

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE**...followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council**

(The Governor identified six emergency legislative items for this State Legislative Session, which means these measures can be taken up at any time rather than waiting until early March before regular orders can be brought to the chambers floors. His 6 emergency orders are: 1) expanding broadband access, 2) dealing with cities and counties defunding law enforcement agencies, 3) restructures the bail system in Texas, 4) ensuring election integrity, 5) providing liability protections for business during a pandemic, and 6) utility / energy responses by providers.)

ANIMAL WELFARE

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
H.B. 1480 (Vandalism of ag facilities)	Signed by the Governor	6-18-21	R) Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham 0118 <hr/> R) John Cryier of Lockhart 0682	This bill was filed due to some poultry operations in the Gonzalez area & sets in place increased penalties for those convicted of intentionally vandalizing farm and ranch operations, which also includes mandatory restitution and injunctive relief. The bill also strengthens trespassing laws by making it either a Class A or Class B misdemeanor depending on the amount of damages. There was significant opposition to this bill by animal rights groups!
H.B. 365 (Liability exposure of a farmer or rancher & those having stock show animals)	Signed by the Governor	6-4-21	R) Andrew Murr of Junction 0536	The bill was filed by an ag-friendly legislator & limits liability exposure to farm & ranch operators & those with animals at a stock show to where owners are not held liable for farm animal behavior in a cause due to the inherent risk associated with such activity. If an injury does occur to others during normal agricultural operations --- including breeding, feeding and working with farm animals as a vocation --- the same limited liability applies. Representative Murr is a past county Farm Bureau president. Current law protects a farm operator if a visitor is injured or killed during normal ag operations. HB 365 was filed as the result of a ranch hand being killed by a bull in 2013 & that surviving family won the case on behalf of the ranch hand. HB 365 further strengthens protections from liability exposure to a farm & ranch operator in the event a farm / ranch hand is injured since such issues are inherent for the industry.

APPROPRIATIONS

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 1 (The two-year state budget)	Signed by the Governor	6-18-21	R) Jane Nelson of Flower Mound 0112 <hr/> R) Greg Bonnen of Friendswood 0729	This is the only bill required by state law that must pass but, is also one of the last ones to ever get passed. S.B. 1 appropriates \$116.4 billion each of the next two years. In addition, built on top of this number is about \$100 billion revenue from the federal government that will be coming to Texas over the next two years as well to help fund state spending! Although it has initially been troublesome, funding for the boll weevil eradication program is located in Article XI of S.B. 1. The boll weevil amount is \$9.7 million. When federal & state funding is combined, the total state Senate budget approved was around \$248 billion. In the budget, border security increased & higher education did better than expected.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

BROADBAND

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 507 <i>(Allows use of highway right of ways by broadband providers)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-14-21	R) Robert Nichols of Jacksonville 0103 <hr/> R) Doc Anderson of Waco 0135	This bill establishes some minimum requirements that would allow broadband providers the use of highway right of ways for such services.
H.B. 5 <i>(Establishes regulatory authority for broadband services)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-15-21	R) Robert Nichols of Jacksonville 0103 <hr/> R) Trent Ashby of Lufkin 0508	This was THE main broadband bill for the Session, where all other such bills will be merged into. It sets up regulatory authority for the industry in the <u>State Comptroller's Office</u> . The House bill author is a past State FFA Vice President.
H.B. 1505 <i>(Exempts a broadband provider from illegal entry to private property)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-15-21	R) Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills 0109 <hr/> R) Chris Paddie of Marshall 0556	This bill does not allow a multi-national company (<i>Charter Communications</i>) to enter private property without notice or permission to, among other things, place broadband equipment & signs on a utility pole. Most all ag groups & electric co-ops opposed this measure, mostly because it would place electric co-ops under Federal Communications Commission. In the end, most all issues were resolved to the liking of rural groups.

