** This bill establishes stricter cybersecurity requirements for state and local entities. First, to receive a grant under chapter 772, a local government must submit written verification of their compliance with cybersecurity training requirements. If a grantee fails to comply with cybersecurity requirements, this bill requires them to repay their grant and prevents them from applying for a new chapter 772 grant for two years. The bill also adds a requirement that local governments train appointed and elected officials in cybersecurity. Finally, the bill requires state agencies to include a certification of their compliance with cybersecurity training requirements in their strategic plans.

**Bill History:** 01-14-21 S Filed

---

SB 526

Kolkhorst, Lois(R)

Relating to the requirements for meetings held and Internet websites developed by certain special purpose districts.

**Companions:** [HB 1473](#) Gates, Gary (Identical)  
1-29-21 H Filed

**Remarks:** This bill amends Section 551.128 of the Government Code to require boards of certain water districts to maintain a website with required information listed on the website. The requirements for information on these websites are: (1) contact information for board members; (2) time and place of board meetings; (3) a live video stream of the board meeting; (4) a video recording of each meeting posted to the website no later than 5 business days after the meeting takes place and kept on the website for at least one year; (5) the minutes for each meeting; and (6) information on district's budget and any tax rate set by the district. This bill only applies to special purpose districts subject to Chapters 51, 53, 54, or 55 of the Water Code that has a population of 500 or more.

Section 49.062(b) of the Water Code is amended to provide that when a board cannot meet within the district, it must provide notice and justification for a meeting that takes place outside of the district. This bill takes effect September 1, 2021.

**Bill History:** 01-29-21 S Filed

---

[SB 639](#) [Menendez, Jose\(D\)](#) Relating to remote meetings under the open meetings law.

**Companions:** [HB 2560](#) Martinez, Armando (Identical)  
3- 2-21 H Filed

**Bill History:** 02-10-21 S Filed

---

[SB 729](#) [Johnson, Nathan\(D\)](#) Relating to maintenance and production of electronic public information under the public information law.

**Companions:** [HB 1810](#) Capriglione, Giovanni (Identical)  
2-10-21 H Filed  
[SB 928](#) Zaffirini, Judith (Identical)  
3- 2-21 S Filed

**Bill History:** 02-22-21 S Filed

---

[SB 861](#) [Paxton, Angela\(R\)](#) Relating to remote meetings under the open meetings law.

**Bill History:** 02-26-21 S Filed

---

[SB 923](#) [Zaffirini, Judith\(D\)](#) Relating to open government.

**Bill History:** 03-02-21 S Filed

---

<a href="#">SB 924</a>	<a href="#">Zaffirini, Judith(D)</a>	Relating to requirements for open meetings that are broadcast over the Internet or held by telephone conference or videoconference call.
<b>Companions:</b> <a href="#">HB 2683</a> Canales, Terry (Identical) 3- 3-21 H Filed		
<b>Bill History:</b> 03-02-21 S Filed		
<a href="#">SB 925</a>	<a href="#">Zaffirini, Judith(D)</a>	Relating to the definition of business day for purposes of the public information law.
<b>Companions:</b> <a href="#">HB 1416</a> Capriglione, Giovanni (Identical) 1-27-21 H Filed		
<b>Bill History:</b> 03-02-21 S Filed		
<a href="#">SB 926</a>	<a href="#">Zaffirini, Judith(D)</a>	Relating to the availability of dates of birth under the public information law.
<b>Bill History:</b> 03-02-21 S Filed		
<a href="#">SB 927</a>	<a href="#">Zaffirini, Judith(D)</a>	Relating to a governmental body's response to a request for public information.
<b>Bill History:</b> 03-02-21 S Filed		
<a href="#">SB 928</a>	<a href="#">Zaffirini, Judith(D)</a>	Relating to maintenance and production of electronic public information under the public information law.
<b>Companions:</b> <a href="#">HB 1810</a> Capriglione, Giovanni (Identical) 2-10-21 H Filed		
<a href="#">SB 729</a> Johnson, Nathan (Identical) 2-22-21 S Filed		
<b>Bill History:</b> 03-02-21 S Filed		

**Total Bills: 25**