



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Tax Reform Bills Passed, Now In Hands Of Governor

AUSTIN — The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1: property tax relief combined with school finance legislation.

Passage came on May 12, four days before the end of the 30-day special session, when the House on a vote of 136-8, approved Senate amendments to the bill.

Voting against the bill were Democrats Lon Burnam of Fort Worth; Garnet Coleman, Jessica Farrar and Rick Noriega, all of Houston; Rene Oliveira of Brownsville; Eddie Rodriguez of Austin; Marc Veasey of Fort Worth; and Mike Villarreal of San Antonio.

The bill pulls \$3.8 billion out of the state's \$8 billion budget surplus.

Of the \$3.8 billion, \$2.4 billion will be used to reduce the maintenance and operations portion of school district property taxes and \$1.4 billion will be used for classroom education-related purposes.

Also, Texas schoolteachers will get a \$2,000 pay raise, plus another \$500 to replace a health care stipend that was taken away from them in an earlier legislative session. Plus, school districts will get an extra \$275 per pupil, based on average daily attendance, to help students pass exit exams.

A couple of complaints against the bill included loss of local control in how state money can be spent and in the capping of local enrichment.

Lawmakers agreed that the legislation, while not perfect, is good enough for now, and that it can be improved in the next regular legislative session, which begins in January.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled last year that lawmakers over the years have in effect created an unconstitutional statewide property tax, because many school districts are forced to set tax rates at the \$1.50 cap. Thus, those school districts have lost "meaningful discretion" in setting tax

rates. So, the high court ordered the governor and the Legislature to give back meaningful discretion to local school districts.

Status of other bills in tax plan

House Bills 1 through 5 embody the package of reforms recommended by Gov. Rick Perry's Texas Tax Reform Commission led by former state comptroller John Sharp.

HB 3, creating a business-activity tax, passed the House and Senate, and sat on the governor's desk over the May 13-14 weekend. Three other bills, below, are now headed to the governor's desk.

HB 2 allocates revenue from franchise taxes, motor vehicle sales and use taxes, and taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products to provide future property tax relief.

HB 4, the liar's affidavit bill, amends the tax code so that the used car sales tax will be based on the Blue Book value of the vehicle.

HB 5 increases the cigarette tax by \$1.

Independents submit petitions

May 11 was the deadline for the independents to hand over their petitions to the state's chief elections

officer, Secretary of State Roger Williams.

Independent gubernatorial candidates Carole Strayhorn and Kinky Friedman each delivered to Williams' office what seemed to be enough signatures to earn them places on the November ballot.

Rounded off, Strayhorn delivered 223,000 signatures, or about five times the required number of 45,540. Friedman turned in about 170,000. How many of these signatures will stick is the question.

To verify signatures, which may take four to six weeks, the Secretary of State's elections division must follow Elections Code Chapter 277, which says for a petition to be valid, it must contain (in addition to the signature):

- the signer's printed name;
- the signer's date of birth and residence address or voter registration number;

Furthermore, if the territory from which signatures must be obtained is situated in more than one county the petition must contain:

- the county of registration; and the signer's residence address;

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HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

- the date of signing; and
- comply with any other requirements prescribed by law.

Governor expands session call

With the success of his tax reform plan largely realized, Gov. Perry added a few subjects the Legislature may consider in the remaining days of the special session.

Among those subjects are legislation related to FutureGen, a high-tech coal gasification plant; and revenue bonds for building projects at colleges and universities.

Thank You!
 To the voters who supported me in the recent Rice School Board Election.
-Wayne Bowen

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Let's Look Back...
48 YEARS AGO

May 6, 1982
 Honor graduates at Rice High School include Kitty Thomas, Sharia Popp, Paula Rowher, Ierma Yanez, Jerri Clipson, John Lee Korenek Jr. and Sharon Layton...

Isidoro Ramirez a scouter for over 30 years has been nominated for the coveted Silver Beaver Scouting Award...

Sheriff Jim Broussard retained the Sheriff's Office by a 3 to 1 vote margin...

Denise Hayek, Rice High School Salutatorian for the Class of 1982, won Best of Show trophy in the Xi Psi art show...

Darryl Hinze, senior at Rice High School, was named the school's Outstanding Male Athlete for the 1981-1982 year...

Rice High School Raider girls' basketball coach **Reuben Wunderlich** announced that he would be stepping down from his coaching position but would remain on the teaching staff at Rice High School...

Mr. and Mrs. Alton New announced the arrival of a great-granddaughter, **Dana Dittrich** on April 20...

