



DADE PHELAN



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
87th Legislature

FROM: Speaker Dade Phelan

DATE: March 10, 2022

SUBJECT: **Interim Committee Charges**

Pursuant to House Rule 1, Section 17, attached are the interim committee charges for the 87th Legislature.

These charges, which reflect a variety of issues facing the state, are the result of my conversations with you in recent weeks and build upon the work accomplished during the most recent legislative sessions. The charges will help guide the House heading into the 88th Legislature, as committees gain input from Texans, research potential legislative solutions, and recommend policies to the full House chamber.

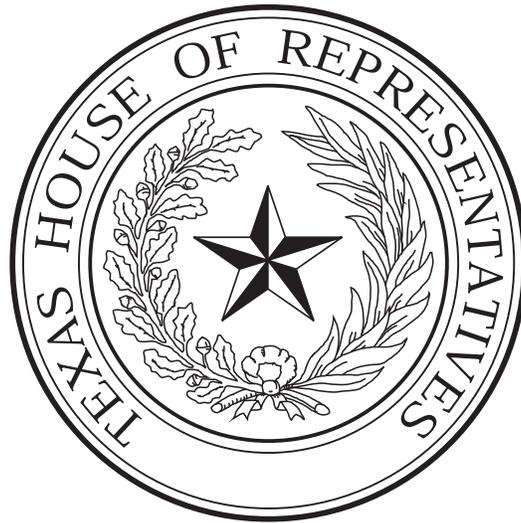
Thank you for your service and dedication to the State of Texas.

Attachment

INTERIM COMMITTEE CHARGES

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

87TH LEGISLATURE



SPEAKER DADE PHELAN

MARCH 2022

Committee on Natural Resources

1. Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:
 - SB 1160, relating to the creation of the Gulf Coast Protection District and providing the authority to issue bonds; and
 - SB 2185, relating to restrictions on certain water improvement districts.
2. Explore ways in which the state can further support the construction of a coastal barrier system.
3. Examine the condition of Texas' water and flood mitigation infrastructure capabilities and consider future infrastructure needs. Evaluate sustainable funding sources to provide for water project development and infrastructure repair and replacement. Examine and make recommendations for cost-effective improvements that enhance the state's available water supply and improve the state's ability to desalinate seawater.
4. Review the adequacy and efficiency of current mechanisms used to compensate water right holders when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality temporarily transfers a water right under an emergency authorization. Make appropriate recommendations for the protection of private property rights of water right holders.
5. Examine the state's groundwater management policy and regulatory framework. Include a review of large-scale water transfers and their impact on groundwater resources. Make appropriate recommendations for legislation or state agency action to:
 - promote the achievement of planning goals under Chapter 36, Water Code, including those involving desired future conditions;
 - provide adequate transparency to the permit application process;
 - further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts, including an assessment of risks posed to groundwater by abandoned and deteriorated water wells and orphan oil and gas wells; and
 - promote conservation and waste prevention.
6. Monitor newly adopted and proposed federal regulations that could impact activities that fall within the jurisdiction of the committee, including regulations under consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of waters of the United States.



Dan Patrick

Lieutenant Governor of Texas
President of the Senate

2022 Interim Legislative Charges:

Border Security Committee
Business & Commerce Committee
Criminal Justice Committee
Education Committee
Finance Committee
Health and Human Services Committee
Higher Education Committee
Local Government Committee
Natural Resources Committee
State Affairs Committee
Transportation Committee
Veterans Affairs Committee
**Water, Agriculture, &
Rural Affairs Committee**

April 4, 2022

Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee

- **Water Utility Infrastructure:** Evaluate the state's water infrastructure. Study and make recommendations on options to upgrade and update water infrastructure to address deferred maintenance, disasters, and water loss.
- **Water Supply:** Review and make recommendations to complete specific projects identified in the 2022 State Water Plan. In light of recent changes to the global economy, consider the current regulatory process regarding innovative technology solutions to water supply needs, such as marine desalination, and make recommendations for their improvement.
- **Groundwater Management and Protection:** Evaluate the status and effectiveness of the State's groundwater management process, including data used to support regional water planning and conservation goals. Report on the effectiveness of the State's groundwater protection efforts and whether statutory changes are needed to protect groundwater quality.
- **Rural Employment:** Study and make recommendations on rural small business development and workforce needs. Consider and recommend innovative methods for business development in rural parts of the state.
- **Daylight Savings Time:** Examine and report on how permanently maintaining daylight savings time impacts the agricultural community.
- **Rural Immigration:** Consider the Federal government's open border policies and practices of releasing illegal immigrants in rural areas of the state. Report on the impact to rural Texas, and their local ability to address social, health, and law enforcement needs.
- **Meat Packing Facilities:** Study the need for additional meat packing facilities in Texas. Evaluate and report on the increased cost to Texas ranchers and revenue lost in the Texas economy when meatpacking facilities are utilized outside of Texas.
- **Agricultural Theft:** Study the impact of cattle theft on farming and ranching operations throughout Texas and recommend cost-effective measures to mitigate loss and increase security.