



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Pete Flores

District 24

Senate District 24 Capitol Update: Property Tax Relief and First Bill layouts

Property Tax Relief passes the Senate!

The Senate Tax Relief Plan, composed of Senate Bills 3, 4, and 5, will put more money back in the pockets of all taxpayers. These property tax bills will provide an astounding \$16.5 billion in tax relief for Texans. With this package, 5.72 million homesteads will save nearly \$800 a year.

SB 3 will raise the Homestead Exemption 75% to \$70,000. SB 3 will also implement the voter-approved Homestead Exemption increase from \$25,000 to \$40,000 for all over-65 and disabled homesteads from Propositions 1 and 2 in May of 2022. This \$100,000 exemption in total, for seniors that have paid a lifetime of taxes, saves them over \$1,000 per year.

SB 4 will provide \$5.38 billion to compress ISD tax rates an additional 7.03 pennies. This bill also reduces recapture by expanding the finance equity band to 20%. The reduction in the Maximum Compression Rate (MCR) limitation will allow more school districts that are clustered at the MCR floor to reduce their tax rates further, thereby reducing the amount of recapture they pay.

SB 5 will create an Inventory Tax Credit totaling \$1.05 billion. This bill will raise the Business Personal Property Exemption to \$25,000 from \$2,500, saving \$450 million. It will also cut business compliance costs, therefore saving businesses more money.

First bills heard in committee!

Over the last two weeks, I have laid out my first three bills in committee.

Senate Bill 1008 – military residency for school admissions

Many military families are experiencing long lead times to find housing frequently taking up to 90 days to find housing. This creates a challenge for military family students to remain in stable schooling. SB 1008 amends current law to change the period of time in which proof of residency must be provided to the school district to allow for 90 days after the specified arrival date. This change will account for the long lead time to find housing and lead to more stability for over 165,000 military students in Texas Schools.

Senate Bill 1237 – peace officer compensation

The State of Texas has a "Position Classification Plan" to account for fair and competitive pay in its positions. Current law has certain peace officers of the State being paid on a lesser compensation plan than others, SB 1237 amends the law to bring peace officers commissioned by the Comptroller in line with other state commissioned officers, moving them to a salary schedule C. Our state peace officers all do incredible work protecting our state and upholding our laws, and they all deserve to have fair compensation.

Senate Bill 1427 – protecting our border

The past few years Texas has seen increasing border arrests exceeding a million each year. This year, in 2023 we are on pace to surpass one and a half million arrests at our southern border. Drug cartels and trafficking operations are major contributing organizations to these numbers. A recent report revealed that they are profiting nearly \$13 billion per year on human trafficking operations in the US and throughout Central America. SB 1427 enhances penalties for smuggling and continuous smuggling to a minimum of 10 years imprisonment. Which will put the State in line with Federal human trafficking and smuggling laws. Additionally, it enhances an offense for operating a stash house from a Class A to a third-degree felony. While the Federal government continues its inaction, Texas must continue to implement policies that strengthen immigration laws and protect our state from future abuse by cartels.

All legislation can be viewed online at capitol.texas.gov

If my office is ever able to assist you or your family with state issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our Capitol Office can be reached at 512-463-0124 or by visiting my website [here](#). My team is ready to assist with any state agency issues that you face, including Medicaid assistance, SNAP benefits, workers compensation, and a multitude of other issues. We are always happy to hear from our constituents. Hearing from SD-24 allows me and my entire team to best represent and serve our district.