"Charge on Kid" three-year-old registered Quarter Horse stallion owned by **Walter and Wanda Corliss** of Lissie, placed first in his class in halter at the Galveston County Open Horse Show on May 2...

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Maretko of Eagle Lake announced the birth of a son, **Michael Wayne**, born May 1 in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Welcoming the newborn home is a brother, **Christopher**, age 8...

Mr. and Mrs. James Driik of Garwood announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, **Patricia Ann Driik**, to **John Dudley Batla**, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Johnny Batla** of Bernardo. The couple will exchange vows June 5 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

Miss Sharon Jane Bartos, bride-elect of **Ricky Kristynik**, was honored with a miscellaneous shower at the Nada Parish Hall...

Mrs. Roy Shoop proudly announced the birth of her first great-grandchild, **April 24, Justin Roy**, to happy parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Armando (Whitey) Lopez** of Port Lavaca...

Robby Henske, son of **Mark and Janis Henske** celebrated his third birthday at the home of his paternal grandparents, **Mr. and Mrs. Fred Henske** in Eagle Lake...

Friends in the community learned with sadness of the death of **Mrs. Freida Davis Fogle**, of Weimar, on April 25, the mother of **Mrs. Gilbert (Eunice) Duty** of Eagle Lake...

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Garrett of Marlin announced the engagement of their daughter, **Beverly Ann**, to

Wesley Zboril, son of **Mr. and Mrs. William R. Zboril** of Garwood. The marriage is planned for June 6 in Marlin...

Relatives and friends in the community learned with sadness of the death of **Mrs. Herbert C. (Erna Roxie) Stern** in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Administration of the Dental Hygiene Oath and traditional "pinning" ceremony for the 16-member 1982 graduating class at WCJC will include **Diane Weaver** of Eagle Lake, daughter of **Roy D. Van Nort** of Eagle Lake...

Erica Castillo, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Domingo Castillo, Jr.** recently attended and won two trophies at the 1982 ABTC-AALL Texas State Championship and Open Competition Twirling Contest held April 17 in Houston...

May 13, 1982
Dr. Jose M. Ugarte completed continuing education requirements to retain active membership in the American Academy of Family Practice...

Mr. and Mrs. Scott L. Powers of Eagle Lake announced the arrival of their first child, a daughter, **Kristen Frances**, born May 4 at Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Mr. and Mrs. Ric Weaver announced the birth of a son, **Boyd Dean**, born May 7 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton...

Coby Shorter, III of Eagle Lake won the Public Speaking competition at the Area III Future Farmers of American meeting held at Rice High School...

Carolyn Pavlu of Garwood, former Rice High School student, received the award for Most Congenial Starlette Dancer at the recent WCJC Booster Club banquet...

Dollie Johnson was named head girls' coach succeeding **Reuben Wunderlich**...
 Athletic Director **Clifton Darden**

presented three special awards at the Rice High School All Sports banquet. They included a jacket to **Joe Fling** for 12 years of service as team statistician; a plaque to **Jeff Frnka**, sports editor of the Eagle Lake Headlight, and a jacket to **Dr. Jose Ugarte** for several years of service as team doctor...

A brother and sister, **Mildred and Teddy Schultz** of Frelsburg area, were named the Outstanding Older Texan Woman and Older Texan Man at the annual Older Texans Fair. Pct. 3 County Commissioner **Jerome Wicke**, presented the awards.

May 22, 1958
Miss Beverly Campbell, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Overton Campbell**, was presented the **John Phillip Sousa Award** for outstanding achievement in music by Kiwanis Club President **Hargrove Smith**. She is first chair saxophonist in the Eagle Lake High School Band...

Highest girl among 26 girls at Eagle Lake High School is **Jo Ann Konvicka**. She is in the National Honor Society...

Larry Grant, son of **Mr. and Mrs. G.G. Grant** celebrated his sixth birthday with a party Wednesday, May 14 at the Colly Memorial Methodist Church fellowship hall...

Audrey Ann White, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. W.F. White**, was named valedictorian of the Rock Island High School graduating class and **Jo Ann Moss**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Moss**, Sr. was named salutatorian...

Billy Joe Meitzen, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meitzen**, was honored by his mother with a party Saturday, May 17 on the occasion of his third birthday...

Last rites were held for **Mrs. Mary Delmar**, 84, on Friday, May 9 at St. Roch's Catholic Church. Interment was in the Mentz Catholic Cemetery.

Tommy Pilkington defeated **Gene Brown** 3-2 to win the third fight in the Eagle Lake Recreation Center membership tournament.

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