

# Did the Legislature Pass that Bill?

A Preliminary Recap of Key Children's Bills from  
the 2025 Texas Legislative Session



This recap provides a preliminary list of the significant children's bills that passed and those that did not during the 2025 Texas legislative session. We will publish an updated and more thorough legislative recap following the June 22nd deadline for the Governor to veto bills. This preliminary recap covers the following three issue areas:

Early Learning

Healthy Families

Child Protection and Mental Health

# EARLY LEARNING

Status as of June 2, 2025. The Governor may veto bills until June 22, 2025.

## PASSED

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### Support Children

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#### **HB 2294 by Rep. Thompson**

Similar to SB 972 by Sen. Zaffirini

Allows local communities to provide reimbursement rates to child care programs at the state's established reimbursement rate to incentivize child care programs to enroll more eligible families.

#### **HB 2310 by Rep. Ordaz**

Develops a strategic plan to improve early learning opportunities for young children with disabilities.

#### **HB 3963 by Rep. Capriglione**

Similar to SB 2184 by Sen. Paxton

Codifies the creation of an Early Childhood Integrated Data System to better assess the effectiveness of current policies and better understand where families are enrolling and gaps in supply.

#### **SB 462 by Sen. Kolkhorst**

Similar to HB 3807 by Rep. Harris Davila

Improves access to child care for child care educators by including them in the priority category for child care scholarships if they are eligible.

#### **SB 599 by Sen. West**

Similar to HB 4127 by Rep. A. Davis

Removes local barriers to licensed and registered child care homes.

#### **SB 1265 by Sen. Alvarado**

Similar to HB 5122 by Rep. Harris Davila

Directs the Texas Workforce Commission to prominently publish resources on its website to help employers better support their employees' child care needs.

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## Impact Children

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### **HB 2 by Rep. Buckley**

Contains provisions of HB 123 by Rep. Dutton, HB 1334 by Rep. Garcia, SB 568 by Sen. Bettencourt, and SB 2252 by Sen. Creighton

Increases school funding by \$8.5 billion, redistributes existing Early Education Allotment funding in an amount equal to half average daily attendance (ADA) for eligible pre-k students, restructures special education funding to reflect the actual services provided, adds new restrictions to tuition-based pre-k for children in public schools, requires districts to seek verification from an outside intermediary to build new pre-k classrooms, waives fees for special education or bilingual education certification, and takes other steps on early learning and school finance.

### **HB 117 by Rep. Schoolcraft**

Establishes the Governor’s Task Force on Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care under the Texas Education Agency to address governance challenges impacting early childhood education in Texas.

### **HB 4903 by Rep. Harris Davila**

Similar to SB 2049 by Sen. Birdwell

Establishes a Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative that brings the TWC, HHSC, DFPS, and TEA together to review and streamline state regulations that impact child care programs.

### **SB 2 by Sen. Creighton**

Creates an Education Savings Account (ESA) program, sometimes referred to as vouchers. Includes 3- and 4-year-old children who are eligible for Texas public pre-k based on their income, home language, or other criteria. High-quality child care providers are able to participate if they are accredited through the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or if they meet other quality benchmarks.

### **SB 568 by Rep. Bettencourt**

Revises special education funding and policies.

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## Raises Concerns

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### **HB 6 by Rep. Leach**

Expands the ability to issue out-of-school suspensions to students in pre-k through second grade and makes other school discipline changes – such as extending limits on in-school suspensions and authorizing a virtual disciplinary alternative education program – that could result in more students removed from the classroom without adequate support for their behavioral or academic needs.

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## DID NOT PASS

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### Support Children

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**HB 175 by Rep. M. Gonzalez**

Would have created an optional certification for child care providers who provide exemplary services for children with disabilities and their families and enabled the Texas Workforce Commission to establish and administer a grant program to support these providers.

**HB 1581 by Rep. Guerra**

Similar to SB 152 by Sen. Menéndez

Would have enabled TEA to monitor the effectiveness of bilingual and ESL programs, provide timely technical assistance, and improve literacy outcomes.

**HB 1996 by Rep. Hernandez**

Similar to SB 2526 by Sen. Zaffirini and House version of HB 2 by Rep. Buckley

Would have added children with disabilities to Texas pre-k eligibility.

**HB 2271 by Rep. Walle**

Would have required child care providers to report their capacity and enrollment information to the Texas Workforce Commission so families can more easily find available child care slots, programs can advertise availability, and policymakers can assess supply in the state.

