

Senator Judith Zaffirini Summary of Legislation Passed

1987-2006

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BORDER AFFAIRS/COLONIAS

71st Legislature (1989):

HB 2974 **Centers for Border Economic and Enterprise Development:** Establishes centers for border economic and enterprise development at Laredo State University, The University of Texas at El Paso, and Pan American University. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/89.

73rd Legislature (1993):

HB 2079 **Model Rules for Water and Wastewater in Colonias:** Requires that model rules assure adequate drinking water and adequate sewage disposal systems are available. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

SB 1509 **Colonia Self-Help Centers:** Creates colonia self-help centers to provide home finance assistance, counseling, a tool library, instruction, and technical assistance regarding installation and financing for septic systems. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/95.

HB 1001 **Platting Requirements, AG Authority in Colonias:** Grants enforcement authority to the attorney general, imposes platting and service requirements on persons selling property in economically distressed subdivisions, and imposes civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/19/95.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 312TWDB Sunset Bill, Improvements to Water Delivery in Colonias: Includes several provisions related to the operation of the TWDB, as well as establishes the Colonia Self-Help Program, a pilot program for water and wastewater loans for rural communities, and the Colonia Initiatives Advisory Committee. (House sponsor: Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

HB 722 **Expands Powers of Border Counties:** Authorizes additional authority for commissioners courts in certain border counties. (House author: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 9/1/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

SB 293 **Public Safety and Inspection of Mexican Trucks:** Requires the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to initiate quarterly meetings with Mexican officials and report progress toward mitigating delays in border crossing inspections for northbound truck traffic. (House sponsor: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 6/17/05.

SB 569 **Transportation and Inspection of Mexican Trucks:** Requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to initiate quarterly meetings with Mexican officials and report progress toward mitigating delays in border crossing inspections for northbound truck traffic. (House sponsor: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 6/17/05.

SB 827 **Colonias Classification System:** Directs state agencies to report information to the Secretary of State's Office regarding the status of water, wastewater, and other infrastructure projects in colonias, which in turn is required to compile information received, prepare a report about the progress of state-funded colonias projects, and report to the Legislature. (House sponsor: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 9/1/05.

CHILDREN

70th Legislature (1987):

- SB 223** **Investigations of Missing Persons and Missing or Runaway Children:** Requires local law enforcement officers to begin an investigation immediately when a child is reported missing and considered in danger. Also expands the definition of "missing child" to include runaways. (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Collazo, D-Port Arthur); Effective 6/18/87.
- SB 225** **Defining Children in Need of Supervision:** Excludes from the definition of "child" and, in effect, from the definition of "runaways," minors who are married, widowed, or divorced. (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Collazo, D-Port Arthur); Effective 6/19/87.
- SB 1002** **Consent for The Immunization of a Minor:** Allows certain adults, such as aunts, uncles and grandparents, who are authorized via notarized statements signed by parents, to accompany minors and to authorize their being immunized as required by law to attend public schools. (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/87.
- SB 1255** **Emergency Shelter and Care for Minor Mothers:** Authorizes public and private facilities to provide emergency shelter and care to minor mothers and their children. Prohibits shelter care from extending beyond 15 days unless the facility receives consent from the minor mother's legal guardian or unless she qualifies for AFDC and her name is on the waiting list for housing assistance. (House sponsor: Rep. Orlando Garcia, D-San Antonio); Effective 6/30/87.
- HB 113** **Prevention of Child Abduction:** Establishes parental kidnapping as a felony and that an offense is committed when: (1) a noncustodial parent knowingly violates a court order awarding custody to the other parent; and (2) a parent removes a child from the court's jurisdiction when a custody case is pending. Also establishes that it is an offense for a security officer or other adult to kidnap a child on behalf of a noncustodial parent. (House author: Rep. Frank Collazo, D-Port Arthur); Effective 9/1/87.
- HB 593** **Records Concerning a Missing Child:** Allows the fingerprinting and photographing of a juvenile taken into custody for delinquent behavior and authorizes the release of a missing child's information and records to state and national law enforcement. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/31/87.

HB 1904 **Prevention of the Exploitation of Minors:** Establishes that it is unlawful to employ minors in sexually-oriented commercial activities or in establishments that permit, request or require a child to work nude or topless. (House author: Rep. Lena Guerrero: D-Austin); Effective 8/31/87.

HB 1906 **Prosecution of Minors for Traffic Violations:** Requires a minor detained for traffic offenses to be placed in a juvenile detention center, not in a prison with adults, until he or she and parents can see a judge. Allows judges to require community service hours in lieu of fines for traffic offenses by minors. (House author: Rep. Lena Guerrero, D-Austin); Effective 8/31/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

SB 30 **Prevention of Certain Rituals or Ceremonies Involving a Child:** Increases the punishment for certain criminal offenses, such as indecency with a child, if the victim was younger than 17 at the time of the offense and the offense was committed as part of a ritual or ceremony. Passed during first special session. (House sponsor: Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen); Effective 10/18/89.

SB 45 **Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect in Child Care Facilities:** Requires each child care facility to post a sign describing the statutory requirements for reporting child abuse or neglect, and requires the Texas Department of Human Services to determine the design, size and wording of the sign and to provide the sign to each child care facility at no cost. Passed during first called session. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 11/1/89.

SB 388 **Prevention of Kidnapping:** Clarifies that the offense of kidnapping occurs when a child is taken "out of the geographic area composing the judicial district of a district court or the county." (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Collazo, D-Port Arthur); Effective 9/1/89.

SB 402 **Sharing of Information About Missing Children:** Requires local law enforcement agencies to enter the name and identifying information of a missing child or person in the National Crime Information Center's missing persons file and information about unidentified bodies in the center's unidentified persons file. (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Collazo, D-Port Arthur); Effective 8/28/89.

SB 1698 **Expands Services for Runaways, Truants and Other Children at Risk of Suffering Abuse or Neglect:** Establishes "Services for Runaways and At-Risk Youth," mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse, and service requirements for abused children and their families. (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/89.

- HB 582** **Access to Mental Health Records:** Authorizes a court to grant access to mental health records in lawsuits involving the placement of a child who is under its conservatorship. (House author: Rep. Orlando Garcia, D-San Antonio); Effective 8/28/89.
- HB 596** **Appointment of a Permanent Guardian for a Minor:** Requires any application for appointment of permanent legal guardianship to be sworn to and provides that if a minor is involved, there must be a statement as to whether the minor has been the subject of any other legal proceeding within the previous two years and the final disposition of the proceeding. (House author: Rep. Orlando Garcia, D-San Antonio); Effective 8/28/89.

73rd Legislature (1993):

- SB 266** **Childhood Immunizations:** Provides for the statewide immunization of Texas children for vaccine-preventable diseases and sets forth provisions for the administration of the immunizations. (House sponsor: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.
- SB 277** **Relating to Reporting a Finding of Paternity to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics:** Requires reporting a finding of paternity to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. (House sponsor: Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 196** **Prohibiting the Consideration of Race in Adoptions and Foster Care:** Prohibits courts, in determining the best interests of a child, from denying or delaying adoptions on the basis of race or ethnicity of the child or of the prospective adoptive parents; prohibits the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TPRS) from prohibiting or delaying foster care placements on the basis of race or ethnicity of the child or the foster family; and prohibits TPRS or related agencies from denying or delaying adoptions on the basis of race or ethnicity of the child or of the prospective adoptive parents. (House author: Rep. Karyne Jones Conley, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 1502** **Child Passenger Safety Seat Systems:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to establish a program to distribute child passenger safety seats to indigent persons. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 8/30/93.
- HB 1662** **Court-Appointed Volunteer Advocate Programs for Abused or Neglected Children:** Transfers the court-appointed volunteer advocate programs for abused or neglected children from Government Code to Family Code. (House author: Rep. Libby Linebarger, D-Manchaca); Effective 8/30/93.

HB 2385 **Pediatric Emergency Medical Services:** Directs the Department of Health to develop a statewide pediatric emergency services system based on recommendations from a seven-member advisory board appointed by the commissioner of health. (House author: Rep. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio); Effective 8/30/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

SB 338 **Petitions to Terminate the Parent-Child Relationship:** Sets forth conditions under which a petition requesting termination of the parent-child relationship may be granted. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 1098 **Consent for the Immunization of Minor:** Grants the person authorized to give consent to the immunization of a minor the right to not be present at the time the immunization is requested, if an appropriate consent form has been given to the health care provider. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 8/28/95.

SB 1229 **Voluntary Perinatal Systems:** Authorizes the Texas Board of Health to implement voluntary perinatal health care systems within the state. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 1485 **Creates Child Fatality Review Teams:** Creates the child fatality review team committee and child fatality review teams to confront the problem of child deaths in Texas. (House sponsor: Rep. Van de Putte, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 1487 **Equal Protection for Potential Foster Parents:** Prohibits the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services from considering race or ethnicity as a primary factor in adoption or foster care placements. (House sponsor: Rep. Karyne Conley, D-San Antonio); Effective 6/16/95.

HB 997 **Children's Health Insurance:** Requires the Texas Department of Health to establish a pilot program to provide health insurance coverage for children under age 13 who are ineligible for Medicaid and authorizes the State Medicaid office to develop a waiver for such a pilot in one area of the state. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/95.

HB 1745 **Requiring Hepatitis B Immunization for School Children:** Adds hepatitis B to the immunizations required for Texas school children. (House author: Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston); Effective 8/28/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

- SB 34** **Reforming Child Protective Services:** Requires the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) to immediately file a suit to terminate the parent-child relationship of an abandoned child; requires the court to hold a status hearing to review the child's status and the permanency plan developed for the child; provides for a broader dissemination of information regarding children eligible for adoption; and promotes judicial efficiency. (House sponsor: Rep. Elvira Reyna, R-Mesquite); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 55** **Restricting Children's Access to Tobacco:** Requiring retailers who sell tobacco to obtain a permit and dedicating those permit fees to enforcement and tobacco use prevention education programs; placing a 10 percent surcharge on outdoor billboard tobacco advertisements; requiring sales clerks to verify age through a photo ID; prohibiting minors' possession of tobacco and mandating education and awareness programs for violators; requiring that all tobacco sales be vendor assisted, except in areas not frequented by minors; and prohibiting the distribution of free tobacco samples to persons under the age of eighteen. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 118** **Delineating Care of Medically Fragile Children in Long Term Care Institutions:** Requires long-term care institutions to notify the community resource coordination group (CRCG), the local school district if the child is at least three years of age, and the local early intervention program if the child is younger than three years of age; also provides for certain services. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 172** **Requiring Insurance Coverage for Certain Immunizations:** Requires certain health benefit plans that provide benefits for an insured family member, including children under the age of six, to provide childhood immunization coverage for every child younger than six years for specific childhood diseases. (House sponsor: Rep. Mark Stiles, D-Beaumont); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 197** **Regulating Alcohol Awareness Programs:** Authorizes the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) to promulgate rules for the regulation and approval of certified alcohol awareness programs required of minors who are found guilty of purchasing, possessing and/or consuming alcoholic beverages. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 502** **Removing Requirements During the Death of a Child:** Allows a justice of the peace to forego an inquest and autopsy on a child younger than six years of age if the child's death was expected and was due to a congenital or other specified disease. (House sponsor: Rep. Leticia Van De Putte, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/97.

- HB 885** **Permanency Planning for Children with Disabilities:** Directs the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to develop a pilot project in four local areas to coordinate the development of "permanency plans" for children in institutional care or at risk of being placed in institutional care. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 5/23/97.
- HB 1336** **Removal of Children from Situations Involving Sexual Abuse:** Expands the law that allows child protective service workers to take possession of children in an emergency, particularly in situations involving: sexual abuse and neglect; sexual exploitation; sexual molestation; and sexual victimization. (House author: Rep. Miguel Wise, D-Weslaco); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 1929** **Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect:** Requires juvenile probation officers and juvenile detention or correctional officers, as well as public or private juvenile detention facilities, to report suspected child abuse or neglect to local law enforcement agencies. (House author: Rep. Ruth McClendon, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 2984** **Addressing Needs of Chronically Ill Children:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to establish a pilot program for a maximum of five years to study the needs of chronically ill children and their families and report its findings to the Sunset Advisory Commission by Feb. 1, 2000. (House author: Rep. Bob Hunter, D-Abilene); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 3054** **Registry to Prevent Childhood Communicable Diseases:** Requires the Texas Department of Health to create an immunization registry for the purpose of promoting efficient and cost-effective childhood communicable disease prevention and control efforts. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

- SB 15** **Increases Penalties for the Sale of Certain "Loose" Cigarettes:** Changes the penalty for the sale of "loose" cigarettes to make the penalty consistent throughout the Tax Code. Individuals found guilty of selling "loose" cigarettes now will face a \$100 maximum fine. (House sponsor: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 16** **Adds Law Enforcement Officers to Prevent Tobacco Use by Children:** Broadens the number and types of law enforcement partners available for enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors. (House sponsor: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/99.

- SB 17** **Increases Penalties for Businesses that Sell Tobacco to Minors:** Strengthens the State Comptroller's immediate disciplinary authority by allowing the Comptroller to suspend a tobacco retailer's permit or assess a fine for violation of the laws relating to minors' access to tobacco. (House sponsor: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 519** **Protects Infants from Hepatitis B Infection:** Requires physicians and other health care providers to test a pregnant woman for hepatitis B and to provide her with information about the transmission and prevention of hepatitis B infections. (House sponsor: Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Galveston); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 1735** **Increases Number of Judges to Handle Child Protection Cases:** Authorizes the administrative judges of the nine judicial regions of the state to appoint associate judges to handle child protection cases to expedite placement of abused and neglected children in safe and permanent homes. (House sponsor: Rep. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 160** **Protects Children from Certain Door-to-door Solicitation Businesses:** Requires signed consent from a child's parent prior to the child beginning employment with an organization that engages in sales or solicitations and requires that the employer provide the person giving the consent with specific information about the sales area and supervision to be provided. (House author: Rep. Miguel "Mike" Wise, D-Weslaco); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 908** **Child Health Screenings at Day-Care Centers and Homes:** Requires the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS), in consultation with the Texas Department of Health (TDH), to adopt rules to ensure that children at day-care centers and day-care homes receive appropriate screening for vision, hearing and special senses or communication disorders. (House author: Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston); Effective 6/18/99.
- HB 2873** **Services to Children with Special Needs:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) or an agency operating a Medicaid waiver program serving children to identify children with disabilities or special needs and methods of providing support services to those children and their families to avoid the need for institutional care. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 6/18/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

- SB 52 Posting of Signs Related to Child Abuse in Child-Care Facilities:** Directs the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to require new signs that include information on sudden infant death syndrome, shaken-baby syndrome, childhood diabetes, and methods for preventing those phenomena. (House sponsor: Rep. Bob Turner, D-Voss); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 54 Providing Health and Human Services to Young Children:** Requires health and human services agencies to report annually to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission regarding efforts to provide services to children up to age six. (House sponsor: Rep. Rick Noriega, D-Houston); Effective 8/27/01.
- SB 55 Prevention of Infant mortality:** Requires the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and the Children's Trust Fund to develop and implement an infant mortality prevention education program throughout the state, using persons and organizations with specific experience. (House sponsor: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 368 Permanency Planning Procedures for Children in State Institutions:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission and other agencies to develop uniform permanency planning procedures. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 360 Definition of Child Abuse:** Expands the definition of "abuse" to include sexual performance by a child and other conduct that is considered harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare. (House author: Rep. Miguel Wise, D-Weslaco); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

- SB 40 Immunization Education Program:** Directs TDH to institute a continuous statewide immunization education campaign and increase coordination between local, regional, and state stakeholders on immunizations through a statewide coalition. (House sponsor: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/03.
- SB 43 Educating Physicians using the Communities Model (EPIC) Immunization Program:** Requires TDH to provide a final report on EPIC and, if the pilot program is successful, to make recommendations for its expansion, cost-effectiveness, and future funding. (House sponsor: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/03.

