



# AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

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

August 4, 2017 | 85th First-called Special Session

## Halfway There

The first called Special Session has 14 days remaining in its 30-day timeframe. Both the Senate and the House have passed several bills to the other chamber to move them to the governor's desk. The Senate started at a much quicker pace. It has already passed 18 of the governor's 20 agenda items but has since slowed. The House is picking up steam, holding more committee meetings and staying longer on the floor.

Of the 20 items the governor itemized for the Special Session, only four items have passed both chambers. Those four items are: sunset bills that keep certain state agencies in existence for another two years; an abortion reporting bill; a bill relating to extending the maternal mortality task force; and a bill preventing local tree ordinances. While the House has only sent four bills on the governor's call to the Senate, many bills have been heard in committee and will continue to be considered in the days to come.

One of the handful of items TFB is supporting is the annexation bill by Senator Donna Campbell (R-San Antonio) and Rep. Dan Huberty (R-Kingwood). The bill has passed through the Senate and is on its way out of the House Committee on Land and Resource Management. The annexation bill allows property owners the right to vote on whether a city can annex them.

Though **HB 103**, relating to the disposal of pesticides, is not on the governor's Special Session call, TFB is working very hard to pass this legislation once again. In the Regular Session, this legislation was vetoed by the governor because he believed the implementation of a pesticide disposal program would cause fees to go up. These fees are currently being collected but are not used on the pesticide disposal program. Those funds are swept away every year from the Texas Department of Agriculture into general revenue.

This week TFB testified before the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee to help get this legislation passed, and we have been working to get the governor to add this issue to the Special Session call. **HB 103** was approved by committee on Wednesday and should be on the House floor by next week.

We ask that you contact the governor's office at 512-463-2000 and ask them to add **HB 103** to the Special Session call.

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