



TexLine

TLA*

The 88th Texas Legislative Session ended on Monday, May 29 around 6 p.m. Governor Abbott, citing the Legislature's inability to pass many key bills, called an [immediate special session](#) which officially began at 9 p.m. Monday to focus on property tax relief and border security. The governor also alluded to the need for multiple special sessions to address other priority issues not passed during the regular session.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick sent a letter to Gov. Abbott requesting that [additional Senate priority bills](#) be included in future special sessions. He includes SB 1601, prohibiting drag queen performances at public libraries in his list.

TLA tracked more than 30 bills which could have directly impacted Texas libraries. Only a fraction of those bills advanced through the process, and only three passed.

Passed

[HB 900](#) by Rep. Patterson requires TSLAC, with SBOE approval, to adopt mandatory school library collection development standards; defines sexually explicit and sexually relevant material; requires vendors to assign ratings to material they (*the vendor*) identify as sexually explicit or sexually relevant; and gives TEA the authority to review ratings and require changes as they determine appropriate.

[HB 2177](#) by Rep. Stucky directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a digital textbook and learning materials subscription pilot program.

[SB 18](#) by Sen. Creighton prohibits Texas public universities from awarding tenure. The bill passed the Senate and was sent to the House Higher Education Committee. Rep. Kuemple, chair of that committee, put forward a substitute version of SB 18 which codified tenure in state law and that version passed the House. Time was running out on the bill, and the House did not appoint conference committee members, so the Senate agreed to the House version of the bill.

Advanced but did not pass

[SB 13](#) by Sen. Paxton requires TSLAC to create mandatory collection development standards to submit to SBOE for approval; requires school districts to give parents the option to receive an email every time their child checks out a book; establishes Local School Library Advisory Councils at school districts; and requires school boards to approve all library materials before they are purchased.

The bill was passed by the Senate but was not heard in the House State Affairs Committee. Sen. Paxton worked with Rep. Patterson, the author of HB 900, to try to amend elements of SB 13 on to HB 900 when it was considered by the Senate, but they did not come to a final agreement.

[HB 540](#) by Rep. Longoria would give the Texas State Library & Archives Commission statutory authority to award competitive grants for library construction. The bill was passed by the House but was not heard by the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.

[HB 750](#) by Rep. Dean would allow public junior colleges to donate library materials if the materials are removed from the collection due to age, condition, obsolete content, and have little or no monetary value. The bill was passed by the House but was not heard by the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee.

[SB 1601](#) by Sen. Hughes would deny state or other public funding to municipal libraries

that host drag queen story hours or otherwise host events where persons presenting as the opposite sex read books to children for entertainment. The bill was passed by the Senate but was not heard by the House State Affairs Committee.

Bills amending Texas Penal Code Section 43.24 relating to providing harmful materials to minors.

None of the 12 bills filed which would remove the affirmative defense to prosecution for providing harmful materials to minors if there was an educational, scientific, governmental, or similar justification were heard by the committees to which they were referred.

We will actively monitor the Special Sessions to determine if library-related legislation is added as a topic to be considered. And we are beginning to turn our focus to how HB 900 will impact school libraries in the 2023-2024 school year.

Thank you for your support and advocacy during this challenging Legislative Session! You made a difference!



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