- SB 486** **Child Immunizations:** Requires the Texas Department of Health to develop partnerships and work with existing partnership programs to increase awareness of and support for early childhood immunization. (House sponsor: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/03.
- HB 1920** **Vaccines for Children Program:** Attempts to increase awareness of the Vaccines for Children program and make the application process less of a burden for providers. (House author: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/03.
- HB 1921** **Immunization Tracking System:** Modifies the state's current immunization tracking system, ImmTrac, to increase collection data. (House author: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/20/03.
- HB 2058** **Report to Improve Child Protective Services:** Requires a study regarding goals, outcome standards, and objectives relating to children's protective services, and a report including recommendations for improvement. (House author: Rep. Mike Villareal, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

- HB 270** **Sibling Reunification:** Gives a child standing to file suit in court for access to the child's sibling if the siblings were separated due to divorce or actions by protective services representatives. (House author: Rep. Jessica Farrar, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 614** **Continuous Funding for Foster Children:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to continue to provide foster care and medical care for a child who is over 18 years of age if the child is enrolled in a program leading toward a high school diploma. (House author: Rep. Puente, D-San Antonio); Effective 5/17/05.
- HB 637** **Credit for Certain Minors:** Authorizes an extension of credit secured by a residence homestead in which a minor or ward has an ownership interest. (House author: Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas); Effective 9/1/05.

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

71st Legislature (1989):

- HB 2968** **Prevents Mexican Commercial Motor Carriers from Operating in U.S. Under Certain Circumstances:** Prohibits Mexican commercial motor carriers operating outside the border trade zone from transporting cargo into Texas and returning with cargo into Mexico if Mexican law similarly prohibits a U.S. commercial carrier from entering and returning from Mexico with cargo. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/28/89.
- HB 2970** **Creates a Port Authority to Promote International Trade:** Established a port authority in and adjacent to the City of Laredo to promote international trade by facilitating construction of roads and other public works projects related to international trade. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/28/89.

72nd Legislature (1991):

- HB 42** **Interstate Compacts with Mexico:** Requires the Texas-Mexico Authority, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Commerce, to explore, develop, and negotiate interstate compacts relating to trade, infrastructure, and other matters with Mexico or any other trading partners and to present any negotiated compacts to the Texas Legislature and to the governing body of the foreign governmental entity. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/26/91.
- HB 53** **Promotion of Tourism:** Requires the Texas Department of Commerce's Tourism Division to promote tourism in the U.S. and foreign countries by distributing promotional material to travel agencies. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/91.
- HB 319** **Operation of Commercial Vehicles Across US-Mexican Border:** Authorizes the operator of a Mexican commercial vehicle to operate in the border commercial zone without a Texas commercial license if a reciprocal arrangement is in effect for U.S. commercial vehicles. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/16/91.

79th Legislature (2005):

- HB 481** **Unemployment Benefits or Persons With Disabilities:** Allows persons with disabilities who are seeking part-time work to be eligible to receive partial unemployment benefits. (House author: Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston); Effective 6/17/05.
- HB 2421** **Skills Development Fund, Emerging Technology Fund:** Authorizes funding through the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to provide additional resources for the Skills Development Fund and Emerging Technology Fund. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 6/18/05.
- HB 900** **Financial Literacy:** Requires that workforce development programs provide financial literacy training for their workers. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 6/17/05.

EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education

71st Legislature (1989):

SB 1547 **Licensing of Child Care Facilities:** Requires an annual audit of child-placing agencies, a provisional license when a facility has relocated and made changes in the type of child care it provides or if there is a change in ownership, and establishes that a certificate of approval for state-operated child care facilities and registered family homes remains valid until revoked or surrendered. (House sponsor: Rep. Erwin Barton, D-Pasadena); Effective 9/1/89.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 305 **Improving Childhood Intervention Services:** Brings existing state statutes into compliance with federal mandates so the Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention (council) will remain eligible to receive federal funds for early intervention to children three years of age and younger with developmental delays. SB 305 also requires the council to develop and implement a strategic plan for a statewide system of early childhood intervention services. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

HB 2609 **Child Care Specialists Scholarships:** Requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop and administer a scholarship program for people pursuing professional childcare training and allows TWC to pay a bonus or wage supplementation, in an amount determined by TWC, to a scholarship recipient who works in the childcare field. (House author: Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

HB 1178 **Cleanup Bill for Child Care Licensing:** Eliminates the duplicate sections and clarifies the remaining provisions of child care licensing law to be consistent with the three bills previously enacted. (House author: Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth, R-Burleson); Effective 9/1/01.

77th Legislature (2003):

SB 76 **Integrated Childcare Services:** Creates a pilot project for integrated child care programs and develops a school readiness certification system. (House sponsor: Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington); Effective 9/1/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

SB 23 **Early Childhood Education:** Expands the integration model established by SB 76 (2003), establishes standards for quality, increases accountability, and provides more guidelines for how effective integration works. (House sponsor: Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham); Effective 9/1/05.

K-12 Education

71st Legislature (1989):

- SB 1668** **Prevention of School Drop-Outs:** Establishes an interagency agreement between the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to provide technical assistance to regional education service centers in the development of substance abuse prevention programs. Requires TEA to develop guidelines for public notification of pre-kindergarten and special education programs and for identifying emotionally disturbed students. (House sponsor: Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice); Effective 9/1/89.
- HB 769** **Vacancies for Independent School District Board:** Authorizes a school board to fill a mid-term vacancy by ordering a special election or by appointment. Provides that the new trustee would serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and, if appointed, would serve until the next school board election. (House author: Rep. Orlando Garcia, D-San Antonio); Effective 5/9/89.
- HB 969** **Classes for Parents of Children with High Unexcused Absences:** Requires school districts to provide classes for parents of children with unexcused absences to assist the parents in identifying the problems that led to the absences. Authorizes judges to require problem children and their parents to attend the counseling classes. (House author: Rep. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville); Effective 6/16/89.
- HB 1964** **Criminal History of Teachers Applying for a Certificate:** Authorizes the Texas Education Agency to obtain criminal history records from any law enforcement agency. Requires records to be confidential and for the exclusive use by TEA to certify teachers (House author: Rep. Eldon Edge, D-Poth); Effective 9/1/89.

73rd Legislature (1993):

- SB 487** **Establishment of the Texas Academy of Foreign Languages and Culture:** The academy is established at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by contracting with the federal National Endowment for the Humanities to provide funding and program administration without using state money. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/93.
- SB 997** **Personal Business Days for School District Employees:** Allows eligible school employees to use up to two sick leave days per year for personal business if their district does not otherwise grant two or more personal leave days a year. (House sponsor: Rep. Jerry Johnson, D-Nacogdoches); Effective 8/30/93.

- SB 1255** **Deadline for Teacher Resignation:** Authorizes a teacher holding a term contract with any school district to relinquish the position and leave the employment of the district at the end of any school year without penalty by filing a written resignation with the board of trustees not later than the 45th day before the first day of the following school year. (House sponsor: Rep. Jerry Johnson, D-Nacogdoches); Effective 6/13/93.
- HB 45** **Public School Foreign Language Programs:** Provides for the expansion of innovative programs outlined in Section 11.27(b), Education Code, to include programs relating to foreign language education with priority given to elementary and middle school programs. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/93.
- HB 1467** **Teacher Employment Information:** Entitles a private school to obtain criminal record information on an employee of a private school or an applicant for employment with the private school who is a final candidate for a position to be filled. (House author: Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 2315** **Alternative Teacher Certification:** Exempts persons being certified under an alternative certification program from examinations designed to test specific knowledge if the person has not received formal educational training for a course in the subject area. (House author: Rep. Huey McCoulskey, D-Richmond); Effective 8/30/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

- SB 221** **Fees for Certain Teacher Training Programs:** Provides a waiver of tuition and fees for students attending courses that are fully funded by federal or other sources. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/8/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

- SB 280** **Authority of Commissioner of Education to Determine Salary Increment**
Qualifications: Gives the commissioner of education the authority to adopt rules to determine the type of teaching experience that constitutes creditable years of service for public school teacher or librarian salary increment purposes. (House sponsor: Rep. Dale Tillery, D-Dallas); Effective 6/18/97.
- SB 780** **Personal Leave Policies for School District Employees:** Prohibits school boards, which have the authority to adopt policies affecting personal leave, from restricting how school district employees use their personal leave. (House sponsor: Rep. Christine Hernandez, D-San Antonio); Effective during 1997-1998 school year.

76th Legislature (1999):

- SB 724** **Continuing Education Programs:** Authorizes educational service centers to contract with public or private entities for continuing education programs. (House sponsor: Rep. David Lengefeld, D-Hamilton); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 1141** **Training for Surrogates for Students with Disabilities:** Ensures that persons appointed as surrogates for students with disabilities and for whom the state has custody have the training and knowledge needed to represent the best interests of the child by requiring the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to establish minimum training standards. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 633** **Transfer of Assistive Technology Devices:** Encourages the transfer of assistive technology devices with students when they transfer schools within a district or leave the school district in which the devices were purchased. This legislation was recommended by the Texas Disability Consortium. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 6/18/99.
- HB 926** **Punishment for Tampering with State Assessment Materials:** Increases the penalty for tampering with public school records and assessment instruments, such as the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS), from a misdemeanor or a state jail felony to a second or third degree felony. (House author: Rep. Domingo Garcia, D-Dallas); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 964** **School Crossing Zones:** Includes school crossing guards among the class of individuals authorized to direct traffic in school crossing zones. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/99.

HB 1275 **IEP in Parent's Native Language:** Requires local school districts to provide a parent with a copy of a child's individualized education program translated into the parent's native language if the parent is unable to read English. (House author: Rep. Vilma Luna, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/19/99.

HB 2011 **Paying for Costs of Tests for Students in Financial Need:** Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency to give priority to high school students with financial need in paying student costs for taking the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 31 **Bacterial Meningitis Information:** Requires institutions of higher education and school districts to provide students and parents with information regarding the risks, symptoms, and treatments for bacterial meningitis in a format that ensures the information is reasonably likely to come to the attention of each student or the parent of each student. (House sponsor: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 5/22/01.

SB 467**Dual Language Programs:** Allows school districts to offer dual language immersion programs designed to produce students with a demonstrated proficiency in both English and one other language, of the required curriculum. (House sponsor: Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville); Effective 6/14/01.

SB 676 **Limited English Proficiency Assessment:** Exempts unschooled immigrants who do not demonstrate proficiency in English from TAAS testing for up to three years. (House sponsor: Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville); Effective 4/11/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

HB 447 **Assessment for Students with Disabilities:** Provides that a special education student must receive modified instruction in the essential knowledge and skills for the assessed subject in order to be assessed with the alternative assessment instrument. (House author: Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston); Effective 6/20/03, Section 3 took effect 9/1/04.

HB 1113 **Probationary Contracts for Teachers:** creates a new option for school districts and teachers when faced with returning a teacher to probationary status by agreement. (House author: Rep. Myra Crownover, R-Lake Dallas); Effective 9/1/03.

HB 1691 **Compensatory Education Funds for Students with Dyslexia:** Allows compensatory education funds to be used for accelerated reading programs for students at risk of dyslexia and for treatment programs for students who have been determined to have dyslexia or a related disorder. (House author: Rep. Larry Phillips, R-Sherman); Effective 9/1/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

SB 188 **Accreditation for the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI):** Authorizes the Texas Education Agency to develop a process for evaluating the accreditation of TSBVI. (House sponsor: Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston); Effective 6/17/05.

SB 189 **TSBVI:** Makes technical changes to the administrative functions of the Superintendent and to the billing process for certain services. (House sponsor: Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston); Effective 6/17/05.

HB 283 **Bullying Prevention:** Creates a program to reduce disruptive behavior and violence in schools through the curtailment and prevention of bullying. (House author: Rep. Ruben Hope, R-Conroe); Effective 6/18/05.

Higher Education

70th Legislature (1987):

SB 658 Laredo State University: Raises the legal status of Laredo State University from "center" to "upper level educational institution" and deletes the authority of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to close Laredo State University at its discretion. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/31/87.

SB 1100 Ensures Economic Development Subjects are Eligible for the Texas Eminent Scholars Program: Specifies academic disciplines related to economic development, such as atmospheric science, biotechnology and microelectronics, that are eligible for matching state funds when gifts of \$50,000 or more are made by the private sector as incentives to eminent scholars in these disciplines. (House sponsor: Rep. Al Luna, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

SB 27 Vacancies for Junior College District Governing Board: Authorizes the governing board of a junior college district to fill board vacancies by order of special election or via appointment by remaining board members, and specifies that a person appointed shall serve until the next general election. Passed during 1st Called Session. (House sponsor: Rep. Orlando Garcia, D-San Antonio); Effective 7/18/89.

SB 583 Graduate School of International Trade at Laredo State University: Requires the University System of South Texas to establish a graduate school of international trade at Laredo State University upon approval of the university's governing board and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/89.

72nd Legislature (1991):

SB 732 Authority to Change Names of Institutions Within Texas A&M University: Authorizes the Texas A&M University Board of Regents to change by resolution its name and/or the name of its component institutions and agencies, thereby removing the need to affect such changes via legislative action. (House sponsor: Todd Hunter, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 8/26/91.

SB 1232 **Residency and Classes at Laredo State University:** Clarifies that Laredo State University is authorized to teach junior, senior, and master-level courses, enabling students attending Texas A&M institutions other than Laredo State University to take upper-level summer courses while residing in Laredo during the summer. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/91.

HB 43 **Crime statistics at Institutions of Higher Education:** Requires public and private institutions of higher education to report campus crime statistics to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at the board's request. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/91.

73rd Legislature (1993):

SB 6 **Laredo State University:** Changes the name of Laredo State University to Texas A&M International University (university), and authorizes the university to offer baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral level courses, and provides for interim funding of the institution. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/93.

SB 832 **Recreational Facility Fee at The University of Texas at San Antonio:** Creates a recreational fee for students at the University of Texas at San Antonio to improve the outdoor playing fields and create a Recreation and Wellness Center. (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Corte, R-San Antonio); Effective 8/30/93.

SB 1388 **Student Exchange Program:** Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board to establish a program with Canada for the exchange of students. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 5/23/93.

HB 326 **Membership on the Electronic Data Base Advisory Committee:** Authorizes Sul Ross State University to have representation on the electronic database advisory committee created from various Texas universities along with others appointed by the governor or the executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 6/19/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

SB 875 **Name of Sul Ross State University:** Changes the name of the Sul Ross State University Uvalde Study Center to Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College. (House sponsor: Rep. Tracy King, D-Eagle Pass); Effective 5/17/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 1241 Faculty Enhancement Fund for Generalist Physicians: Creates the fund for the purpose of recruiting quality primary care physicians to teach at Texas' eight medical schools, including the Baylor School of Medicine. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/18/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

SB 1288 UT Health Science Center in Laredo: Authorizes a University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) campus extension in Laredo to provide undergraduate and graduate medical and dental education, including residency programs and other levels of health education work. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/99.

SB 1289 Donation of Land to Institutions of Higher Education by Cities and Counties: Authorizes cities and counties to donate, convey, sell, or otherwise transfer land and improvements to a higher education institution to promote a public purpose related to higher education. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 5/29/99.

SB 1290 Requirements for the Donation of Land to Institutions of Higher Education: Authorizes cities and counties and economic development corporations to bypass notice, bidding, and sale requirements to donate property to an institution of higher learning if the land is used to promote a public purpose related to higher education. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/18/99.

HB 2555 Prepayment of Graduate Degree Programs: Authorizes the State Board of Education, the entity responsible for contracts relating to public educational programs, to establish a program to allow parents to prepay graduate or professional education programs at public institutions of higher education. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/99.

HB 2568 Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TGSLC): Amends TGSLC's authorizing statute to conform with changes made in 1998 to the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, and requires TGSLC to work with other entities to develop and implement awareness and outreach activities regarding student financial aid and postsecondary educational opportunities. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/18/99.

HB 3470 **Parents as Scholars Program:** Directs the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS), in cooperation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to establish a pilot program, the Parents as Scholars Program, to help recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) apply for and obtain financial aid to complete an undergraduate degree. (House author: Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Rosenberg); Effective 6/19/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

HB 1187 **Expansion of Parents and Scholars Program:** Requires the Texas Workforce Commission to establish a new Parents as Scholars pilot program with less stringent eligibility criteria that allows program participants to fulfill the work or employment activities required for financial assistance by engaging in educational activities designed to result in receipt of a postsecondary degree. (House author: Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Rosenberg); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 1753 **UT Pan American Campus in Rio Grande City:** Authorizes the University of Texas-Pan American to establish an upper-division extension campus in Rio Grande City and enter into a partnership agreement with a junior college district for lower-division courses. (House author: Rep. Roberto Gutierrez, D-Pharr); Effective 5/3/01.

