

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 18, 2023

The Honorable Jane Nelson Secretary of State Texas State Capitol, Room 1E.8 Austin, Texas 78701

Secretary of State

SECRETARY OF STATE

JUN 18 2023

Dear Secretary Nelson:

The Governor has reviewed the following legislation from the 88th Texas Legislature and taken the following action. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, the Governor has signed the following legislation while disapproving of certain sections which have been marked and struck in the original:

House Bill No. 1 by Bonnen.

The 88th Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of the legislation referenced above to the Legislature for further consideration. Therefore, pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Texas Constitution, I am filing this legislation and these proclamations with your office. Original copies of the disapproved legislation referenced above and proclamations stating the Governor's objections to this legislation are attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson

Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD:gsd

Attachments

H.B. No. 1

I certify that H.B. No. 1 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on April 17, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1 on May 26, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2; passed subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 49a, of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Secretary of the Senate

I certify that the amounts appropriated in the herein H.B. No. 1, Regular Session of the 88th Legislature, are within amounts estimated to be available in the affected fund.

Certified Tw

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Comptroller of Public Accounts

APPROVED:

Date

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Secretary of State

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

House Bill No. 1, the General Appropriations Act, having been duly certified by the Comptroller of Public Accounts pursuant to Article III, Section 49a of the Texas Constitution, has been presented to me for action.

This budget provides historic levels of property tax relief and does not allow government to grow in an amount greater than the increase in population and inflation. This Act also makes targeted investments in areas such as public education, higher education, mental health care, foster care, law enforcement, border security, pension solvency, state parks, and broadband access that will continue building the Texas of Tomorrow.

Before turning to the objectionable item of appropriation in House Bill No. 1, I must note that Section 17.36 of Article IX is unconstitutional. Section 17.36 purports to tell the Lottery Commission that it must issue a new rule on a particular subject. This attempt to make general law in the General Appropriations Act violates Article III, Section 35 of the Texas Constitution. A similar command to the Lottery Commission was proposed in Senate Bill No. 1820, but the Legislature did not pass that bill.

I hereby object to and veto the following item from House Bill No. 1, and include a statement of my objection to this item.

Article IX – General Provisions

Contingency and Other Provisions

Sec. 18.76. Contingency for Senate Joint Resolution 81.—Contingent on the enactment of Senate Joint Resolution 81 by the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, or similar legislation, and after approval of the constitutional amendment by the voters:

(a) Appropriate \$1,050,000,000 in General Revenue Funds to the Comptroller of Public Accounts, for distribution to the permanent fund on January 1, 2024; and

(b) Create a new bill pattern for the Available Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund and in relevant strategies, increase funding by an amount of Other Funds the Comptroller determines to be available for distribution from the Permanent Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund in fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025, in accordance with a distribution policy to be adopted by the Comptroller. Add the following riders to the bill pattern:

1. Texas State Technical College System Share. There is appropriated to the board of regents of the Texas State Technical College System for the biennium ending August 31, 2025, upon request of the system to the Comptroller of Public Accounts, that portion of the Available Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund apportioned to it by Article VII, Section 23(j) of the Texas Constitution, together with interest and any balance in any account established within the available fund by the system for any previous fiscal year.

2. Texas State University System Share. There is appropriated to the board of regents of the Texas State University System for the biennium ending August 31, 2025, upon request of the system to the Comptroller of Public Accounts, that portion of the Available Instruction in FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE

Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund apportioned to it by Article VII, Section 23(j) of the Texas Constitution, together with interest and any balance in any account established within the available fund by the system for any previous fiscal year.

- 3. Reporting. The Texas State Technical College System and the Texas State University System shall report to the Legislature and the Governor no later than December 1 of each year, beginning December 1, 2024, the uses of the Available Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund for each system component for the two previous fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and two future fiscal years (projected). Each report shall contain detailed information on the following:
- (1) debt service allocations, by component;
- (2) bond proceeds allocations, by component;
- (3) available fund allocations, by component, and their purposes;
- (4) available fund income, interest, beginning and end of year balances; and
- (5) the rationale used by the respective boards to distribute the available funds.
- 4. Appropriation: Unexpended Balances. Any unobligated and unexpended balances as of August 31, 2023, in Available Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund appropriations apportioned to the Texas State Technical College System or Texas State University System are appropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023. Any unobligated and unexpended balances as of August 31, 2024, in Available Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Fund appropriations apportioned to the Texas State Technical College System or Texas State University System are appropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.

This veto deletes a contingency rider for a joint resolution that did not pass.

I have signed House Bill No. 1 together with this proclamation, stating my objections in accordance with Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution.

Since the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing this bill and this objection in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 18th day of June, 2023.

GREG ABBOTT

Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

JANE NELSON Secretary of State Khatt

JUN 18 2023