

89th Legislative Session Preview

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December 12, 2024

By the Numbers



Total Bills
Filed

2,045

Education
Bills Filed

463

Property Tax

59

School
Governance

51

School
Finance

39

Curriculum
& Instruction

34

Vouchers/
ESAs

4

Key Dates

January 14

First day of session

March 14

Deadline for bill filing

June 2

Sine die



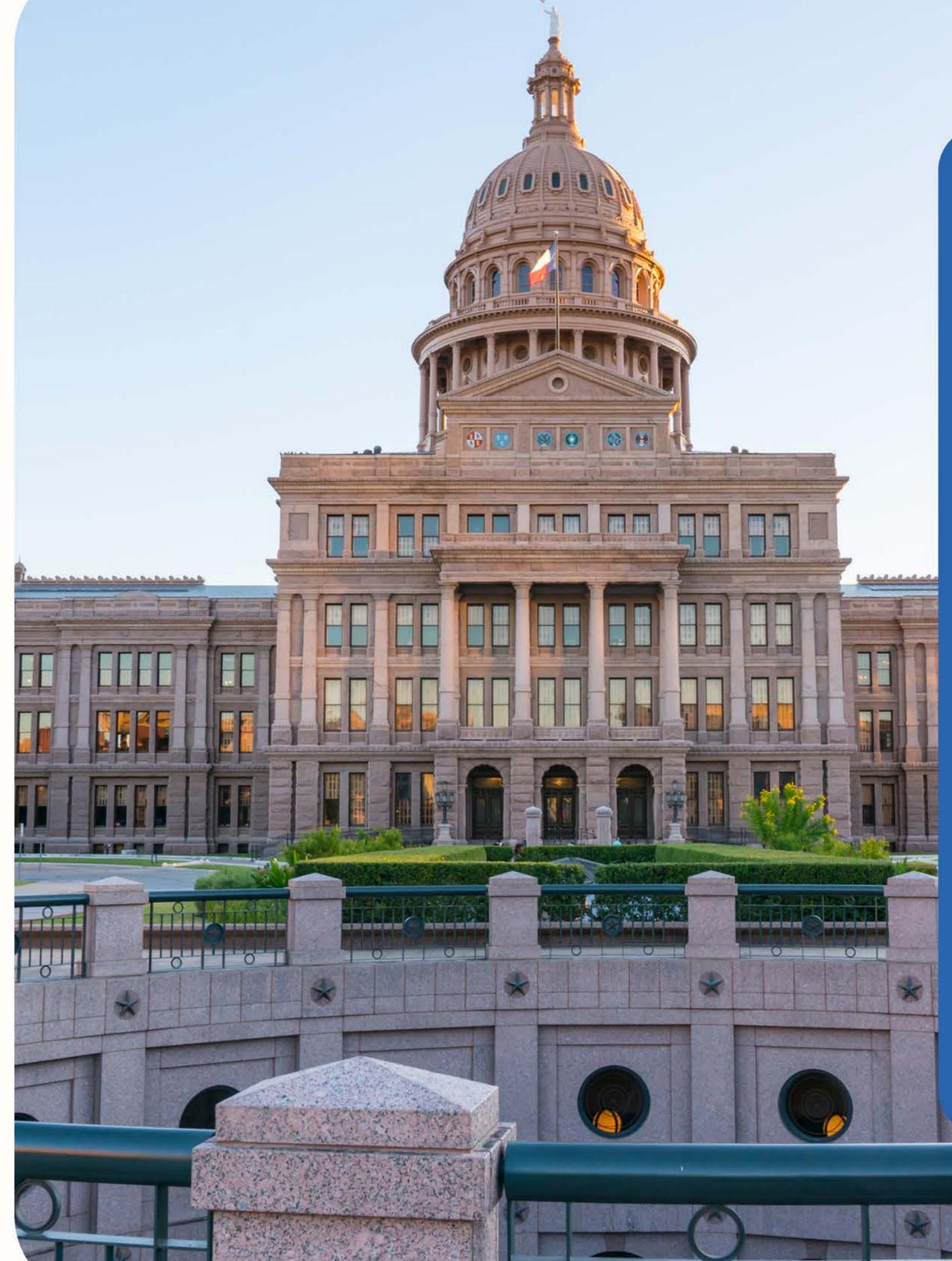
The Speaker's Race

David Cook

- Released a list of 56 supporters, all Republicans. This is 20 votes shy of the number needed to become speaker.
- The House Democratic Caucus has publicly instructed its members not to vote for Representative Cook. Received the nomination of the GOP Caucus, but only because 26 Republicans left the meeting lowering the threshold.

