

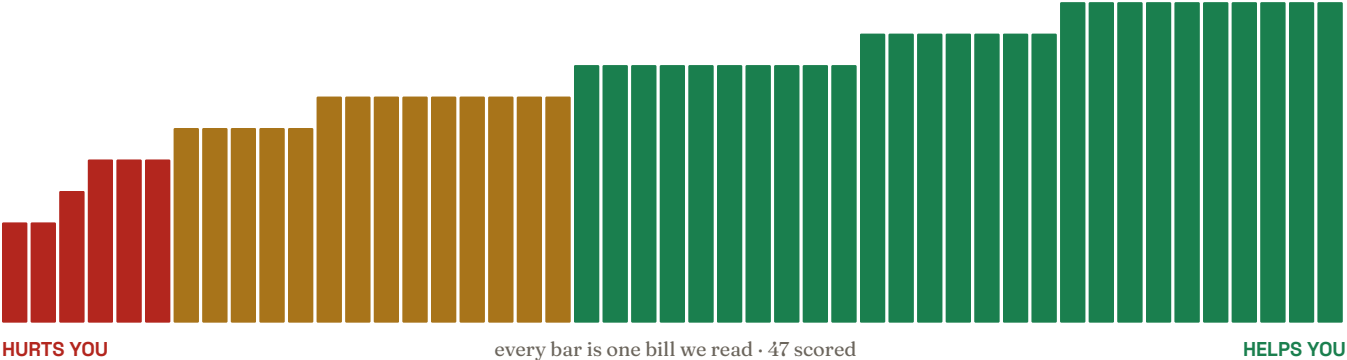


OBILLERATE • WATCHDOG

Texas Bill Book

2026

The Texas bills that matter most, each scored 1–10 on one question: does it help everyday people, or the interests behind it?



Our take on the left. The bill on the right. Room for your notes.

Every spread is one bill, twice.

On the **left** is our take: the Billometer score, what the bill means for you, and the factor-by-factor reasoning behind that score. On the **right** is the bill on the record: its official title, its status, where to read the real text, and space for your own notes.

THE BILLOMETER

One number, 1 to 10, answering a single question: does this help everyday people or hurt them? 1–4 hurts, 5–6 is mixed, 7–10 helps. It is our editorial judgement — which is exactly why every page shows the reasoning behind it. If you disagree with a score, you can see precisely where you disagree.

HOW THESE BILLS WERE CHOSEN

Ranked, not cherry-picked. This edition prints the 10 lowest-scoring and 10 highest-scoring of the 47 Texas bills we have fully analysed. A bill only qualifies if it passed our verification step, has a recorded official status, and has its reasoning attached. Thin entries are left out rather than padded. Note that only 143 bills in the entire country score 3 or below, so in most places the bottom of the list is not evil — it is merely mixed, and we label it that way.

THESE ARE PROPOSALS, NOT LAW

Unless a status line says otherwise. Bills move constantly; every page shows the status we recorded on 2026-09-11 and links to the live version.

Bill data from LegiScan (CC BY 4.0), Congress.gov and OpenStates. Analysis and scoring are Obillerate's own. Scores are editorial opinion, not legal advice — always read the official text before acting. Found an error? www.obillerate.com/corrections

10 worst, 10 best

THE WORST — LOWEST SCORING

2/10	SB1500	The Medicaid Drug Bill — Medicaid drug protocols give doctors immunity from lawsuits
2/10	SB2380	The Doctors Criminal Bill — Texas bill would shield doctors from criminal charges
3/10	HB5042	The Preempts Local Bill — State preempts local safety rules, lets people sue towns
4/10	HB3830	The Credit Farms Bill — Tax credit helps farms move waste out of polluted zones
4/10	HB1663	The Trucks & Heavy Bill — A new tax break for commercial trucks and heavy equipment
4/10	HB4735	The Insurance Companies Bill — Tax breaks for insurance companies that invest in rural funds
5/10	HB3999	The Insurers Swap Bill — Texas bill lets insurers swap policies, adds new fees
5/10	HB612	The School Savings Bill — Texas bill adds school savings credit, shifts lawsuit fees
5/10	HB1979	The Refund Address Bill — New rules for changing your property tax refund address
5/10	HB3366	The Insurers & Doctors Bill — New rules for how insurers and doctors fight over bills

