



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Pete Flores

District 24

Senate District 24 Capitol Update: End of Session Draws Closer

First, I hope that all of the wonderful mothers, grandmas, soon-to-be-moms, and motherly figures have a blessed and restful Mother's Day on this coming Sunday! I personally want to wish my wonderful wife Elizabeth, and my daughter a Happy Mother's Day. Y'all are a beautiful blessing, and I am proud to be witness to the incredible mothers you are.

As we near the end of the 88th Legislative Session, I am proud to have many bills moving through both chambers on their way to the Governor's Desk. I've had the privilege to work with several of the SD-24 House delegation members on great bills that better our shared districts.

One of my top priority bills this session was Senate Bill 1788 and its companion House Bill 4635 (Rep. Guillen). HB 4635 passed the House this weekend, and I look forward to moving it through the Senate soon! This bill aims to provide law enforcement officers and prosecutors with additional statutory authority to target financial assets of criminal enterprises and gangs that participate in racketeering. This bill will establish new penal prohibitions, enhanced sanctions, and increased penalties for certain offenses. These new tools will allow law enforcement to target key assets of criminal organizations; properties, investments, and other financial assets. This legislation is modeled after the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Racketeering refers to any act of committing or participating in organized, coercive criminal activity, including trafficking, drug dealing, and illegal financial activities.

Later this week, I look forward to reporting my first bill being signed by the Governor – Senate Bill 1008, extending the current 10-days to a 90-day period for military families to provide proof of residency to public school districts for admissions. Additionally, SB 1852 passed the House this past week, and will be on its way to the Governor soon! SB 1852 requires all peace officers to participate in the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training program. ALERRT is the gold standard in active shooter training programs, and is available in San Marcos. Having the program available here in Texas for our law enforcement officers is an incredible asset. It is my hope that requiring all officers to participate will enhance their situational tools and resources, ultimately saving lives.

This upcoming week will be a busy one. I have several house bills to lay out in Senate committees this week, and several more on the floor calendars in both chambers.

In Senate committees, I'll be laying out:

- HB 562 – confidentiality of information maintained by the Veterans' Land Board
- HB 1290 – protecting COVID-19 relief payments paid to elderly Texans
- HB 1689 – dealing with the usage of county HOT tax revenue
- HB 2708 – securing in-person visitation rights for state jail occupants
- HB 2755 – ensuring boater education program fees go back to TPWD
- HB 2970 – municipal regulation of HUD-code manufactured homes
- HB 3013 – allowing the GLO to be exempted from procurement postings in emergencies
- HB 3075 – restricting drone flight over correctional and detention facilities
- HB 3731 – clean-up for the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District

On the floor this week, I hope to pass at least 3 more bills;

- HB 467 – extending the statute of limitations for assault victims
- HB 1207 – removing the statute of limitations for tampering with certain evidence
- HB 2183 – County jailer appointment extensions

As bills continue to move through these last few weeks, I hope to report several more on their way to the Governor's desk next week!

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can ever be of service to you and your family. Whether it be needing help with a state agency, or making your thoughts on a bill heard, please contact your office either by phone at (512) 463-0124 or by email to pete.flores@senate.texas.gov or via my state website.