Dustin Burrows

- Candidacy was orchestrated by former Speaker Dennis Bonnen and became official after current Speaker Dade Phelan withdrew.
- Received as many as 41 GOP votes in the GOP caucus meeting, but at least 8 of those may have committed to support Cook as the winner of the caucus nomination.
- Released a list of 76 supporters (the number needed to become speaker), but at least 7 of those listed have since said they do not support Burrows.





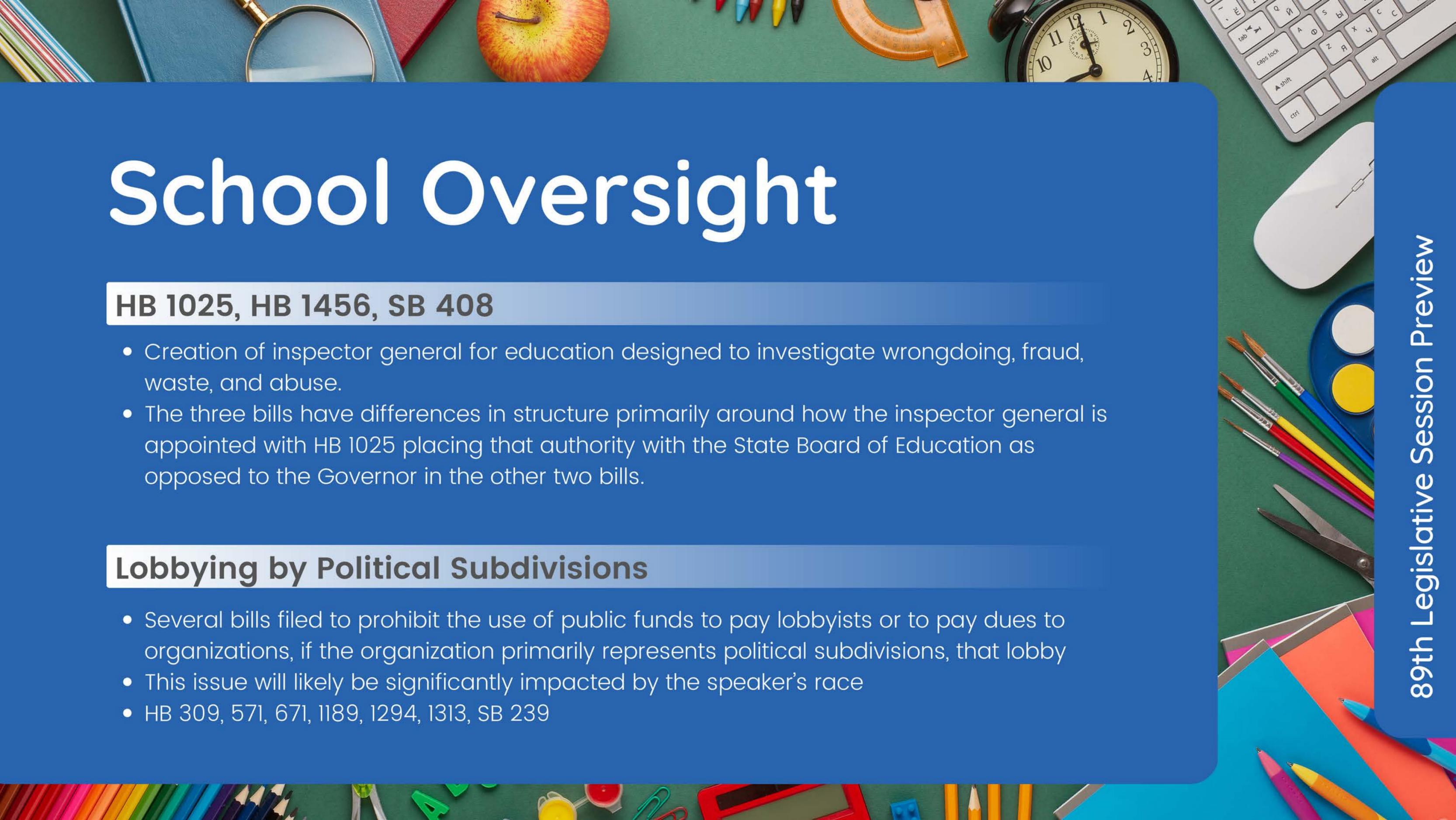
School Finance & Property Tax

SB 260- Huffman

- doubles the school safety allotment (approximately \$360 million per biennium)

Other Expected Bills

- restructure of the special education allotment to be based on intensity of services provided rather than classroom placement, to include additional funding
- teacher pay increases either through the Basic Allotment or a standalone allotment
- expansion of the teacher incentive allotment
- funding for teacher residency program
- property tax relief



School Oversight

HB 1025, HB 1456, SB 408

- Creation of inspector general for education designed to investigate wrongdoing, fraud, waste, and abuse.
- The three bills have differences in structure primarily around how the inspector general is appointed with HB 1025 placing that authority with the State Board of Education as opposed to the Governor in the other two bills.

Lobbying by Political Subdivisions

- Several bills filed to prohibit the use of public funds to pay lobbyists or to pay dues to organizations, if the organization primarily represents political subdivisions, that lobby
- This issue will likely be significantly impacted by the speaker's race
- HB 309, 571, 671, 1189, 1294, 1313, SB 239

Bonds & Elections

HB 919

- prohibits political subdivisions, including school districts, from using public funds to communicate about ballot measures, including bonds

SB 409

- prohibits political subdivisions, including school districts, from requesting voter approval for bonds for a purpose that failed within the past 5 years



Open Government

HB 1435

- creates a process by which governmental entities can withhold public information subject to an exception without an Attorney General opinion

HB 1522

- requires posting for open meetings 3 business days prior to the day of the meeting
- requires a posting for a meeting at which a budget is to be discussed or adopted to include a physical copy of the budget

SB 50