THE BEST — HIGHEST SCORING

9/10	HB438	The Rent Hikes Bill — Texas bill stops rent hikes for low-income housing tenants
9/10	HB1206	The Landlords Show Bill — Texas landlords must show all fees before you sign
9/10	HB949	The Workers Health Bill — Texas bill protects workers' health privacy from bosses
9/10	HB1860	The Landlords Show Bill — Landlords must show how much of your rent is property tax
9/10	HB4305	The Landlords Show Bill — Texas bill makes landlords show all fees upfront
9/10	SB1155	The Rent Hikes Bill — Rent hikes banned for some low-income housing tenants
9/10	SB759	The Landlords Show Bill — Landlords must show all fees before you sign a lease
9/10	SB731	The Better Water Bill — Better water pressure for older people in tall buildings
9/10	HB3976	The Waive Fees Bill — Texas could waive fees for teachers in important jobs
9/10	SB1969	The Drop License Bill — Texas may drop license fees for some college teachers

The Medicaid Drug Bill

Medicaid drug protocols give doctors immunity from lawsuits

TX SB1500 • Your Right to Sue

2/10 **OBLITERATE**
Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

The bill would protect health providers from lawsuits, which could lower costs for them but also make it harder for Medicaid patients to hold them accountable if a drug harms them.

WHY IT SCORES 2/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (hurts)** — Immunity reduces ability to hold providers accountable.
Providers cannot be sued for protocolrelated harms
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — Limits patients' right to sue.
Civil liability immunity cuts legal recourse
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — Costs shift to patients.
Patients may bear harms without compensation
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — No change to transparency.
Bill does not require new public reporting

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 2D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Relating to written protocols for certain nonprescription drugs under Medicaid and civil liability related to those protocols.

TX SB1500 Introduced · recorded 2025-02-20

WHAT IT DOES

Doctors, pharmacists and state medical directors could not be sued for problems caused by Medicaid nonprescription drug protocols, limiting patients' ability to seek compensation.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Health care providers

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (TX SB1500) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=SB1500>

LegiScan — SB1500 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/SB1500/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-sb1500-977631

YOUR NOTES

The Doctors Criminal Bill

Texas bill would shield doctors from criminal charges

TX SB2380 · Immunity & Accountability

2/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Patients would lose a tool to hold providers accountable, making it harder to punish serious wrongdoing, while doctors gain protection from routine errors.

WHY IT SCORES 2/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (hurts)** — reduces.
removes criminal liability for most errors
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — cuts.
limits patients' ability to sue criminally
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — neutral.
no direct cost shift
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — neutral.
no new transparency requirements

Relating to immunity from criminal liability for certain health care practitioners.

Introduced · recorded 2025-03-12

Doctors and nurses could avoid criminal charges for mistakes unless they act recklessly or intentionally.

Health care practitioners

LegiScan – SB2380 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/SB2380/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-sb2380-004946

The Preempts Local Bill

State preempts local safety rules, lets people sue towns

TX HB5042 • Your Right to Sue

3/10 **OBLITERATE**
Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens could lose local protections like animal control or fire rules, while gaining a way to sue if a town oversteps state law; now is the chance to speak up before it limits local safety.

WHY IT SCORES 3/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (hurts)** — negative.
preempts local oversight
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — negative.
limits local rulemaking
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — negative.
shifts lawsuit costs to municipalities
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — neutral.
no new transparency measures

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Relating to state preemption of and the effect of certain state health and safety laws on certain municipal and county regulations, including a law providing that an elephant is a dangerous wild animal.

TX HB5042

Introduced · recorded 2025-03-13

WHAT IT DOES

The bill would stop cities from making their own safety rules and let anyone sue them if those rules break state codes.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Big Business

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (TX HB5042) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB5042>

LegiScan — HB5042 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB5042/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb5042-006408

YOUR NOTES

The Credit Farms Bill

Tax credit helps farms move waste out of polluted zones

TX HB3830 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This could encourage farms to clean up water, but it also reduces tax revenue that could fund schools or roads, so voters should watch it now.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — neutral.
No new oversight, just tax credit
- Rights & Protections** (neutral) — neutral.
Does not affect personal rights
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — taxpayers.
Tax credit reduces state revenue
- Process Transparency** (helps) — some.
Comptroller must adopt rules and report estimates

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Relating to a franchise tax credit for certain watershed protection activities.

TX HB3830

Introduced · recorded 2025-03-05

WHAT IT DOES

Farms that move waste out of polluted areas could get a tax break, lowering the money they pay the state.

WHO IT’S WRITTEN FOR

Agricultural businesses

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (TX HB3830) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB3830>

LegiScan — HB3830 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB3830/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb3830-992386

YOUR NOTES

The Trucks & Heavy Bill

A new tax break for commercial trucks and heavy equipment

TX HB1663 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



1 · hurts you

helps you · 10

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would carve out a special tax break for commercial trucks and heavy machinery. When these vehicles use diesel to run attached equipment instead of driving, the owners could get their fuel taxes refunded. While it makes sense that fuel not used for driving on roads should not pay a road tax, this still means less tax money collected by the state. That lost money usually has to be made up by everyday taxpayers...

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — Reduces tax revenue from commercial vehicles..

The bill allows businesses to claim refunds on diesel taxes for fuel used by truck...

Funding Tilt (hurts) — Creates a corporate tax carve-out..

Trucking and construction companies would get a special tax break for operating their...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Trucking and construction companies

Bearing the cost: Texas taxpayers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Relating to a credit or refund for diesel fuel taxes paid on diesel fuel used in this state by auxiliary power units or power take-off equipment.

WHAT IT DOES

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

READ IT YOURSELF

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb1663-897389

YOUR NOTES

The Insurance Companies Bill

Tax breaks for insurance companies that invest in rural funds

TX HB4735 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill uses tax breaks to encourage insurance companies to invest in rural small businesses. While the goal is to create jobs, these programs often serve as a lucrative tax shelter for big insurers and fund managers, leaving everyday taxpayers to make up for the lost state revenue.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (neutral) — Neutral.

The bill does not significantly impact legal accountability or liability.

Rights & Protections (neutral) — Neutral.

The bill does not affect consumer rights or legal protections.

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — Shifts cost to taxpayers.

The state loses tax revenue by giving credits to insurance companies, meaning everyday...

Process Transparency (neutral) — Neutral.

The bill requires tracking of jobs created, but does not significantly alter public...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Insurance companies and rural funds

Bearing the cost: State tax revenue

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (4R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2025-05-08 — passed

Yes 63R/51D • No 21R/10D

Relating to rural development funds and insurance tax credits for certain investments in those funds; authorizing fees.

Engrossed · recorded 2025-05-08

This bill would give state tax breaks to insurance companies that invest their money in special funds meant to help rural small businesses grow.

Insurance companies

Official text (TX HB4735) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB4735>

LegiScan — HB4735 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB4735/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb4735-005752

The Insurers Swap Bill

Texas bill lets insurers swap policies, adds new fees

TX HB3999 • Consumer Protection

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens should watch this bill because it could let big insurers change who holds their coverage without much input, and the added fees might be passed to policyholders.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — adds commissioner oversight.
Insurers must consent to commissioner oversight of transferred business
- Rights & Protections (neutral)** — no new consumer rights.
Policyholders get notice but no new protections
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — fees may be passed to policyholders.
Authorizes fees for transfers, could increase costs
- Process Transparency (helps)** — requires notice to regulators and policyholders.
Notice required within 45 days to regulators and policyholders

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Relating to the transfer and statutory novation of insurance policies from a transferring insurer to an assuming insurer through an insurance business transfer plan; authorizing fees.

TX HB3999

Introduced · recorded 2025-03-06

WHAT IT DOES

Insurers could move your policy to another company and pay a state fee, while the state watches the switch.

WHO IT’S WRITTEN FOR

Insurers

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (TX HB3999) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB3999>

LegiScan — HB3999 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB3999/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb3999-994069

YOUR NOTES

The School Savings Bill

Texas bill adds school savings credit, shifts lawsuit fees

TX HB612 · Immunity & Accountability

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

The tax credit could help families save for school, but the feeshifting rule could scare people from suing over unfair school policies, letting the state avoid paying for legal challenges.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (hurts) — Feeshifting reduces accountability.
makes challengers pay fees

Rights & Protections (hurts) — Weakens right to sue.
adds cost barrier

Who Bears the Cost (helps) — Shifts litigation costs to challengers.
makes them pay attorney fees

Process Transparency (neutral) — Neutral effect on transparency.
new feeshifting rules but no clear process changes

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: parents

Bearing the cost: potential challengers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program, an insurance premium tax credit for contributions made for purposes of that program, and the award of attorney's fees in actions challenging certain educational choice laws.

Introduced · recorded 2024-11-12

The bill would give parents a tax credit for education savings accounts, but would force anyone who sues to block school choice to pay other side's attorney fees

Everyday People

Official text (TX HB612) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB612>

LegiScan – HB612 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB612/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb612-891034

The Refund Address Bill

New rules for changing your property tax refund address

TX HB1979 · Housing & Property

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Right now, you can just send a written note to get your property tax refund mailed somewhere else. This bill changes that. It forces you to use a specific state form that includes a strict warning about lying. While this adds a tiny bit of paperwork, it helps stop scammers from stealing your refund by changing your address without you knowing.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — Neutral administrative change..
The bill just updates how a request is processed.
- Rights & Protections** (helps) — Protects against refund theft..
Adding a required form with a perjury warning makes it harder for scammers to divert...
- Who Bears the Cost** (neutral) — No cost shift..
There are no new fees or costs for taxpayers.
- Process Transparency** (helps) — Standardizes the request process..
Creates a single official form for address changes instead of accepting any written...

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (7R / 0D)

Relating to the payment of certain ad valorem tax refunds.

Introduced · recorded 2025-01-22

This bill requires you to use an official state form with a fraud warning if you want your property tax refund sent to a new address.

Nobody / Symbolic

Official text (TX HB1979) – <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB1979>

LegiScan – HB1979 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB1979/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb1979-934478

The Insurers & Doctors Bill

New rules for how insurers and doctors fight over bills

TX HB3366 · Healthcare & Insurance

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

When you get a surprise medical bill, your insurance and the doctor usually have to work it out with a referee, called a mediator. This bill makes sure the insurance company sends someone who actually has the power to pay the bill. If either side acts in bad faith, the referee can force them to use a private judge instead of going to a regular court. It mostly affects big companies fighting each other, not you directly.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Forces insurers to send representatives with actual authority to pay..
The bill requires the health benefit plan issuer to send a representative who has the...
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — Removes the right to a civil lawsuit for the parties involved if forced into arbitration..
If the mediator orders arbitration due to bad faith, the parties are barred from bringing...
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — Costs are split evenly between the two fighting industries..
The parties must evenly split and pay the arbitrator's fees and expenses.
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Speeds up the process by requiring prompt contact information..
Insurers must provide complete contact information as soon as practicable after the...

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Relating to mediation and arbitration between health benefit plan issuers or administrators and out-of-network health care providers.

Introduced · recorded 2025-02-26

The Rent Hikes Bill

Texas bill stops rent hikes for low-income housing tenants

TX HB438 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would give people living in certain low-income housing a clear promise: their rent would not go up until their lease is over. This means families could plan their money better without worrying about sudden rent hikes. Landlords might say they need to raise rents sometimes to cover costs, but this bill would make sure that once a lease is signed, the rent stays the same for that time. It is important to pay attention...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Landlords would be held to lease terms..
The bill would hold landlords to the rent amount agreed upon in a lease for the full term...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Tenants gain protection from rent increases..
It would protect tenants from unexpected rent increases during their lease agreement in...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Tenants save money, landlords lose flexibility..
Tenants would save money by avoiding rent increases, while landlords would lose the...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — No direct impact..
The bill does not directly affect process transparency.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Tenants in low-income housing
- Bearing the cost:** Owners of low-income housing developments

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / ID)

Relating to prohibiting an increase in the rent of a tenant residing in a development supported with a low income housing tax credit allocation.

Introduced · recorded 2024-11-12

This bill would stop landlords from raising rent on people living in special low-income housing until their lease ends.

Everyday People

Official text (TX HB438) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB438>

LegiScan — HB438 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB438/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb438-891603

The Landlords Show Bill

Texas landlords must show all fees before you sign

TX HB1206 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Right now, some landlords can add extra fees after you think you know your rent. This bill would stop that by making landlords list all regular fees, like for pets or amenities, before you sign your lease. This helps you know the true cost of your home upfront and avoid surprises. Landlords might say it adds paperwork, but it helps people budget better. If you want to avoid hidden costs when renting, this bill is important to...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Landlords would be more accountable for all costs..
The bill requires landlords to disclose all fixed, recurring fees other than rent before...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Tenants would have a clearer right to know all costs..
Tenants would gain the protection of not being obligated to pay fees that were not...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Tenants would avoid hidden costs, landlords bear disclosure burden..
The cost of disclosure would fall on landlords, but tenants would benefit by avoiding...
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Rental agreements would be more transparent..
The bill directly aims to improve transparency in rental agreements by requiring upfront...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Tenants
Bearing the cost: Landlords

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / ID)

Relating to the disclosure of certain fees by a landlord.

Introduced · recorded 2024-11-12

This bill would make landlords tell you all extra fees before you sign a lease, so you know the full cost.

Everyday People

Official text (TX HB1206) – <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB1206>

LegiScan – HB1206 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB1206/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb1206-890424

The Workers Health Bill

Texas bill protects workers' health privacy from bosses

TX HB949 • Privacy & Data

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would give workers a clear right to keep their personal health information private from their employers. If a boss tried to punish a worker for not sharing this private health information, the boss could face a large fine. This is important because it protects people's personal medical details from being used against them at work. Some might argue that employers need certain health information for workplace safety...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Holds employers accountable for privacy violations..
Employers would face a \$50,000 civil penalty for each time they violate an employee's...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Strengthens employee privacy rights..
Employees would gain a clear right to keep their personal health information private from...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Costs are borne by violating employers..
Employers who violate the privacy right would pay a \$50,000 penalty to the state's...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — Not directly addressed by the bill text..
The bill does not directly address transparency of the legislative process or public...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Employees (privacy protection)
Bearing the cost: Employers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Relating to an employee's right to privacy of personal health information; providing a civil penalty.

Introduced · recorded 2024-11-12

This bill would let workers keep their health information private from their boss, and bosses could get a big fine if they ask for it.

Everyday People

Official text (TX HB949) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB949>

LegiScan – HB949 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB949/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb949-891499

The Landlords Show Bill

Landlords must show how much of your rent is property tax

TX HB1860 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill is good for renters because it would make landlords share important information. You would see exactly how much of your monthly rent helps pay for the building's property taxes. This helps you understand your rent better. Landlords might say it is extra work for them to share this information. But knowing this detail could help you decide if your rent is fair. It also lets you see how property taxes affect your...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Increases landlord accountability for rent breakdown..
Landlords would be required to show tenants how much of their rent goes to property...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Enhances tenant's right to information..
Tenants would gain a new right to know specific details about how their rent money is...
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — No direct cost shift, but disclosure might lead to questions..
The bill does not directly shift costs, but it requires landlords to disclose information...
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Directly improves transparency for tenants..
The core purpose of the bill is to provide tenants with clear, accessible information...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Tenants (through increased knowledge)
- Bearing the cost:** Landlords (through compliance costs for disclosure)

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / ID)

Relating to disclosure by the landlord of a residential multiunit complex to a tenant of the percentage of the tenant's monthly rent payment attributable to the property taxes due for the complex.

WHAT IT DOES

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

READ IT YOURSELF

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb1860-920535

YOUR NOTES

The Landlords Show Bill

Texas bill makes landlords show all fees upfront

TX HB4305 • Housing & Property

9/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



1 • hurts you

helps you • 10

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill is important because it would stop landlords from surprising renters with hidden fees after they've decided on a place. Right now, people often find out about extra costs like trash or internet fees only when they're about to sign the lease, making it hard to compare prices or back out. This bill would make sure all costs are clear from the start. Some landlords might say this makes renting more complicated for...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (helps) — Increases landlord accountability for transparent pricing..

Landlords would be liable for \$100 plus three times the undisclosed fee and attorney's...

Rights & Protections (helps) — Strengthens tenant rights to clear and upfront pricing..

Tenants would have the right to receive full disclosure of all fees and charges before...

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — Landlords bear the cost of compliance and penalties..

Landlords would need to update their advertising, application, and lease forms to comply...

Process Transparency (helps) — Significantly improves transparency for renters..

The bill requires landlords to disclose all fixed, recurring, one-time, and variable fees...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Tenants/Prospective Tenants

Bearing the cost: Landlords

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Relating to disclosure of rent and certain fees and charges by a landlord.

Introduced · recorded 2025-03-11

This bill would make landlords tell you all rental fees upfront, so you know the full cost before you sign a lease.

Everyday People

Official text (TX HB4305) – <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB4305>

LegiScan – HB4305 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB4305/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb4305-999590

The Rent Hikes Bill

Rent hikes banned for some low-income housing tenants

TX SB1155 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would protect people living in low-income housing from sudden rent increases during their lease. If passed, landlords who get special tax credits to offer affordable housing would not be able to raise your rent until your lease is up. This means you would not have to worry about your rent going up unexpectedly in the middle of your agreement. It would help families plan their money better and keep their homes...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Landlords would be held to rent stability terms..
The bill would make landlords who receive housing tax credits unable to raise rent during...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Protects tenants from unexpected rent increases..
This bill would protect the right of low-income tenants to stable housing costs by...
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — Prevents cost increase for tenants, no new cost shift..
This bill would prevent a cost increase for tenants by stopping rent hikes. It does not...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — No direct impact on transparency..
The bill's text does not address changes to process transparency.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Low-income housing tenants
- Bearing the cost:** Landlords of low-income housing tax credit developments

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

Relating to prohibiting an increase in the rent of a tenant residing in a development supported with a low income housing tax credit allocation.

WHAT IT DOES

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

READ IT YOURSELF

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-sb1155-961531

YOUR NOTES

The Landlords Show Bill

Landlords must show all fees before you sign a lease

TX SB759 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would help renters avoid surprise costs. Right now, landlords can sometimes add fees that you only find out about after you've decided to rent a place. This bill would make sure landlords tell you about all regular extra fees, like for pets or amenities, before you sign any papers. If they don't tell you, you wouldn't have to pay those fees. This means you can see the true cost of renting a place from the start...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Landlords must be upfront.
Landlords would be held accountable for disclosing all fixed, recurring fees before a...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Tenants protected from hidden fees.
Tenants would gain the right to know all recurring fees upfront and would not be...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Landlords bear transparency cost, tenants save.
Landlords would bear the administrative cost of clear disclosure, while tenants would...
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Increases fee transparency.
The bill directly increases transparency by requiring landlords to disclose all fixed...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Tenants
Bearing the cost: Landlords

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / ID)

Relating to the disclosure of certain fees by a landlord.

Introduced · recorded 2025-01-10

This bill would make landlords tell you about all extra fees before you sign a lease, so you know the full cost upfront.

