



# **SAFE-D 19th Annual Conference**

**Conference credit:**

**[www.safe-d.org/2020conference](http://www.safe-d.org/2020conference)**

**DEADLINE: March 31**

# *Legislative Review and Outlook*

SAFE-D  
Annual Conference  
February 20-22, 2020



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# Important Legislative Dates

- **Sunday, June 16, 2019** (20th day following final adjournment)
  - Last day governor could sign or veto bills passed during the regular legislative session
- **Monday, August 26, 2019** (91st day following final adjournment)
  - Date that bills without specific effective dates (that could not be effective immediately) became law



# 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Statistics

7325 Bills filed; 1426 passed  
(19.5%)

1050 more bills than 2017,  
and 201 more passed

Governor has vetoed 6 to  
date

105 Joint Resolutions filed; 8  
passed (7.6%)

Constitutional Amendment  
Elections in November

Bill Type	Range	Democrat		Republican	
		Filed	Passed	Filed	Passed
House Bills	HB 1 - HB 4765	2287	311	2478	656
House Concurrent Resolutions	HCR 6 - HCR 193	56	17	130	85
House Joint Resolutions	HJR 3 - HJR 153	71	0	76	6
Senate Bills	SB 1 - SB 8888	1215	171	1345	288
Senate Concurrent Resolutions	SCR 1 - SCR 68	13	8	55	15
Senate Joint Resolutions	SJR 1 - SJR 80	34	1	36	2



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# Important Legislative Dates

- **March 3, 2020**
  - **Primaries**
    - 10 races without an incumbent in House
    - 1 of 16 races without an incumbent in Senate
    - 27 Rs and 30 Ds will be seated (not opposed by other party)
    - 11 Rs have R opponents
    - 17 Ds have D opponents
- **November 3, 2020**
  - **High political motivation of electorate for Presidential Election**
  - **In 2018, 12 Texas House seats flipped R to D**
    - (87 Rs and 63 Ds)



# Important Legislative Dates

- **Speaker Bonnen is not seeking re-election**
  - **Expect Prolonged Battle for Speaker**
  - **Outcome very dependent on Primaries and General (reprise of 2018)**
  - **Only 2 candidates remain from 2018 Speaker Race**
    - **Tan Parker**
    - **Phil King**



# Important Legislative Dates

- **Members to Depart**

- **Sen. Watson**

- **Sen. Rodriguez**

- **Bonnen**

- **Wray**

- **Miller, Rick**

- **Zerwas**

- **Lang**

- **Nevarez**

- **Stickland**

- **Zedler**

- **Johnson**

- **Gutierrez (seeking Senate)**

- **Bohac**



# Important Legislative Dates

- January 12, 2021
  - 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature convenes
- May 31, 2021
  - Sine Die, 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature adjourns



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# Issues During 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session



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# Regular Session Issues

- Governor's Regular Session Emergency Items Passed
  - Education Funding and Teacher Pay
  - School Safety
  - Mental Health Issues
  - Property Taxes
  - Hurricane Harvey Recovery



# Regular Session Issues

- Property Tax
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# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda



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# SAFE-D Legislative Workshop

- 2018 Annual Conference
- Approximately 50 from across the State
- Caucus Groups Prioritized Issues for SAFE-D
  - Municipal Issues
  - Sales Tax Issues
  - Service Provider Issues
  - Property Tax Issues
  - Government Transparency
  - Select Caucus – Disaster Response



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# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D opposed property tax reform proposals that restricted Emergency Services Districts from accomplishing the mission given to them by voters — protecting Texans' lives and property.



# Property Tax Reform

- SB 2 Passed Both Chambers by adoption of a Conference Committee Report
  - 3.5% “Voter-Approval Tax Rate,” unless a Special Taxing Unit or certain Water Districts
  - 8% “Voter-Approval Tax Rate” if:
    - a Special Taxing Unit, which includes Hospital Districts, Community College Districts and entities with tax rate of \$0.025/\$100 or less;
    - Water District with tax rate of \$0.025/\$100 or less; or
    - Water District that is not fully developed (95% or more of build-out)(voters can petition for election).



