



Senator Joan Huffman

Senate District 17

Senator Joan Huffman Receives Unanimous Approval From All 31 Senators on the State's Budget

AUSTIN — Today, Senator Joan Huffman passed CSHB 1 (the state's General Appropriations Bill) unanimously on the Senate Floor. The budget is a product of months of deliberations and hard work to ensure that the State of Texas continues to have the strongest and most successful economy in the nation.

"This budget is balanced, conservative, and funds the vast array of needs of our growing state," said Huffman. "To have unanimous approval on such a comprehensive and substantial budget is proof that the Senate is doing great things for the people of Texas. Because of the state's recording-breaking surplus and growing needs, this budget has been one of the most challenging in the history of Texas. Over the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House to reach a consensus on the differences between the two chambers, and I look forward to sending the final appropriations bill to Governor Abbott before the legislative session ends."

The Senate's version of CSHB 1 appropriates \$308 billion in All Funds and \$141.3 billion in General Revenue. Highlights of CSHB 1 include:

- Funding to support the Senate's \$16.5 billion property tax relief plan contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- \$1.8 billion for an across-the-board state employee pay raise to address a state workforce crisis, the highest across-the-board salary increase in over 40 years;
- \$10 billion set aside to support the construction and operation of electric generating facilities, contingent upon the passage of Senate Bill 6 and voter approval;
- \$5 billion in additional funding to support public education priorities, including teacher compensation; special education services; curriculum reform; school safety; and school choice, contingent upon the passage of legislation;
- \$3.7 billion, in addition to \$1 billion included in SB 30, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to retired educators and a \$7,500 supplemental payment to certain TRS retirees contingent upon the passage of Senate Bill 10;
- \$589 million in additional funding for TRS ActiveCare to contain healthcare premium increases for teachers;
- \$931.2 million to eliminate all unfunded liability and cover normal costs for both the Law Enforcement & Custodial Officer Retirement Fund and the Judicial Retirement Fund;
- \$4.6 billion to continue current support for Operation Lone Star, the state-sponsored effort to secure our southern border;
- \$772.1 million increase to the Department of Public Safety to meet critical needs including bolstering communications capacity and intelligence efforts, funding 50 new state trooper positions and four recruit schools, and upgrading the Williamson County Training Academy Facility for the benefit of DPS recruits, troopers, special agents, Texas Rangers, and local law enforcement;
- \$380.8 million to bolster rural law enforcement and criminal justice efforts through a contingency for county law enforcement, additional training resources, and a new regional training facility;

- \$40.4 million in significant security investments at the Department of Criminal Justice to expand and enhance the use of body worn and fixed surveillance cameras, digital radios and related equipment, and to procure body scanners and metal detectors;
- \$367.9 million in new investments in the juvenile justice system, including additional staff salary increases to further stabilize the workforce, programmatic increases to expand capacity for committed youth, and resources to construct two new secure state juvenile facilities with mental health capacity;
- \$37.4 million in additional funding to invest in election integrity, business transactions, and filings at the Secretary of State;
- \$10.5 billion to fund enrollment at higher education institutions through the formulas;
- \$2.5 billion set aside for a higher education endowment fund, contingent upon the passage of Senate Bill 19 and voter approval;
- \$750 million to a fund to support capital needs for career and technical education programs at Texas State Technical Colleges, contingent upon the passage of SJR 81 and voter approval;
- \$650 million to reform community college funding formulas to prioritize student outcomes, pending legislation;
- Over \$900 million in new funding for mental health care, including additional funds to address workforce challenges at state facilities, expand community-based services, and address the statewide mental health professional workforce shortage – in addition to \$2.3 billion included in the supplemental bill to increase inpatient mental health capacity and address waitlists;
- \$73.9 billion to cover Medicaid, including fully funding projected caseload growth;
- \$2.3 billion increase for Medicaid community attendant wages to raise the base wage from \$8.11/hour to a minimum of \$11.00/hour;
- \$164.7 million increase for an additional 1,772 Medicaid Waiver slots to provide enhanced community services and avoid inappropriate institutionalization;
- \$427.2 million to bring funding for women’s health programs to a new all-time high, including an increase of \$140.1 million to provide additional prenatal and postpartum care, and expand screening, referral, and treatment of maternal mental health;
- \$151.7 million increase for Community-based Foster Care, including funding to expand into four new geographic areas;
- \$37.4 billion to address the state's transportation needs, including over \$32 billion dedicated for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance; \$150 million for port capital improvement projects; and \$400 million to capitalize the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund;
- \$1 billion in new funding to invest in the state’s water infrastructure, contingent upon the passage of Senate Bill 28 and voter approval;
- \$500 million reserved to support new park development, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- Up to \$500 million in new funding for Gulf Coast Protection District projects;
- \$500 million for broadband development, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval; and
- \$400 million in new funding to complete the restoration, development, and maintenance of the Alamo Complex.

(Senator Joan Huffman represents District 17, which is comprised of Colorado, Jackson, Matagorda, and Wharton County and portions of Brazoria, Ft. Bend, Harris, and Waller County. Huffman currently serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, and as a senior member of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and the Legislative Budget Board.)

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