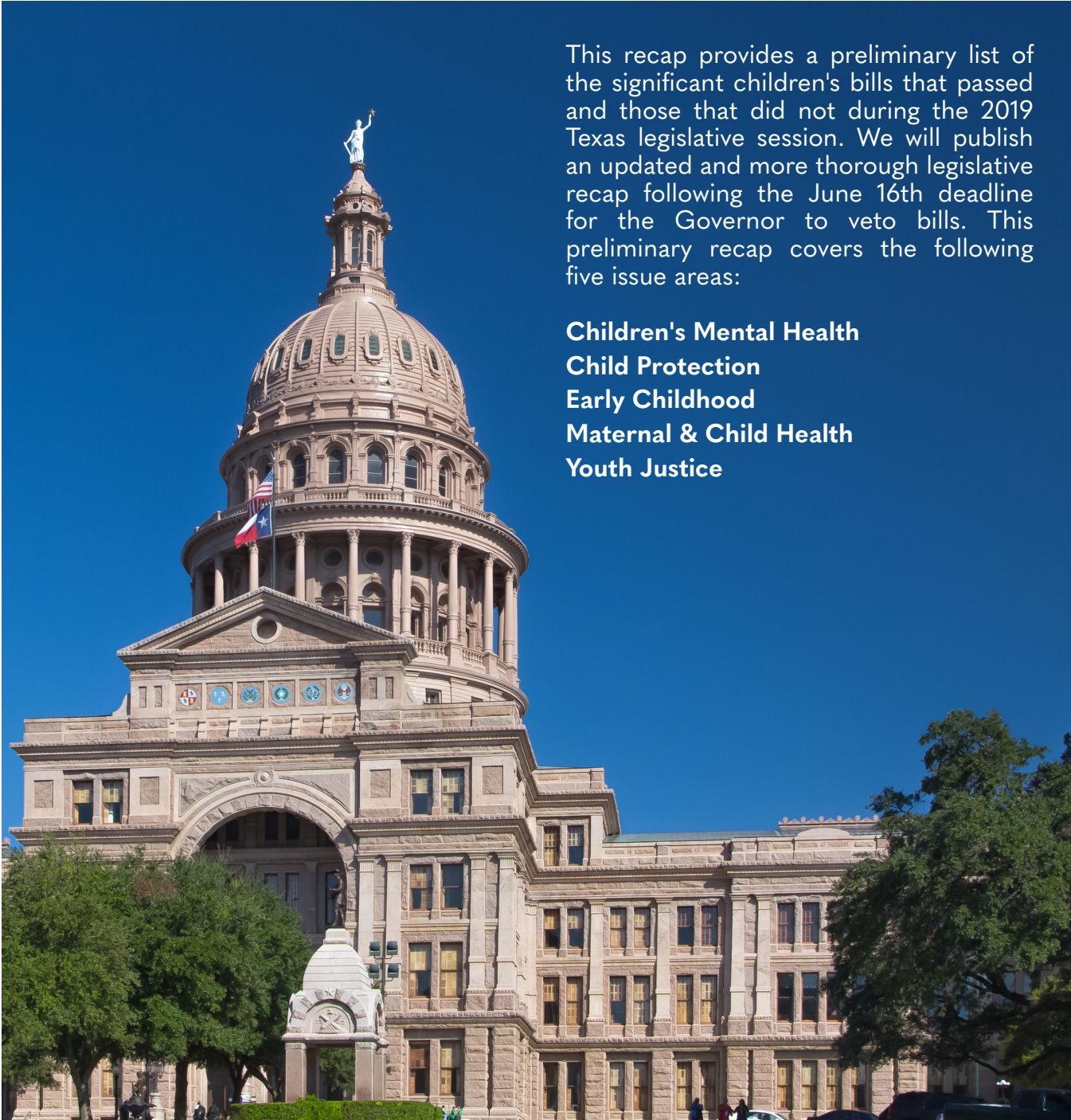


# DID THE LEGE PASS THAT BILL?

## A PRELIMINARY RECAP OF KEY CHILDREN'S BILLS FROM THE 2019 TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



This recap provides a preliminary list of the significant children's bills that passed and those that did not during the 2019 Texas legislative session. We will publish an updated and more thorough legislative recap following the June 16th deadline for the Governor to veto bills. This preliminary recap covers the following five issue areas:

- Children's Mental Health**
- Child Protection**
- Early Childhood**
- Maternal & Child Health**
- Youth Justice**

# CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Status as of May 27, 2019. The Governor may veto bills until June 16, 2019.

**PASSED**

## Support Children's Mental Health in the Community

### **HB 3980 by Rep. Hunter**

Similar bill: SB 1176 by Sen. Menéndez

This bill requires a report on what is currently known about suicide rates across the lifespan, state agencies' activities related to suicide, and policy recommendations to reduce suicide rates among all Texans.

### **SB 10 by Sen. Nelson**

Passed as an amendment to SB 11

This bill establishes the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium to increase children's access to mental health care. The bill leverages health science and medical schools within the state to provide psychiatric consultation services and training opportunities to pediatricians and primary care providers; expand the use of telehealth and telemedicine programs to provide children with mental health care services; and expand the child psychiatry workforce in the state.

### **SB 1177 by Sen. Menéndez**

This bill provides Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) with the flexibility to cover home- or community-based services "in lieu of" more restrictive mental health services when they are medically appropriate, evidence-based, and with patient consent.

## Support Children's Mental Health in School

### **HB 18 by Rep. Price**

This omnibus student mental health bill includes multiple strategies aimed at increasing the capacity of school districts and school personnel to support the mental health and development of students, including training, policy, and planning requirements related to student mental health, the use of trauma-informed practices, social and emotional skill development, and comprehensive suicide prevention.

## Support Children's Mental Health in School (continued)

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### HB 19 by Rep. Price

This bill directs local mental health authorities (LMHAs) to provide a mental health professional at each regional education service center (ESC) to serve as a resource to school districts and school personnel, offering training and consultation services on using effective practices to address student mental health within the school environment.

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### HB 4414 by Rep. Allison

Passed as an amendment to SB 11  
Similar bill: SB 1563 by Sen. Lucio

This bill requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and regional ESCs to develop statewide and regional inventories of resources schools can consider using to support student mental health and create safe and supporting learning environments. The bill also requires TEA to develop a statewide plan for student mental health, including legislative recommendations, to ensure all students have access to mental health resources.

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### SB 11 by Sen. Taylor

This omnibus school safety bill includes several provisions that address safe and supportive school climates, including the use of trauma-informed practices, multi-tiered systems of student support, and suicide prevention. The bill also provides school districts with an annual "school safety" funding allotment to support a range of approved safety and security activities, which schools can use to support student mental health and suicide prevention strategies.

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### SB 1390 by Sen. Menéndez

Passed as an amendment to SB 11 and HB 18

This bill promotes comprehensive suicide prevention strategies in school, including requiring school districts to have plans in place on how they will respond to suicide attempts or deaths within a school community that will help prevent further suicidal behaviors.

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## Impact Children

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### HB 906 by Rep. S. Thompson

This bill establishes a task force to study and evaluate state-funded mental health services and trainings provided at school districts.

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# DID NOT PASS

## Support Children’s Mental Health in the Community

<b>HB 10 by Rep. S. Thompson</b>	This bill would have established the Texas Mental and Behavioral Health Research Institute focusing on child and adolescent behavioral health needs and funds research on behavioral health issues.
<b>HB 501 by Rep. S. Thompson</b>	This bill would have required group health benefit plans to provide coverage for serious emotional disturbance in children and ensure children receive the same mental health coverage and parity protections as adults.
<b>HB 2080 by Rep. Coleman</b>	This bill would have created a Medicaid benefit for children with serious emotional disturbance for family partner peer support services provided by certified family partners.

## Support Children’s Mental Health in School

<b>HB 1335 by Rep. Price</b> Similar bill: SB 2003 by Sen. Whitmire	This bill would have created a grant program for public school districts seeking to establish school-based behavioral health centers.
<b>HB 2511 by Rep. Allen</b>	This bill would have required campus improvement plans to include strategies to promote nurturing classroom environments, positive relationships between teachers and students, and building resilience in students.
<b>HB 4454 by Rep. Rodriguez</b>	This bill would have required the State Board of Education to adopt developmentally appropriate, evidence-based standards for social and emotional learning and required each public school district to provide these standards in each grade level.
<b>SB 426 by Sen. Lucio</b> Similar bill: HB 727 by Rep. M. González	This bill would have required districts to adopt policies regarding the percentage of work time for school counselors to spend on duties relating to counseling programs.

# CHILD PROTECTION

Status as of May 27, 2019. The Governor may veto bills until June 16, 2019.

## PASSED

### Support Children

#### HB 53 by Rep. Minjarez

This bill requires Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) training for youth transitioning out of foster care to cover new topics including civic engagement and topics related to financial literacy.

#### HB 72 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 1493 by Sen. Paxton

This bill allows adoptive parents to opt into STAR Health Medicaid for a child with a chronic health condition and establishes a program that protects the continuity of care for each child following adoption.

#### HB 123 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 481 by Sen. Watson

This bill allows youth in foster care, youth experiencing homelessness, and unaccompanied minors to receive a copy of their birth certificate without parental consent and with no fee, and apply for a Driver's License or state ID without paying a fee.

#### HB 475 by Rep. Howard

Similar bill: SB 1290 by Sen. Watson

This bill ensures pregnant and parenting youth in foster care receive basic parenting education and services that will help preserve their young families. The bill addresses youth in regions of the state that are not served by the Helping through Intervention and Prevention (HIP) program.

#### HB 811 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 424 by Sen. West

This bill requires public schools to consider whether a child is experiencing homelessness or is in foster care when taking disciplinary action.

#### HB 1702 by Rep. Howard

Similar bill: SB 1357 by Sen. Hancock

This bill helps colleges and universities identify students who were formerly in foster care, requires schools to provide information to those students about available supports, and encourages staff to receive relevant training.

#### HB 1780 by Rep. Miller

This bill requires courts to consider whether a parent made a good faith effort to complete substance use treatment in determining whether to extend the dismissal date in CPS cases to give more families an opportunity to successfully reunify.

## Support Children (continued)

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### HB 2737 by Rep. Wu

This bill requires the Children’s Commission to develop guidelines for judges that will establish greater uniformity in how Texas handles juvenile justice or CPS cases involving children with mental illness; placement of children and termination of parental rights in CPS cases; and the release of detained children, certification of juveniles to stand trial as adults, and the use of restraints or clothing worn during juvenile proceedings.

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### HB 3390 by Rep. Sanford

This bill requires guardians ad litem, attorneys ad litem, and CPS caseworkers to ask children, in a developmentally appropriate way, about any adult who could be a caregiver for the child. This bill will ensure that judges ask children about the relationships in their lives at every permanency hearing.

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### HB 3809 by Rep. Goldman

This bill extends the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse for both individuals and culpable organizations.

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### SB 355 by Sen. West

Similar bill: HB 4263 by Rep. Klick

This bill requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to develop a strategic plan for implementing prevention programs that comply with the Family First Prevention Services Act.

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## Impact Children

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### HB 2363 by Rep. Harris

This bill allows foster parents to store loaded guns in a locked storage container. Previously, guns had to be unloaded, locked, and stored separately from ammunition.

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### SB 195 by Sen. Perry

This bill requires DFPS to publicly report state-level data related to parental substance use and prenatal substance exposure.

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### SB 781 by Sen. Kolkhorst

Similar bill: HB 1698 by Rep. Leman

This bill changes the licensing process for General Residential Operations and Residential Treatment Centers, removes evaluation as a minimum standards enforcement mechanism, requires DFPS to develop protocols to reduce runaways and increase normalcy activities, moves residential child care licensing toward performance-based contracting, and requires DFPS to develop a strategic plan for developing foster care facilities eligible for federal financial participation under the Family First Prevention Services Act.

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## Raise Concerns

### HB 2764 by Rep. Frank

This bill requires DFPS to review and simplify minimum standards so they are more flexible and caps training for foster parents at 35 hours.

## DID NOT PASS

## Support Children

### HB 45 by Rep. Minjarez

This bill would have required DFPS to work with community-based organizations to establish a mentor program to serve youth age 14 and older in foster care.

### HB 141 by Rep. M. González

Similar bill: SB 255 by Sen. Rodríguez

This bill would have required DFPS to hire caseworkers with at least a bachelor's degree in social work.

### HB 473 by Rep. Howard

Similar bill: SB 1288 by Sen. Watson

This bill would have improved state data collection and reporting on pregnant and parenting youth in foster care to inform state decisions about expanding services and supports.

### HB 474 by Rep. Howard

Similar bill: SB 1289 by Sen. Watson

This bill would have ensured DFPS' foster care needs assessment helps the state implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) by collecting information on placements that will continue to be reimbursable using federal funding.

### HB 576 by Rep. White

This bill would have provided monetary assistance to low-income parental child safety placements.

### HB 988 by Rep. Walle

This bill would have set caseload limits for certain Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) caseworkers as well as child-care licensing inspectors. This bill would have required the DFPS abuse and neglect hotline to maintain low hold times and low call abandonment rates.

### HB 1162 by Rep. Jarvis Johnson

This bill would have required courts to provide a guardian ad litem or attorney ad litem for a child for the entire time the child remains in the conservatorship of DFPS.

### HB 1224 by Rep. White

This bill would have required peace officers or a person that has custody of an arrested child to notify DFPS to determine if the child is in foster care. It also would have required DFPS to develop procedures to review reports of arrested children and provide services to ensure the child's best interests are being represented.

## Support Children (continued)

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### HB 1362 by Rep. Wu

This bill would have required DFPS to conduct a workload study to help the agency determine safe and appropriate caseworker caseload levels, which would help the state comply with the lawsuit against the Texas foster care system.

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### HB 1536 by Rep. Miller

Similar bill: SB 2419 by Sen. Fallon

This bill would have expanded trauma-informed care across the Texas child welfare system.

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### HB 1846 by Rep. Klick

Similar bill: SB 1660 by Sen. Zaffirini

This bill would have required courts to review DFPS' efforts to ensure each child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age-appropriate normalcy activities at each permanency hearing.

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### HB 1907 by Rep. Howard

Similar bill: SB 1291 by Sen. Watson

This bill would have established optional trainings for professionals working with youth in foster care to help them communicate important information about healthy relationships, health care, and available supports for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care.