HB 2584 **Commission on Geriatrics Study Requirement:** Creates the Commission to assess the feasibility or desirability of making the study of geriatrics a requisite for graduation from a medical school in this state. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 3524 **Flat Rate Tuition Pilot Program:** Authorizes the board of regents of The University of Texas System to establish a flat rate tuition pilot project at The University of Texas at Austin within a specified period that applies to all undergraduate students enrolled in a college or degree program included in the pilot project. (House author: Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 2397 **Salary Disparities Between Part-Time and Full-Time Faculty:** Requires the board to conduct a study and to produce a report on the disparity between the salary and benefits received by part-time and full-time faculty members at public institutions of higher education. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

SB 4 **B-On-Time Student Loan Program:** Creates a pilot program regarding the retention of certain students at institutions of higher education; provides zero-interest student loans, which may be forgiven, for students who maintain a certain grade point average and graduate from college within four years. (House sponsor: Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria); Effective 6/20/03.

SB 805 **Donation of Certain Surplus School District Property:** Includes a state agency among those entities to whom a school district board of trustees may donate certain real property and improvements formerly used by a school campus. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

SB 30 **Graduate on Time (GOT):** Authorizes the implementation of a program similar to Texas Tech's Graduate On Time (GOT) program, in which students may receive financial awards for timely graduation. (House sponsor: Rep. Fred Brown, D-Bryan); Effective 6/17/05.

SB 34 **Tuition Rebate Program, Student Regent:** Changes the Tuition Rebate Program to reflect timely graduation requirements. Adds a non-voting student member to a university system board of regents. (House sponsor: Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria); Effective 6/17/05.

SB 151 **Dual Enrollment Pilot Program, International Academy:** Establishes a pilot program with a number of community colleges and provides funding to promote dual enrollment. Creates a dual credit program at Texas A&M International University to provide high school students with an international education curriculum during their last two years of high school in a university residential setting. (House sponsor: Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria); Effective 6/18/05.

SB 1528 **Texas Residency at Institutions of Higher Education:** Simplifies the residency requirement for purposes of tuition at public institutions of higher education. (House sponsor: Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria); Effective 9/1/05.

HB 1172 **Streamline Financial Aid for Timely Graduation:** Amends student financial aid programs to reflect the requirements of the Be On Time (BOT) timely graduation program. Authorizes institutions of higher education to modify semester credit hour requirements to promote timely graduation, including limiting the number of semester credit hours for degree programs and limiting state funding for excessive semester credit hours. (House author: Rep. Fred Brown, R-Bryan); Effective 6/18/05.

- HB 1331** **Interagency Cooperation Act Authority for Junior Colleges:** Includes a junior college district in the definition of "agency" in the Interagency Cooperation Act, thus allowing junior colleges to administer training projects when working in connection with economic development boards. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 6/18/05.
- HB 1737** **Dual Usage Facilities:** Establishes guidelines for a junior college district to create an educational facility within its district, and then, in order to maximize and fully utilize the new facility, be allowed to open it to usage by other entities within its district or by educational partners throughout the region. (House author: Rep. Kino Flores, D-Mission); Effective 6/18/05.
- HB 3384** **Interlocal Cooperation Act Authority for Junior Colleges:** Includes junior colleges and local workforce development boards in the definition of local government for the purpose of entering into interlocal agreements. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 6/18/05.

79th Legislature, Third Called Session (2006):

- HB 153** **Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs):** Provides for the issuance of \$1.9 billion in tuition revenue bonds for 48 colleges and universities throughout Texas, including institutions in the systems of Texas A&M University, The University of Texas, University of Houston, Texas State University, University of North Texas and Texas Tech University. Independent universities receiving bond authority include Texas Woman's University, Midwestern State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas Southern University and Texas State Technical College at Waco. (House author: Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria); Effective immediately.

ENVIRONMENT

70th Legislature (1987):

- SB 62** **Safe Disposal of Radioactive Waste:** Directs the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (TLLRWDA) to give preference to state-owned land in the site selection process, prohibits shallow land burial as a disposal technique, requires waste to be contained in a manner capable of being monitored and retrieved, and requires a buffer zone of at least 200 acres around the disposal site for use as rangeland and wildlife habitat. Passed during 2nd Called Session. (House sponsor: Rep. Fred Agnich, R-Dallas); Effective 10/19/87.
- HB 1699** **Compliance with Federal Waste Disposal Law:** Defines "mixed waste" as a combination of hazardous and low level waste and requires on-site operators who accept mixed waste at a disposal site to comply with the requirements of the Solid Waste Disposal Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. (House author: Rep. Larry Don Shaw, D-Big Spring); Effective 9/1/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

- SB 1673** **Meetings of Water Control and Improvement Districts:** Authorizes the board of directors of a water control and improvement district to set the date, time, and place of regular meetings, and requires the board to circulate public meeting notices across the district. (House sponsor: Rep. Dudley Harrison, D-Sanderson); Effective 8/28/89.
- HB 1865** **Sale and Transportation of White-Tailed Deer:** Authorizes the sale and transportation of white-tailed deer by a scientific breeder during open season upon approval by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. (House sponsor: Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville); Effective 9/1/89.
- HB 2119** **Sale and Transfer of Stock in a Water Supply or Sewer Service Corporation:** Authorizes a water service corporation to cancel the stock of a person or entity that no longer has ownership interest in the real estate and to reassign the stock to a person or entity who has legal title to it. (House sponsor: Rep. Eldon Edge, D-Poth); Effective 9/1/89.

73rd Legislature (1993):

- SB 1128** **Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations:** Reduces the minimum population requirement of a city from 300,000 to 100,000, the minimum population of a city in which a peace officer may enforce state and federal hazardous materials regulations and state and federal motor carrier safety regulations. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 1550** **Penalties for Violations of On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations:** Provides for criminal penalties that were not provided by the legislature when the authority to regulate on-site sewage facilities was shifted from the Texas Water Commission to the Texas Department of Health and back to the Texas Water Commission and provides that a person commits an offense if the person violates a rule, order, or resolution in a county that is contiguous to an international border. (House author: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 1704** **Parks and Wildlife Department Fees, Products Grown on Park Lands:** Authorizes the Parks and Wildlife Commission to set and charge a fee for the use of a credit card to pay a fee assessed by the department authorizes the department to lease grazing rights on any state park or any area of a state park and to harvest and sell timber, hay, and other products found to be in excess of natural resource management programming needs. (House author: Rep. Jerry Johnson, D-Nacogdoches); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 2318** **Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority:** Amends the powers and duties of the authority and requires the authority to submit site applications to the Texas Water Commission, rather than the Texas Department of Health. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 8/30/93.

78th Legislature (2003):

- SB 155** **Protection of Public Freshwater Areas:** Prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle in or on a protected freshwater area, defined as that portion of the bed, bottom, or bank of any navigable river or stream that lies at or below the gradient boundary of the river or stream, and makes a conviction a Class C misdemeanor and a Class B misdemeanor with two or more previous convictions. (House sponsor: Rep. Robert Puente, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/03.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

70th Legislature (1987):

SB 751 Notification of the Right to Appeal a Property Appraisal: Requires appraisal review boards to include in notices a statement that the property owner has the right to appeal an order to a district court. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 1/1/88.

HB 1077 Appeals from Municipal Courts: Authorizes a city attorney or deputy to prosecute appeals from municipal court to a county court, county court at law, or any appellate court with the consent of the county attorney. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 8/31/87.

HB 1368 Police and Fire Fighters' Personnel Files: Requires the director of the fire fighters' and police officers' civil service commission to have a central personnel file for each fire fighter and police officer. (House author: Rep. Keith Valigura, R-Conroe); Effective 9/1/87.

HB 1387 Purchase of Supplies from HUD: Authorizes local public housing authorities to buy high quality, durable goods at reasonable prices through HUD. (House author: Rep. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio); Effective 8/31/87.

HB 1504 Sale of Real Property Conferred by a Contract Lien: Requires the public sale of foreclosed property to occur in a designated area of the courthouse and to begin within three hours of a designated time. (House author: Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas); Effective 1/1/88.

HB 1775 Punishment for Unlawfully Removing Ballots from a Ballot Box: Upgrades the offense of removing ballots from a ballot box to a third degree felony and the offense of attempting to do so to a Class A misdemeanor. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

SB 379 Correction of Certain Property Tax Records: Authorizes an appraisal review board to order changes in the appraisal roll to correct the inclusion of property that does not exist in the form or at the location described in the appraisal roll. (House sponsor: Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas); Effective 6/14/89.

- HB 151** **Paper Reduction at State Agencies:** Requires the Records Management and Preservation Advisory Committee to develop a plan for the reduction and simplification of paperwork in state agencies. Requires all agencies to fully cooperate with the committee and to review all forms with the goal of simplifying and reducing paperwork. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/89.
- HB 187** **County Precinct Officers:** Allows counties to reduce, withhold, or donate the compensation of elected county and precinct officers. (House author: Rep. Phyllis Robinson, D-Gonzalez); Effective 6/18/89.
- HB 850** **Requirements for a Minor to Receive a Drivers License:** Prohibits the Texas Department of Public Safety from issuing a driver's license or instruction permit to anyone younger than age 18 unless the person has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent or is a student enrolled in a public or private school who attended school for at least 80 days during the semester preceding the date of application or has been enrolled for at least 45 days and is currently enrolled in a preparatory program to pass the high school equivalency exam. (House author: Rep. Bill Hammond, R-Dallas); Effective 9/1/89.
- HB 1505** **Foreign Country Judgments:** Imposes notice and filing requirements on the party seeking legal recognition of a foreign country judgment. Provides a procedure for contesting recognition of a foreign country judgment. Requires the court clerk to mail notice to the party with whom recognition is sought. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/14/89.
- HB 2520** **Venue for Suits Involving Residential Tenancies:** Requires venue for residential landlord-tenant actions to be located in the county in which the premises are located. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/89.

72nd Legislature (1991):

- SB 355** **Disposition of Fees Imposed for Execution or Processing of a Warrant:** Provides for the disposition of fees to peace officers who serve or process arrest warrants. (House sponsor: Rep. Betty Denton, D-Waco); Effective 9/1/91.
- SB 834** **County Improvements to Certain Roads:** Authorizes counties to construct access roads to subdivisions and assess property owners for the cost upon voter approval. (House sponsor: Rep. Robert Eckels, R-Houston); Effective 6/7/91.

- SB 1186** **Absentee Voting Terminology:** Changes all references to "absentee voting" in the Election, Education, and Penal codes to "early voting" to clarify that a person no longer must be out of town to vote before Election Day. (House sponsor: Rep. Robert Puente, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/91.
- HB 595** **Impoundment of Vehicles after an Accidents:** Requires the owner of an unregistered motor vehicle that is involved in an accident that results in injury or death or more than \$500 property damage to furnish evidence of financial responsibility to investigating law enforcement officers. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/91.
- HB 693** **Arson Investigators as Peace Officers:** Adds arson investigators to the list of officially sanctioned peace officers with authority to carry a firearm and make arrests. (House author: Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/91.
- HB 1063** **Continuing Education for County Commissioners:** Authorizes county commissioners to carry up to eight continuing education hours to the next year for credit. (House author: Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio); Effective 1/1/92.
- HB 1147** **Frequency of Payment of Certain County Officers:** Authorizes counties to choose the frequency and method of payment to county auditors, purchasing agents, and court interpreters. Includes the Webb County judge as a county officer for purposes of the bill. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/16/91.
- HB 1333** **Selection of a Municipal Court Clerk in Certain Home-rule Municipalities:** Establishes that Government Code provisions relating to the election of a municipal court clerk do not apply to home-rule municipalities that provide by charter for the appointment of the clerk. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/91.
- HB 1598** **Regulation of Safe Deposit Boxes:** Requires institutions that rent or permit access to safety deposit boxes to imprint all keys with routing numbers or, if the number cannot be imprinted on the key, to print it on a tag attached to the key. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 11/1/91.
- HB 2224** **Enforcement of the Texas Renderers' Licensing Act:** Authorizes the Commissioner of Health to assess administrative penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for violations of the Texas Renderers' Licensing Act, and establishes procedures for assessing, paying, refunding, and recovering the penalties. (House author: Rep. Jerry Johnson, D-Nacogdoches); Effective 9/1/91.

HB 2327 **Enforcement of the Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act:** Authorizes the Commissioner of Health to assess administrative penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for violations of the Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act, and establishes procedures for assessing, paying, refunding, and recovering the penalties. (House author: Rep. Jerry Johnson, D-Nacogdoches); Effective 9/1/91.

73rd Legislature (1993):

SB 1117 **Payments for Evaluators of Interpreters:** Requires the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired to compensate evaluators based on the number of candidates examined for interpreter certification (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

SB 1118 **Examinations for Interpreter Certification:** Requires interpreter examinations conducted by the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters to be held in Austin or in other cities in this state in space that can be obtained free of charge. (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

SB 1130 **Interagency Council on Sex Offender Treatment:** Sets forth requirements for the Council on Sex Offender Treatment (council), requiring the council to develop treatment strategies for sex offenders by evaluating sex offender treatment programs; set standards for treatment that must be met by sex offender treatment providers; design and conduct continuing education programs for sex offender treatment providers; and develop and implement registration requirements and procedures for treatment providers in the registry. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/93.

HB 198 **Filing and Processing of Condemnation Proceedings:** Authorizes a party initiating a condemnation proceeding in a county in which there is one or more county courts at law with jurisdiction to file a petition with any clerk authorized to handle filings for that court or courts; requires a party initiating a condemnation proceeding in a county in which there is not a county court at law to file the condemnation petition with the district clerk; and requires the filing fee be due at the time of the filing. (House author: Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield); Effective 9/1/93.

HB 2109 **Fees for Interpreters at the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired:** Requires the commission to adopt an hourly fee schedule to be paid to interpreters with varied levels of skill and requires certain state agencies to adopt the fee schedule. (House author: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

- SB 927** **Authority of Texas Turnpike Authority:** Authorizes the Texas Turnpike Authority to lease, sell, or otherwise convey a turnpike project to a municipality, and authorizes a municipality to lease, buy, or otherwise receive a turnpike project. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 603** **Division of Retirement Benefits Following a Divorce:** Authorizes the court to clarify or modify a final divorce order that provides for the division of a pension or retirement benefits. (House author: Patricia Gray, D-Galveston); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 1523** **DA for 156th Judicial District:** Adds the district attorney for the 156th Judicial District to the Professional Prosecutors Act. Prosecutors who are placed under the Professional Prosecutors Act may not engage in the private practice of law. In exchange, they are entitled to compensation from the State equal to that paid to a district judge. (House author: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 2197** **Property Tax Payments Following a Disaster:** Allows a person whose residential property is damaged by a disaster and which is within a declared disaster area to pay property taxes on the property in installments without penalty. (House author: Rep. Mark Stiles, D-Beaumont); Effective 6/17/95.

79th Legislature (2005):

- SB 690** **Posting Requirement for Public Meetings:** Under certain circumstances, allows a governmental body to recess until the next business day without the 72-hour posting notification. (House sponsor: Rep. David Swinford, R-Amarillo); Immediate effective date.
- SB 1524** **Local Records Management:** Clarifies the applicability of the local records management and technology enforcement fund. (House sponsor: Rep. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 2208** **Cultural and Fine Arts Districts:** Gives the authority to Texas Commission of Arts to establish criteria for culture and arts districts. (House author: Rep. Larry Phillips, R-Sherman); Effective 9/1/05.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

70th Legislature (1987):

HB 852 **Quarantine and Testing of Animals:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to expand its rules regarding rabies control and testing of suspected rabid animals. (House author: Rep. Mark Stiles, D-Beaumont); Effective 8/31/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

SB 1527 **Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities:** Creates the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities, a joint private-public initiative aimed at minimizing the economic and human losses in Texas caused by preventable disabilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Bill Carter, R-Fort Worth); Effective 9/1/89.

