

HOUSE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

SECOND DAY — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

The house met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The roll of the house was called and a quorum was announced present (Record 4).

Present — Mr. Speaker(C); Alders; Allen; Anchía; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bernal; Bhojani; Bonnen; Bowers; Bryant; Buckley; Bucy; Bumgarner; Button; Cain; Campos; Canales; Capriglione; Cole; Collier; Cook; Cortez; Craddick; Cunningham; Curry; Darby; Davis, A.; Davis, Y.; Dean; DeAyala; Dorazio; Dutton; Dyson; Fairly; Flores; Frank; Gámez; Garcia, J.; Garcia, L.; Garcia Hernandez; Gates; Gerdes; Geren; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Harris; Harris Davila; Harrison; Hayes; Hefner; Hernandez; Hickland; Hinojosa; Holt; Hopper; Howard; Hull; Hunter; Isaac; Johnson; Jones, J.; Jones, V.; Kerwin; King; Kitzman; LaHood; Lalani; Lambert; Landgraf; Leach; Leo Wilson; Little; Longoria; Lopez, J.; Lopez, R.; Louderback; Lowe; Lozano; Lujan; Luther; Manuel; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McLaughlin; McQueeney; Metcalf; Meyer; Meza; Money; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales, E.; Morales Shaw; Morgan; Muñoz; Noble; Oliverson; Ordaz; Orr; Patterson; Paul; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Phelan; Pierson; Plesa; Raymond; Reynolds; Richardson; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Schatzline; Schofield; Schoolcraft; Shaheen; Shofner; Simmons; Slawson; Smithee; Spiller; Swanson; Talarico; Tepper; Thompson; Tinderholt; Toth; Troxclair; Turner; VanDeaver; Vasut; Villalobos; Virdell; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wharton; Wilson; Wu; Zwiener.

Absent — Olcott.

When Record No. 4 was taken, I was present in the chamber but failed to register my attendance.

Olcott

(Olcott now present)

The invocation was offered by Representative King as follows:

Heavenly Father, thank you for this day. Thank you for your many blessings. Thank you for this great state and these members who are willing to serve, and may everything we do bring the glory, power, and honor to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the senate was received at this time (see the addendum to the daily journal, Messages from the Senate, Message No. 1).

CAPITOL PHYSICIAN

The chair presented Dr. Yu-Mei Liu of Austin as the "Doctor for the Day."

The house welcomed Dr. Liu and thanked them for their participation in the Physician of the Day Program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following member was granted leave of absence for the remainder of today because of important business in the district:

Shaheen on motion of Paul.

**SCR 7 - ADOPTED
(Geren - House Sponsor)**

The following resolution was laid before the house:

SCR 7, Granting the legislature permission to adjourn for more than three days during the period beginning on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and ending on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

SCR 7 was adopted by (Record 5): 129 Yeas, 19 Nays, 1 Present, not voting.

Yeas — Alders; Allen; Anchía; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bernal; Bhojani; Bonnen; Bowers; Bryant; Buckley; Bucy; Bumgarner; Button; Campos; Canales; Capriglione; Cole; Collier; Cook; Cortez; Craddick; Cunningham; Curry; Darby; Davis, A.; Davis, Y.; Dean; DeAyala; Dorazio; Dutton; Dyson; Fairly; Flores; Frank; Gámez; Garcia, J.; Garcia, L.; Garcia Hernandez; Gates; Gerdes; Geren; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Harris; Harris Davila; Hefner; Hernandez; Hickland; Hinojosa; Holt; Howard; Hull; Hunter; Johnson; Jones, J.; Jones, V.; Kerwin; King; Kitzman; LaHood; Lalani; Lambert; Landgraf; Leach; Leo Wilson; Longoria; Lopez, J.; Lopez, R.; Louderback; Lujan; Manuel; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McLaughlin; McQueeney; Metcalf; Meyer; Meza; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales, E.; Morales Shaw; Muñoz; Noble; Oliveron; Ordaz; Orr; Patterson; Paul; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Phelan; Plesa; Raymond; Reynolds; Richardson; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Schofield; Schoolcraft; Shofner; Simmons; Smithee; Spiller; Talarico; Tepper; Thompson; Troxclair; Turner; VanDeaver; Vasut; Villalobos; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wharton; Wilson; Wu; Zwiener.

Nays — Cain; Harrison; Hayes; Hopper; Isaac; Little; Lowe; Lozano; Luther; Money; Morgan; Olcott; Pierson; Schatzline; Slawson; Swanson; Tinderholt; Toth; Virdell.

Present, not voting — Mr. Speaker(C).

Absent, Excused — Shaheen.

STATEMENT OF VOTE

When Record No. 5 was taken, I was shown voting yes. I intended to vote no.

Kerwin

REASON FOR VOTE

Representative Leo Wilson submitted the following reason for vote to be printed in the journal:

Each of the record votes I cast to approve a Senate Concurrent Resolution for adjournment longer than three days was in response to a formal request from the Texas Senate, not the house. These breaks were requested so that committee work and legislative preparation could take place.

It is also important to understand that, under the Texas Constitution, the house is limited in what it can consider during the first 60 days of session unless four-fifths of the members vote to suspend the rules. We did not have the votes necessary to suspend the rules during those early weeks. In addition, the governor did not release his emergency legislative priorities until February 2, 2025, which further limited the legislation that could be taken up during that period.

It is important to set the record straight. Even when we approved these adjournments at the senate's request, house members, including myself, were hard at work.

The legislative process does not only happen on the house floor. During these early months, I spent many hours meeting with constituents, stakeholders, and advocates to develop and refine the legislation I intended to pass. It takes significant behind-the-scenes work to get a bill to the floor, and that work does not stop when the chamber is not in session.

Just because your county commissioner is not in court does not mean they are not working. In the same way, I spent countless hours in my office during what many called long weekends, doing the work that the people of Chambers and Galveston Counties elected me to do. Legislative service includes research, negotiation, and advocacy, much of which takes place outside of public view but is essential to passing effective policy.

MOTION IN WRITING AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES

Representative Geren offered the following motion in writing:

Mr. Speaker:

I move to authorize the speaker to appoint two committees of seven members each, one to notify the senate, and one to notify the governor that the house is organized and prepared to transact business.

Geren

The motion in writing was read and prevailed.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

The speaker announced the appointment of the following committee to notify the senate that the house is organized and ready to transact business: King, chair; Bernal, Bhojani, Dean, Gates, Patterson, and Simmons.

The speaker announced the appointment of the following committee to notify the governor that the house is organized and ready to transact business: Buckley, chair; C. Bell, Bowers, Fairly, Flores, Martinez, and McQueeney.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion prevailed.

The house accordingly, at 10:33 a.m., adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

ADDENDUM

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

The following messages from the senate were today received by the house:

Message No. 1

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE
SENATE CHAMBER
Austin, Texas
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The Honorable Speaker of the House
House Chamber
Austin, Texas

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed by the senate to inform the house that the senate has taken the following action:

THE SENATE HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

SCR 7 Zaffirini SPONSOR: Geren
Granting the legislature permission to adjourn for more than three days during the period beginning on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and ending on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Respectfully,
Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate