



2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Intergovernmental Relations Office
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS OFFICE

2019 TEXAS LEGISLATURE: BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related bills introduced	City-Related bills passed
76 th -1999	5,813	1,622	1,230+	130+
...
84 th -2015	6,476	1,329	1,900+	220+
85 th -2017	6,800	1,208	2,500+	294
86th-2019	7,324	1,429	2,300+	338

- **3,970** Bills/JR's filed in last 10 business days before filing deadline (54%)
- **1,296** Bills/JR's tracked by IGRO
- Since the 84th session, there has been a **21% increase** in city-related bills introduced and a **54% increase** in city-related bills passed.



THE AGENDAS

Abbott

- **Property tax reform**, school finance reform, school safety, mental health, and disaster response

Patrick

- **Property tax reform**, free market protection, and taxpayer funded lobbying

Bonnen

- **Property tax reform**, school finance reform, school safety, and combating human trafficking



TEXAS LEGISLATURE LENS: PRIORITY ISSUES

Austin Water	Austin Energy	Revenue Caps	Cable Fees
Super Preemption	Annexation Part II: ETJ Regulation	No City Lobbying	Bathrooms
Zoning / Short- term Rentals	Employees' Rights and Benefits	Red Light Cameras	Planned Parenthood



REVENUE CAPS

- Reduces the rollback rate from 8% to 3.5% effective January 1, 2020
 - Election required to exceed 3.5%
- Applies to cities with populations greater than 30,000.
- City may not decrease the compensation in FY 2020 to which a first responder was entitled to in the preceding year
- 8% voter-approval rate still applies to all special taxing units:
 - a taxing unit other than a school district for which the maintenance and operations tax rate proposed for the current tax year is 2.5 cents or less per \$100 of taxable value;
 - a junior college district; or
 - a hospital district.

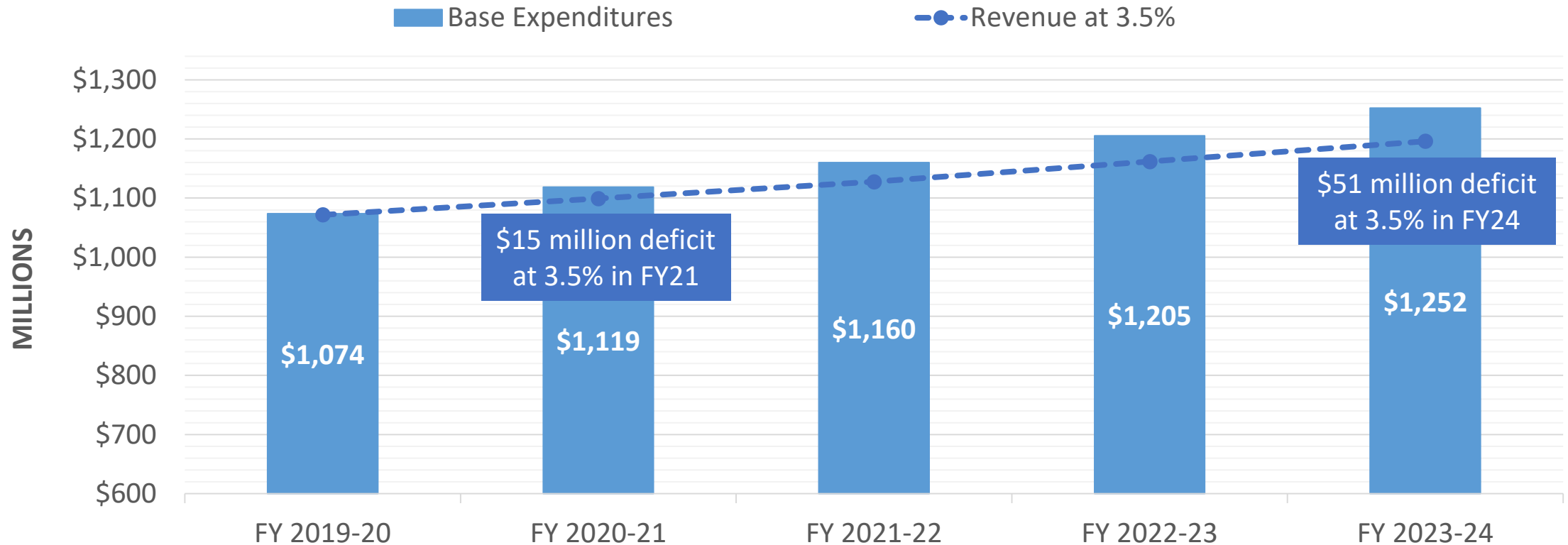


CABLE FRANCHISE FEES: SB 1152

- SB 1152 mandates that the City may collect either a telecommunications or cable franchise fee from companies that provide both services, whichever is greater; the City currently collects both fees
- \$4 million reduction in City revenues in FY 2020; \$5.6 million annual reduction in subsequent years
- Law becomes effective September 1st, 2019



GENERAL FUND BASE FORECAST



- Revenue forecast reflects lower revenue cap and \$5.6 million reduction in franchise fees.
- Expenditure forecast reflects 30 officers per year and 1 new Fire/EMS station opening per year.



WHAT PASSED: BILLS OF INTEREST

Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force: HB 1590 (Rep. Howard) – effective 6/4/19

The bill creates the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force in the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division and establishes its duties and membership.

Evidence of Sex Offenses: HB 8 (Rep. Neave) – effective 9/1/2019

The bill revises timelines for the possession and analysis of sexual assault examination kits, requires an audit and deadlines for the analysis of untested kits, amends preservation guidelines in certain circumstances, and extends the statute of limitations for certain sexual assault offenses.

Firearm Safety: HB 1 (budget rider by Rep. Howard) – effective 9/1/2019

The budget rider directs the Department of Public Safety to spend \$1 million to implement a safe storage public safety awareness campaign. The campaign is designed to encourage firearm safety and to improve public awareness on the topics of prevention of firearm accidents involving children, suicide prevention, and the safe handling and storage of firearms.



WHAT PASSED: BILLS OF INTEREST

Opioid Antagonist Grant Programs:

- **HB 3285 (Rep. Sheffield) – effective 9/1/2019**

The bill requires the criminal justice division of the governor's office to establish and administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to a law enforcement agency which seeks to provide opioid antagonists to peace officers, evidence technicians, and related personnel who, in the course of performing their duties, are likely to come into contact with opioids or encounter persons suffering from an apparent opioid-related drug overdose. The bill also provides that the Health and Human Services Commission: (a) must operate a program to provide opioid antagonists for the prevention of opioid overdoses in a manner determined by the executive commissioner to best accomplish that purpose; and (b) may provide opioid antagonists to emergency medical services personnel, first responders, public schools, community centers, and other persons likely to be in a position to respond to an opioid overdose.

- **SB 340 (Sen. Huffman) – effective 6/10/2019**

The bill establishes a state grant program to provide financial assistance to a law enforcement agency that seeks to provide opioid antagonists to its personnel who in the course of performing their duties are likely to come into contact with opioids or encounter persons suffering from an apparent opioid-related drug overdose. The bill requires a law enforcement agency that seeks the grant to first adopt a policy addressing the usage of an opioid antagonist for a person suffering from an apparent opioid-related drug overdose.



WHAT PASSED: BILLS OF INTEREST

Licensed Carry: HB 121 (Rep. Swanson) – effective 9/1/2019

The bill provides that it is a defense to prosecution to the offenses of trespass by a license holder with a concealed or openly carried handgun (i.e., going where a “30.06” or “30.07” sign prohibits carry) that the license holder was personally given notice by oral communication and promptly departed from the property.

Licensed Carry Notice: HB 1791 (Rep. Krause) – effective 9/1/2019

The bill provides that a city may not take any action that states or implies that a license holder who is carrying a handgun under the authority of state law is prohibited from entering or remaining on a premises or other place owned or leased by the governmental entity, unless license holders are prohibited from carrying a handgun on the premises or other place by state law.

Arrestees’ Mental Health: HB 601 (Rep. Price) – effective 9/1/2019

The bill requires local mental health personnel or a service provider that contracts with a jail to interview and collect information regarding potential mental illness or intellectual disability of a defendant if the defendant has not previously been interviewed by a qualified mental health expert on or after the date of arrest. The local mental health personnel or service providers is required to provide a magistrate with a written report of the interview and the information collected.



WHAT DID NOT PASS: BILLS OF INTEREST

Loss of Firearm: HB 1207 (Rep. Rodriguez) – left pending in House Homeland Security and Public Safety

The bill would create a new Class C offense if a person who owns or possesses a firearm fails to report the loss or theft of the firearm within five days after learning that the firearm has been lost or stolen.

Child Passenger Safety Seat System: HB 448 (Rep. Turner) – vetoed

The bill would have created an offense for a person who operates a vehicle while transporting a child younger than two years of age and fails to secure the child in a rear-facing child passenger safety seat system. The Governor indicated that the bill was, “an unnecessary invasion of parental rights and an unfortunate example of over-criminalization.”

Firearms in Airports: HB 1168 (Rep. Anchia) – vetoed

The bill would have created an offense of possessing or going with certain prohibited weapons in or into a secured area of an airport. The Governor indicated that the bill would, “impose an unacceptable restraint on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding travelers.”



QUESTIONS?

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