**HB 3191 by Rep. Button**

Would have created an employer child care contribution partnership program, a child care innovation pilot program, and a franchise tax credit for certain employer child care contributions.

**HB 4024 by Rep. Walle**

Similar to SB 1739 by Sen. West

Would have established a state fund for additional child care scholarships.

**HB 5086 by Rep. Ordaz**

Similar to SB 3007 by Sen. Blanco

Would have provided innovation grants that address pressing local child care needs, shortages of infant care, care for children with disabilities, and nighttime care.

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### Impact Children

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**HB 4 by Rep. Buckley**

Would have replaced STAAR tests and revised the accountability system for Texas public schools.

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# HEALTHY FAMILIES

Status as of June 2, 2025. The Governor may veto bills until June 22, 2025.

## PASSED

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### Support Children

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#### **HB 26 by Rep. Hull**

Similar to SB 3001 by Sen. Kolkhorst

Creates a pilot program to allow Medicaid coverage of medically-tailored meals for pregnant women.

#### **HB 136 by Rep. Hull**

Adds lactation support services to Medicaid coverage.

#### **HB 713 by Rep. Howard**

Streamlines the review of death data for the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.

#### **HB 3940 by Rep. Johnson**

Similar to SB 2728 by Sen. Cook

Improves health coverage of newborn babies by providing additional information to parents and health care providers.

#### **SB 25 by Sen. Kolkhorst**

Similar to HB 25 by Rep. Hull

Establishes recess requirements for middle and elementary schools, nutrition curriculum for health-related degrees, and an advisory council to provide nutrition guidelines for Texans, among other provisions.

#### **SB 31 by Sen. Hughes**

Similar to HB 44 by Rep. Geren

Clarifies medical emergency exceptions to Texas abortion ban laws that will help ensure women with pregnancy complications such as ectopic pregnancies get the timely care they need.

### Raise Concerns

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#### **HB 138 by Rep. Dean**

Similar to HB 1906 by Rep. Paul and SB 818 by Sen. Bettencourt

Requires a cumbersome process for consideration of any legislation that adds health benefits to insurance.

#### **HB 1586 by Rep. Hull**

Makes it easier to request an exemption from vaccines required for school enrollment.

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**HB 4076 by Rep. Leach**

Prohibits health care providers from considering the vaccine status of patients when determining an organ transplant list.

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**SB 379 by Sen. Middleton**

Similar to HB 3188 by Rep. Raymond, HB 4970 by Rep. Cain, and HB 5243 by Rep. Gerdes

Prohibits the use of SNAP to purchase soda and candy despite studies showing that restrictions are not effective tools for improving health.

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## DID NOT PASS

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### Support Children

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**HB 38 by Rep. Bucy**

Would have improved the Texas Information and Referral Network, which helps families find food, health care, and other family supports in their local area.

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**HB 220 by Rep. Ordaz**

Similar to SB 1899 by Sen. Huffman

Would have allowed hospitals to offer Plan B emergency contraception to sexual assault survivors.

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**HB 321 by Rep. Bucy**

Similar to SB 238 by Sen. Johnson

Would have notified families that their children are eligible for Medicaid health insurance if they are confirmed eligible following a SNAP application.

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**HB 514 by Rep. Lalani**

Would have created a public outreach campaign aimed at increasing the number of trained maternal health professionals across Texas.

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**HB 1201 by Rep. Manuel**

Similar to statewide bills HB 5583 by Rep. Shofner and HB 2573 by Rep. Walle

Would have created a pilot program to add doula services to Medicaid coverage.

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**HB 2117 by Rep. Walle**

Would have ensured the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee reviews data from each year.

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**HB 2140 by Rep. Simmons**

Would have included doulas on the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.

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**HB 2159 by Rep. Gámez**

Would have allowed minors who are parents to consent to their own health care.

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<b>HB 2477 by Rep. Simmons</b>	Would have added doula services to health insurance for state employees.
<b>HB 3735 by Rep. Shofner</b>	Would have added midwife services and other prenatal, birthing, and postpartum health services to private health insurance.
<b>HB 3917 by Rep. Rose</b> Similar to SB 2483 by Sen. Alvarado	Would have added up to four maternal depression screenings to children's Medicaid coverage.
<b>HB 4093 by Rep. Allen</b> Similar to SB 2552 by Sen. West	Would have required school districts to provide health coverage enrollment information to families during student enrollment.
<b>SB 232 by Sen. Johnson</b> Similar to multiple bills	Would have drawn down federal Medicaid expansion funding to offer health insurance to low-income adults.
<b>SB 1031 Sen. Blanco</b> Similar to HB 2202 by Rep. Guillen	Would have streamlined eligibility determinations and renewals for SNAP benefits.
<b>SB 1102 by Sen. Paxton</b>	Would have allowed midwives to administer certain medications.

