2026 Texas House Interim Charges

On March 26, Texas House Speaker Dustin Burrows released the interim charges for house committees. The full document can be found here. As a reminder, interim charges are various issues a committee is asked to study ahead of the next legislative session. We can expect committees to begin holding hearings on these charges, although the specific timing is not yet known, and they will ultimately issue a report to the legislature with their findings and recommendations.

Below are the interim charges of interest to the industry. As we move through the interim, some of these charges will require more active engagement from ICT, while others we will monitor in case issues arise that impact the industry.

House Insurance (page 22 of the document)
The House Insurance Committee received seven interim charges. Below are the five that we will be following closely. Notably, some of the suggestions we submitted regarding addressing cost drivers were included.

- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following *(Note: The bolded items reflect the legislation we are focused on under this monitoring charge.)*
    - HB 138, relating to the establishment of the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program;
    - **HB 3689, relating to funding of excess losses and operating expenses of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association; authorizing an assessment; and**
    - **SB 458, relating to an appraisal process for disputed losses under personal automobile or residential property insurance policies**
- **Cost Drivers Impacting Property and Casualty Insurance Premiums:** Study cost drivers impacting property and casualty insurance premiums for consumers and their impact on home affordability in Texas. Study rate trends, underwriting practices, and market availability, with particular attention to coastal and catastrophe-exposed regions. Examine strategies used in other states, including those intended to reduce losses, improve property resilience and promote loss mitigation. Examine the need to employ additional strategies or make statutory changes to encourage greater market participation and promote competition. Make

recommendations that reduce the cost of insurance and maintain sufficient consumer protection standards and market stability.

- **Consumer Protection:** Evaluate consumer protections in property and casualty insurance lines, and review the effectiveness of existing laws and enforcement mechanisms to ensure transparency, consumer choice, and coverage adequacy. Identify any deficiencies and recommend statutory clarifications or additional safeguards to strengthen consumer protections.
- **Declination, Cancellation, or Nonrenewal:** Monitor the implementation of HB 2067, relating to declination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of insurance policies. Review agency rulemaking and enforcement, overall market impact, and policy implications for additional insureds. Identify whether any statutory or regulatory improvements are needed to ensure transparency, fairness, and a stable insurance marketplace.
- **Prompt Payment:** Review the prompt payment of insurance claims. Evaluate the effectiveness of applicable statutes and administrative rules and assess whether insurers are complying with these requirements. Identify the need for enhanced oversight or additional enforcement mechanisms to ensure the prompt payment of claims.

Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence (page 26 of the document)
The House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, which handles tort related issues in the House, has the following charge of interest:

- **Insurers' Use of Staff Counsel:** Study insurers' use of staff attorneys to represent insureds. Consider the integrity of the attorney–client relationship when staff attorneys are assigned to defend the insured's interests. Identify scenarios in which the insurer's and insured's interests may not be congruent and whether ethical concerns exist. Identify the correlation in increased percentage and size of settlements, if any, resulting from the 2008 Supreme Court of Texas decision of *Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee v. American Home Assurance Co., Inc.*, 261 S.W.3d 24. Compare states that allow insurers' staff attorneys to represent an insured's interests with those in which the practice is prohibited, and determine whether this practice affects settlement amounts and costs paid by insureds.

State Affairs (page 41 of the document)
State Affairs has a couple of charges that we will monitor in case issues arise during interim hearings that could impact the industry.

- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following: *(Note:*

The bolded item reflects the legislation we are focused on under this monitoring charge.)

- HB 14, relating to support for the development of the nuclear energy industry;
- HB 143, relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Public Utility Commission of Texas to address a failure by an operator to maintain an electrical power line serving a well site or certain surface facilities in accordance with the National Electrical Code;
- HB 144, relating to plans for the management and inspection of distribution poles;
- **HB 145, relating to risk mitigation planning and associated liability for providers of electric service;**
- HB 4211, relating to certain residential property interests controlled by certain entities;
- SB 6, relating to the planning for, interconnection and operation of, and costs related to providing service for certain electrical loads and to the generation of electric power by a water supply or sewer service corporation;
- SB 1789, relating to electric service quality and reliability; providing an administrative penalty.

- **Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery:** Review the application of current state law as it relates to state and local disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Review state agency and local government requirements related to training, licensing, education, coordination, and mass fatality operations. Identify beneficial disaster management practices to improve the coordination of communications between governmental entities and streamline response and recovery efforts, including those related to intergovernmental command structures. Evaluate the applicability of other regulatory requirements that hinder disaster response and recovery throughout the state and recommend corresponding statutory or state policy changes.

Transportation (page 46 of the document)
We will monitor the interim charges below in case they result in conversations of interest. Note that the Department of Motor Vehicles administers the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA).

- **Foreign Holders of Commercial Driver Licenses:** Evaluate the presence of nondomiciled commercial driver licenses (CDL) holders operating in Texas, including whether their presence correlates with an increase in traffic incidents. Review state and federal regulations, including English proficiency standards, applicable to non-domiciled CDL holders and make recommendations to protect public safety.

- **Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Review:** Evaluate the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles' statutory authority, duties, programs, and functions. Identify opportunities to increase efficiency and eliminate duplicative services provided by other state agencies.

Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE) (page 10 of the document)

- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following: *(Note: The bolded item reflects the legislation we are focused on under this monitoring charge.)*
    - HB 150, relating to the establishment of the Texas Cyber Command and the transfer to it of certain powers and duties of the Department of Information Resources;
    - HB 3963, relating to an early childhood integrated data system; and
    - **SB 14, relating to reforming the procedure by which state agencies adopt rules and impose regulatory requirements and the deference given to the interpretation of laws and rules by state agencies in certain judicial proceedings**
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Study the implementation and effectiveness of the Texas Data Privacy and Security Act to determine whether the law provides adequate protection for Texas residents and businesses.

Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (page 8 of the document)

- **Cultivated Oyster Mariculture:** Evaluate the status of Texas' oyster mariculture industry, **including various challenges such as barriers to obtaining insurance**, access to capital, the lack of in-state hatcheries, additional research needs, and market access. Consider the public benefits of sustainable oyster farming and long-term industry stability on water quality and coastal ecosystems. Make recommendations to support the expansion and advancement of oyster mariculture in Texas.

Select Committee on Governmental Oversight (page 49 of the document)

- **Texas Tort Claims Act:** Examine governmental immunity and the Texas Tort Claims Act. Review relevant case law and determine whether amendments to the Act are warranted to clarify or update its provisions.