



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Pete Flores

District 24

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Senator Pete Flores Pre-Files Legislation for The 89th Texas Legislative Session

AUSTIN, TX-

As the filing of bills began on Tuesday for the upcoming legislative session, dozens are focused on tougher criminal penalties to curb a growing crime spree in Texas.

State Sen. Pete Flores, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice that will be assigned to review much of that legislation, pledged a get-tough policy on criminals who are victimizing Texans – from increased prison sentences for thieves who are engaged in organized retail crime costing consumers hundreds of millions of dollars and financial scams targeting the poor and elderly.

“This illegal activity stops now in Texas. Period,” said Flores, R-Pleasanton, a retired Colonel of Texas game wardens who is filing legislation to get tough on organized retail thieves, financial scammers, bank fraudsters and illegal migrants who are committing crimes. **“Tougher penalties ensure safer streets, improved public safety.”**

On the first day for bills, Flores filed legislation that would reform the rebate program for local governments that provide a full property tax-exemption for disabled veterans and a bill and constitutional amendment to allow a homeowner’s tax appraisal to be based on what they paid for their home, with no increase until they sell it to someone else. **“It’s time for some common sense like this to be added to our appraisal system,”** the senator said.

In addition, Flores filed a bill to outlaw homeless campers from taking over public spaces and harassing citizens.

Flores said that he will file important additional criminal justice legislation in coming days, with one theme: **“We’re going to hold criminals accountable.”**

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