### Impact Children

<b>HB 4273 by Rep. Oliverson</b> Similar to SB 961 by Sen. Kolkhorst	Would have codified current state policies for periodic income checks and self-attestation in Medicaid/CHIP applications.
<b>SB 921 by Sen. Sparks</b> Similar to HB 2865 by Rep. Noble	Would have changed administrative renewals in Medicaid and CHIP.

### Raise Concerns

<b>HB 139 by Rep. Dean</b>	Would have allowed employers with more than 50 employees to offer "junk" insurance plans — with very limited benefits — to their employees.
<b>SB 407 by Sen. Middleton</b> Similar to HB 1468 by Rep. Leo Wilson	Would have prohibited hospitals from requiring vaccines for employees.

# CHILD PROTECTION and CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Status as of June 2, 2025. The Governor may veto bills until June 22, 2025.

## PASSED

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### Support Children

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#### HB 116 by Rep. Dutton

Ensures parental rights can't be terminated solely for not completing a service plan, unless there's clear evidence the child is in danger.

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#### HB 140 by Rep. Noble

Similar to SB 425 by Sen. Kolkhorst

Creates an advisory board to monitor and recommend improvements for child protection investigations.

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#### HB 1211 by Rep. Lujan

Similar to SB 166 by Sen. Menendez

Raises the age limit on Texas's college tuition waiver for youth who age out of foster care.

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#### HB 2789 by Rep. Frank

Similar to SB 1149 by Sen. Sparks

Streamlines foster care regulations as recommended by a safety audit completed over the interim.

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#### HB 2809 by Rep. Rose

Similar to SB 640 by Sen. Johnson

Tracks suicide attempts in Child Protective Services.

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#### HB 4129 by Rep. A. Davis

Similar to SB 2033 by Sen. Paxton

Improves DFPS contract enforcement for Community-Based Care providers.

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#### HB 4655 by Rep. Hull

Similar to SB 602 by Sen. West

Improves Preparation for Adult Living Program curriculum related to financial literacy, car ownership, housing, and benefits.

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#### HB 5342 by Rep. Landgraf

Establishes a dedicated 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Trust Fund and supports youth-specific mobile crisis outreach teams.

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#### SB 207 by Sen. Paxton

Similar to HB 5251 by Rep. Leo Wilson

Requires school districts to excuse certain absences resulting from an appointment with a mental health care professional.

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<p><b>SB 513 by Sen. Sparks</b> Similar to HB 1536 by Rep. Craddick</p>	Creates a rural Community-Based Care pilot program.
<p><b>SB 646 by Sen. West</b></p>	Adds more mental health professionals to loan repayment programs.
<p><b>SB 1398 by Sen. Kolkhorst</b></p>	Integrates family preservation services, including those eligible under the Family First Prevention Services Act, into the Community-Based Care system and strengthens accountability for contractors.
<p><b>SB 1401 by Sen. West</b></p>	Directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program.
<p><b>SB 1589 by Sen. Hancock</b> Similar to HB 5415 by Rep. Orr</p>	Strengthens accountability for Community-Based Care contractors.
<p><b>SB 1838 by Sen. Zaffirini</b> Similar to HB 5551 by Rep. Moody</p>	Improves legal representation in CPS cases, adds accountability measures for appointed counsel, and requires counties to post a fee schedule for legal services.
<p><b>SB 2032 by Sen. Paxton</b> Similar to HB 4130 by Rep. A. Davis and HB 5361 by Rep. Shaheen</p>	Improves accountability for Community-Based Care contractors.
<p><b>SB 2034 by Sen. Paxton</b> Similar to HB 4131 by Rep. A. Davis and HB 5364 by Rep. Shaheen</p>	Improves accountability for Community-Based Care contractors.
<p><b>SB 2165 by Sen. Parker</b> Similar to HB 4805 by Rep. Johnson</p>	Prohibits DFPS from dismissing CPS cases when a child has run away and is missing.

