



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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Senator César Blanco Sends First Slate of Bills to Governor's Desk

Austin, Texas – Four bills authored by Senator César J. Blanco (El Paso) have received approval by both, the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives, and await the Governor's signature. This first group of bills are:

- **SB1588 bolsters the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workforce for better response to life-saving services.**

"Communities across Texas are facing critical EMS staffing shortages which contribute to longer response times to ambulatory services. SB1588 will make it easier to fill EMS workforce gaps across Texas, especially in rural communities, to provide better life-saving care to our residents."

- **SB1210 reduces abandoned oil & gas wells and promotes renewable geothermal energy.**

"Texas is plagued with many abandoned oil and gas wells which pose significant risks to human and environmental health by leaking toxic chemicals into the air, contaminating groundwater and emitting methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Senate Bill 1210 will reduce the number of abandoned wells by allowing geothermal operators to adopt and repurpose those wells to produce clean renewable energy."

- **SB2214 provides compensatory time for Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) staff who work weekends and holidays.**

"The Department of Family Protective Services staff are on the front lines receiving and responding to family and child abuse complaints and work 24/7, including weekends, nights, and holidays. To improve staff morale and avoid staff burnout, Senate Bill 2214 will grant DFPS staff compensatory time off for the extraordinary hours they work to serve Texans."

- **SB617 protects the confidentiality of the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Officer's home address.**

"With increased trafficking and cartel activity, there are concerns that Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents will become the targets of criminal threats and harassment. Senate Bill 617 will protect CBP officers by allowing them to conceal their home addresses in public tax records."

"I look forward to Governor Abbott approving these important pieces of legislation."