- establishes requirements for production of electronic public information

SB 111

- requires school districts to provide specific reports to the Board regarding legal fees spent defending special education claims and to receive board approval to exceed \$10,000 in legal fees
- requires districts to publish reports regarding the general subject matter and total amount of fees for each claim in which the district spends more than \$10,000



Student Discipline

HB 268

- make the crime of false report involving a K-12 school a third degree felony, instead of state jail felony

HB 515

- requires school board to adopt policies prohibiting students from using cell phones during the day
- requires districts to lock students phones in a secure storage device during the day

Possible Chapter 37 Reform

- adjustments to vaping DAEP placement
- clarity on suspension limits
- judicial removal process
- removal to virtual setting
- expulsion for serious offenses that occur off campus

Grievance Process Revisions

“Parental Bill of Rights”

- Extends timeline for filing grievances to the later of 90 days or the first day of school of the year following the incident
- Eliminates the timeline for filing grievances if a parent engages in attempts to resolve the situation informally
- Allows parents to amend their grievance at any time in the complaint process
- Creates a process for parents to request a hearing examiner appointed by the Commissioner to review any grievance decision by a Board
- Requires superintendents to testify to the State Board of Education if 5 or more grievances are heard by a hearing examiner in a school year

Vouchers/ESAs

Possibilities

- Governor will add vouchers/ESAs as an emergency item
- Both the House and the Senate will likely pass a voucher/ESA bill early in session
- Senate/Governor will expect a bill with universal eligibility, though the program will likely be initially limited by appropriation
- What the House bill looks like will be largely driven by who the Speaker is
- Whether the House and Senate will be able to agree on a structure remains to be seen
- Will likely remain tied to school funding, though not in the same bill

Legislative Dashboard

Legislative Tracking

Downloading...

All Public Education Bills

Filed Bills

2,022

Filed Public Education Bills

455

High Priority

3

Medium Priority

14

Public Education Bills by Issue

Load More



Bills by Legislative Milestone

Introduced or Prefiled