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### HB 2614 by Rep. Cole

This bill would have established a pilot program to assist youth in foster care in achieving financial security and independence as they transition to independent living.

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### HB 3370 by Rep. Deshotel

Similar bill: SB 1347 by Sen. Watson

This bill would have required the foster care ombudsman to notify youth about the outcome of the investigation into a complaint filed by that youth and required the ombudsman to report to DFPS monthly on their investigations.

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### HB 3950 by Rep. Frank

This bill would have created a joint legislative committee to evaluate and develop a strategic plan for continued rollout of Community Based Care and implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

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### HB 3393 by Rep. Jarvis Johnson

This bill would have established a workgroup at DFPS to develop a plan to ensure that youth formerly in foster care who complete the Preparation for Adult Living program are able to receive college credit for completing the program.

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### HB 3786 by Rep. Coleman

This bill would have encouraged counties to consider developing family drug courts.

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### HB 4138 by Rep. Klick

This bill would have prevented unnecessary disruptions in health care coverage for young adults who were formerly in foster care by streamlining the process to determine Medicaid eligibility through automatic enrollment and recertification of eligible individuals.

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## Support Children (continued)

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### HB 4183 by Rep. Parker

This bill would have required state agencies to develop a strategic plan to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences.

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### SB 98 by Sen. Menéndez

This bill would have increased the number of kinship caregivers eligible to receive financial assistance by removing the licensing requirement.

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### SB 333 by Sen. West

This bill would have required attorneys ad litem to be appointed to children in long-term foster care.

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### SB 480 by Sen. Watson

Similar bill: HB 3379 by Rep. Klick

This bill would have improved services and supports for older youth in foster care and youth transitioning out of care, drawing on recommendations from the DFPS SB 1758 Workgroup.

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### SB 951 by Sen. Watson

Similar bill: HB 2926 by Rep. Hinojosa

This bill would have established a Family First Prevention Services Act task force to assess the readiness of this state to implement the new federal law by 2021.

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### SB 1333 by Sen. West

This bill would have expanded trauma-informed care across the Texas child welfare system based on recommendations made in the Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care's Blueprint.

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### SB 1535 by Sen. Menéndez

This bill would have required better communication between DFPS, Child Care Licensing, and the Foster Care Ombudsman (FCO). This bill also would have required Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) under Community Based Care to give the FCO access to internal records outside of the DFPS IMPACT system and strengthened communication between the FCO and SSCCs.

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## Raise Concerns

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### HB 1109 by Rep. Swanson

This bill would have allowed Child Placing Agencies to waive training requirements for foster parents.

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### HB 1910 by Rep. Dean

This bill would have prevented courts from considering a parent's acknowledgement or failure to acknowledge a child's gender identity or expression when making decisions regarding conservatorship or termination of parents' rights.

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## Raise Concerns (continued)

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### HB 2134 by Rep. Klick

This bill would have required all children involved in child abuse and neglect investigations to receive a specialty physician consultation, regardless of whether it is directed by the parent, attorney, department, or a medical professional. This bill also would have prevented DFPS and courts from using the best evidence to determine whether a child has experienced maltreatment.

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### HB 2756 by Rep. Leach

Similar bill: SB 2365 by Sen. Hughes

This bill would have made it more difficult to protect children and reunify families involved with CPS. It likely would have changed the process for emergency removals and required a finding of parental fitness at the outset of a CPS case, which would have to be disproven before families could be reunified.

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### HB 3331 by Rep. Frank

Similar bill: SB 2091 by Sen. Hughes

This bill would have changed reasonable efforts findings by adding a balancing test that focused on the trauma of removal while ignoring the trauma associated with prolonged abuse or neglect. It would have changed the evidentiary standard for non-emergency removals, excluded certain acts or omissions from the definition of neglect, and more.

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### HB 4189 by Rep. Middleton

This bill would have hampered the ability of professional reporters to report suspected abuse or neglect to DFPS. This bill would have required actual knowledge of abuse or neglect rather than a suspicion of abuse or neglect.

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# EARLY CHILDHOOD

Status as of May 27, 2019. The Governor may veto bills until June 16, 2019.

## PASSED

### Support Children

#### **HB 3 by Rep. Huberty**

Similar bill: SB 4 by Sen. Taylor

This bill, the major school finance legislation of the session, provides ongoing investments in early childhood education, including funding for full-day prekindergarten. It also establishes new kindergarten through third grade reading standards, directs districts to develop an early childhood literacy and mathematics proficiency plan, provides funding for districts to provide additional days of instruction to reduce summer slide in the early years, and narrows the number of approved kindergarten readiness assessments to ensure data can be easily compared across the state.

#### **HB 55 by Rep. M. González**

Passed as an amendment to HB 3

This bill directs TEA to collect important information about the state's pre-k program, including the number of students, certified teachers, and teacher's aides in each class offered by each district and whether programs were full-day or half-day.

