

Legislative Update

88th Texas Legislature

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Session Statistics

Total Bills Filed

Chamber	86 th Legislative Session	87 th Legislative Session	88 th Legislative Session
House	4,765 (2,281)	4,671 (2,273)	2,640
Senate	2,559 (1,054)	2,259 (800)	1,092
Total	7,324 (3,335)	6,930 (3,073)	3,732

(Denotes what had been filed on Feb 24 that session)



Criminal Justice Committee Recommendations

BAIL

SJR 44 (Sen. Huffman)

- Constitutional amendment to implement preventative detention

JUDICIAL WORK PRODUCT SECURITY

HB 1741 (Rep. Leach)/ SB 372 (Sen. Huffman)

- Creates a class A misdemeanor to publicly distribute draft judicial opinions or work product

YOUTH CLASS C DIVERSION

- Allows youth charged with Class C fine-only offenses to be handled similarly to the way more serious offenses are handled
- Provides diversion opportunities
 - Examples include participating in alcohol awareness programs, tobacco awareness programs and jobs skills training
- More than 39,600 non-traffic Class C fine-only offenses filed against juveniles in FY22
- Submitted to lege council



Public Trust and Confidence Committee Recommendations

CLEAN SLATE

SB 499 (Sen. Zaffirini) / HB 1737 (Rep. Leach)

- Automate the record sealing process for people with first-time, non-violent misdemeanors

CIVICS EDUCATION

- Increases civic training requirements for social studies teachers and curriculum requirements for students
- Submitted to lege council



Civil Justice Committee Recommendations

FAMILY REPRESENTATION IN CHILD PROTECTION CASES

- After the 86th Texas Legislative passed SB 560, TJC directed TIDC to begin data collection on court-appointment systems in child protection cases.
- TJC recommended the creation of a Family Protection Legal Representation Program within TIDC.
- Bill draft back from lege council



Criminal & Civil Justice Committee Recommendations

JUVENILE NICS REPORTING

HB 2780 (Rep. Leach)/SB 728 (Sen. Huffman)

- Clarifies clerk reporting of cases to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) for juveniles who meet the definition of a “federal prohibited person” for purchase / possession of a firearm related to MH or ID in certain circumstances.



TJC Committee Recommendations

MENTAL HEALTH

- The Committee recommended additional reforms to the ways courts and the criminal justice system interact with individuals with mental health conditions or an intellectual developmental disability.
- 16 topic areas
- Submitted to lege council

JUDICIAL COMPENSATION

HB 2779 (Rep. Leach)/SB 802 (Sen. Hughes)

- Would raise the base pay of a District Court Judge 11% in FY 24 and another 11% in FY 25.



TJC Committee Recommendations

CASE LEVEL DATA

- **HB 841 (Rep. Ordaz Perez)**
 - Requires TJC/OCA to collect case level data
- **HB 1182 (Rep. Harless)**
 - Requires TJC/OCA to collect case level data in counties with population over 1 million
- **HB 1841 (Rep. Walle)**
 - Requires TJC/OCA to collect case level data on evictions
- **HB 2043 (Rep. Bowers) / SB 875 (Sen. West)**
 - Requires OCA to collect and analyze pretrial and sentencing information



Bills of Interest

- **HB 2272 (Rep. Swanson)**
 - Child Protection Court Associate Judge qualifications
- **HB 2384 (Rep. Leach)**
 - Judicial Qualifications
- **SB 1045 (Sen. Huffman)**
 - Creates the 15th Court of Appeals– Statewide Court
- **HB 1728 (Rep. Cunningham), HB 2117 (Rep Oliverson)**
 - Bail bills
- **SB 380 (Sen. Zaffirini)**
 - Repayment of Interpreter Court Costs



Judiciary Budget Highlights

SB1 / HB1

- Filed January 18, 2023
- 5% salary increase in FY24 & FY25 for state employees
- OCA received \$6 million to support case level data
- Article IV Budget Hearings
 - Senate Finance – February 16, 2023
 - Feedback to the judicial branch largely focused on bail.
 - House Appropriations – February 23, 2023