Everyday People

Official text (TX SB759) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=SB759>

LegiScan – SB759 – <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/SB759/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-sb759-910423

The Better Water Bill

Better water pressure for older people in tall buildings

TX SB731 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would help older people living in tall apartment buildings by making sure they have good water pressure, especially during emergencies like a fire. This means developers building these types of homes would have to add special pumps. While this could make building costs a bit higher, possibly leading to slightly higher rents, it is meant to keep residents safer. People should decide if the added safety is worth the...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Developers would be accountable for a safety feature..
The bill would require certain housing developments to install water pressure boosters...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Protects residents' safety and access to water..
This bill would protect the safety of older residents in tall buildings by ensuring they...
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — Developers would bear the cost, potentially passed to residents..
The cost of installing water pressure boosters would fall on housing developers, which...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — No specific transparency impacts mentioned..
The bill does not directly address process transparency, maintaining the current level.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Older residents, emergency services
- Bearing the cost:** Housing developers, potentially residents

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / ID)

Relating to required water pressure boosters for certain housing developments that receive an allocation of low income housing tax credits.

WHAT IT DOES

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

READ IT YOURSELF

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-sb731-904687

YOUR NOTES

The Waive Fees Bill

Texas could waive fees for teachers in important jobs

TX HB3976 • Work & Wages

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would make it easier for people with valuable skills, like nurses, engineers, and plumbers, to teach at public colleges by removing a fee they currently pay. This could help more people become teachers in these important areas, making sure students have good instructors and helping to fill jobs that are needed. It is a good step to support educators and the future workforce.

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — Neutral impact on accountability..
The bill does not directly address accountability for state agencies or individuals...
- Rights & Protections** (helps) — Helps instructors by removing a fee burden..
The bill would waive license renewal fees for faculty and adjunct professors teaching in...
- Who Bears the Cost** (helps) — Instructors would save money on renewal fees..
State agencies would waive license renewal fees for eligible instructors, meaning these...
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — No impact on transparency..
The bill does not change how decisions are made or how information is shared with the...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Certain instructors at public colleges
- Bearing the cost:** State agencies that collect license renewal fees

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Bipartisan sponsorship (3R / 2D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2025-05-15 — passed
Yes 45R/60D • No 36R/0D

Relating to the waiver of license renewal fees for certain instructors in high-demand fields at public institutions of higher education.

Engrossed · recorded 2025-05-15

This bill would stop certain teachers in Texas from paying fees to renew their licenses, helping them teach important subjects like nursing and engineering.

Higher education instructors

Official text (TX HB3976) — <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB3976>

LegiScan — HB3976 — <https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB3976/2025>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/tx-hb3976-993823

The Drop License Bill

Texas may drop license fees for some college teachers

TX SB1969 • Work & Wages

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would help teachers in important fields like nursing and engineering by letting them keep their licenses without paying renewal fees. This could make it easier for colleges to find and keep good teachers for these jobs. When more skilled teachers are available, students can learn these high-demand skills, which helps everyone. Citizens should care because it could mean better education and more skilled workers in...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — Neutral impact.
The bill does not change how instructors are held accountable for their work.
- Rights & Protections** (helps) — Helps instructors.
The bill would remove a financial barrier for certain instructors to maintain their...
- Who Bears the Cost** (helps) — Cost shifted from instructors.
The cost of license renewal fees would shift from individual instructors to the state...
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — Standard process.
The bill follows a standard legislative process and does not affect public transparency.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Certain instructors at public institutions of higher education
Bearing the cost: State agencies that issue licenses

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

Relating to the waiver of license renewal fees for certain instructors in high-demand fields at public institutions of higher education.

TX SB1969



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Texas Bill Book 2026

Published by Obillerate, an independent nonpartisan watchdog that reads and scores every bill in Congress and all 50 states on a single question: does it help everyday people, or the interests behind it? Every score in this book shows its reasoning, and every page links to the official text so you can check us.

HOW TO CITE THIS

Obillerate, “Texas Bill Book 2026” (2026-09-11). www.obillerate.com/library/2026/

WHAT YOU MAY DO WITH IT

Read it, print it, and share it whole and unaltered — that is what it is for. Quote it with credit to Obillerate. What you may not do is republish the analysis as your own work, strip the attribution, or sell it. Underlying bill data comes from LegiScan (CC BY 4.0), Congress.gov and OpenStates; the scoring, the reasoning and the editorial judgement are Obillerate's own.

CORRECTIONS

We get things wrong sometimes and fix them fast. www.obillerate.com/corrections