#### **HB 65 by Rep. E. Johnson**

Similar bill: SB 304 by Sen. Miles

This bill directs TEA to collect information from school districts about out-of-school suspensions, including the basis for suspensions, the number of days students were suspended, and the number of suspensions that were inconsistent with the student code of conduct.

#### **HB 680 by Rep. Deshotel**

Similar bill: SB 1002 by Sen. Watson

This bill requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to assess and report the average cost of child care and the total number of providers and children participating in the state's quality rating system, Texas Rising Star. The bill also requires TWC to allow Local Workforce Development Boards to contract with high-quality child care providers in high-need areas and provides additional professional development to child care teachers and providers.

#### **SB 568 by Sen. Huffman**

Similar bill: HB 4261 by Rep. G. Bonnen

This bill ensures more information is available to parents on the safety records of child care centers and strengthens the child care license renewal process, among other reforms.

## Support Children (continued)

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**SB 569 by Sen. Huffman**

Similar bill: HB 4259 by Rep. G. Bonnen

This bill increases oversight for a group of small in-home child care operations the state classifies as “listed family homes.”

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**SB 706 by Sen. Watson**

Similar bill: HB 1431 by Rep. Guerra

This bill reinstates an investigation unit within the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to seek out illegally operating child care facilities.

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**SB 708 by Sen. Zaffirini**

Similar bill: HB 1682 by Rep. Raney

This bill directs HHSC to collect data on caregiver-child ratios and group size standards, as well as serious violations and injuries.

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**SB 952 by Sen. Watson**

Similar bill: HB 1808 by Rep. Lucio III

This bill updates and clarifies minimum child care standards for nutrition and active play, areas already regulated through state licensing standards.

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**SB 1679 by Sen. West**

Similar bill: HB 2020 by Rep. J. Turner

This bill provides automatic pre-k eligibility for four-year-old pre-k students who already attended three-year-old pre-k to eliminate the process of families re-establishing their eligibility in consecutive years.

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## DID NOT PASS

### Support Children

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**HB 12 by Rep. S. Davis**

Similar bill: SB 2225 by Sen. Zaffirini

This bill would have helped babies and toddlers with disabilities and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) providers by creating a telehealth pilot program, requiring some health plans to cover specified ECI services that are Medicaid-reimbursable, and creating a provider ombudsman in the HHSC.

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**HB 1635 by Rep. Miller**

Similar bill: SB 1956 by Sen. Zaffirini

This bill would have required most private insurance companies to cover certain ECI services.

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**HB 1966 by Rep. Wu**

Similar bill: SB 873 by Sen. Johnson

This bill would have clarified that child care facilities may provide notice on the percentage of children attending the facility who are immunized.

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## Support Children (continued)

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**HB 3659 by Rep. C. Turner**

This bill would have required licensed child care homes, registered child care homes, and listed family homes to obtain and maintain liability insurance.

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**HB 3738 by Rep. Goldman**

This bill would have required HHSC to create and maintain a single, user-friendly statewide website to help families assess the quality and safety of child care centers and homes.

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**HB 3739 by Rep. Goldman**

This bill would have established a pilot program to expand participation in the Texas Rising Star program.

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**HB 4450 by Rep. M. González**

Similar bill: SB 1817 by Sen. Zaffirini

This bill would have ensured child care facilities promote inclusive practices that integrate children with disabilities and special needs.

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**HB 4753 by Rep. Lopez**

This bill would have required the TWC to study the trends in and projections for the cost of child care in the state.

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**SB 705 by Sen. Watson**

Similar bill: HB 2866 by Rep. Deshotel

This bill would have improved a public DFPS database that allows parents to view child care violations over the past two years by requiring more details about the incidents to be posted and by extending the time frame to five years. It also would have required parental notification if there is an instance of sexual abuse at the child care center where their children are enrolled.

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**SB 2361 by Sen. West**

Similar bill: HB 1763 by Rep. Blanco

This bill would have allowed the otherwise ineligible children of educators employed by a Texas school district to qualify for free public pre-k.

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## Raise Concerns

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**HB 1133 by Rep. Stickland**

This bill would have allowed class sizes in K – 4 to exceed 22 students as long as the average across that grade was no more than 22 students.

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# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Status as of May 27, 2019. The Governor may veto bills until June 16, 2019.

**PASSED**

## Support Children by Supporting Maternal Health

### **HB 25 by Rep. M. González**

Similar bill: SB 937 by Sen. Zaffirini

This bill creates a pilot program that removes obstacles in the current medical transportation program and ensures more Texas mothers can attend prenatal and postpartum care appointments.

### **HB 253 by Rep. Farrar**

This bill requires the HHSC to develop and implement a five-year strategic plan to improve access to screening, referral, treatment, and support services for postpartum depression.

### **HB 405 by Rep. Minjarez**

This bill designates June as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness Month, with the goal to raise awareness of prenatal substance exposure and the impact on babies and to increase awareness of substance use treatment and recovery supports available in Texas.