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D will strive to preserve emergency services districts' access to sales tax revenues to assure resources necessary for the safety of their citizens.
- Nothing passed that limits sales tax authority of ESDs





# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D proposed and supported legislation to allow emergency services districts to provide Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedicine to reduce the taxpayers' cost of emergency medical services.



# Mobile Integrated Healthcare/ Community Paramedicine

- Rep. James White
  - HB 3307
  - Would have authorized Public Health Services by ESDs
  - While this bill passed the House, it did not move in the Senate due to opposition by Senator Campbell.
  - More work needs to be done in the interim to develop legislation for 2021



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D proposed and supported legislation to clarify ESDs' exclusive ability to designate the service providers necessary to accomplish the mission given to the districts by the voters who created them.



# Designation of Service

- Rep. Dwayne Bohac
  - HB 4350 Passed
  - Clarifies that entities with jurisdiction to serve the area (now including ESDs) determine who is dispatched by Emergency Communications Districts



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D supported efforts to simplify reporting requirements for the mutual benefit of state agencies and ESDs.
- Nothing passed to reduce number of reports



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D will support efforts to increase funding for TIFMAS disaster response.
- Funding is part of budget bills
  - Article III – Texas Forest Service
- TIFMAS funding remained same



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D will support efforts to assure that funds collected from insurance company assessments for the Rural Fire Department Assistance Fund (HB 2604) are fully distributed to address fire department needs.
- Rider filed by Rep. Drew Springer to allocate the unexpended balance (\$23M) adopted



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda

- SAFE-D monitored efforts to create or repurpose an agency to oversee statewide firefighting efforts and worked to preserve local control of taxpayer--provided resources.
- Texas Division of Emergency Management transferred to Texas A&M system by HB 2794 (by Morrision)





# Interim Charges - Senate

- Senate Finance
  - Natural Disaster Funding
    - “eligibility and receipt of disaster funds”
  - Information Technology
    - “cybersecurity preparedness”
- Intergovernmental Relations
  - Infrastructure Resiliency
    - “authority special purpose districts have to generate natural disaster resilient infrastructure”



# Interim Charges - House

- Agriculture & Livestock
  - Monitor grant process for volunteer fire departments for emergency assistance and replacing equipment after natural disasters
- Homeland Security & Public Safety
  - Study implementation of emergency preparedness legislation from 86<sup>th</sup>
  - Examine emergency service fee system for 911 communications



# Future Issues

- Prohibiting Use of Public Funds to Advocate for Legislation (SB 29 failed to pass House)
- Review of ESD laws by Governor
- Grass Roots Relationships with Elected Legislators



# Future Issues

- Sales Tax Protection
- Annexation Issues
- Other Funding Sources
- Property Tax Reform Impacts



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# PREPARING FOR THE 87TH



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# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda for Interim and 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature

- SAFE-D Legislative Committee
  - Mark Jack, Chair (Parker)
  - Paula Barr, Vice-Chair (Travis)
  - Scott Morgan (Harris)
  - James Kelly (Montgomery)
  - Bob Janusaitis (Harris)
  - Billy Ted Smith (Jasper)



# SAFE-D Legislative Agenda for Interim and 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature

- Legislative Task Force
  - Saturday @ 11:15am
  - Up to Two Hours
  - Identify current issues
  - Establish Priorities
- Future Meetings of Task Force during Interim



# Current Issues

- Continuing Conflicts within Parties
  - Challenges to incumbents within primaries
    - 11 Republican Representatives with Challengers
    - 17 Democratic Representatives with Challengers



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# *Texas Legislature Website*

- <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>



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# Legislative Task Force

- Tomorrow – 11:15am in Expo A3
- 2018 Task Force Meeting set the direction of SAFE-D's legislative efforts in 2019 Session
- Goal of 2020 Task Force Meeting is to set the direction of the 2021 Texas Legislature
- Bring your experience, questions and ideas!
- Participants will meet again during interim



# Questions?



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