EDUCATION

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 801 <i>(Taking vocational ag to the elementary school level)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-14-21	R) Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham 0118	This bill was started by a Flatonia FFA student (who is Area XI FFA President) & it basically calls on the Texas Education Agency to provide some form of an ag study program, like vocational agriculture classes, down at the elementary school level in public schools. The negative to the bill is how the TEA will write the rules to implement it. Ag groups must stay involved to make sure regulations are properly written to carry out this legislation!
H.B. 1259 <i>(A rural veterinarian incentive program)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-9-21	R) Drew Darby of San Angelo 0331	This bill provides an incentive program for repayment of student loans for those practicing veterinary services in rural areas following receiving a degree in veterinarian medicine.
H.B. 3383 <i>(Requiring at least one ag class in college)</i>	Died in the House Higher Education Committee	3-22-21	R) Glenn Rogers of Grafard 0656	This bill would require all students graduating from a college or university in Texas to have passed at least one three-credit course in agriculture prior to graduation. Sounds reasonable given math, English & history are required courses!

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

ELECTIONS / ETHICS LAWS

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 10 <i>(Limits lobbying funds by cities)</i>	Passed the Senate <hr/> Died on the House floor	4-15-21 <hr/> 5-25-21	R) Paul Bettencourt of Houston 0107 <hr/> R) Mayes Middleton of Wallsville 0502	This bill, if passed, says a city or county can no longer use taxpayer dollars on lobbyists or lobbying activities. All such bills died.
Redistricting	Every 10 years the U.S. Census conducts a demographic review of its population to see how shifts have occurred. Once concluded, new boundary lines must be drawn giving state senators, state representatives and U.S. Congressmen equal voting blocks. Although the U.S. Census was conducted in the Fall of 2020, its data will not be assembled & released to the various states until 9-30-21, which is 6-8 months later than expected ---- due to the pandemic. As such, a Special State Legislative Session will likely be called in the Fall of 2021 to transact this business.			

ENERGY

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 2 <i>(ERCOT reform)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-8-21	R) Kelly Hancock of Ft. Worth 0109 <hr/> R) Chris Paddie of Marshall 0556	Although over 300 bills were filed since and before the great snow / ice storm of mid-February 2021 (of which only 12 passed), this was the eventual all-encompassing bill which regulates ERCOT & the utility industry. There was not one big umbrella ERCOT reform bill, instead many bills addressing certain components of this topic are moving through the legislative process. It says the ERCOT CEO must be a Texas resident, the 11-member ERCOT board must be from Texas & eight are appointed by the Speaker, Lt. Governor & Governor combined. The three remaining directors are non-voting & are the Public Utility Commission Chair, ERCOT CEO, & PUC CEO.
S.B. 3 <i>(Energy infrastructure stabilization / PUC)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-8-21	R) Charles Schwertner of Georgetown 0105 <hr/> R) Chris Paddie of Marshall 0556	Requires energy infrastructure upgrades to prepare for extreme weather events, improves oversight of the state's energy supply, improves the electric reliability grid, creates a statewide emergency alert system in the event of a power outage, and requires the state to develop a comprehensive energy plan by 9-1-22. S.B. 2154 by R) State Senator Charles Schwertner of Georgetown also passed & it increases the number of PUC Commissioners from three to five & requires all five be appointed by the Governor. H.B. 2586 by D) Shawn Thierry of Houston also passed & requires PUC to conduct an annual external audit of ERCOTS financial statements.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

ENVIRONMENT

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
H.B. 1070 <i>(Pesticide licensing)</i>	Signed by the Governor and is effectively immediately	5-15-21	R) Charles Perry of Lubbock 0128 <hr/> R) Cody Harris of Palestine 0730	Today, the owner of a pesticide company, and even many farmers, hold a pesticide applicators license in order to spray restricted-use pesticides. Farm hands and others who work for these businesses, by law, are <u>not</u> required to have a license. In recent times, the state agency overseeing these licenses (<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>) have threatened to impose a license be held by ALL people putting out pesticides in the landscape, nursery & right-of-way businesses. This bill opposes such over-reach attempts by TDA.