### **HB 475 by Rep. Howard**

Similar bill: SB 1290 by Sen. Watson

This bill ensures pregnant and parenting youth in foster care receive basic parenting education and services that will help preserve their young families. The bill addresses youth in regions of the state that are not served by the Helping through Intervention and Prevention (HIP) program.

### **HB 650 by Rep. White**

This bill takes steps to improve health outcomes for women involved in the justice system through correctional officer training related to care for pregnant women, pregnancy and parenting classes, nutrition support for pregnant women, and a prohibition on shackling women while pregnant.

### **HB 1111 by Rep. S. Davis**

Passed as an amendment to SB 748

This bill establishes a pregnancy medical home pilot program to coordinate maternity care; establishes a pilot program to improve care coordination services for women at higher risk for poor pregnancy, birth, or postpartum outcomes; and directs HHSC to develop a program to deliver prenatal and postpartum care through telehealth services, among other provisions.

## Support Children by Supporting Maternal Health (continued)

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### **SB 436 by Sen. Nelson**

Similar bill: HB 1292 by Rep. Price

This bill seeks to improve screening to better identify and care for women with opioid use disorder; improve referrals to treatment and continuity of care; increase medication-assisted treatment options; and optimize health care provided to pregnant women with opioid use disorder and to newborns.

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### **SB 559 by Sen. Miles**

Passed as an amendment to SB 750  
Similar bill: HB 1255 by Rep. Hinojosa

This bill improves maternal health data in Texas by requiring a hospital or birthing center to send patient records to DSHS within 30 days of the state's request regarding a pregnancy-related death.

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### **SB 750 by Sen. Kolkhorst**

This bill directs HHSC to evaluate and develop a limited postpartum care package for new mothers enrolled in Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program and to develop strategies to ensure continuity of care for new mothers who transition from Medicaid for Pregnant Women into HTW, among other provisions.

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### **SB 1564 by Sen. West**

This bill improves access to medication-assisted treatment for Texans with substance use disorder by authorizing Medicaid reimbursement for the prescribing of buprenorphine by an advanced practice registered nurse.

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### **SB 2132 by Sen. Powell**

This bill improves awareness of the HTW program by adding information to the notice sent to new mothers enrolled in HTW after having a baby.

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## Support Children by Reforming Medicaid Managed Care

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### **HB 72 by Rep. White**

Similar bill: SB 1493 by Sen. Paxton

This bill allows adoptive parents to opt into STAR Health Medicaid for a child with a chronic health condition and establishes a program that protects the continuity of care for each child following adoption.

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### **SB 1096 by Sen. Perry**

This bill improves medication access for kids with disabilities by prohibiting prior authorizations for drugs prescribed to a child enrolled in the STAR Kids Medicaid managed care program; and streamlines some prior authorized process when a child is hospitalized.

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### **SB 1105 by Sen. Kolkhorst**

Passed as an amendment to HB 4533

This bill directs HHSC to implement a no-wrong-door system for Medicaid managed care grievances; establish a procedure for expedited resolution of a Medicaid-related grievance; and publish quality and health outcome data for each Medicaid health plan in an easy-to-read format.

## Support Children by Reforming Medicaid Managed Care (continued)

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### SB 1207 by Sen. Perry

This bill improves the coordination of benefits for children who have both private health insurance and Medicaid coverage in STAR Kids; creates an external medical review process to resolve a Medicaid client's appeal after HHSC or a Medicaid health plan denies or reduces health care services; streamlines several prior authorizations processes for health providers and health plans; and requires health plan notices to clients about denial of services to include a clear, easy-to-understand explanation of the reason for the denial. It includes select provisions of HB 2453 and HB 4178.

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## Support Children's Health Directly

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### HB 455 by Rep. Allen

Similar bill: SB 364 by Sen. Watson

This bill requires school districts to adopt a formal recess policy, including the number of minutes for recess and whether or not recess may be withheld as a form of punishment.

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### HB 3345 by Rep. Price

This bill requires certain private health plans regulated by the state to cover and reimburse health providers for health services delivered through telehealth on the same basis and to the same extent that the plan covers the service in an in-person setting.

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### SB 21 by Sen. Huffman

Similar bill: HB 749 by Rep. Zerwas

This bill raises the age of tobacco sales from age 18 to 21.

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### SB 670 by Sen. Buckingham

This bill eliminates some restrictions on the use of telemedicine in Medicaid so that safety-net health centers can offer telehealth benefits to kids and families.

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### SB 747 by Sen. Kolkhorst

This bill prohibits health plans that cover newborn care from limiting or excluding coverage of newborn screening tests and requires DSHS to publish on its website the cost of and instructions for submitting reimbursements for a newborn screening test kit.

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### SB 748 by Sen. Kolkhorst

This bill creates a newborn screening preservation account to establish a consistent and long-term funding stream to repair, upgrade, and expand screenings conducted by the DSHS public health lab.

