



RATLIFF COMPANY

1504 SAN ANTONIO
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

AUSTIN OFFICE:
TEL (512) 415-9975
WWW.RATCO.NET

HON. THOMAS RATLIFF
RANDY ELLISTON

February 06, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: DPROA, David Elliston, Sally Lannom, Boux Bland, and Ken Seguin

FROM: Randy Elliston

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 88th Texas Legislature gaveled in January 10, 2023 and saw the House elect Representative Dade Phelan of Jefferson County Speaker of the House. The Senate elected Senator Kelly Hancock as Senate President Pro Tem. Representative Tony Tinderhold, R-Arlington challenged Representative Phelan for Speaker but was dealt a crushing defeat with votes of 145 to 3.

Unlike the beginning of the 87th Texas Legislature that had to deal with COVID 19 and the fear of lower revenue, the Texas Comptroller has projected the 88th Texas Legislature will have at least an extra \$27 billion in its coffers in 2023. The question now is what will that extra revenue will be spent on. Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick have already said they want to cut property taxes. Lt. Governor Patrick has also proposed suspending the 20 cent per gallon state motor fuel tax. It is early and there will no doubt be a lot of recommendations regarding the spending of this extra money.

Lieutenant Governor Patrick has published Senate committee chair and member assignments. I have included the assignments below. House Speaker Phelan has not published his committee chairs or members.

As I had previously reported to you, I met with Representative Frederick Frazier on January 25th to congratulate him on his election to Texas House District 61 and to discuss the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System and HB 3158 that passed in the 85th session of the Texas Legislature. We had a good meeting and we are hopeful the speaker will assign him to the House Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services.

In speaking with other stake holders of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System it doesn't appear anyone is pushing for legislation this session to make changes to what HB 3158 put in place. HB 3158 requires the State Pension Review Board to select an independent actuary in 2024 to conduct an actuarial analysis of the most recently completed actuarial valuation of the

pension system and report actions taken by the Board and recommendations to the legislature to have for the 2025 session. Since the actuarial analysis will not be completed until 2024 it will be appropriate to wait until the 2025 Session to file any corrective action needed to HB 3158.

Pension Legislation Filed:

To date there have been 25 pension related bills filed. All of the current bills filed are pertaining to state pension systems.

Senate State Affairs:

No Meetings have been scheduled for Senate State Affairs.

House Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services:

House committees have not been established for this legislature.

Pension Review Board of Texas:

The Review Board has posted its next meeting for June 29, 2023.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Randy Elliston, Government Affairs Consultant
Ratliff Company
1504 San Antonio Street
Austin, Tx 78701
Cell: 512-415-9975

Randy Elliston is a former Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol with over 44 years of experience in Texas State Government Relations. He is now a member of the Ratliff Company team representing clients in areas of public safety, law enforcement, transportation and state administrative processes.

2023 TEXAS SENATE COMMITTEES

88th Legislative Session Texas Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Administration

Brian Birdwell, Chair
Judith Zaffirini, Vice Chair
Carol Alvarado
César Blanco
Kelly Hancock
Bryan Hughes
Lois Kolkhorst
Borris Miles
Kevin Sparks
Bob Hall, Chair
Drew Springer, Vice Chair
Carol Alvarado
Nathan Johnson
José Menéndez
Mayes Middleton
Tan Parker

Senate Committee on Border Security

Brian Birdwell, Chair
Peter Flores, Vice Chair
César Blanco
Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
Phil King

Senate Committee on Business and Commerce

Charles Schwertner, Chair
Phil King, Vice Chair
Brian Birdwell
Donna Campbell
Brandon Creighton
Nathan Johnson
Lois Kolkhorst
José Menéndez
Mayes Middleton
Robert Nichols
Judith Zaffirini

Senate Committee on Criminal Justice

John Whitmire, Chair
Peter Flores, Vice Chair
Paul Bettencourt
Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
Joan Huffman
Phil King
Borris Miles

Senate Committee on Education

Brandon Creighton, Chair
Donna Campbell, Vice Chair
Paul Bettencourt
Brian Birdwell
Peter Flores
Phil King
Morgan LaMantia
José Menéndez
Mayes Middleton
Tan Parker
Angela Paxton
Drew Springer
Royce West

Senate Committee on Education, Subcommittee on Higher Education

Brandon Creighton, Chair
Mayes Middleton, Vice Chair
Phil King
Drew Springer
Royce West

Senate Committee on Finance

Joan Huffman, Chair
Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Vice Chair
Paul Bettencourt
Donna Campbell
Brandon Creighton
Peter Flores
Bob Hall
Kelly Hancock
Bryan Hughes
Lois Kolkhorst
Robert Nichols
Angela Paxton
Charles Perry
Charles Schwertner
Royce West
John Whitmire
Judith Zaffirini

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Lois Kolkhorst, Chair
Charles Perry, Vice Chair
César Blanco
Bob Hall
Kelly Hancock
Bryan Hughes
Morgan LaMantia
Borris Miles
Kevin Sparks

Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

Bryan Hughes, Chair
Nathan Johnson, Vice Chair
Brandon Creighton
Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
Mayes Middleton

Senate Committee on Local Government

Paul Bettencourt, Chair
Drew Springer, Vice Chair
Sarah Eckhardt
Roland Gutierrez
Bob Hall
Robert Nichols
Tan Parker
Angela Paxton
Royce West

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development

Brian Birdwell, Chair
Judith Zaffirini, Vice Chair
Carol Alvarado
César Blanco
Kelly Hancock
Bryan Hughes
Lois Kolkhorst
Borris Miles
Kevin Sparks

Senate Committee on Nominations

Donna Campbell, Chair
Kevin Sparks, Vice Chair
Carol Alvarado
Sarah Eckhardt
Bryan Hughes
Morgan LaMantia
Borris Miles
Angela Paxton
Drew Springer

Senate Committee on State Affairs

Bryan Hughes, Chair
Angela Paxton, Vice Chair
Paul Bettencourt
Brian Birdwell
Morgan LaMantia
José Menéndez
Mayes Middleton
Tan Parker
Charles Perry
Charles Schwertner
Judith Zaffirini

Senate Committee on Transportation

Robert Nichols, Chair
Royce West, Vice Chair
Carol Alvarado
Sarah Eckhardt
Kelly Hancock
Phil King
Borris Miles
Tan Parker
Charles Perry

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs

Kelly Hancock, Chair
Tan Parker, Vice Chair
César Blanco
Sarah Eckhardt
Roland Gutierrez
Bob Hall
Kevin Sparks

Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs

Charles Perry, Chair
Kelly Hancock, Vice Chair
César Blanco
Pete Flores
Roland Gutierrez
Nathan Johnson
Lois Kolkhorst
Kevin Sparks
Drew Springer

Senate Special Committee on Redistricting

Joan Huffman, Chair

Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Vice Chair

Carol Alvarado

Brian Birdwell

Brandon Creighton

Kelly Hancock

Robert Nichols

Charles Perry

Drew Springer

Royce West

Judith Zaffirini