



# AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

Texas Farm Bureau's Weekly Newsletter for the 85th Legislature

July 14, 2017 | Special session to begin

## Special session to begin

With the special session approaching on Tuesday, July 18, Texas Farm Bureau is prepared to work with legislators to move Farm Bureau policy forward. The governor officially called the session for one item, but will release 19 other items once the first bill passes.

The first piece of legislation that must be passed is the sunset bill. This bill extends the expiration dates for crucial state agencies, such as the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. Once this is passed, the other 19 items on the governor's list can be addressed.

While Texas Farm Bureau remains neutral on the sunset bill, we will review each piece of legislation and take a position if we have policy relating to that particular bill. Some bills of interest include: tree regulation, municipal annexation of territory and property tax relief.

A special session lasts for 30 days. Below is a list of the governor's items:

1. Sunset legislation
2. Teacher pay increase of \$1,000
3. Administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention practices
4. School finance reform commission
5. School choice for special needs students
6. Property tax reform
7. Caps on state and local spending
8. Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with trees on private land
9. Preventing local governments from changing rules midway through construction projects
10. Speeding up local government permitting process
11. Municipal annexation reform
12. Texting while driving preemption
13. Privacy
14. Prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues
15. Prohibition of taxpayer funding for abortion providers
16. Pro-life insurance reform
17. Strengthening abortion reporting requirements when health complications arise
18. Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders
19. Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud

## 20. Extending maternal mortality task force

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## Texas Farm Bureau State Legislative Team

**Billy Howe**, Associate Government Affairs Director

*Issue Areas: Natural Resources and Environmental Regulations*

Email: [bhowe@txfb.org](mailto:bhowe@txfb.org)

Waco Office Phone: 254-751-2208

**Jim Reaves**, State Legislative Director

*Issue areas: Labor, Education, Agriculture and Rural Affairs*

Email: [jreaves@txfb.org](mailto:jreaves@txfb.org)

Austin Office Phone: 512-472-8288

**Marissa Patton**, Associate Legislative Director

*Issue Areas: Agriculture, Eminent Domain, Land Use Regulation and Rural Affairs*

Email: [mpatton@txfb.org](mailto:mpatton@txfb.org)

**Mike Pacheco**, Associate Legislative Director

*Issue Areas: Criminal Justice, Energy, Elections, Taxes, Transportation, Utility Regulation and Tort*

Email: [mpacheco@txfb.org](mailto:mpacheco@txfb.org)

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If you would like immediate updates on the action in Austin, follow the Legislative staff on Twitter.

Jim Reaves - [@jimreaves](https://twitter.com/jimreaves)

Billy Howe - [@TFBGovAff\\_Billy](https://twitter.com/TFBGovAff_Billy)

Marissa Patton - [@TFBAUS\\_Marissa](https://twitter.com/TFBAUS_Marissa)

Mike Pacheco - [@TFBAUS\\_Mike](https://twitter.com/TFBAUS_Mike)

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## Contact

### State Office

P.O. Box 2689

Waco, Texas 76702-2689

254.772.3030

### Austin Office

600 W. 12th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

512.472.8288

Fax: 512.472.9120



Texas Farm Bureau | 7420 Fish Pond Rd | Waco | TX | 76710