



Weekly Legislative Session Update

Dear Members,

May is here, and we have one more month until Sine Die on June 2nd. Bills are moving in this final month and our TTA advocacy team is hard at work representing our industry interests at the Capitol.

Currently, we are tracking 413 bills that could be of interest or have an impact on the travel and tourism industry.

This week, I testified in the Senate State Affairs committee in support of HB 1393 (Metcalf) which proposes the adoption of Daylight Saving Time on a permanent basis.



TTA President & CEO, Erika Boyd, testifies in support of HB 1393 at the Senate State Affairs Committee hearing this week.

Budget Bill: As of today, the conference committee on CSSB 1 has met and is currently reviewing amendments and negotiating key aspects of the budget to ensure a comprehensive and balanced final version.

As a reminder, the Senate Conferees are Senator Joan Huffman (Chair), Senator Brandon Creighton, Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Senator Robert Nichols, and Senator Charles Schwertner. The Texas House Conferees are Representative Greg Bonnen, Representative Mary Gonzalez, Representative Phil King, Representative Stan Kitzman, and Representative Armando Walle.

School Start Date Bills: On Tuesday, April 22, **SB 2928 (Creighton)** was heard in the Senate Education Committee. The bill is still pending in committee.

The TTA advocacy team is visiting committee members, and we expect a vote early next week.

Zoo Trespassing Bills

- **HB 1720 (Gervin-Hawkins)** was heard in House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee's Subcommittee on New Offenses and Changed Penalties on April 24th.
 - The bill is still pending in the subcommittee.
- **SB 2969 (Parker)** relating to the creation of the criminal offense of trespass in a facility housing an animal.
 - This bill was sent to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.

TTA LIABILITY BILLS

Cavern Liability Bills

- **HB 1130 (Isaac)** relating to liability of a cavern entity for injuries arising from certain activities.
 - The bill was heard in Senate State Affairs this week on April 28th and was successfully voted out of committee on April 30th. It will now be sent to the Senate floor for discussion and vote.
- **SB 847 (Campbell)** relating to liability of a cavern entity for injuries arising from certain activities.
 - This bill was placed on the Senate Intent Calendar but has not yet been scheduled.

Waterpark Liability Bills

- **HB 2613 (Harris Davila)** relating to liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities.
 - The bill was placed on the General State Calendar on May 1st.
- **SB 1119 (Hughes)** relating to the liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities was sent to the House and referred to the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.

Additional Bill Movement

Hotel Occupancy Tax Bills

- **SB 2779 (Birdwell)** relating to the allocation and use of certain hotel occupancy tax revenues was voted out of committee favorably on Wednesday, April 16th and sent to the House.
 - The House has received the bill and it has been referred to Ways & Means as of April 30th.
- **SB 529 (Sparks)** relating to the entitlement of certain municipalities to receive tax revenue from certain establishments located near a hotel and convention center project.
 - The bill was received by the House and placed on the intent calendar on May 1st.
- **SB 1250 (J. Hinojosa)** relating to the definition of a project financing zone for the purposes of certain municipalities that use certain tax revenue to fund convention center facilities, multipurpose arenas, venues and related infrastructure.
 - The bill was placed on the Senate intent calendar on April 30th.
- **HB 5596 (Leo-Wilson)** Relating to the calculation of the voter-approval tax rate for certain municipalities that receive municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue.
 - The bill has been sent to House Calendars and is waiting to be scheduled.

Film Incentive Bills (SB22/HB4568)

- **SB 22 (Huffman)** relating to the Texas moving image industry incentive program and the establishment and funding of the Texas moving image industry incentive fund.

- SB 22 successfully passed out to the Texas Senate with a 23-8 vote and was sent to the House.
 - The bill was heard this week by the House Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee where it was voted out 7-1.
 - The bill has been sent to the Calendars Committee where it will be scheduled for discussion and vote on the House floor.
- **HB 4568 (Hunter)** was heard on April 23rd and left pending in the House Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee.

Credit Card Swipe Fee Legislation

- **SB 2056 (Hancock)** aims to enhance transparency and competition in the credit card processing industry by addressing hidden fees and anti-competitive practices. These fees, often referred to as “swipe fees,” cost Texas consumers and businesses over \$10 billion annually.
 - This bill is currently stalled. It was initially placed on the intent calendar on April 15 but has been removed and not yet rescheduled.
- **HB 4061 (Patterson)** is related to unlawful practices relating to credit card transactions.
 - It was heard in the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee on April 14th, but was left pending.

Other Bills

HB 19 (Meyer) relating to the issuance and repayment of debt by local governments, including the adoption of an ad valorem tax rate and the use of ad valorem tax revenue for the repayment of debt.

- This bill was left pending in the House Ways & Means Committee.

HB 3509 (Anchia) relating to a common characteristic or use project in a public improvement district in certain municipalities.

- The bill was heard in House Intergovernmental Affairs and was reported favorably as substituted on April 28th.

SB 1921 (West) relating to a common characteristic or use project in a public improvement district in certain municipalities.

- The bill was heard in House Intergovernmental Affairs and was reported favorably as without amendments on April 28th.

HB 2701 (Guillen) relating to construction standards for certain recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds. (RV Park Bill)

- The bill was heard in the House on April 23rd and passed 90-56. It has now been sent to the Senate for consideration.

HB 755 (Spillar) relating to taxpayer funded lobbying.

- The bill is currently stalled as it was left pending in the House State Affairs committee.

As we approach the final month of the legislative session, your continued engagement and support are crucial. Our advocacy efforts at the Capitol are making significant strides, and we remain committed to representing the interests of the travel and tourism industry. Please stay tuned for further updates and be ready to take action as needed. Together, we can ensure that our voices are heard, and our industry thrives. Thank you for your dedication and support.

Enjoy your weekend!



Erika Boyd
Texas Travel Alliance President & CEO

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