



CAI Texas/TCAA LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

TCAA Minute – February 8, 2021

Community Association Legislation

The pace of the Texas legislative session should begin to pick up in the coming weeks, and CAI Texas Chapters and TCAA continue to track legislation important to community associations. Here are a few newly filed bills that are worth watching:

HB 934 (Raymond) restricts the use of motorized scooters to bike lanes and roads with speed limits of 30 MPH or less. The bill specifically allows for operation on sidewalks, but restricts the maximum speed and number of riders on scooters. The bill also authorizes municipalities to adopt additional regulations on scooter use.

HB 1030 (Shaheen) proposes changes to the permissible media formats that a political subdivision may use to provide required public notices. This bill would provide political subdivisions with more options than just a newspaper to provide public notice, including the use of a homeowners' association newsletter or magazine. Other alternative forms of notice include websites maintained by the Texas Comptroller or the political subdivision, social media, free newspapers, school newspapers, utility bills, and direct mailings.

SB 318 (Huffman) relates to the retention, request, and production of certain records of condominium unit owners' associations. These associations would be required to adopt records production and document retention policies in a manner similar to the requirements and conditions applicable to single-family HOAs.

Texas House Speaker Announces Committee Appointments

Speaker Dade Phelan has announced his appointments to the committees of the Texas House. Notable selections include Greg Bonnen replacing acting chair Giovanni Capriglione as chair of Appropriations, Chris Paddie taking over the State Affairs Committee that Phelan vacated to become speaker, Jim Murphy leading the Higher Education Committee that was previously run by Democrat Chris Turner, and long-serving Democrat Harold Dutton replacing Dan Huberty as chair of Public Education.

Phelan touted the diversity of his appointments, having named five women to lead committees, along with fourteen committees chaired by Black, Hispanic, or Asian American legislators. Eleven committee chairs are from rural areas and 24 are from urban areas. Phelan also gave chairmanships to a number of lieutenants of the previous House Speaker, Dennis Bonnen, who declined to seek reelection after audio surfaced of Bonnen asking a conservative activist to target a handful of fellow Republicans in primary elections.

Below are the appointees to two House committees that are particularly important to homeowner interests in Texas:

House Business & Industry Committee: Chris Turner (*Chair* – D - Dallas), Cole Hefner (*Vice Chair* – R - Mount Pleasant), Briscoe Cain (R - Deer Park), Hugh Shine (R – Temple), Jasmine Crockett (D- Dallas), Stan Lambert (R – Abilene), Claudia Ordaz Perez (D – El Paso), Jared Patterson (R – Frisco), and Senfronia Thompson (Houston)

House Calendars Committee: Dustin Burrows (*Chair* – R - Lubbock), Joe Moody (*Vice Chair* – D – El Paso), Tom Craddick (R – Midland), Cody Harris (R – Palestine), Cole Hefner (R – Mount Pleasant), Ana Hernandez (D – Houston), Ben Lemman (R – Anderson), Jared Patterson (R – Frisco), Toni Rose (D – Dallas), Shelby Slawson (R – Stephenville), and James Talarico (R – Round Rock)

Governor Abbott Announces Legislative Agenda and Emergency Items

In his biennial State of the State speech last week, Governor Greg Abbott outlined his agenda for the current legislative session, with the goal of creating a Healthier Texas, a Safer Texas, and a Freer Texas. His priorities include expanding telemedicine, improving police training, ensuring border security, protecting religious liberties and gun rights, and supporting Texas businesses. Abbott also designated five emergency items, which are matters the Texas Legislature can vote on within the first 60 days of the legislative session. The five emergency items are:

- Expand broadband access in Texas
- Ensure that local governments do not defund police
- Reform the prison bail system so that dangerous criminals are not prematurely released from jail
- Strengthen election integrity and security
- Protect individuals and businesses from litigation related to COVID-19

Get Involved

CAI and TCAA hope to hear from you about the issues of concern to you and your neighbors, and we also encourage you to share your support of community associations with your local legislators. For more information on the Texas Legislature and updates on our activities and events, please visit caionline.org/txlac and txcaa.org.