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### SB 952 by Sen. Watson

Similar bill: HB 1808 by Rep. Lucio III

This bill updates and clarifies minimum child care standards for nutrition and active play, areas already regulated through state licensing standards.

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## Support Children's Health Directly (continued)

### **SB 1834 by Sen. Alvarado**

Similar bill: HB 3541 by Rep. Rose

This bill creates a pilot program that incentivizes Texas-grown fresh fruits and vegetables under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

## Impact Kids By Impacting Maternal Health

### **SB 195 by Sen. Perry**

This bill requires DFPS to collect and publicly report state-level data related to parental substance use and prenatal substance exposure.

## DID NOT PASS

## Support Children by Supporting Maternal Health

### **HB 60 by Rep. Ortega**

This bill would have required institutions of higher education to e-mail students each fall with information about the Healthy Texas Women and Family Planning Program.

### **HB 565 by Rep. Coleman**

Similar bill: HB 590 by Rep. Israel  
Similar bill: HB 826 by Rep. Bernal  
Similar bill: SB 327 by Sen. Alvarado

This bill would have used federal Medicaid expansion funding to cover uninsured low-wage adults.

### **HB 744 by Rep. Rose**

Similar bill: HB 1110 by Rep. S. Davis  
Similar bill: HB 241 by Rep. Farrar  
Similar bill: HB 411 by Rep. Thierry  
Similar bill: HB 610 by Rep. Walle  
Similar bill: SB 147 by Sen. Rodríguez

This bill would have extended the length of time eligible women are covered by Medicaid from 60 days after childbirth to 12 months.

### **HB 800 by Rep. Howard**

This bill would have included contraception as a covered benefit under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) when teens have parental consent.

### **HB 840 by Rep. Bucy**

Similar bill: SB 524 by Sen. Johnson

This bill and the accompanying constitutional amendment would have provided Texas voters an opportunity to vote on using federal Medicaid expansion funding to cover uninsured low-wage adults.

### **HB 937 by Rep. S. Davis**

Similar bill: SB 795 by Sen. Alvarado

This bill would have allowed women with Medicaid or private health insurance to receive up to a twelve-month supply of prescription contraception at one time.

## Support Children by Supporting Maternal Health (continued)

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### HB 1589 by Rep. Ortega

This bill would have improved awareness about the HTW program by notifying pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid that they will be auto-enrolled into the HTW program.

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### HB 2091 by Rep. Ortega

This bill would have promoted the use of community health workers, also known as promotoras, by allowing Medicaid health plans to report associated expenses as a quality improvement cost rather than an administrative expense.

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### HB 2618 by Rep. Walle

This bill would have created a pilot program to place mental health peer specialists in safety-net health centers to serve women at risk of or who have developed postpartum depression.

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### SB 429 by Sen. Lucio

This bill would have directed the state to develop a comprehensive plan for increasing and improving the workforce to serve persons with mental health and substance use conditions.

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### SB 2150 by Sen. Kolkhorst

This bill would have aligned state law with federal law to allow Texas to apply for grant funding under the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, which makes grants available to state maternal mortality review committees. This bill also would have allowed family members, health care facilities, and health care professionals to report pregnancy-related deaths to the state health agency.

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## Support Children by Reforming Medicaid Managed Care

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### HB 2453 by Rep. S. Davis

Similar bill: SB 1139 by Sen. Watson

This bill would have strengthened Medicaid managed care by improving key areas, such as contract oversight, network adequacy enforcement, prior authorizations, appeals and fair hearings, utilization review, care coordination, transparency, and accountability.

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### HB 3721 by Rep. Deshotel

This bill would have required HHSC to contract with an independent review organization to review and resolve a Medicaid client's appeal made after a Medicaid health plan denies or reduces health services because of medical necessity.

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### HB 4178 by Rep. Frank

Similar bill: SB 2239 by Sen. Kolkhorst

This bill would have improved the appeal and fair hearing process after a Medicaid client appeals a denial of services; streamlined enrollment and coordination of benefits; and simplified the prior authorization process for Medicaid managed care.

## Support Children by Reforming Medicaid Managed Care (continued)

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### **SB 1140 by Sen. Watson**

Similar bill: HB 3478 by Rep. S. Davis

This bill would have directed HHSC to contract with at least three independent review organizations to resolve a Medicaid client's appeal after HHSC or a Medicaid health plan denies or reduces health care services. The independent review organization would have provided objective, unbiased review of medical necessity determinations done by clinical staff with training and experience in the health service at issue.

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## Support Children's Health Directly

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### **HB 342 by Rep. Cortez**

Similar bill: SB 637 by Sen. Zaffirini

This bill would have provided continuous Medicaid coverage to eligible children, reducing the current mid-year requests for additional income verification documentation.