INSURANCE / LABOR

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 14 <i>(Paid sick leave & predictive scheduling)</i>	Passed the Senate	4-12-21	R) Brandon Creighton of Conroe 0104	Increasingly, more & more cities like Austin and Dallas are proposing paid sick leave be paid by employers to ALL employees as well as employers being required to perform "predictive scheduling," which means to set all employee hours two weeks in advance. A pro-business group of legislators have filed this legislation to pre-empt or stop cities from having such powers --- thus only the state can set such law.
	Died on House floor	5-25-21		
H.B. 195 <i>(Migrant labor housing)</i>	Failed on House floor	5-14-21	D) Diego Bernal of San Antonio 0532	This is a repeat bill that has been filed for several years except this version would change the current penalty for not having proper housing for migrant labor to \$50 / person / day & increasing the amount for repeat violators & prohibits employers of migrants from retaliating on those filing a complaint. This is not a good bill for agriculture. An interim study will be conducted & presented to the 2023 State Legislative Session as a chance to study the measure further.

MISCELLANEOUS

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 336 / H.B. 2028 <i>(Selling of eggs)</i>	Died in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee	3-9-21	D) Nathan Johnson of Dallas 0116	This is one of those feel-good type of bills on the surface & being carried by an ag-friendly state representative, but there is a cause for concern when you dig a little deeper. Many times, we will see where a small farm house will have a sign posted in their yard that says "Farm fresh eggs for sale." It's a great product mixed with great people. That practice is known as selling "ungraded" eggs & thus they are not subject to countless health & regulatory requirements, processing, or over-sight as other poultry operators must endure. This bill says, if passed, that those people selling "ungraded" eggs would be able to legally sell eggs to retailers such as hotels & restaurants. This bill passed the Senate last session, but failed in the House. In general, many poultry industry representatives have public health concerns about this bill because, should this unregulated egg industry suddenly have a massive foodborne healthcare crisis in the food system, it makes the entire industry suffer.
	Died in the House Agriculture & Livestock Committee	3-15-21	R) Stan Lambert of Abeline 0718	

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
....followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

S.B. 341 / H.B. 327 <i>(Ag checkoff board meetings must be posted to social media)</i>	Died in the Senate Business & Commerce Committee	3-9-21	D) Royce West of Dallas 0123	In short, this three-page bill says that any governmental body and / or their board meetings must be posted on social media & websites. To ag this is a concern and this means all live checkoff board meetings must be posted on such sites.
	Died in the House Calendars Committee	4-27-21	D) Donna Howard of Austin 0631	
S.B. 677 / H.B. 1266 <i>(Proper selling of certified seed)</i>	Died in the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee	3-11-21	R) Drew Springer of Muenster 0130	This bill says a person may not sell planting seed as certified seed unless it has been certified by this agency, sets standards for approving producers of certified seed, & it changes the name of the agency from the State Seed & Plant Board to the State Certification Council. Kacal is a former county Farm Bureau president. This bill had problems between seed leadership of old versus the newer parties involved in this business.
	Died in the House Agriculture & Livestock Committee	3-4-21	R) Kyle Kacal of College Station 0412	
S.B. 1145 / H.B. 316 <i>(Requirement of labelling of fake meat products)</i>	Passed the Senate	5-25-21	R) Charles Perry of Lubbock 0128	In short, this bill (<i>filed by and ag-friendly legislator</i>) forces proper labelling of fake meats so as to avoid misbranding of foods to shoppers. This bill has openly been rejected in the press by fake meat providers. This was the main fake meat bill. The bill was killed by R) Kyle Biedermann of Fredericksburg.
	Died on the House floor	5-25-21	R) Brad Buckley of Killeen 0684	
H.B. 343 <i>(Prohibits purchase of certain foods with food stamps)</i>	Died in the House Human Services Committee	3-16-21	R) Briscoe Cain of Houston 0733	This bill author is a strong urban ag vote & limits what foods can be purchased with food stamps. Under this bill, food stamps cannot be used to purchase such things as energy drinks, soft drinks, candy, chips, or cookies.
H.B. 1359 <i>(Allows Texas to secede from the U.S.)</i>	Died in the House State Affairs Committee	3-5-21	R) Kyle Biedermann of Fredericksburg 0325	This bill would allow the voters of Texas the right to vote for the state to leave the country & establish its own republic. This legislator owns the True Value hardware store in Fredericksburg.
H.B. 1758 <i>(Restricts use of drones)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-18-21	R) Matt Krause of Ft. Worth 0562	Today, drone users have considerable latitude in the way they can use them; especially on their own private property. Initially, this bill said no chemical or explosive (bomb) dispensing device nor any firearm may be attached to a drone during its use outside the boundaries of your own property. This bill was written by law enforcement agencies that use pepper spray as part of their tactical strategy. In the end, ag was totally written out of this bill & it is purely written for law enforcement agencies.
H.B. 1957 <i>(Proper labelling of wine)</i>	Signed by the Governor	5-28-21	R) John Kuempel of Seguin 0602	Current law allows some latitude for wine producers to use an appropriate origin label to designate the viticultural area in which the fruit was produced, and to indicate the wine meets certain production requirements. This bill will allow producers that use these same labels only if: a) the wine is 100 percent fermented juice from fruits of this state (<i>with at least 90 percent being from the specified viticultural area</i>), or b) is fully produced in the state.
H.B. 4296 <i>(Expands use of dyed diesel during declared disasters)</i>	Passed the House and died on Senate floor	5-26-21	R) Dewayne Burns of Cleburne 0538	This six-page bill allows the use of dyed fuel by “essential workers,” in vehicles such as in agriculture, during and 30 days after a declared disaster area of the state. The Governor did not like this bill, so it died in committee.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

