



CITY OF HOUSTON

Office of the Mayor

Interoffice

Correspondence

To: Houston City Council

From: Mayor's Office of Govt. Relations

Date: April 26, 2019

Subject: Update to Council

There are 35 days left in the 86th legislative session and to date the Senators have authored 2549 bills while the House members have authored 4752 bills. If the House does not meet on Saturday or Sunday that means there are only 11 more calendars that can be considered before the May 7th, 2019, 10 p.m. deadline. The work is scheduled now in all committees that are meeting nightly with daily debate in the Chambers.

Hurricane Harvey Legislation

Both the Senate and House passed the Harvey-related measures — Senate Bill 7 and House Bill 13 — through their respective chambers that address funding for Harvey Recovery.

The City of Houston's priority continues to be for the State of Texas to provide the Local Match to maximize federal drawdowns for Public Assistance & Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects. Working with Sen. Brandon Creighton & Rep. Dade Phelan, we will continue to push for this funding in the different versions of Senate and House bills.

Keep in mind the City of Houston estimate is \$228 million needed for the 436 PA projects. Both the House and Senate Supplemental Appropriations bill contain \$273 million for non-federal match for HMGP.

Budget Conferees

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick appointed the following Senators to the HB1 Conference Committee: Senators Jane Nelson, Chair of Flower Mound, Larry Taylor of Friendswood, Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham, Robert Nichols of Jacksonville, and Joan Huffman of Houston.

They will join their House counterparts: John Zerwas of Richmond, Chair, Greg Bonnen of Friendswood, Sarah Davis of West University Place, Oscar Longoria of Mission, and Armando Walle of Houston to hammer out the differences in the budget.

Bills of Concern

The Government Relations team continues to monitor a number of pieces of legislation that will negatively affect the City of Houston. Those bills include:

House Bill 3535/Senate Bill 1152 - Cable Fees - Passed Senate, In House Calendars - Companies that offer both video and phone service would reap tens of millions of dollars from a reduction in fees they pay to cities for the use of taxpayer owned property. Potential cut to Houston's budget is between \$17 and \$27 million.

House Bill 3899 - Super Preemption - In House Calendars - The bill would prohibit cities from regulating nearly any aspect of businesses that operate in more than one Texas city. This would include payday lenders, strip clubs, massage parlors, pawn shops, billboards, and card rooms.

House Bill 281/Senate Bill 29 - Prohibition on City Lobbying - Passed Senate, In House Calendars - Many powerful interests want to permanently silence cities because they want Legislators to only hear their side of the story. These bills would prevent cities (and TML) from hiring lobbyists to tell legislators about the public policy implications, such as the negative impacts of HB 3535/SB 1152.

Senate Bill 1209 – Preemption of Local Licensing – Passed the Senate, received in the House – The bill would prohibit a municipality from requiring a local occupational license if the state already has a licensing requirement for that same occupation. The Houston Police Department has strong concerns regarding the implication on their towing program, as well as the preemptive concerns regarding City Council's ordinance making authority.