SB 1697 **State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and Programs:** Directs the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) to prioritize community services for children with mental illness or mental retardation and their families and to prepare and review budgets, develop policies, and increase interagency coordination relating to children's services. (House sponsor: Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite); Effective 9/1/89.

HB 1118 **Selection of a Licensed Psychologists under the Medical Assistance Program:** Authorizes a Medical Assistance Program recipient to select a licensed psychologist to perform health care services or covered procedures if the psychologist is authorized by law to perform the services. Eliminates the requirement that the psychologist be under the direct supervision of a physician. (House author: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 8/28/89.

HB 2972 **Office of Texas-Mexico Health and Environmental Issues:** Requires the Texas Department of Health to establish the Office of Texas-Mexico Health and Environmental Issues at TDH to coordinate and promote health and environmental issues between the state and Mexico. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/89.

72nd Legislature (1991):

SB 345 Informed Consent for the Immunization of a Minor: Authorizes caregivers to give consent for immunization or to delegate that authority to another adult. Limits the liability of health care providers for adverse reactions to immunizations. (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Harris, R-Pearland); Effective 5/25/91.

SB 346 Midwifery Practices: Amends the Midwifery Act by removing the term "lay," adding educational requirements administered by the Texas Department of Health, providing for the registration of midwives, and granting midwives direct access to the Board of Health. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/91.

73rd Legislature (1993):

SB 210 Reporting Abuse or Neglect of Patients: Requires certain professionals and employees to report abuse and neglect of patients and unethical, unprofessional, or illegal conduct by facilities or professionals; establishes "whistle blower" protection for employees who report; establishes a cause of action and creates penalties for the act of sexual exploitation of a patient by a mental health services provider. (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

SB 211 Prohibition on Solicitation of Mental Patients: Expands prohibitions on accepting illegal remuneration for recruiting patients; creates a criminal offense of a Class A misdemeanor, or a third degree felony with a previous conviction, for persons who accept remuneration but fail to disclose certain information to patients; and creates civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day per violation. (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 8/30/93.

SB 212 Regulations for Providing Rehabilitation Services: Requires the Texas Department of Health to issue licenses for providing inpatient medical rehabilitation services and outlines the minimum standards for hospitals providing rehabilitation services. (House sponsor: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

SB 267 Certification of Births and Birth Certificates: Authorizes certain individuals to file birth certificates depending on location of birth and persons in attendance at birth, and repeals the provision requiring the reporting of syphilis testing on birth or fetal death certificates. (House sponsor: Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/93.

- HB 54** **Parental Responsibility Pilot Program to Assist Certain Teenage Parents Receiving AFDC:** Requires the Texas Department of Human Services (department) to establish a parental responsibility pilot program designed to discourage teenage pregnancy, encourage teenage parents to marry, and improve through education, job training, and support services the work and parenting skills of a teenage parent who receives financial assistance under the department's AFDC program. (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 241** **Standards for Continuing Education and Recertification of EMS Personnel:** Authorizes the Texas Board of Health (board) to establish rules for the continuing education and for examinations of emergency medical services personnel; removes from statute the requirement that emergency medical services (EMS) personnel take an examination in order to be recertified; and requires the board to adopt minimum standards concerning continuing education programs and examinations for EMS personnel as part of its rules. (House author: Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale); Effective 5/23/93.
- HB 343** **Reporting of Certain Injuries to the Department of Public Health:** Provides that spinal cord and submersion injuries are reportable to the department; requires a physician who diagnoses or treats a reportable injury and a medical examiner or justice of the peace to report cases or suspected cases of reportable injuries to the department; and sets out provisions for confidentiality, investigations, and the appointment of a technical advisory committee to advise of injuries other than spinal cord and submersion injuries that should be required to be reported. (House author: Rep. Bob Glaze, D-Gilmer); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 779** **AFDC Benefits for Certain Families:** Requires the Department of Human Services (department) to develop and implement a community work experience program in accordance with federal law as a part of the job opportunities and basic skills training program. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 1217** **Regulation of Tattoo Parlors:** Prohibits a person from conducting, operating, or maintaining a tattoo parlor unless the person holds a license issued by the Texas Department of Health (department) and sets forth the provisions for licensing. (House author: Rep. Dianne White Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 1510** **Interagency Agreements Regarding Early Childhood Education Intervention Services:** Continues the reorganization of Texas' health and human services agencies; requires the Texas Department of Health to establish an Office of Minority Health; and outlines special employment and transition provisions to assist certain employees affected by the closure of a state school. (House author: Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

HB 1551 **Home Care and Community Support Services:** Provides for regulation of home care and community support services, clarifying and strengthening the requirements for licensing and permits needed for home health, hospice, and personal assistance services. (House author: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 9/1/93.

HB 1596 **Costs for Mental Health Code Hearings:** Regulates the payment of costs related to mental health proceedings under the Texas Mental Health Code and prohibits a county from requiring a person other than a mental health patient to pay any costs associated with a hearing or proceeding under certain circumstances. (House author: Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio); Effective 8/30/93.

HB 2650 **Medical Procedures for Persons Convicted of Sexual Assault and Tests to Detect Sexually Transmitted Diseases:** Requires persons indicted for or convicted of certain crimes to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS and HIV, and provides for the right of victims to counseling and testing for certain diseases. (House author: Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

SB 89 **Tenure for Members of the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities:** Provides for staggered six-year terms for the members of the executive committee of the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Bill Carter, R-Fort Worth); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 406 **Volume Discount Requirement for State Health Contracts:** Requires a state agency to acquire goods and services in support of the agency's health care program in a method that provides the greatest volume discount. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 8/28/95.

SB 482 **Texas Volunteer Health Corps:** Creates and sets forth the duties of the Texas Volunteer Health Corps. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 8/28/95.

SB 606 **Osteoporosis Awareness Program:** Requires the commissioner of health to develop and implement an osteoporosis awareness program and appropriates \$250,000 to the Texas Department of Health for the implementation of this Act. (House sponsor: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 5/11/95.

- SB 607** **Health Insurance Coverage for Osteoporosis Testing:** Requires a group health insurance policy to provide benefits for the detection and prevention of osteoporosis. (House sponsor: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 8/28/95.
- SB 1431** **Emergency Communications Plan:** Requires a state emergency medical services (EMS) plan to include an emergency radio communication plan, and requires the Bureau of Emergency Management within the Texas Department of Health to establish a statewide EMS force to provide support and assistance to local governments and districts that provide EMS. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/12/95.
- SB 1675** **Efficiency of Health and Human Services Commission Programs:** Expands the powers and duties of the Health and Human Services Commission regarding operating budgets of health and human services agencies, federal funds, automated systems, interagency fund transfers, coordination and approval of caseload estimates, and the integration of health and human services to provide for the efficient and timely delivery of those services. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 340** **Study of Veterans Needs:** Authorizes the Texas Veterans Commission to determine the need for a system of state residential care facilities for disabled veterans. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 865** **Interagency Contract for Family Reimbursements:** Requires the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) enter into an interagency contract with the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish federal funding reimbursements for mental health services for eligible Texas families. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 869** **Coordinated Delivery of Health and Human Services:** Requires the commissioner of health and human services to consider priorities and plans submitted by governmental entities that coordinate the delivery of health and human services in different regions, counties, and cities as part of the strategic planning process; requires the commissioner to assist local governmental entities in implementing coordinated plans tailored to the needs of the entities. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 883** **Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Licensing Clean-Up Bill:** Clarifies the RNs and LVNs licensure acts to correct problems encountered by the Board of Nursing Examiners (BNE) and the Board of Vocational Nursing Examiners (BVNE). (House author: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 8/28/95.

- HB 1345** **HIV Testing and Treatment:** Requires a blood sample to be taken to test for HIV infection of a pregnant woman or on delivery of a child, and prohibits a test for HIV infection to be conducted if the woman objects. (House author: Rep. Peggy Hamric, R-Houston); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 1644** **Medical Waste Oversight:** Creates criminal offenses and establishes penalties for violation of rules governing medical waste. The Texas Administrative Code has specific rules governing the handling and disposal of medical waste, separate from other forms of hazardous waste. While there are criminal penalties for illegally dumping hazardous waste in Texas, there are no similar statutes making it a criminal offense to illegally dump medical waste. (House author: Rep. John Hirschi, D-Wichita Falls); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 1662** **Powers and Duties of DPRS:** Creates a new chapter in the Human Resources Code, Chapter 40, to provide for the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Three new subchapters would be established in the Code to organize more clearly the relevant statutes. The bill would also broaden the Department's authority to access criminal history record information under certain circumstances. (House author: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 2022** **Bonds for TDH Facilities:** Authorizes the issuance of revenue bonds for construction of a laboratory and office facilities for the Texas Department of Health. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/14/95.
- HB 2377** **Powers and Duties of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority:** Clarifies and amends the role of the mental health and mental retardation authority in Texas, as recommended by the task force appointed by the Chair of the Board. (House author: Rep. Diane Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/95.
- HB 2698** **Vision for Long-Term Care Services:** Establish a vision statement and guiding principles for long-term care services, thus formalizing state policies for integration of the various systems of long-term care services. (House author: Rep. Nancy McDonald, D-El Paso); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 2859** **Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Changes the name of the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired to the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, since "hard of hearing" better reflects the needs of the service population. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Eagle Pass); Effective 9/1/95.

HB 2891 Streamlines Reporting Requirements for Health Care Agencies: Streamlines reporting requirements imposed on certain state agencies by the legislature and legislative branch agencies, eliminating any unnecessary reporting requirements. (House author: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 102 Creating an Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Fund: Authorizes a transfer of \$4 million from the 9-1-1 fund, to be used by counties for local emergency medical services, to support the operation of trauma support areas, and to support the state emergency medical services program. (House sponsor: Rep. Ted Kamel, R-Tyler); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 115 Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) Investigations: Allows DPRS to prioritize their investigations conducted in Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation facilities and in community centers to provide for more efficient and effective use of staff time and efforts. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 163 Health Insurance Coverage for Diabetes Equipment: Requires that health benefit plans that provide coverage for the treatment of diabetes also cover diabetes equipment, supplies, and self-management training programs and requires that diabetes self-management training be provided by a health care practitioner or provider who is licensed, registered, or certified by the state to provide appropriate health care services. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 217 Health Insurance Coverage for Mastectomy Reconstruction: Requires health benefit plans that provide coverage for a mastectomy to provide coverage for reconstruction of the affected and unaffected breast, with coverage subject to the same deductible or co-payment applicable to a mastectomy. (House sponsor: Rep. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 264 Abolishing the Treatment Methods Advisory Committee. Abolishes the Treatment Methods Advisory Committee to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR), which was created by the Legislature in 1993 in response to the abuses uncovered at private psychiatric hospitals. Having concluded its work, the members of the committee requested that it be dissolved and that its duties be assumed by MHMR. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

- SB 290** **Technical Assistance on State Health Websites:** Directs the health and human services agencies to work with the Department of Information Resources to coordinate and enhance their existing Internet sites to provide technical assistance for human services providers. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 412** **Federal Foster Care Reimbursement Funds:** Directs the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to maximize the amount of federal reimbursement funds received under the Social Security Act for administering the foster care program, for providing child-care to children in for-profit facilities through the foster care program, and for providing Medicaid-related services. Implementation of this bill will result in a savings to the state of \$4.6 million over the 1998-99 biennium. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 444** **Collection and Transmission of Vital Statistics:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to collect and transmit vital statistics data electronically and permits local registration districts to adopt cost-saving measures by replacing their paper records with electronic files, thereby improving the quality and timeliness of reporting of vital statistics data. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 487** **Rehab Commission Contract Reimbursement Rate:** Directs the Texas Rehabilitation Commission to move from fee-for-service to outcome-based performance standards defined in contracts to reimburse vocational rehabilitation service providers. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 802** **Texas Health Care Information Council Clean-Up Bill:** Creates new categories of health care data, allows health care providers to attach written comments to their data, and more clearly defines the roles of the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Health Care Information Council, and the Attorney General in disseminating health care data. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 908** **Onsite Inspections of Medicare Certified Hospitals:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to conduct on-site inspections of all hospitals that maintain Medicare certification or national accreditation at least once every three years, unless the hospitals have received an inspection during that period by the national accreditation organization, to ensure safety and quality of care standards are maintained. (House sponsor: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 9/1/97.

- SB 1057** **Texas Health and Safety Code Clean-Up Bill:** Amends section that lists the facilities that comprise the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to reflect the proper names of facilities and to strike the names of facilities that no longer exist. The bill also amends the definition of state mental hospital to include three community-based psychiatric hospitals (Dallas Mental Health Connections, El Paso Psychiatric Hospital, and Lubbock Psychiatric Hospital) that accept court-ordered psychiatric commitments. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 5/31/97.
- SB 1066** **"Best Value" Purchasing Practices for Health and Human Service Agencies:** Requires agencies with health and human services programs to purchase goods and services using an objective "best value" standard to promote efficient and effective purchasing practices among agencies. (House sponsor: Rep. Diane Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 39** **Genetic Information Anti-Discrimination:** Prohibits issuers of group health benefit plans from denying, canceling, or increasing premiums and employers from failing to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against an individual on the basis of genetic information or because the individual refuses to submit to a genetic test; prohibits labor organizations, employers, employment agencies, and licensing authorities from similar acts of discrimination. (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 119** **Nutritional Information on Cigarette Labels:** Requires tobacco manufacturers to file with the Texas Department of Health an annual report for each cigarette or tobacco product manufactured or distributed in Texas that states the identity of each ingredient listed in descending order according to weight, measure, or numerical count and requires tobacco manufacturers to assign nicotine yield ratings to their tobacco products. (House author: Rep. John Hirschi, D-Wichita Falls); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 358** **Use of Articles Deemed Unsafe:** Closes a loophole in the law that allows unsafe articles to be used even though they have been detained and tagged by the health department as hazardous; authorizes the Texas Department of Health to prohibit the use of any potentially misbranded or adulterated articles, such as food, drugs, cosmetics, or medical devices, that have been embargoed or placed under detention. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 561** **Dental Investigations Information Sharing:** Allows health care regulatory agencies, such as the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, to share information with one another about ongoing investigations if one agency finds during an investigation that a person violated the rules or regulations of another agency. (House author: Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/97.

- HB 1091** **State Paternity Registry:** Establishes a paternity registry; requires an attorney to represent the interests of alleged fathers who did not register or were not served citations; permits the termination of parental rights when a pregnancy results from sexual misconduct; reduces the time frame for contesting an adoption; transfers adoption record maintenance to the bureau of vital statistics; clarifies the law regarding the revocation of parental rights; and requires courts to give adoption cases preferential treatment and requires agencies to participate in a central adoption registry. (House author: Rep. Toby Goodman, R-Arlington); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 1534** **Mammography Systems Accreditation:** Requires the Texas Department of Health to become the accreditation body to carry out certification requirements established by the federal government for mammography systems, thereby conforming with federal law. The bill requires facilities whose mammography systems fail to meet the Texas Department of Health's standards to notify each patient on whom the facility performed a mammography during the preceding 30 days, inform the patient that the facility failed inspection, and recommend that the patient receive another mammogram at a certified facility. (House author: Rep. Peggy Hamric, R-Houston); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 1716** **Amending Statewide Health Coordinating Council:** Enhances health planning for the state by increasing the membership of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council membership; ensuring public as well as health service provider representation; allowing the Council to solicit advice from health policy experts; and placing the Health Professions Resource Center, a Texas Department of Health research unit, under the direction of the Council. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 1868** **Unlicensed Dental Practice:** Allows dental hygiene students to practice dentistry without a license in limited circumstances. The students must be enrolled in an accredited dental hygiene program; be supervised by a dentist and a program faculty member; and work in a school, government or non-profit clinic that treats an under served population. (House author: Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 2088** **State Oversight of Midwives:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to suspend, place on probation, or revoke the certification of any midwife practicing in violation of the state law and rules; requires student midwives to pass a comprehensive midwifery examination; and defines the midwives' scope of practice. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/97.

- HB 2389** **TDH Laboratory Service Contracts:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to enter into contracts for the sale and provision of laboratory services and clarifies that funds collected for the sale of laboratory services will be credited to the department's public health services fee fund. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 6/1/97.
- HB 2192** **Creation of the Texas Health Service Corps:** Creates the Texas Health Service Corps for Medically Underserved Areas, which provides an incentive for resident physicians training in family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, or obstetrics and gynecology to practice in an underserved area of Texas after they have completed their residency training. (House author: Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville); Effective 6/11/97.
- HB 2255** **Dental Licenses for Foreign Certified Graduates:** Requires the State Board of Dental Examiners to license graduates of a foreign dental or dental hygiene school only under certain conditions, including the condition that the foreign dental or dental hygiene school is recognized by its government as providing appropriate educational training for the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in that country. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 2385** **Sunset Commission Health Reporting Requirements:** Requires the Sunset Commission, as part of its review of health and human services agencies, to study the need to provide the 76th Texas Legislature with additional health and human services policy research and analysis. (House author: Rep. Diane Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 2596** **State and Local Integration of Health Networks:** Requires the Texas Information and Referral Network at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to develop and coordinate a statewide system to integrate existing community-based information programs with state and local agencies. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Uvalde); Effective 9/1/97.
- HB 3075** **Possession and Distribution of Hepatitis Vaccines:** Permits a home or community support services agency or its employees to possess Hepatitis B and influenza vaccines, as well as tuberculosis tests, for the purpose of administering these to the agency's employees, patients, or patient family members under a physician's standing orders. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

- SB 1294** **Disciplinary Action for Certain Medical Treatments:** Prevents the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners from taking disciplinary action against health care providers for unknowingly and isolated billing errors. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 836** **Public Information for Birth and Death Certificates:** Clarifies the type of information in birth and death records that is public information and under what conditions that information can be made available to the public. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Uvalde); 8/30/99.
- HB 1398** **Overhaul of State's Indigent Health Care Delivery System:** For the first time in 14 years, this legislation was negotiated with representatives of more than 40 counties and includes many of their recommendations, including shifting the focus of indigent care from health care services to preventive medicine, streamlining eligibility and allowing counties to provide immunizations, physical examinations and health screenings. Eligibility for indigent care is raised over a three-year period from 11 percent of the federal poverty level to 25 percent. (House author: Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 3479** **Definition of Mental Health Provider:** Expands the definition of mental health provider to include "officers for mental health assignment" and allows criminal charges to be brought against these officers for sexual exploitation. (House author: Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 397** **Public Information for State Funded Health Organizations:** Requires public and private organizations that receive state funds for health and human services to provide information about their services to the Texas Information and Referral Network administered by the Health and Human Services Commission. (House sponsor: Rep. Tracy King, D-Uvalde); Effective 5/10/99.
- SB 967** **DHS Health Care Facility Investigations:** Authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to investigate complaints of abuse, neglect, or exploitation by uncredentialed direct care staff in any facility licensed by the department, or adult foster care homes that contract with the department, and establishes due process procedures for such investigations. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 1586** **Voucher Program for Persons with Disabilities:** Authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission to implement a voucher program for the delivery of state or Medicaid-funded services to persons with disabilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 6/18/99.

- SB 1591** **Compliance with National EDI Standards:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Health Care Information Council to develop a plan to make health claims data from state-funded health programs accessible through the Internet. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 6/18/99.
- HB 1396** **Licensing of Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded:** Requires the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) to evaluate the department's approach to licensing intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded in consultation with the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, facility providers and staff, advocates for facility residents, and facility residents and their families. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 5/29/99.
- HB 2304** **Qualifications of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to ensure that licensed marriage and family therapists may qualify as providers under medical assistance programs. (House author: Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 2795** **Prior Notification of Guardianship Status:** Requires an applicant seeking to have a third party named as temporary or permanent guardian to notify the potential guardian in advance. The purpose of the notice is to allow third parties time to determine if another entity would be more appropriate as guardian or to seek a less restrictive alternative than the appointment of a guardian. The law was recommended by the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 3126** **Evaluation of State Drug-Abuse Prevention Programs:** Requires the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, Texas Youth Commission, and Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to establish uniform criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of a drug-abuse prevention program that receive grant funding. (House author: Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa); Effective 8/30/99.
- HB 3606** **Certification of Chemical Dependency Treatment Services:** Requires alternative education programs that provide chemical dependency treatment services to be licensed by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA); School districts with licensed alternative education programs must employ a mental health professional to counsel students suffering from alcohol and drug abuse problems, subject to parental consent. (House author: Rep. Ignacio Salinas, D-San Diego); Effective 6/18/99.

HB 3740 **Local Designation of Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) Hearings:** Improves the cost-effectiveness and convenience of contested case hearings at the DPRS by requiring the hearings to be held in the department's administrative region in which the conduct at issue occurred, rather than at the Austin office of the State Office of Administrative Hearings. (House author: Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

HB 3741 **Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) Study and Analysis Requirements:** Clarifies that comprehensive child care cost-benefit analyses and economic impact studies performed by DPRS only are required for revisions to minimum standards that impact staff-to-child ratios, group sizes and square footage requirements of non-residential child care facilities. (House author: Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 367 Community Based Services for Persons with Disabilities: Directs the Health and Human Services Commission and appropriate Health and Human Services agencies to provide services and support to aid persons with disabilities to live in the person's home community. (House sponsor: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 482 **Protection from Retaliation Against Making Complaints Against Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMRs):** Extends the protection from retaliation against making complaints about facilities to family members and guardians of residents in nursing homes and the same entitlements to contract employees, volunteers, and family members and guardians of residents in intermediate care facilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 966 **Study Regarding Funding to Follow a Person to Community Based Services:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to conduct a study of possible ways to allow funds to more freely follow an individual from institutional care to community-based services. (House author: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 1154 **Support for Community-Based Organizations Providing Long-Term Care Services:** Authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide grants to community organizations that at least partially match the state's grant for long-term care services. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 1179 **Cleanup Bill for Health and Human Services:** Updates statutory references and redesignates a section within the Human Resources Code. (House author: Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth, R-Burleson); Effective 5/14/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

SB 153 **Work Group for Voucher Payment Program for Persons with Disabilities:** Amends the Government Code to change the name of the voucher payment program work group to the consumer directed services work group and to continue the work group until September 1, 2007. (House sponsor: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/03.

SB 216 **Disposal of Animal Remains and Medical Waste:** Amends the Occupations Code to authorize a veterinarian to dispose of medical waste associated with the remains of an animal by burial or burning along with the remains and sets out requirements relating to such disposal. (House sponsor: Rep. Rick Hardcastle, R-Vernon); Effective 9/1/03.

SB 245 **Respiratory Therapy Services under the Medical Assistance Program:** Directs the Health and Human Services Commission by rule to require that respiratory therapy services provided to ventilator-dependent persons under Medicaid be provided by a respiratory therapist authorized to practice respiratory care when respiratory therapy is determined to be the most effective treatment and when the use of a respiratory therapist is practicable and cost-neutral or cost-effective. (House sponsor: Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth, R-Burleson); Effective 9/1/03.

SB 1522 **Continuous Eligibility for Medical Assistance Benefits:** Delays by two years the implementation of 12 months of continuous eligibility for Children's Medicaid assistance, requiring the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to implement that provision by September 1, 2005; authorizes HHSC, by rule, to develop procedures that require certain applicants to have a personal interview with an HHSC representative when it is determined that the information needed to verify eligibility cannot be obtained in any other manner and authorizes HHSC to use third-party information in under certain circumstances. (House sponsor: Rep. Vilma Luna, R-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/18/03.

SB 1744 **Fee to Preserve Vital Statistics Records:** Authorizes a local registrar of vital statistics to collect a fee not to exceed \$1 for the preservation of certain records maintained by the registrar. House sponsor: Rep. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/03.

- HB 1020** **Dependent Care Benefits for Working Parents:** Requires the Work and Family Policies Clearinghouse to encourage employers to provide dependent care benefits to their employees. (House author: Rep. Mike Villareal, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/03.
- HB 2692** **Support for Persons with Diabetes:** Requires the state to develop a pilot program that would promote the creation of diabetes support groups to enable persons to share information and exchange ideas and strategies regarding disease management techniques. (House author: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 6/20/03.
- HB 2970** **Serving Families with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF):** Authorizes the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) to continue the separate state program for two-parent TANF families if federal work participation rate requirements continue to be significantly different for two-parent families and for one-parent families. In the event of passage of federal TANF reauthorization, DHS would be authorized to serve two-parent families under the same program as one-parent families. (House author: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 6/20/03.
- HB 3124** **Federal Support for Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC) Programs:** Authorizes TRC to transfer the provision of transition planning into the agency's vocational rehabilitation program. (House author: Rep. Vicki Truitt, R-Southlake); Effective 9/1/03.
- HB 3125** **Funding Flexibility for Texas Commission for the Blind (TCB):** Revises the current program to include transition services for eligible blind Texans, which would allow TCB to use that portion of the donated money as a match to draw down additional federal dollars for services. (House author: Rep. Vicki Truitt, R-Southlake); Effective 6/20/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

- SB 40** **Permanency Planning:** Requires agencies to separate the responsibility and authority for permanency planning for children with disabilities from the institution in which they reside. (House sponsor: Rep. Dawna Dukes, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/05.
- SB 187** **Protection of the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Fund:** Ensures that critical funding for treatment will be available shortly after an individual has experienced a brain or spinal cord injury. (House sponsors: Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs); Effective 5/9/05.

- SB 271** **Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth:** Provides a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth (CBRS) to the parents of a stillborn child if the parents so request. (House sponsor: Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Ft. Worth); Effective 9/1/05.
- SB 325** **Seclusion and Restraint in State Health and Juvenile Facilities:** Prohibits certain forms of restraint and requires the health and human services commissioner to establish an interagency work group to develop and recommend best practices for managing the behavior of the residents of a facility. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/05.
- SB 626** **Quality Services for Residents in Community-Based Care Programs:** Authorizes the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to raise the cost ceiling for certain residents to provide quality services in community-based settings. (House sponsor: Rep. John Davis, R-Houston); Effective 9/1/05.
- SB 1525** **Safe Patient Handling:** Directs hospitals and nursing homes to appoint a safe patient handling and movement practices committee to develop strategies to minimize risk of injury to patients and nurses associated with lifting or moving a patient. (House sponsor: Rep. Dianne Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 1/1/06.
- SB 1830** **Quality Assurance Fee (QAF):** Extends the current QAF on Integrated Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMRs); (House sponsor: Rep. Vilma Luna, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/17/05.
- HB 120** **Organ Donor Registry:** Establishes an official Texas organ donor registry, the Donor Education, Awareness and Registry (DEAR), so that more Texans can receive life-savings organs. (House Author: Rep. Glenda Dawson, R-Pearland); Effective 6/18/05. Section 8 (Voluntary Fees) effective 9/1/05.
- HB 270** **Sibling Reunification:** Gives a child standing to file suit in court for access to the child's sibling if the siblings were separated due to divorce or actions by protective services representatives. (House author: Rep. Jessica Farrar, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 880** **Attorney General Review of Health Care Contracts:** Authorizes the attorney general to review certain contracts for healthcare purposes in order to facilitate the incorporation of suggested changes before the contracting process is complete. (House author: Rep. Diane Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 1252** **Services for Persons with Chronic Kidney Disease:** Establishes services for chronic renal failure under a medical assistance program which the Health and Human Services Commission currently offers to individuals with chronic health conditions such as heart disease, respiratory illness, diabetes, end-stage renal disease, HIV infection, and AIDS. (House author: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 9/1/05.

- HB 1677** **Syncytial Virus:** Requires the Department of State Health Services to create a surveillance system to collect information, already available through most children's hospitals, on the incidence of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infection at key locations around the state. (House author: Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 1867** **Money Follows Person for Community-Based Services:** Ensures that funding will follow an individual by requiring the transfer of funds as needed to provide community-based services for an individual who leaves a nursing facility to live in the community and receive services in a community waiver program. (House author: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 1970** **Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect:** Provides that a report of suspected abuse or neglect may be made to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) regardless of whether or not the abuse involves someone responsible for the care, custody, or welfare of the child. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 2579** **Parent Involvement in the Placement of Children with Mental Retardation:** Delineates the roles of parents and Integrated Care Facilities for persons with Mental Retardation (ICF-MR) with regard to staying connected to the children and the decision-making process, and places some protections for the children when the parents or guardians cannot be found. (House author: Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/05.

Medicaid

73rd Legislature (1993):

SB 79 **Contracting with Health Care Providers for Services to Medicaid Recipients:** requires the state's Medicaid agency to develop a selective contracting system for providing non-emergency hospital care for Medicaid recipients. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

SB 10 **Health Care Delivery System for Medicaid Services:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a health care delivery system in an effort to restructure the delivery of Medicaid health care services. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/13/95.

SB 509 **Authority of Health and Human Services Commission to Operate Medicaid:** clarifies the authority of the Health and Human Services Commission to delegate to a health and human services agency the authority to operate all or part of the Medicaid program and to the commission's powers to transfer various powers and duties. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 3/22/95.

SB 600 **Standards for Managed Care Organizations:** Requires the Texas Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the Texas Department of Insurance to set forth requirements for performance, operation, and financial standards for managed care organizations that serve Medicaid clients. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 601 **Medicaid Education Programs:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to oversee the provision of education programs under a managed care Medicaid program. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/19/95.

SB 602 **Protection Against Medicaid Fraud:** Requires the development and implementation of a health care database to detect fraud perpetrated by a program provider or client. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

- SB 30** **Prevention of Medicaid Fraud:** Centralize fraud investigation and prosecution efforts under a new Office of Investigations and Enforcement of the Health and Human Services Commission; direct health and human services agencies to use advanced fraud-detection technologies; tighten provider enrollment processes through the use of criminal background checks and on-site inspections of prospective providers; create a new legal tool, a "citizen's lawsuit," to prosecute fraudulent Medicaid providers; and create stiffer penalties for fraud, especially for those acts of fraud that harm children, the aged, and the disabled. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.
- SB 403** **Conformity with Federal Medicaid Regulations:** Repeals an obsolete 1991 law that allows the state to levy an assessment against certain hospitals and hospital districts for the purpose of funding the Medicaid disproportionate share program. This brings state Medicaid law into compliance with federal Health Care Financing Administration regulations. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 5/28/97.
- SB 614** **Conformity of Medicaid with Social Security Act:** Brings the state Medicaid law, which prohibits any assignment of Medicaid payments, into compliance with the federal Social Security Act, which permits the assignment of Medicaid payments under certain circumstances, such as a contractual arrangement between a provider and an employer. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 5/23/97.
- SB 1163** **Medicaid Training for Patients and Providers:** Directs the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to develop a comprehensive plan to provide information and training about the requirements of Medicaid managed care to patients and providers. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/11/97.
- SB 1164** **Medicaid Readiness:** Directs the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to perform a "readiness review" of each managed care organization that contracts with the state to serve Medicaid patients to ensure that the managed care organization is prepared to serve Medicaid patients. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/17/97.
- SB 1165** **Medicaid Services for Children with Special Needs:** Directs the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a standard operating definition of "children with special health care needs," and to develop, test and implement appropriate, comprehensive and cost-effective methods to serve children with special health care needs under managed care plans. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 5/31/97.

HB 1511 **Use of Medicaid for Graduate Medical Education:** Changes the way that Texas funds graduate medical education by ensuring that Medicaid funds that are earmarked for graduate medical education are distributed directly to teaching hospitals. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 2913 **Health Care Delivery System for Medicaid Services:** Centralizes rate-setting for the Medicaid program under the Health and Human Services Commission and implemented several additional changes to the delivery of Medicaid Services. (House author: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

SB 11 **Standard of Proof to Prove Medicaid Fraud:** Ensures that state law relating to Medicaid fraud is consistent with federal law by changing the standard of proof required to prove fraud. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

SB 1585 **Bids to Process Medicaid Vendor Drug Program:** Requires the Texas Department of Health to work with the Council on Competitive Government (CCG) in seeking competitive bids for processing Medicaid Vendor Drug Program claims that the Texas Department of Human Services currently processes. (House sponsor: Rep. Carl Isett, R-Lubbock); Effective 9/1/99.