PROPERTY RIGHTS

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 659 <i>(Allows for deannexation of property)</i>	Passed the Senate	4-15-21	R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124	This bill sets up provisions that allows certain areas to deannex if they do not receive full municipal services for at least 20 years.
	Died on House floor	5-6-21	R) Tom Craddick of Midland 0500	
H.B. 2730 <i>(THE main private property rights bill for the Session)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	D) Joe Deshotel of Beaumont 0662	This bill became the main private property rights bill. It sets standards for bona fide offers from for-profit private entities with eminent domain authority that wants to acquire property for public use, requires easement teams to property owners upfront, requires training for land agents involved in the eminent domain process, provides penalties to these land agents that act unethically, & improves two points in the landowners bill of rights.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / HEALTHCARE

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
H.B. 4 <i>(Reimbursement of telemedicine services)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-15-21	R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124	This is a good bill and was filed by a state senator that is also a doctor & improves access to health care via telemedicine & telecommunications and allows for such financial reimbursement to federally-qualified rural health care facilities. The Texas Medical Association has long opposed such legislation.
			R) Four Price of Amarillo 0470	
H.B. 1491 <i>(Liability judgements against rural hospitals)</i>	Died in the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee	3-17-21	R) Jay Dean of Longview 0750	In an action on a health care liability claim where final judgement is rendered against a rural hospital, the amount of civil liability may not exceed \$100K. The bill also defines what a rural hospital is.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

SUNSET

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 700 <i>(Texas Parks & Wildlife Department reauthorization)</i>	Signed by the Governor	5-30-21	R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124 <hr/> R) John Cyrier of Lockhart 0682	Every 12 years all state agencies must be subjected to the grueling process to reauthorize itself for another 12 years. This process is called the Sunset Review. This is the main reauthorization bill for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.
S.B. 703 <i>(Texas Department of Agriculture Sunset bill)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124 <hr/> D) Terry Canales of Edinburg 0426	This is the sunset bill filed to reauthorize the existence of the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation & the Texas Prescribed Burning Board.
S.B. 705 <i>(Animal Health Commission Sunset)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	D) Eddie Lucio of Brownsville 0127 <hr/> R) John Cyrier of Lockhart 0682	This is the sunset bill that reauthorizes the existence of the state agency Texas Animal Health Commission for an additional 12 years.

TAXES / APPRAISALS

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
H.B. 1797 <i>(Tax credits for donations to such programs as FFA)</i>	Died in the House Ways & Means Committee	3-10-21	R) Steve Allison of San Antonio 0686	This is one of those feel-good FFA supporting-type bills in that it gives ad valorem & franchise tax credits for donations to school districts in support of career & technology programs (FFA) & courses. These donations can only be made in the form of cash or "in-kind" contributions. This bill was initially written to provide tax incentives for Dell Computer & other such vendors who wanted to provide more help to school districts.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

