



## Special Session Wrap-Up

By TLTA Staff

Aug. 23, 2017

On Tuesday, Aug. 15, the special session of the Texas legislature adjourned sine die. While the session accomplished some of the 20 items on Gov. Greg Abbott's agenda, several more were left undone.

None of the items passed during the special session appear to directly impact the title insurance industry. However, some notable issues that passed include:

- Municipal annexation reform
- Some restrictions on local regulation of trees on private land
- Texas Medical Board / behavioral health licensing agency sunset extension
- Teacher Retirement System TRS-Care funding
- School finance reform, which established a statewide commission to recommend public school finance improvements and extended additional state aid for tax reduction (ASATR) but which lacked the \$1.5 billion in funding many had hoped for
- Several new abortion restrictions, including prohibiting health insurance plan coverage for elective abortions, requiring additional reporting by health care providers on abortion complications and requiring additional reporting by health care providers on abortions provided to minors
- Extending the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force
- Instituting patient protections on do-not-resuscitate orders

Some notable issues that did **not** pass include:

- Property tax reform (the issue at hand was the threshold at which property taxes could rise before a "rollback" election would be automatically called; the House wanted 6 percent while the Senate wanted 4 percent, and as they could not agree, the bill did not pass)
- The controversial "bathroom bill"
- Expedited local permitting
- State pre-emption of local regulation of mobile communication devices while driving
- Caps on state and local spending
- Teacher pay increase
- School choice for special needs students
- Prohibiting public entities from collecting union dues

Below is a list of all the bills passed during the special session.

[HB 7](#)

Author: Phelan | Geren | Darby | Larson | Workman  
Sponsor: Kolkhorst  
Effective: December 1, 2017  
Caption: Relating to municipal regulation of the removal of trees on private property.

[HB 13](#)

Author: Capriglione | Sheffield | Burkett | Springer | Laubenberg  
Sponsor: Campbell  
Effective: November 14, 2017  
Caption: Relating to reporting requirements by certain physicians and health care facilities for abortion complications; authorizing a civil penalty.

[HB 21](#)

Author: Huberty | Zerwas | Bernal  
Sponsor: Taylor, Larry  
Effective: November 14, 2017, except Sections 1, 5, and 8 take effect September 1, 2018, and Sections 4 and 12 take effect September 1, 2023.  
Caption: Relating to public school finance, including funding for the recruitment and retention of teachers and the support of participants in the public school employees group insurance program.

[HB 30](#)

Author: Zerwas | Huberty | Giddings | Guerra  
Sponsor: Nelson  
Effective: Immediately  
Caption: Relating to the transfer of certain appropriations to the Texas

Education Agency and the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and the adjustment of appropriations for public school finance.

[HB 214](#) Author: Smithee | Phillips | Bonnen, Greg | Bonnen, Dennis | Laubenberg  
Sponsor: Creighton  
Effective: December 1, 2017  
Caption: Relating to health plan and health benefit plan coverage for elective abortion.

[HB 215](#) Author: Murphy | Guillen | Klick | Bonnen, Greg | Laubenberg  
Sponsor: Hughes  
Effective: November 14, 2017  
Caption: Relating to reporting and certification requirements by certain physicians regarding certain abortions.

[SB 5](#) Author: Hancock | Bettencourt | Buckingham | Burton | Estes | et al.  
Sponsor: Goldman | Laubenberg | Bonnen, Dennis | Anderson, Rodney | Burkett  
Effective: December 1, 2017  
Caption: Relating to the prevention of fraud in the conduct of an election; creating a criminal offense; increasing criminal penalties.

[SB 6](#) Author: Campbell | Buckingham | Schwertner  
Sponsor: Huberty | Larson | Workman | Bell  
Effective: December 1, 2017  
Caption: Relating to municipal annexation.

[SB 11](#)

Author: Perry  
Sponsor: Bonnen, Greg | Cook | Geren | Oliveira  
Effective: April 1, 2018  
Caption: Relating to general procedures and requirements for certain do-not-resuscitate orders; creating a criminal offense.

[SB 17](#)

Author: Kolkhorst | Huffman | Nelson  
Sponsor: Burkett | Davis, Sarah | Klick | Walle | Thierry  
Effective: Immediately  
Caption: Relating to maternal health and safety, pregnancy-related deaths, and maternal morbidity, including postpartum depression.

[SB 20](#)

Author: Taylor, Van  
Sponsor: Gonzales, Larry  
Effective: Immediately  
Caption: Relating to avoiding the abolishment of certain agencies subject to the Texas Sunset Act.

[SB 60](#)

Author: Taylor, Van  
Sponsor: Gonzales, Larry  
Effective: Immediately  
Caption: Relating to the repeal of certain riders for the Texas Medical Board and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists from the General Appropriations Act that are contingent upon the approval of certain Acts continuing those agencies during the 85th Regular Session.