

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF TEXAS: JUSTICE & SAFETY



Key Accomplishments: 88th Legislature

With a firm resolve and a forward-looking approach, the 88th Legislature responded to pressing justice and safety issues in Texas. Harnessing the power of data and technology, important enhancements on policing, the judiciary and child welfare were addressed.

Texas 2036 provided vital support, offering a data-driven perspective that supported reshaping the role of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, the state's regulatory body overseeing peace officers. This approach also helped address challenges, such as the judicial court backlogs and outdated child welfare technology, bringing these issues forward to support legislators' efforts. This commitment fueled the progress of three major legislative efforts, which were fortified by millions of dollars in investments.

Historic Budget: Impactful Investments



\$4.6 M

and 19 additional employee positions to support landmark TCOLE Sunset legislation and reforms



\$6 M

to update legacy IT court data collection systems



\$4.3 M

to fund direct IT services for state courts to ensure judiciary can operate efficiently and securely in their day-to-day IT functions



\$2.2 M

to stand up a court appearance text-reminder program



\$931.2 M

to completely eliminate unfunded law enforcement and judicial pension liabilities



\$320K

for IT and data analysis at the Texas Commission on Jail Standards

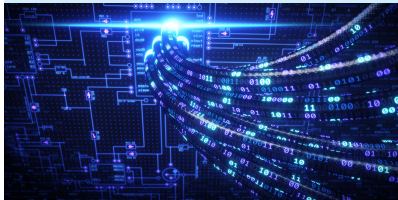
Building Public Confidence in Law Enforcement



Sunset legislation includes multiple reforms fundamentally re-shaping the agency responsible for licensing and regulating peace officers and law enforcement agencies, including repealing problematic "discharge categories" in favor of a new officer misconduct reporting system and a new data infrastructure for officer personnel records and licensing actions.

Senate Bill 1445
Sen. Paxton (R) / Rep. Goldman (R)

Modernizing Child Welfare IT Systems



The Department of Family and Protective Services will report on the funding and timeline requirements needed to modernize the state's child welfare IT system to one that meets federal standards. The report should put the state on the path to upgrade this crucial technology infrastructure, supporting caseworkers and better caring for children.

House Bill 1
Rep. Bonnen (R) / Sen. Huffman (R)

Addressing the Judicial Caseload Backlog



This bill will require the systematic collection of case-level court data to provide a better understanding of what's behind persistent and costly court backlogs. Coupled with appropriations updating the state's legacy IT system, Texas court data will be an asset to the administration of justice, rather than a mere byproduct of the courts.

House Bill 841
Rep. Ordaz (D) / Sen. Middleton (R)

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Notable Justice & Safety Legislation



Judicial Retirement System of Texas Pension Reform

Creates a new cash balance retirement plan for new state district and appellate judges, lowering the fund period and stabilizing it long-term.

SB 1245
Sen. Huffman (R)
Rep. Bonnen (R)



Access to Criminal History Information

Allows institutions to pull bulk criminal history to advance criminal justice research.

HB 1184
Rep. Rose (D)
Sen. Johnson (D)



Trial Court Information & Statistics

Requires submission of monthly court-level statistics and the most populous counties to report detailed trial court workload information.

House Bill 1182
Rep. Harless (R)
Sen. Whitmire (D)



New Courts & Judicial Workload Reporting

Creates new courts includes a provision to require regular, public reporting of judicial caseloads and clearance rates for those parts of Texas that need new courts.

House Bill 3474
Rep. Leach (R)
Sen. Hughes (R)

These bills supported by Texas 2036 have been sent to the Governor pending review and potential signature during the veto period, which lasts until June 18, 2023.

Meet the Team



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