TORT REFORM

S.B. 207 / H.B. 19 (Limits medical claims in 18 – wheeler accidents)	Died in Committee	5-31-21	R) Charles Schwertner of Georgetown 0105 R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124 R) Donna Campbell of New Braunfels 0125	A large group of pro-business groups (660) have formed the Texas Trucking Coalition to counter the huge financial judgements received by trial attorneys like, Thomas J. Henry, & others in 18 – wheeler accidents. They wanted to change the culture surrounding crash & trucking litigation. In short, it has reached a crisis point in terms of the ability of shippers to afford to operate in Texas. This bill limits recovery of medical & other health care awards & hopefully will rein in medical fraud to a greater degree. In addition, this bill would have discouraged the practice of using very successful and expensive repeat “expert witness” during such court proceedings AND would cause medical payouts to be more focused on “actual” medical claims versus “projected” medical claims. This was a major bill! Two recent Texas Supreme Court decisions in favor of businesses (<i>and against trial attorneys</i>) rendered S.B. 207 of no use, so it died in committee. Many times, trial attorneys do not want photos & videos admissible in such proceedings because, at times, a photo would show the mishap is not as severe as what a claimant has suggested. In this bill, the trucking industry wanted photos admissible. The eventual final bill in this massive trucking / tort reform legislation was H.B. 19.
	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	R) Jeff Leach of Plano 0544	

TRANSPORTATION

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
H.B. 4548 (Expands overweight trucking restrictions during periods of declared disaster)	Died in Committee	5-31-21	R) Dewayne Burns of Cleburne 0538	This is a one-page bill that would allow overweight trucks carrying ag commodities to exceed their current 84,000 lb. weight limit two days before, during, and 30 days after declared disasters, even if the declaration is extended, for delivery of ag products such as cattle, feed, etc. Maximum gross weight would be 126,000 pounds. Governor’s office was not happy with this bill, so it died in committee.

WATER

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 152 (Landowner rights against GWD)	Passed the Senate & died because House never appointed Conferees	5-18-21	R) Charles Perry of Lubbock 0128	This was a key bill filed by an ag-friendly state senator which helps landowners protect their rights during overreach attempts by groundwater districts. Representative Cody Harris, the House author, is a former member of the TALL program. In short, this bill would require a GWD to give notice when they are considering a permit to drill a well. This is especially important if granting a permit directly affects others.
S.B. 601 (Beneficial uses of “produced” water)	Signed by the Governor	6-18-21	R) Charles Perry of Lubbock 0128 R) Dustin Burrows of Lubbock 0542	This bill creates a consortium of private entities to study the economics of technology-related to the beneficial uses of “produced” water and Texas Tech University to serve as host of this effort. Also describes how the board of this effort is to be composed. “Produced” water in the bill refers to all the liquid that remains during and following the oil drilling process such as salt water, fracking chemicals, & etc.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
....followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

H.B. 3619 <i>(The granting or denying of a permit by the local GWD)</i>	Died in the Senate Ag, Water & Rural Affairs Committee Died in Committee	5-31-21	D) Sarah Eckhardt of Austin 0114 <hr/> D) Rhetta Bowers of Rowlett 0464	This 1.5-page bill says a groundwater district can deny a water-permit to a person like a farmer <u>IF</u> there are others with a higher priority use such as a county or river authority. This is a bad bill for ag & would let a group like LCRA take priority for water permit / use versus a farmer. This was a bad bill for agriculture that was moving through the process, but was eventually held up by an ag-friendly State Senator.
H.B. 3972 <i>(Lawsuits against a groundwater district)</i>	Died in the House Natural Resources Committee	5-31-21	D) Tracy King of Uvalde 0194	This bill says that if an entity / person is to bring a lawsuit against a groundwater district, that group must first purchase a surety bond basically insuring they can recoup all potential court costs in the event they lose the case. Senator Eddie Lucio of Brownsville carried the Senate version.

WILDLIFE

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
H.B. 3081 <i>(Digital hunting license)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-14-21	R) Matt Krause of Ft. Worth 0562	This is a 1.5-page bill that causes the Texas Parks & Wildlife to issue digital tags / hunting licenses.