## Impact Children

<p><b>HB 109 by Rep. Rose</b></p>	Allows HHSC to establish a residential facility for Children Without Placement for behavioral health and residential services.
<p><b>SB 1558 by Sen. Perry</b> Similar to HB 3453 by Rep. Bonnen</p>	Expands liability protection for foster care providers to reduce the cost of their required insurance.

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## DID NOT PASS

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### Support Children

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**HB 38 by Rep. Bucy**

Would have improved the Texas Information and Referral Network, which helps families find food, health care, and other family supports in their local area.

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**HB 330 by Rep. Meza**

Would have supported new moms seeking substance use treatment during pregnancy or after giving birth.

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**HB 475 by Rep. Johnson**

Would have added Multisystemic Therapy (MST) to Medicaid coverage. MST is a proven family and community-based treatment for at-risk youth with intensive needs and their families.

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**HB 488 by Rep. Johnson**

Would have added Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to Medicaid coverage. FFT is an intensive, short-term therapeutic model that offers in-home family counseling.

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**HB 1155 by Rep. Hull**

Would have provided monetary assistance to families during a monitored return to support family reunification.

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**HB 1716 by Rep. Darby**

Similar to SB 469 by Sen. Sparks

Would have added mental health services provided by a master's level practitioner to Medicaid coverage.

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**HB 1955 by Rep. Thompson**

Would have established a new early childhood mental health home visiting grant program.

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**HB 2036 by Rep. Oliverson**

Would have added Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) and Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP) to Medicaid coverage.

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**HB 2216 by Rep. Hull**

Similar to SB 620 by Sparks

Would have required DFPS to work harder to help families overcome challenges before removing children; ensured more children stay with relatives if they do need to be removed from their parents; and required DFPS to work harder to reunify children with their families throughout a CPS case.

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**HB 2234 by Rep. Dutton**

Similar to SB 1306 by Sen. Cook

Would have raised the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, giving judges the option to hold 17-year-olds accountable in the juvenile justice system.

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<b>HB 3941 by Rep. Hunter</b>	Would have extended foster care to age 23 and reaffirmed that young adults who age out of foster care have health care coverage until age 26.
<b>HB 4116 by Rep. A. Davis</b> Similar to SB 576 by Sen. West	Would have required DFPS to provide kinship caregivers with written information regarding available resources.
<b>HB 4870 by Rep. A. Davis</b> Similar to SB 1918 by Sen. West	Would have created a grant program for legal representation for kinship caregivers.
<b>HB 5030 by Rep. Johnson</b>	Would have added key children's mental health services — MST, FFT, IOP, and PHP — to Medicaid coverage.
<b>HB 5561 by Rep. Money</b> Similar to SB 194 by Sen. Menéndez	Would have diverted youth in foster care away from the juvenile justice system.
<b>SB 837 by Sen. Kolkhorst</b>	Would have strengthened efforts to keep kids safely with their families and out of foster care by making the Texas Family First Pilots a permanent, statewide program.
<b>SB 1342 by Sen. Johnson</b>	Would have added services in psychiatric residential treatment facilities to Medicaid coverage and improved standards.

## Impact Children

<b>SB 400 by Sen. Kolkhorst</b> Similar to HB 789 by Rep. Swanson	Would have required parental consent for psychological or psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment conducted by a school district employee and clarified that the bill does not require consent before school employees verbally ask students about their general well-being.
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## Raise Concerns

<b>HB 497 by Rep. Patterson</b>	Would have required a school district employee to receive the consent of a child's parent before providing the student with behavioral or mental health treatment. Parental consent requirements can hinder mental health treatment due to stigma, fear of parental judgment, or financial concerns or could prevent or delay treatment for youth in abusive situations.
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**HB 3281 by Rep. Dutton**

Similar to SB 1987 by Sen. Hall

Would have only allowed the state to terminate a parent's rights if the child is seriously injured or nearly dies as a result of something the parent did. As a result, in certain cases, such as sexual abuse, children could not be adopted and would remain in foster care until they become adults.

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**HB 3282 by Rep. Dutton**

Would have extended the timeline for CPS cases, delaying the opportunity for a child in foster care to either return home or get adopted.

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**SB 1727 by Sen. Perry**

Similar to HB 3360 by Rep. Cook

Would have prescribed harsher consequences, such as incarceration in an adult prison, for juveniles accused of committing more than one felony offense.

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