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### **HB 1063 by Rep. Price**

This bill would have repealed the expiration of the Medicaid telemonitoring reimbursement program so that the program can continue. The bill also would have required Medicaid to cover home telemonitoring services to certain pediatric patients who are diagnosed with end-stage solid organ disease, had received an organ transplant, or require mechanical ventilation.

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# YOUTH JUSTICE

Status as of May 27, 2019. The Governor may veto bills until June 16, 2019.

## PASSED

### Support Children

#### HB 65 by Rep. E. Johnson

This bill requires school districts to report information on students facing suspensions and expulsions, including the race, sex, and age of students as well as the basis for these suspensions.

#### HB 692 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 1001 by Sen. Watson

This bill prohibits school districts from placing a student who was homeless in out-of-school suspension.

#### HB 811 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 424 by Sen. West

This bill requires school districts to consider if a student is in foster care or homeless as part of decisions related to school discipline.

#### HB 878 by Rep. Allen

Passed as an amendment to SB 11

This bill requires any school district with school resource or police officers in their schools, regardless of the size of the district, to adopt a policy requiring those officers to be trained in working with youth.

#### HB 1760 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 1025 by Sen. Perry

This bill improves the handling of certain juvenile records so that treatment and service providers can have appropriate access but confidential information is protected from further disclosure.

#### HB 1771 by Rep. Thierry

This bill seeks to prevent children under age 17 from being prosecuted or referred to juvenile court for prostitution and requires law enforcement to make best efforts to connect the child with relatives, treatment services, and/or DFPS if the child cannot be returned to her family.

#### HB 2184 by Rep. Allen

Similar bill: SB 1155 by Sen. Huffman

This bill requires alternative education programs and school districts to work together to plan for and support the reentry of justice-involved youth back into their public school classrooms.

#### HB 2229 by Rep. Jarvis Johnson

This bill requires the TJJD to collect data on youth in the agency's custody who have been in foster care in order to inform efforts to prevent foster youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

## Support Children (continued)

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### HB 2737 by Rep. Wu

This bill requires the Children’s Commission to develop guidelines for judges that will establish greater uniformity in how Texas handles juvenile justice or CPS cases involving children with mental illness; placement of children and termination of parental rights in CPS cases; and the release of detained children, certification of juveniles to stand trial as adults, and the use of restraints or clothing worn during juvenile proceedings.

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### HB 3195 by Rep. Wu

This bill gives TJJD flexibility to reduce the amount of time certain youth would need to spend in highly structured residential programs and improves the process of transition planning and reentry into the community.

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### SB 712 by Sen. Lucio

Similar bill: HB 3630 by Rep. Meyer

This bill protects students by prohibiting school district employees, volunteers or independent contractors from using interventions that involve electric shock or releasing noxious fumes; employ ridicule, verbal abuse or humiliation; interfere with the student's ability to communicate; immobilize or restrain the student; or interfere with the student's breathing.

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### SB 1702 by Sen. Whitmire

Similar bill: HB 3648 by Rep. Guillen

This bill allows the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) ombudsman to inspect facilities owned by TJJD and other post-adjudication correctional and residential facilities where juveniles are placed and investigate complaints alleging violations of the rights of the youth in these facilities.

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### SB 1707 by Sen. Lucio

Similar bill: HB 3470 by Rep. Allen

This bill requires school districts that have school resource or police officers working in their schools to adopt and publicize policies delineating the responsibilities of these officers, which may only include tasks related to law enforcement, not routine school discipline.

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### SB 1746 by Sen. Miles

Similar bill: HB 2116 by Rep. White

This bill expands the list of students considered at risk of dropping out of school to include students who have been incarcerated or have a parent or guardian who has been incarcerated during the student's lifetime.

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## Raise Concerns

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### SB 2432 by Sen. Taylor

This bill requires students to be placed in a disciplinary alternative education program for harassment of a school employee, which includes making obscene comments with the intent to annoy or embarrass the school employee.

# DID NOT PASS

## Support Children

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### HB 344 by Rep. Dutton

This bill would have raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds.

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### HB 1189 by Rep. Jarvis Johnson

This bill would have required courts to prescribe community service to youth in foster care in the place of fines and costs that might otherwise be charged.

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### HB 1364 by Rep. Wu

This bill would have ensured that more 10- and 11-year-old children avoid involvement with the juvenile justice system and instead receive more developmentally appropriate services in their communities.

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### HB 2991 by Rep. Talarico

This bill would have required schools to create and implement a positive behavior program for all grade levels that includes restorative practices and establishes a restorative justice coordinating council to assist TEA in developing guidance and resources for districts.

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### HB 4606 by Rep. White

Similar bill: SB 2242 by Sen. Whitmire

This bill would have increased the availability of youth diversion programs for a child who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that constitutes a Class C misdemeanor, other than a traffic offense.

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## Raise Concerns

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### HB 1381 by Rep. Wray

This bill would have enhanced the criminal penalty for aggravated assault committed in or on school property or on a passenger transportation vehicle of a primary or secondary school.

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