SB 1587 **Prevention of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse:** Improves the detection of potential fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program by authorizing random claim audits, data matches and investigations of potential recipient-related fraud. The law was recommended by the Comptroller's Texas Performance Review. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

SB 1588 **Requirements for Managed Care Organizations to Prevent Fraud:** Requires managed care organizations to provide fraud control information to the Health and Human Services Commission or a Medicaid-operating agency. The law was recommended by the Comptroller's Texas Performance Review. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

SB 1589 **Authority of Comptroller to Prevent Fraud:** Expands the scope of the Comptroller's health care fraud study to determine the number and type of fraudulent claims for medical or health care benefits. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 6/18/99.

- HB 820** **Continuation of Medicaid Coverage:** Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to review automatically a child's eligibility for medical assistance if the child's family loses their entire Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant. The law requires DHS to continue Medicaid coverage to children for one month after their parents leave TANF; after one month parents must follow the standard review process and show proof of their income and resources to continue benefits for the children. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 6/18/99.
- HB 875** **Monitoring of Medicaid Fraud Organizations:** Improves methods used by the Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of Human Services to monitor Medicaid fraud investigations and collect Medicaid and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) overpayments. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1514** **Review of Medicaid Eligibility Files:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to remove the names of deceased persons from the Medicaid eligibility files to reduce possible overpayments to providers. The law was recommended by the Comptroller's Texas Performance Review. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

- SB 43** **Streamlining Children's Medicaid Application:** Eliminates the requirement for a face-to-face interview to streamline the process and provide for continuous medical assistance eligibility when children are transitioning from Medicaid to CHIP or to private insurers. (House sponsor: Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Galveston); Effective 1/1/02.
- SB 51** **Medicaid Services for Persons Transferring Out of Foster Care:** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to provide medical assistance to persons making the transition from foster care to independent living. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 3365** **Expand Access to Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Program:** Requires (Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners') TSBSWE to adopt rules necessary to permit social workers to provide case management services in the THSteps program. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 5/28/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

HB 111 Payment for Non-Emergency Transportation under the Medicaid Program:
Holds health care providers, except for a physician, financially responsible if the ambulance service provider is denied payment under the Medicaid Program because the health care provider did not receive prior authorization for the service. (House author: Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso); Effective 6/18/03.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

70th Legislature (1987):

- SB 1458** **Public Defender in Webb County:** Authorizes the Webb County Commissioners' Court to appoint a county public defender. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/19/87.
- HB 163** **Optical Data Storage:** Authorizes county clerks, county recorders, and clerks of county courts and school districts to adopt the use of "optical scanning" technology for recording, storing, and reproducing legal records and documents. Passed during 2nd Called Session. (House author: Rep. Gerald Geistweidt, R-Mason); Effective 10/20/87.
- HB 907** **County Court of Law in Webb County:** Expands the jurisdiction of the Webb County Court at Law by increasing the "amount in controversy" limit from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Permits the commissioners' court to increase the salary of the County Court at Law judge or the county judge. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/87.
- HB 2549** **Poteet Community Hospital District:** Authorizes persons served by the Poteet Community Hospital District to decide whether the district should be dissolved via an election. (House author: Rep. Eldon Edge, D-Poth); Effective 9/1/87.
- HB 2595** **Abolition of the Office of Inspector of Hides and Animals:** Abolishes the Office of Hide and Animal Inspector in nine counties, including Webb County, at the end of the current officeholder's term. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar); Effective 1/1/91.
- HB 2598** **Bee County Hospital District:** Authorizes the creation of the Bee County Hospital District upon voter approval. Grants the power of eminent domain and provides for the issuance of bonds and the levy of taxes. (House author: Rep. Robert Earley, D-Portland); Effective 8/31/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

- SB 96** **Starr County Court at Law:** Expands the jurisdiction of the Starr County Court at Law to include concurrent jurisdiction with district court in civil cases where the amount in controversy is greater than \$500 and less than \$100,000 and in controversies involving title to real property. Passed during first called session. (House sponsor: Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville); Effective 8/2/89.

- SB 374 Application of the Professional Prosecutors Law:** Adds the Lamar County attorney and the 22nd District Attorney (Comal County) to the professional prosecutors law, makes them ineligible to practice law in private practice and subject to state and county pay increases. (House sponsor: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 9/1/89.
- SB 1672 Frio Hospital District:** Authorizes a local option election to establish the Frio Hospital District to assume responsibility for health care facilities and for medical and hospital care to indigent residents. Grants the district the power to levy taxes, issue bonds and exercise eminent domain. (House sponsor: Rep. Eldon Edge, D-Poth); Effective 5/26/89.
- SB 1675 Brush Country Underground Water Conservation District:** Authorizes the creation of an underground water conservation district in Live Oak County upon the approval of local voters. (House sponsor: Rep. Eldon Edge, D-Poth); Effective 6/14/89.
- SB 1735 Canyon Regional Water Authority:** Creates the Canyon Regional Water Authority to serve parts of Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, and Hays counties. (House sponsor: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 8/28/89.
- HB 153 Webb County Court at Law:** Establishes the amount in controversy jurisdiction of the Webb County Court at Law as matters involving more than \$500 and less than \$50,000. Grants the court jurisdiction over appeals and final rulings of the Industrial Accident Board and proceedings to expunge a criminal arrest record. (House author: Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/89.
- HB 349 Authority of Certain General-law Municipalities to Annex Adjacent Streets, Highways, Roads and Alleys:** Authorizes the City of Marion (Guadalupe County) to annex by ordinance, and without the consent of any person, a street, highway, road, or alley adjacent to the city for the purpose of providing services to the area. (House author: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 8/28/89.
- HB 509 Compensation Received by the Judges in Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, and Hays Counties:** Authorizes salaries paid by commissioners courts to judges of district courts in Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe and Hays counties to be in addition to the salary paid by the state and to other authorized compensation. Eliminates the maximum ceiling of \$2,900 on the aggregate supplemental salary that can be paid to the judges of the district courts in those counties. (House author: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 6/16/89.

HB 2191 Supplemental Compensation Paid to DA in the 293rd Judicial District: Deletes the statutory limitation on the local salary supplement payable to the district attorney of the 293rd District Court, which serves Dimmit, Maverick, and Zavala counties, and allows the commissioners court of each county to set the amount. (House author: Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice); Effective 6/14/89.

HB 3018 Park District for Guadalupe and Comal Rivers: Amends the act creating the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) of Comal County to authorize a quorum of the board to act on the majority vote of the members present, allow the commissioners to approve or disapprove an action by the board within 30 days after the date on which the board acts, and exempt a person from the hotel tax if the person's occupancy is 30 days or greater. (House author: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 9/1/89.

72nd Legislature (1991):

SB 169 Private Practice by Starr County Court at Law Judge: Authorizes the Starr County Court at Law judge to engage in the private practice of law, but prohibits the judge from appearing and pleading in any court of record in Texas or in any court over which the judge has appellate jurisdiction. (House sponsor: Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville); Effective 8/26/91.

SB 170 County Court at Law No. 2 of Webb County: Creates the Webb County Court at Law No. 2 effective Jan. 1, 1993. Establishes that the judges of both county courts at law are members of the Webb County Juvenile Board. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/26/91.

SB 264 49th Judicial District: Grants civil and criminal jurisdiction of a county court to the 49th Judicial District Court (Webb and Zapata counties), and changes the day on which the term of the court begins. Authorizes the court to return indictments to the 341st District Court (Webb County), (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/1/91.

SB 1389 Board Trustees of the Canyon Regional Water Authority: Authorizes the Canyon Regional Water Authority to limit board membership to two appointed trustees from each governing body of its membership. (House sponsor: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 9/1/91.

HB 54 Use of Revenue from the County Hotel Occupancy Tax: Authorizes Webb and El Paso counties to use up to 15 percent of hotel/motel tax funds for promotion of the arts. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/26/91.

- HB 2724** **Maverick County Hospital District:** Authorizes the Maverick County tax assessor to collect hospital district taxes and to charge a service fee in excess of the \$5,000 cap. Deletes the six percent interest cap on bonds issued by the hospital board. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 6/7/91.
- HB 2727** **Public Defender for the 293rd and 365th Judicial Districts:** Creates the public defender's office for the 293rd and 365th judicial districts (Dimmit, Maverick, and Zavala), allowing the state district courts to appoint a public defender subject to approval of county commissioners. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/91.

73rd Legislature (1993):

- HB 200** **Reeves County Hospital District:** Sets out the provisions for the election of the board of directors of the Reeves County Hospital District. (House author: Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield); Effective 5/11/93.
- HB 323** **Classification of Certain Federal Offenses:** Allows juveniles who commit federal offenses to be prosecuted in state courts by redefining "delinquent conduct" as conduct, other than a traffic offense, that violates a penal law of this state or of the United States punishable by imprisonment or by confinement in jail. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 424** **Application of the Professional Prosecutors Law:** Repeals the professional prosecutor status of the district attorney of the 83rd Judicial District at the request of the new 83rd district attorney. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 965** **Magistrates Appointed by the Judges of the District Courts in Webb County:** Requires certain magistrates to be appointed by the judges of the Webb County district courts. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/93.
- HB 966** **Suspension or Removal of Employees of the Webb County Juvenile Board:** Authorizes the chief juvenile probation officer of Webb County to suspend or remove employees whom that officer may supervise. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/93.
- HB 1031** **Court Reporter for the 112th Judicial District:** Adds the court reporter for the 112th Judicial District to the list of court reporters eligible for reimbursement from the state for certain expenses. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/93.

- HB 1180** **Docking of Civil Cases in the 49th District Courts:** Requires each civil and criminal case in Webb County to be assigned and docketed at random by the district clerk, except tax suits. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/93.
- HB 1403** **Bailiff of the 341st District Court:** Entitles a bailiff appointed by a judge of the 341st District Court to a salary set by the judge in an amount that is commensurate with the salary paid to bailiffs of other courts with similar duties. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/93.
- HB 2460** **Nonirrigated or Nonirrigable Property in Bexar-Medina-Atascosa Counties Water Control and Improvement District No. 1.:** Authorizes the exclusion of certain land within the district's boundaries not served by the district due to the nonuse of services or the inability of the district to provide water services for irrigation. (House author: Rep. Pedro Nieto, D-Uvalde); Effective 5/31/93.
- HB 2817** **Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District:** Creates the district and establishes provisions for the board of directors. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 6/6/93.
- HB 2866** **Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District:** Creates the district and establishes provisions for the board of directors. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 8/30/93.

74th Legislature (1995):

- SB 934** **Starr County Hospital District:** Provides the administration, powers, duties, and operation of the Starr County Hospital District of Starr County, Texas. (House sponsor: Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 895** **Rancho de las Cabras:** Allows the title of Rancho de las Cabras to be transferred to the National Park Service. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 1552** **Assigned of Cases to Webb County Assistant DAs:** Allows Assistance District Attorneys in Webb County to stay with a case assigned prior to indictment. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/28/95.
- HB 3165** **Fee Set by Webb County Commissioners Courts:** Provides an additional fee to be set by the Webb County Commissioners Court for collection at the time of filing in each civil case. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo). Effective 9/1/95.

HB 3168 **Participation by County Court at Law Judges in Certain Meetings:** Includes the county court at law judges in a meeting held by the district judges of Webb County relating to certain jury panels in said county and to allow the designation of a statutory county court judge as the judge to whom general jury panels report. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/28/95.

HB 3214 **Bee County Court:** Creates a statutory county in Bee County to process civil, juvenile, criminal, probate, and mental commitment cases in a rapid and efficient manner. (House author: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 8/28/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 15 **Tax Rate for Live Oak County Underground Water District:** Lowers the cap on the tax rate of the Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District from 50 cents per \$100 of valuation to 5 cents per \$100 of valuation. The aim of the cap is to reassure local voters that future district board members will not raise taxes. (House sponsor: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 16 **Bee County Groundwater Conservation District:** Creates a groundwater conservation district in Bee County to aid in the regulation of water use and water quality and to support local efforts to experiment with cloud seeding. The new district must be confirmed by Bee County voters. (House sponsor: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 199 **Administration of Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County:** Improves administration of the Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County by adding the criminal district attorney as an alternate source of legal counsel for the district board; increasing the district's contracting authority to match the county's authority; and by releasing the board from a bond requirement when filing a lawsuit to enforce its rules. (House sponsor: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 401 **Authority of DA in Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties:** Authorizes the district attorney serving Bee, Live Oak and McMullen counties to perform the duties of the county attorney in McMullen County if there is no county attorney in McMullen County. The bill was requested by McMullen County Judge Elaine Franklin to aid in the prosecution of misdemeanor cases in the county. (House sponsor: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Benavides); Effective 4/25/97.

HB 3212 **Land in Duval County:** Requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to transfer 25 acres of land in Duval County to the county by October 31, 1997. The county intends to build a juvenile substance abuse facility on the land. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 5/29/97.

HB 3559 **Deadline for Bee County Court of Law:** Extends the deadline for creating the Bee County Court at Law from January 1, 1998, to January 1, 2000. The new court will prioritize juvenile justice cases. (House author: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 5/29/97.

HB 3567 **Authority of Duval County:** Authorizes the Duval County Conservation and Reclamation District board of directors to disannex a city upon petition of property owners and approval of a disannexation referendum. It also enlarges the district board of directors from 4 to 7 members and specifies how they are to be elected to ensure rural representation. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Benavides); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 3602 **Groundwater Conservation District in Dimmit, La Salle, and Zavala Counties:** Creates a groundwater district in Dimmit, La Salle, and Zavala Counties subject to voter approval. If ratified, the district will help farmers and ranchers, local officials, and residents conserve, manage, and protect the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Uvalde); Effective 9/1/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

HB 1346 **Authority of Commissioners Court to Call a Tax Election for Maintenance of Junior Colleges:** Authorizes a commissioners court in a county with a population of 150,000 or less to call, after a vote, a maintenance and operation tax election without being petitioned by a local steering committee to do so. (House author: Rep. Ignacio Salinas, D-San Diego); Effective 6/18/99.

HB 3821 **Duval County Juvenile Board:** Adds a citizen member selected by the county judge and district judge to the Duval County Juvenile Board. (House author: Rep. Ignacio Salinas, D-San Diego); Effective 9/1/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 1002 **Transfer of State Property from the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to the Border Region Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) Community Center:** Authorizes MHMR to transfer property to the Border Region MHMR Center and requires the property to be used to provide mental health and mental retardation services. (House sponsor: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/01.

- SB 1036 Election Dates for Bee Groundwater Conservation District Directors:** Specifies that future Bee Groundwater Conservation District directors will be elected on a uniform election date selected by the current directors instead of on the first Saturday in October. (House sponsor: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 6/16/01.
- SB 1758 Boundaries of the Beeville Water Supply District:** Allows the Beeville Water Supply District Board of Directors to add territory by majority vote, instead of using annexation procedures, if the territory also was annexed by the City of Beeville. (House sponsor: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 6/16/01.
- SB 1764 McMullen Groundwater Conservation District:** Ratifies the McMullen Groundwater Conservation District authorized via SB 1829 by Zaffirini and SB 1911 by Sen. Buster Brown in 1999. A local confirmation election is required. (House sponsor: Rep. Ignacio Salinas, D-San Diego); Effective 6/16/01.
- HB 1299 Pooling of Sick Leave by County Employees:** Allows a county commissioners court to require an employee to enroll in the county sick leave pool as a condition for withdrawing leave from the pool and to transfer at least one day of accrued sick leave to the pool as a condition of enrollment. (House author: Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin); Effective 6/11/01.
- HB 2040 Defense Base Development Authorities:** Allows the Bee Development Authority to own and operate a water, sewer, or electric utility and sell those services to companies that locate at the former Chase Field Naval Air Station. (House author: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 6/15/01.
- HB 2347 Fee for Courthouse Security in Webb County:** Clarifies that the Webb County Commissioners Court may not collect a security fee in excess of \$20 despite the existence of two statutes, one specifically for Webb County and one with statewide application, authorizing a \$20 and a \$5 security fee. Establishing the \$20 limit in statute will help Webb County avoid a class action lawsuit alleging that the county has been overcharging the fee. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

- SB 132 Cattle Guards on County Roads:** Allows a county commissioners court to replace or repair any existing cattle guard on a county road. (House sponsor: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 5/8/03.