RANDOM HIGH-PROFILE NON-AG BILLS

BILL	LATEST ACTION	DATE	BILL SPONSOR PHONE (512-463-)	ESSENCE OF THE BILL
S.B. 4 <i>(Playing of national anthem)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124 <hr/> R) Dustin Burrows of Lubbock 0542	This bill requires all professional sports teams in Texas to play the national anthem prior to games. The bill was filed & eventually passed due to the NBA Dallas Mavericks not playing the national anthem during the 2021 basketball season.
S.B. 8 <i>(Making abortion illegal after detection of a fetal heartbeat)</i>	Signed by the Governor	5-19-21	R) Bryan Hughes of Tyler 0101 <hr/> R) Shelby Slawson of Stephenville 0628	This bill prevents abortions from being performed or induced once a fetal heartbeat is detected, unless there is a medical emergency. Current Texas law generally bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, however, this bill could reduce that time to as early as six weeks of pregnancy. Physicians can be held civilly liable, and specific notes must be made to a woman's medical records if an abortion is performed.
S.B. 23 <i>(Defunding law enforcement agencies)</i>	Signed by the Governor	6-1-21	R) Joan Huffman of Houston 0117 <hr/> R) Tom Oliverson of Houston 0661	This bill says that if a <u>county</u> of 1,000,000 population or more decides to defund law enforcement agencies from the prior year, it requires voter approval & if they do defund it will automatically freeze county tax rates.

STATUS OF SOME AG-RELATED BILLS IN THE 2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE
....followed by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council

S.B. 968 (Penalties for requiring COVID shots)	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	R) Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham 0118	This bill says that any Texas business that requires CUSTOMERS to be vaccinated for COVID will be: a) denied state contracts AND b) lose their license or operating permit.
S.J.R. 27 (Prohibits closure of churches during a disaster)	Filed with the Secretary of State. Will be submitted to the voters as a constitutional amendment during the November 2, 2021 election.	5-19-21	R) Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills 0109 <hr/> R) Jeff Leach of Plano 0544	This bill goes to the voters of the state on 11-2-21 as a constitutional amendment --- for passage. If passed, it prohibits only governmental body from limiting church closures during periods of declared disasters... like during the COVID-19 pandemic.
H.B. 1280 (Roe v. Wade)	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	R) Angela Paxton of McKinney 0108 <hr/> R) Giovanni Capriglione of Southlake 0690	This bill ends the practice of abortions in Texas in the event the U.S. Supreme Court was to ever overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i> . Ten states currently have similar legislation.
H.B. 1900 (Defunding law enforcement agencies)	Signed by the Governor	6-1-21	R) Paul Bettencourt of Houston 0107 <hr/> R) Craig Goldman of Ft. Worth 0608	This bill applies to <u>cities</u> that defund law enforcement agencies from the prior year & the city has a population of 250,000 or more. If so: 1) citizens have the power to deannex with local voter approval going back 30 years, 2) the city cannot increase property taxes or rates, 3) city cannot increase city-owned utility rates, and 4) the city will not receive traditionally – appropriated tax revenue from the state.
H.B. 1925 (Calls for a statewide ban on homeless camping)	Signed by the Governor	6-15-21	R) Dawn Buckingham of Lakeway 0124 <hr/> R) Giovanni Capriglione of Southlake 0690	This bill calls for a statewide ban on camping by the homeless in public places & creates penalties. The law does not apply to state parks.
H.B. 1927 (“Constitutional carry” of firearms)	Signed by the Governor	6-16-21	R) Charles Schwertner of Georgetown 0105 <hr/> R) Matt Scafer of Tyler 0584	This bill allows a person of 21 years of age or older to carry any firearm in all but restricted areas AND without a license or prior training. Texas is the 21 st state to enact such legislation. Those prohibited from carrying a firearm (such as felons), those under protective order, or ruled mentally incompetent cannot carry such a weapon.

PRODUCED BY THE:

Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
1210 San Antonio Street, Suite 101
Austin, Texas 78701-1856
512-450-0555 – office
512-450-0655 – fax
info@texas.coop

To check bill status

- Visit: www.capitol.state.tx.us
- Click on “Legislation,” followed by “Bill Lookup”

To write your state legislators, send to:

TEXAS SENATE
PO Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-0326

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910