

HOUSE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST CALLED SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

ELEVENTH DAY — MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025

The house met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The roll of the house was called and strict enforcement was requested by Representatives Canales, Cortez, M. González, Longoria, Martinez, Moody, E. Morales, Muñoz, and Raymond.

A quorum was not present (Record 11).

Present — Mr. Speaker(C); Alders; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bonnen; Buckley; Bumgarner; Button; Cain; Canales; Capriglione; Cook; Cortez; Craddick; Cunningham; Curry; Darby; Dean; DeAyala; Dorazio; Dyson; Fairly; Frank; Gates; Gerdes; Geren; González, M.; Guillen; Harless; Harris; Harris Davila; Harrison; Hayes; Hefner; Hickland; Holt; Hopper; Hull; Hunter; Isaac; Kerwin; King; Kitzman; LaHood; Lambert; Landgraf; Leach; Leo Wilson; Little; Longoria; Lopez, J.; Louderback; Lowe; Lozano; Lujan; Luther; Martinez; McLaughlin; McQueeney; Metcalf; Meyer; Money; Moody; Morales, E.; Morgan; Muñoz; Noble; Olcott; Orr; Patterson; Paul; Phelan; Pierson; Raymond; Richardson; Schatzline; Schofield; Schoolcraft; Shaheen; Shofner; Slawson; Smithee; Spiller; Swanson; Tepper; Tinderholt; Toth; Troxclair; VanDeaver; Vasut; Villalobos; Virdell; Wharton; Wilson.

Absent — Allen; Anchía; Bernal; Bhojani; Bowers; Bryant; Bucy; Campos; Cole; Collier; Davis, A.; Davis, Y.; Dutton; Flores; Gámez; Garcia, J.; Garcia, L.; Garcia Hernandez; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; Goodwin; Guerra; Hernandez; Hinojosa; Howard; Johnson; Jones, J.; Jones, V.; Lalani; Lopez, R.; Manuel; Martinez Fischer; Meza; Morales, C.; Morales Shaw; Oliverson; Ordaz; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Plesa; Reynolds; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Simmons; Talarico; Thompson; Turner; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wu; Zwiener.

STATEMENT OF VOTE

When Record No. 11 was taken, I was temporarily out of the house chamber and could not be shown present.

Oliverson

The invocation was offered by Ron Joy, Texas Department of Public Safety, Leander.

The chair recognized Representative Button who led the house in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

(Oliverson now present)

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER

Speaker Burrows addressed the house, speaking as follows:

Members, the roll has been called, and a quorum is not present. Today, the Calendars Committee placed **HB 1**, **HB 2**, **HB 18**, **HB 19**, and **HB 20**—all vital flooding and disaster response measures—on the Tuesday calendar by a unanimous 6-0 vote. These are not symbolic bills—they are critical measures that would: expand the powers of the Texas Division of Emergency Management to improve emergency response across the state; create the Texas Interoperability Council, which would help local governments acquire key communications equipment to better coordinate response efforts; assist communities with purchasing and upgrading emergency communications systems; require outdoor campground facilities to have a flood disaster plan; and create public protections against fraudulent bad actors trying to solicit charitable donations after a disaster.

Those bills are set to be on the floor tomorrow, and I know those of us present are eager to take action on them. The only thing standing between Texans and real disaster relief is whether our absent colleagues decide to show up.

Now, to update you all on the process of locating our colleagues and compelling a quorum, the Department of Public Safety has special agents deployed in every region of Texas. The house has deputized dozens of officers and dispatched them across the state. They are set up outside these members' homes, conducting surveillance, knocking on doors, and calling their phones multiple times a day. So far, no one's home. But the search continues, and it will not stop.

We also want to thank the public—many have submitted tips about the whereabouts of absent members. For example, over the weekend, we received word of a rally in Fort Worth where a couple of absent members were allegedly making an appearance. We took this as actionable intelligence, and DPS was dispatched immediately. Although, in this instance, members did not end up being physically present at the event, we will keep following every credible lead until these members return. I have asked DPS to establish a tipline to receive information and leads regarding members' whereabouts. The phone number is (866) 786-5972.

Understand that we are keeping receipts for every gallon of gas, every mile traveled, and every hour of overtime associated with the pursuit of these missing members. Under Rule 5, Section 3, of the House Rules, those breaking quorum will be held financially responsible for the costs they've created. Not the taxpayers.

To those absent members: You can run to another city, another state, even another time zone, but you cannot run from your responsibility to the people of Texas. Eventually, it will catch up to you. Tomorrow, when the gavel drops, the question is simple: Will you be in the chair to vote for these critical disaster recovery bills, or will you be remembered as the ones who turned your back when Texans needed you the most? The choice is yours.

PERMISSION GRANTED BY THE SPEAKER

Pursuant to Rule 5, Section 8, of the House Rules, Speaker Burrows announced he was providing written permission, to be entered in the journal (see the addendum to the daily journal), for each representative registered as present during today's session to leave the hall of the house this day on the condition that the representative will be available for immediate return to the hall of the house at the direction of the speaker and will, in any event, return to the hall of the house at 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 12.

ADJOURNMENT

Representative Geren moved that the house adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The motion prevailed.

The house accordingly, at 1:08 p.m., adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

ADDENDUM

Speaker Burrows submitted the following for inclusion in the journal:

PERMISSION GRANTED BY SPEAKER

August 11, 2025

Each representative registered as present during today's session is granted permission to leave the hall of the house this day on the condition that the representative will be available for immediate return to the hall of the house at the direction of the speaker and will, in any event, return to the hall of the house at 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 12.

/s/Dustin Burrows

Speaker of the House of Representatives

APPENDIX

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Favorable reports have been filed by committees as follows:

August 9

Disaster Preparedness and Flooding, Select - **HB 1, HB 2, HB 18, HB 19, HB 20**