- HB 3282** **Hotel Occupancy Tax for Border Counties:** Creates a tax on hotel and motel rooms, not to exceed two percent of the price paid for the room, in a county with a population of more than 45,000 but less than 75,000, that borders Mexico and borders or contains a portion of Falcon Lake. (House author: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 6/20/03.
- HB 3304** **Part-Time Associate Judge in 229th Judicial District:** Permits the district judge of the 229th Judicial District to appoint a full-time or part-time associate judge with the approval of the commissioners court of Duval County. (House author: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 9/1/03.
- HB 3461** **Authority to Perform Duties of the McMullen County District Attorney:** Deletes the provision authorizing the district attorney to perform the duties of the county attorney in McMullen County. (House author: Rep. Gabi Canales, D-Alice); Effective 9/1/03.
- HB 3491** **Flexibility for the Use of 9-1-1 Revenue:** Allow the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) to provide the most populous county within a region the ability to fund other services that are closely tied to operating a 9-1-1 system that fall outside of call delivery. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 6/22/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

- SB 1579** **Authority to Erect Billboards:** Authorizes the City of Three Rivers to erect billboards if they choose, as well as provides all counties with the authority to designate roads where billboards may not be erected. (House sponsor: Rep. Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, D-Alice); Effective 9/1/05.
- SB 1799** **Bee County Groundwater Conservation District:** Amends the Bee County Groundwater Conservation District's statutory authority in the Water Code to eliminate unnecessary authorities and requirements. (House sponsor: Rep. Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, D-Alice); Effective 6/17/05.
- SB 1846** **Karnes County Hospital District:** Clarifies that the district has the authority to issue general obligation or revenue bonds for hospital system purposes and to define what constitutes the hospital system. (House Sponsor: Rep. Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, D-Alice); Effective 6/17/05.
- SB 1847** **Duval County Groundwater Conservation District:** Establishes a district for the management, conservation, protection, and development of groundwater in Duval County. (House sponsor: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 6/17/05.

- SB 1848** **Starr County Groundwater Conservation District:** Establishes a district for the management, conservation, protection, and development of groundwater in Starr County. (House sponsor: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-San Diego); Effective 6/17/05.
- HB 2619** **Support for Emergency Services Districts:** Requires the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) to create a program that will provide rural communities with information, training, and technical assistance related to Emergency Service Districts (ESDs). (House author: Glen Hegar, R-Katy); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 3568** **San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District:** Establishes a district for the management, conservation, protection, and development of groundwater in San Patricio County. (House author: Rep. Gene Seaman, R-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/18/05.
- HB 3569** **Zapata County Municipal Utility District:** Establishes the Municipal Utility District #2 in Zapata County. (House author: Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/05.

PREVENTION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

70th Legislature (1987):

- SB 1001** **Prevents Inhalation of Dangerous Chemicals:** Prohibits the inhalation of "isomers," or slight chemical variations of volatile substances, by minors and the sale and distribution of these chemicals to minors. Prevents "closet chemists" from continuously altering chemical substances to avoid violating the letter of the law. (House sponsor: Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 6/20/87.
- HB 173** **Raises Penalties for Selling Dangerous Chemicals to Minors:** Lowers the culpable mental state for selling or delivering a "volatile chemical" to include "recklessly," and raises the minimum age for sale or delivery of a volatile chemical to under 18 years of age instead of the current 17. Raises the offense of selling or delivering a volatile chemical to a Class B misdemeanor. (House author: Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite); Effective 1/1/88.
- HB 502** **Raises Penalties for Use of Dangerous Chemicals by Minors:** Ensures that criminal statutes apply to inhalant abuse by deleting contradictory language from the Family Code that referred to inhalant abuse as "conduct in need of supervision." Authorizes judges to sentence inhalant abusers to up to one year in a Texas Youth Commission facility, and establishes that inhalant abuse is a misdemeanor. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/87.
- HB 1079** **Raises Penalties for Minors Convicted of Driving Under the Influence:** Strengthens penalties for minors convicted of driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol by designating the third or subsequent offense as "delinquent conduct" instead of "conduct in need of supervision." Allows judges to sentence a minor to up to one year in a Texas Youth Commission facility after the minor's third offense. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/87.

71st Legislature (1989):

- SB 29** **Requires Certain Parolees to Test for Controlled Substances:** Requires every offender placed on probation, released on parole, or released to mandatory supervision to be tested for controlled substances if a controlled substance was found in the probationer's or inmate's body or when controlled substance use is related to the offense. Passed during first called session. (House sponsor: Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen); Effective 1/1/90.

- SB 32** **Increases Penalties for the Delivery of Controlled Substances to a Minor:**
Provides that a defendant is ineligible for probation when the conviction is for delivery of a controlled substance to a minor and the defendant was 21 years old or older at the time of the offense. Passed during first called session. (House sponsor: Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio); Effective 10/18/89.
- SB 302** **Expands Services for Persons who are Drug-Dependent:** Adds "volatile chemicals" to the definition of drug abuse and drug-dependent persons, and revises the definition of "substance abuse" to include both alcohol and drug abuse. Authorizes the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to continue providing services to inhalant abusers. (House sponsor: Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite); Effective 5/15/89.
- SB 1674** **Modifies Licensing of Certain Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Facilities:**
Makes multiple revisions to the license definitions and requirements for certain treatment facilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio); Effective 8/28/89.
- SB 1677** **Creates Penalties for the Delivery of Controlled Substances to a Minor:**
Establishes that it is a Class A misdemeanor for a person to deliver, sell, possess or manufacture inhalant paraphernalia if the person knows that the recipient or intended recipient intends to inhale, ingest, apply, use, or introduce into the body a volatile chemical, abusable glue or aerosol paint. (House sponsor: Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite); Effective 9/1/89.
- HB 310** **Blood Samples for the Purpose of Determining Alcohol Concentration:**
Requires laboratories that take blood for the purpose of determining alcohol concentration or the presence of a controlled substance or drug in the blood of a person operating a motor vehicle, and that are not licensed by the State Board of Medical Examiners, to undergo periodic sanitary inspections by the state as well as by the resident county. (House author: Rep. Eldon Edge, D-Poth); Effective 6/15/89.

73rd Legislature (1993):

- SB 834** **Treatment for Chemical Dependency:** Authorizes a facility operated by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation which has been designated by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to provide chemical dependency treatment to adults and minors. (House sponsor: Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston); Effective 6/15/93.

HB 1626 **Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse:** Requires the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to plan, develop, and implement methods and programs that provide healthy alternatives for children at risk of selling controlled substances. (House author: Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/93.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 1212 **Examination Requirement for License Requirements for Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDC):** Clears up inconsistencies in state law regarding LCDCs to help in recruiting more qualified counselors. (House sponsor: Rep. Jesse Jones, D-Dallas); Effective 6/14/01.

HB 63 **Raises Penalties for Refusal of Intoxication Test:** Allows arresting officers to confiscate the driver's licenses of DWI suspects who refuses or fails an intoxication test. Repeat offenders who refuse to submit to an intoxication test will have their license suspended for 180 days and two years instead of the current 90-day and 180-day suspension periods. First time and repeat offenders who fail an intoxication test will lose their license for 90 days and one year. (House author: Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

SB 45 **Creates Penalties for a DWI With a Child:** Creates a new offense, "DWI with child passenger," as a state jail felony. (House sponsor: Rep. Robert Talton, R-Pasadena); Effective 9/1/03.

SB 333 **License Requirements for Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDC):** Increases the educational requirements for licensure as a new LCDC by requiring an associate degree and course work that pertains to substance abuse. (House sponsor: Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi); Effective 9/1/04.

HB 292 **Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) Analyses in Serious Accidents:** Requires a BAC analysis of a person if any individual has died or will die, or if an individual other than the person has suffered serious bodily injury as a result of a motor vehicle or watercraft accident. (House author: Rep. Elvira Reyna, R-Mesquite); Effective 9/1/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

HB 51 **Enhanced penalties for high Blood Alcohol Content (BAC):** Raises the penalties for drunk driver with high BAC levels; (House author: Rep. Todd Smith, R-Bedford); Effective 9/1/05.

PUBLIC SAFETY

71st Legislature (1989):

SB 356Increases Funding for Law Enforcement: Establishes a statewide fee of \$5 to be assessed upon conviction of a misdemeanor, and increases the fee assessed for services performed by peace officers in executing an arrest warrant from \$20 to \$35. (House sponsor: Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite); Effective 9/1/89.

SB 358Increases Funding for Crime Victim Compensation Fund: Increases court costs for conviction of certain offenses, such as Class C misdemeanors, from \$3 to \$5 to generate additional revenue for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund. (House sponsor: Rep. Jerry Yost, R-Longview); Effective 9/1/89.

SB 359Raises Cap for Crime Victim Compensation: Increases the maximum amount of the pecuniary (financial) loss for which a person may be compensated under the Crime Victims Compensation Act from \$150 to \$200 per week. (House sponsor: Rep. Jerry Yost, R-Longview); Effective 9/1/89.

SB 361Extends Crime Victims Compensation Fund to Texas Residents Living Out of State: Modifies the definition of "victim" to include a person who, at the time of the crime, is a Texas resident and is in a state without a crime victims compensation program and who suffers personal injury or death that would be compensable if the crime had occurred in Texas. (House sponsor: Rep. Jerry Yost, R-Longview); Effective 8/28/89.

HB 433 Improves Education of Certain Law Enforcement Officials: Authorizes the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education to require county sheriffs who are not commissioned peace officers to attend 40 hours of law enforcement training approved by the commission, and requires education costs to be reimbursed by the county. (House sponsor: Rep. Phyllis Robinson, D-Gonzalez); Effective 8/28/89.

72nd Legislature (1991):

SB 259Creates Sexual Offense Registry: Requires persons convicted of a felony sexual offense, such as indecency with a child, sexual assault or incest, or a fourth misdemeanor conviction for indecent exposure, to register with the local law enforcement authority in the city or county in which they reside or in which they move. Creates a central repository of sex offender information at the Texas Department of Public Safety. (House sponsor: Rep. Glenn Repp, R-Duncanville); Effective 9/1/91.

74th Legislature (1995):

SB 222 Expands Victims Rights When Using a Polygraph: Prohibits a peace officer from requiring a victim of certain offenses to take a polygraph examination prior to or after charging a defendant with the offense. (House sponsor: Debra Danburg, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 223 Notification to Victim of Domestic Violence: Requires an agency holding a person in the prevention of domestic violence to attempt to provide notice to the victim prior to the person's release. (House sponsor: Rep. Sheri Greenberg, D-Austin); Effective 8/28/95.

SB 224 Reporting of Domestic Violence: Requires certain persons to report domestic violence and provides legal protection for persons who report such violence. (House sponsor: Debra Danburg, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/95.

SB 225 Improve Training of Peace Officers: Requires training in the documentation of certain offenses to be included with other required training of peace officers. (House sponsor: Debra Danburg, D-Houston); Effective 8/28/95.

HB 76 Expands Access to Medical Records for Missing Persons: Grants certain law enforcement officers the ability to obtain medical records for persons reported missing. (House author: Sergio Munoz, D-Mission); Effective 8/28/95.

HB 1053 Increases Funding for Family Violence Shelters: Requires the Department of Human Services to apply for matching federal emergency assistance funds under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act to use for family violence services. Emergency Assistance is intended for needy families with children "if the assistance is necessary to avoid the destitution of a child or to provide living arrangements in a home for the child." (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/95.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 47 Increased Domestic Violence Services: Expands the code to allow state funding for certain nonresidential family violence centers, in order to reach a wider population of people in need of domestic violence services. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

- SB 53** **Access by Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) to Criminal Background Checks:** Expands the list of people about whom criminal background information can be obtained, to include: any applicant or employee and any volunteer or applicant volunteer with the agency, persons seeking employment through a contract with the estate of a ward, a friend or relative seeking unsupervised visitation with a ward, any person living in an adoptive or foster home where a child being protected by the state will live, any person living in the home of an alleged victim, and other persons. (House sponsor: Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 519** **Compensation for Victims of Family Violence or Sexual Assault:** Replaces the term "domestic violence" with "family violence" and establishes a definition that enables victims of sexual assault to qualify for compensation. (House author: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 1175** **Training for State Employees Regarding Family Violence:** Requires a financial assistance counselor to receive four hours of training on domestic violence and requires financial assistance agencies to determine if domestic violence is preventing a recipient from entering the workforce. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 1234** **Advocate Support for Victims of Sexual Assault:** Requires physicians or other medical personnel to offer a person who alleges to have suffered a sexual assault the opportunity to have a sexual assault advocate from a sexual assault program present at the time of the examination and sets forth guidelines for that practice. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 1378** **Excludes Certain Persons with Disabilities from Vehicle Registration Requirements:** Restructures current law to allow disabled Texans who are physically restricted to battery-powered mobility devices to be excluded from vehicle registration. Currently persons with disabilities are subject to vehicle registration requirements on their battery powered mobility device. Under the current Transportation Code, these mobility devices are treated the same as a motor vehicle. (House author: Rep. Jim McReynolds, D-Lufkin); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

- SB 51** **Referrals for Sexual Assault Services:** Requires law enforcement agencies to provide victims with written information about local sexual assault services that are available if the local rape crisis centers provide the written materials. (House sponsor: Rep. Tony Goolsby); Effective 6/20/03.

- SB 57** **AMBER (America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response) Alert System:** implements a statewide AMBER plan, which activates an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. (House sponsor: Rep. Joe Driver, R-Garland); Effective 6/2/03.
- SB 804** **Work Assignments for Certain Pregnant DPS Officers:** Requires the director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to make reasonable efforts to accommodate a working condition request of a pregnant, commissioned DPS officer and to assign the officer to a temporary work assignment, if one is available and requested by the officer. (House sponsor: Rep. Yvonne Davis, D-Dallas); Effective 9/1/03.
- SB 923** **Criminal Background Checks for Nursing Home Employees:** Requires the background check to be completed within 24 hours, and adds burglary as grounds for prohibition of employment. (House sponsor: Rep. Sid Miller, R-Stephenville); Effective 6/20/03.

79th Legislature (2005):

- SB 39** **Forensic Evidence Training:** Creates continuing medical education credits for training regarding the collection of forensic evidence that may be obtained by medical and nursing degree students. (House sponsor: Rep. Tony Goolsby, R-Dallas); Effective 9/1/05.
- SB 327** **Prevention of Spyware:** Makes it unlawful for a person or entity to knowingly install spyware, which allows a third party to read keystrokes, or provide computer software containing spyware to any computer in Texas. (House sponsor: Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 183** **Child Safety Seats:** Increases the age of children who are required to be in child safety seats. (House author: Rep. Fred Brown, R-Bryan); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 544** **Rights of Sexual Assault Victims:** Grants sexual assault victims the right to a forensic medical examination if the victim reports the assault to a law enforcement agency within 96 hours of its occurrence. (House author: Rep. Elliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 705** **Seized Weapons:** Allows county forensic labs access to seized weapons in certain situations. (House author: Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio); Effective 9/1/05.

- HB 1098** **Prevention of Phishing:** Prohibits the act of "phishing," which includes spoofing a website or creating an e-mail to induce the victim to divulge personal information with the intent to commit a crime of fraud or identity theft. (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/05.
- HB 2348** **Bus Stops Along Highways:** Authorizes local transit departments to work with TxDOT to determine where bus stops should be built on TxDOT highways. (House author: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 6/18/05

SENIORS

74th Legislature (1995):

HB 867 **Automated Reimbursement System for Nursing Facility Providers:** Directs DHS to acquire and develop an automated system for reimbursing Medicaid-certified nursing facility providers. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 8/28/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 61 **Reporting Abuse of Elderly or Disabled Persons:** Changes the penalty from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor for the failure of an employee of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation facility to report abuse of persons who are elderly or disabled. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 190 **Accountability for Nursing Home Facilities:** Grants the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) additional authority to deny, suspend, or revoke licenses and require additional background financial and compliance information; increases civil penalties and expands the grounds for administrative penalties. (House sponsor: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 2509 **Pilot Program to Treat Persons with Alzheimer's Disease:** Directs the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop and implement a pilot program for the treatment of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at one site that serves both rural and urban areas. (House author: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 2510 **Licensing for Facilities that Treat Persons with Alzheimer's Disease:** Directs the board of the Texas Department of Human Services to establish, by rule, a classification and license for facilities that promote themselves as providing personal care services to persons who have Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia and to adopt minimum standards for such facilities. (House author: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 2673 **Medical Committees:** Extends the "medical committee privilege" to committees comprised of representatives from various related entities within a health care system, not just an individual hospital. (House author: Rep. Kyle Janek, R-Houston); Effective 6/11/97.

76th Legislature (1999)

- SB 18** **Penalties for Violating Nursing Home Facility Laws:** Authorizes the attorney general to bring an action in district court to recover a civil penalty from a nursing facility. The law clarifies the 75th Legislature's intent in passing SB 190 by Zaffirini and Rep. Elliott Naishtat, relating to the regulation of nursing homes and similar facilities, that the attorney general may represent the state in civil actions regarding nursing facilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 5/3/99.
- SB 19** **Probationary Licenses for Nursing Facilities:** Requires individuals who have not previously held a license for nursing facilities, convalescent homes, or similar institutions to obtain a probationary license for one year before receiving a permanent license. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 21** **Outings for Residents in Nursing Facilities:** Improves the ability of nursing facilities and other facilities serving the elderly and disabled to take residents to the doctor, the park, and other outings. (House sponsor: Rep. Jim McReynolds, D-Lufkin); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 109** **Reporting of Abuse and Neglect at Nursing Homes:** Repeals statutory language regarding an additional reporting requirement for abuse and neglect at convalescent and nursing homes. The additional reporting requirement had the effect of making the Department of Human Services investigate accidents or hospitalizations that were not the result of abuse or neglect. Nursing home employees still must report suspected abuse and neglect associated with accidents and hospitalizations. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective immediately.
- SB 380** **Authorization of the Attorney General to Take Action Against an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR):** Clarifies that the attorney general is authorized, but not required, to bring an action in district court to recover a civil penalty from an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 5/30/99.
- SB 1292** **Financial Conditions of Nursing Homes:** Requires nursing homes to notify the Department of Human Services (DHS) of a significant change in their financial condition that could adversely affect the delivery of essential services, including nursing services, dietary services, or utilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

- SB 1293 Medication for Residents of Nursing Homes:** Authorizes the Department of Human Services to stagger renewal dates for permits to administer medication to residents of nursing and convalescent homes. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1237 Investigations of Nursing Home Employees:** Extends protections against retaliation currently offered by Chapter 242, Health and Safety Code (Convalescent and Nursing Homes and Related Institutions), to specifically protect contract laborers, volunteers, and other non-employees who initiate or cooperate with any investigation of a nursing home operator or employee. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1586 Long-Term Care Insurance Policies:** Requires the State Board of Insurance to establish standards relating to coverage in long-term care insurance policies of parents of an insured or parents of the spouse of an insured. The board must develop these standards by March 1, 2000. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 3/1/00.
- HB 2170 Services Provided by the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS):** Modifies regulatory services provided by the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) to reflect Mental Health and Mental Retardation's (MHMR) changing service delivery. (House author: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

- SB 34 Dental Services for Nursing Home Residents:** Provides basic preventive dental care services and improve the quality of life for nursing home residents. Net costs to the state would be moderated in the long run as increased preventive care reduces the need for costly emergency care. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 36 Training for Health and Human Services Caseworks:** Establishes joint training for health and human services caseworkers to increase their awareness and knowledge of services available to children in their, and at other, agencies. (House sponsor: Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 37 Temporary Nursing Facility License:** Creates a temporary license to restore the flow of Medicaid reimbursement to a new owner while providing that owner more time to fix prior deficiencies. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

SB 38 Modification of Long-Term Care Facilities: Allows the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS), at the request of a facility owner, to conduct architectural reviews prior to the construction or remodeling of nursing facilities (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

SB 40 Tuition Assistance for Nursing Students who Practice in Long-Term Facilities: Provides for tuition assistance for License Vocation Nursing (LVN) students who agree to practice in long-term care facilities in this state upon certification. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

SB 159 Grants to Support Nursing Home Residents: Facilitate initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents of nursing homes by establishing a "Best Practices/Quality of Life Improvement Grant Program," to be funded via a portion of administrative penalties collected by the state from nursing facilities. (House sponsor: Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 2482 Long-term Care Insurance Premium Rates: Directs the Department of Insurance to adopt rules to stabilize long-term care insurance premium rates. These rules will ensure that initial rates for policies are adequate. (House author: Rep. Ann Kitchen, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

78th Legislature (2003):

HB 420 Punishment for Crimes Committed Against Seniors: Provides that the punishment for theft and certain types of fraud is increased to the next higher category of offense if the crime is committed against a person who is 65 years of age or older. (House author: Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, D-San Antonio).

STATE AFFAIRS

73rd Legislature (1993):

SB 1 **Administrative Driver's License Revocation:** Provides for the suspension of a driver's license or driving privileges for the offenses of driving while intoxicated and involuntary manslaughter and sets out the provisions for such a suspension. (House sponsor: Rep. Steve Wohlsens, D-Dallas); Effective 1/1/95.

74th Legislature (1995):

HB 735 **Inaugural Fund:** Creates the Governor's Endowment Fund and the Lieutenant Governor's Endowment Fund from the surplus balance of the inaugural fund exceeding \$100,000, plus any amounts necessary to cover fund obligations. (House author: Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland); Effective 6/17/95.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 263 **Appellate Judicial System:** Directs the commissioners court of each county in the Fourth Court of Appeals District to establish an appellate judicial system to assist the court in processing appeals filed from that county with the court and to help defray the expenses associated with operating the court. (House sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 500 **Cancellation of Old Voter Registration Data:** Directs a voter registrar to cancel a voter registration immediately on receipt of notice from the Secretary of State's office that the voter has subsequently registered to vote in another county. (House sponsor: Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 66 Interagency Work Group to Review Unfunded Mandates: Creates a work group consisting of the state auditor, director of the Legislative Budget Board, comptroller, a senator appointed by the lieutenant governor, and a House member appointed by the Speaker of the House to review unfunded mandates. Exempted from review are mandates required by the Texas Constitution, federal law, or a court order and those affecting employee pensions and benefits. (House author: Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 6/16/97.

HB 846 Lease-Purchase Agreement and Ad Valorem Taxation: Exempts from lease-purchase agreements the requirement to pay ad valorem taxes, which assists smaller cities that cannot afford to purchase computers and other high technology equipment outright and are paying higher prices when they acquire the equipment via a lease-purchase agreement. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Uvalde); Effective 1/1/98.

76th Legislature (1999):

HB 57 Certification of City Documents: Authorizes a city clerk or secretary to administer oaths and certify documents related to official city business. (House author: Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo); Effective 8/30/99.

HB 2429 Method of Payment for State Vendors: Allows vendors doing business with the State of Texas to choose an electronic transfer or a warrant as the method of payment by the Comptroller of Public Accounts. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Uvalde); Effective 6/18/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 1001 Authority of a District Court Judge to Hear Correction Facilities Matters: Authorizes a district judge to hear a nonjury matter relating to a civil or criminal case at a correctional facility in the county in which the case is filed or prosecuted if a party to the case or the criminal defendant is confined in the correctional facility. (House sponsor: Rep. Judy Hawley, D-Portland); Effective 9/1/01.

SB 1202 Compensation to Crime Victims: Authorizes the attorney general to increase to \$75,000 the limit on compensation paid by the state to certain victims of crime for extraordinary pecuniary losses and adds additional authorized expenditures for this award. (House sponsor: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/01.

SB 1213 Drivers Licenses for Persons less than 21 Years Old: Removes the requirement that provisional licenses issued to minors under 18 years of age show the photo of the person in profile and requires DPS to orient information on licenses issued to persons under the age of 21 so that the license can be clearly distinguished. (House sponsor: Rep. Roberto Gutierrez, D-Pharr); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 2260 Pregnant Municipal and County Employees: Requires a municipality or county to make a reasonable effort to accommodate the employment needs of pregnant municipal and county employees. (House author: Rep. Debra Danberg, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/01.

- HB 2413** **Storage of Tobacco Products:** Limits the areas that cigarettes, cigars, and tobacco products may be stored for the purpose of inspection and audits. (House author: Rep. Allan Ritter, D-Nederland); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 2767** **Sale of Tobacco Products:** Removes the requirement that the comptroller has to prove a retailer intentionally failed to display a sign required by law; to change the phrase "permit holder" to "retailer" to accurately identify who is responsible for providing notice to a retailer's employees about the legal responsibilities of selling tobacco products. (House author: Rep. Diane Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 3403** **County Visitation Centers:** Authorizes a county to establish visitation centers and visitation exchange facilities to better facilitate appropriate parental access to children who are the subject of court orders resulting from divorce. (House author: Rep. Tracy King, D-Eagle Pass); Effective 9/1/01.

79th Legislature (2005):

- HB 26 Electronic Database of State Contracts:** Requires agencies to report information on contracts over \$5 million to the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and directs DIR to develop a system to organize these contracts in an electronic format that must be searchable by vendor, contract value, and state agency. (House author: Rep. Dianne Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 6/17/05.
- HB 2932** **Disclosure of Family Conflict of Interest:** Requires state employees, who are involved with purchasing decisions, to disclose family relationships involving vendors. (House author: Rep. Dianne Delisi, R-Temple); Effective 9/1/05.

SUNSET LEGISLATION

76th Legislature (1999):

- SB 351** **Continuation of the Children's Trust Fund Council (CTF):** Designates CTF as a health and human services agency and adds provisions relating to its composition, equal employment policies, and complaint procedures. (House sponsor: Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Galveston); Effective 9/1/99.
- SB 374** **Continuation of the Texas Department on Aging:** Provides for the eventual consolidation of the Texas Department of Human Services and the Texas Department on Aging into a new agency on aging and disability services. (House sponsor: Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Galveston); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1151** **Continuation of the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities:** Establishes board member training requirements and standards of conduct and administratively attaches the Office to the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR). (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1400** **Continuation of the Texas Commission for the Blind:** Requires the commission to develop guidelines for the delivery of services and establish written procedures to improve evaluation of client progress, service delivery effectiveness, and counselor performance. Also maximizes Medicaid reimbursement for targeted case management services. (House author: Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1610** **Continuation of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities:** Clarifies the council's responsibilities to adopt rules to implement its duties and responsibilities, approve and execute an annual budget for its activities, and provide grants to agencies, organizations, or individuals to improve service delivery for persons with developmental disabilities. (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/99.
- HB 1611** **Continuation of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities:** Clarifies the functions of the committee to serve as a central source of information about issues important to persons with disabilities, as well as advise and provide information to the governor about full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

- SB 301** **Continuation of the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities:** Continues the office as a separate state agency attached administratively to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and will be included in the next review of MHMR in 2011. (House sponsor: Rep. Fred Bosse, D-Houston); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 302** **Continuation of the State Pension Review Board:** Requires the board to adopt a standard form for reporting information about the actuarial soundness and financial condition of public retirement systems. (House sponsor: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 311** **Abolition of the General Services Commission; Transfer to Texas Building and Procurement Commission:** Additional operations are transferred to the Department of Information Resources, the telecommunications planning and oversight council, the attorney general, the Legislative Budget Board, and the State Cemetery Committee. (House sponsor: Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine); Effective 9/1/01.
- SB 313** **Continuation of the Texas Funeral Service Commission:** Requires the agency to report quarterly to a six-member task force chaired by the Comptroller's Office. Additionally, the bill adds a registered cemetery owner or operator to the Funeral Service Commission and authorizes the commission to register, investigate and oversee active cemeteries and crematories selling services to the public. (House sponsor: Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 1747** **Continuation of the Office of the Fire Fighters' Pension Commissioner:** Changes the commissioner's term from two years to four years to ensure appropriate representation on the Statewide Emergency Services Personnel Retirement Fund Board. (House author: Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 3067** **Continuation of the Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC):** Continues TFSC and incorporates recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission, including the expansion of the TFSC's regulatory authority to include cemeteries and crematories. (House author: Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa); Effective 9/1/01.
- HB 2310** **Continuation of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board:** Requires the board to periodically update areas of the state to prioritize for nonpoint source pollution abatement and to re-direct financial incentives to landowners living within these areas. (House author: Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Papma); Effective 9/1/01.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

79th Legislature (2005):

HB 1058 **Diplomas for Certain Military Veterans:** Allows school districts to award diplomas to veterans who left high school before graduation to serve in either Korean or Vietnam War. The honor is currently only given to WWII vets. (House author: Rep. Joe Pickett, D-El Paso); Effective 6/17/05.

WELFARE REFORM

74th Legislature (1995):

HB 1863 **System to Encourage Families Receiving AFDC to Move Toward Self-Sufficiency:** Places a cap on a welfare family's size; requires the recipient to meet certain conditions for continued eligibility and sign an agreement of consent; require the state provide job training, education, and other services, subject to the availability of funds; incorporate a time-limited approach with regards to a mandatory work program for AFDC families. (House author: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

75th Legislature (1997):

SB 29 **Child Support:** Requires the state to establish a Case Registry and a New Hires Directory to track non-custodial parents who owe child support, an automated central registry of child support orders, and a central collection and disbursement unit to more efficiently process payments. (House sponsor: Rep. Toby Goodman, R-Arlington); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 57 **Participation in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program:** Ensures that persons who participate in the JOBS program are eligible for an additional six months of transitional child-care and Medicaid benefits when their time-limited benefits expire or they no longer are eligible for cash assistance. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 58 **Transitional Care Assistance:** Authorizes clients who no longer are eligible for cash assistance because of child support payments to receive transitional child care to enable them to complete an education or training activity. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 60 **Parental Skills Class Requirements:** Permits persons receiving cash assistance to attend only those parenting skills class components appropriate to their needs rather than requiring attendance at all class components. (House sponsor: Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 909 **Electronic Benefits Transfer for Aid to Families with Dependent Children:** Authorizes the Texas Department of Human Services to close an electronic benefits transfer AFDC account that has not been used by the account holder in the preceding 12 months. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.

SB 910 **Expand the Use of Electronic Benefits Transfer for State Benefit Programs:** Directs the Interagency Task Force on Electronic Benefit Transfer to make recommendations regarding expanding the use of electronic benefits transfer to other state benefit programs and to develop a plan to assist beneficiaries of public programs to obtain bank accounts. (House sponsor: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/97.

76th Legislature (1999):

SB 666 **Work Requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Brings Texas into compliance with federal law by gradually phasing out the current state welfare waiver exemptions from work requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). (House sponsor: Rep. Glenn Lewis, D-Fort Worth); Effective 9/1/97.

HB 985 **Compliance with Interagency Taskforce Requirements:** Requires a state agency that is considering the delivery of public benefits to comply with the Interagency Task Force on Electronic Benefits. (House author: Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin); Effective 8/30/99.

77th Legislature (2001):

SB 45 **Hardship Exemption from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Directs the Department of Human Services, the Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission to jointly adopt rules prescribing what constitutes a hardship that would warrant an exception to the imposition of time-limited benefits. (House sponsor: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

SB 184 **Eligibility Requirements for Food Stamp Program:** Clarifies that the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) may require a person to personally appear to establish initial or periodic eligibility requirements if it is necessary to protect the integrity of the food stamp program or to prevent an adverse determination that would be less likely to occur if the person appeared personally. (House sponsor: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 476 **Incentives to Move Families from Welfare to Work:** Directs the Texas Workforce Commission to develop accountability measures and provide incentives for the placement and retention of TANF recipients in jobs which provide wages and hours of work adequate to lift the participants to self-sufficiency. (House author: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 477 **Coordinated Services to Support Persons Moving from Welfare to Work:**
Requires the Texas Department of Human Services and the Texas Workforce Commission to develop an interagency plan to identify clients with higher levels of barriers to employment and provide them with coordinated services to address the barriers and transition into the workplace. (House author: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

HB 1005 **State Support for Families Moving from Welfare to Work:** Provides for a state funding system that is separate from TANF to provide financial assistance and workforce services to two-parent families and individuals in areas defined by the Texas Workforce Commission as minimum service counties. (House author: Rep. Eliot Naishtat, D-Austin); Effective 9/1/01.

