

# HOUSE JOURNAL

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EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

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## PROCEEDINGS

SEVENTH DAY — TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 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 13).

Present — Mr. Speaker(C); Alders; Allen; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bernal; Bhojani; Bonnen; Bowers; Bryant; Buckley; Bucy; Button; Cain; Campos; 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; Olcott; Oliverson; Ordaz; Orr; Patterson; Paul; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Phelan; Pierson; Plesa; Raymond; Reynolds; Richardson; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Schatzline; Schoolcraft; Shaheen; Shofner; Simmons; Slawson; Smithee; Spiller; Swanson; Talarico; Tepper; Thompson; Tinderholt; Toth; Troxclair; VanDeaver; Vasut; Villalobos; Virdell; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wharton; Wilson; Wu; Zwiener.

Absent, Excused — Anchía; Bumgarner; Canales; Schofield; Turner.

The invocation was offered by Representative Orr as follows:

Lord, thank you for bringing us together in this place and time. Thank you for our unique gifts and abilities. Please help us to work together with strength and courage to make decisions for Texas both in and out of the public eye. Help us to readily give grace and receive it. Remind us of your sovereignty and that the wisest choice is to serve you and to serve others. It's in your name we pray. Amen.

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

### LEAVES OF ABSENCE GRANTED

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

Schofield on motion of Hayes.

The following member was granted leave of absence for today and the remainder of the week because of illness:

Anchía on motion of Rosenthal.

### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

REPRESENTATIVE MONEY: Yesterday, you said that the rules adopted last week—which remained the same from prior sessions—continue to provide the house committee broad abilities to adopt budgets. Is that correct?

SPEAKER BURROWS: That is not before the house at this time. If you have those questions, please bring them down front.

MONEY: Are the rules we adopted last Thursday sufficient to allow the Committee on House Administration to determine our personal office budgets?

SPEAKER: That is not before the house at this time. As I've stated, if you have an inquiry about that, please bring it down front.

MONEY: Among other things, **HR 3** establishes the House Research Organization as an administrative department of the house. Does the House Research Organization still exist today?

SPEAKER: Mr. Money, as I've previously stated, that is not the business before the house at this time. If you have the inquiry, please bring it down front.

MONEY: How may I, as a freshman member of the house, get before the house matters that are important for the efficient conduct of house business?

SPEAKER: Mr. Money, as I've previously stated, that particular business is not before the house at this time. If you have questions pertaining to it, please bring it down front.

REPRESENTATIVE LOWE: How many days are remaining in the regular session?

SPEAKER: The chair is not advised at this time.

LOWE: Is it normal for the Texas Legislature to waste this much time at the beginning of session?

SPEAKER: Mr. Lowe, that is not a proper parliamentary inquiry.

REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Since **HR 4** was rammed through this body without time to digest it—because it was delivered at 4 a.m.—and because debate was silenced, I do have a couple clarifying questions. It appears that for the first time ever, the majority party in this chamber is banned from holding positions as vice-chairs of committees. Is that your understanding?

SPEAKER: Mr. Harrison, that business is not before the house at this time. If you'd like to have a conversation about that, you're more than welcome to bring it down front.

HARRISON: It appears that for the first time ever, the House Rules require prompt hearings on any topic that the minority party vice-chairs wish to hold. Is that consistent with your understanding of the House Rules? And has the vice-chair of any committee ever held this power before in the history of the Texas House?

SPEAKER: Mr. Harrison, again, that is not before the house at this time. If you'd like to discuss that, you're more than welcome to bring it down front.

HARRISON: It appears from **HR 4**, from the plain text, that for the first time ever, any witness that is designated by the vice-chair—which will all be members of the minority party—must be allowed to testify. Is that consistent with your understanding of the House Rules, and is there any precedent for vice-chairs having that power in the history of the Texas House?

SPEAKER: Again, that is not before the house at this time. You're more than welcome to bring it down front.

HARRISON: It appears from my reading of **HR 4** that for the first time ever, minority party vice-chairs can direct impact statements to effectively harm priority legislation of the minority party. Is that consistent with your understanding of the House Rules?

SPEAKER: Again, that business is not before the house.

HARRISON: It appears from the plain reading of the House Rules that went from last session, where they had complete control of a handful of committees to at least partial, and perhaps near-full, control of all of the committees. Is that consistent with your understanding of the House Rules, which were just passed by this body?

SPEAKER: Mr. Harrison, that business is not before the house.

HARRISON: I need some help from you, and this is a sincere question. It has been widely reported in the media to great extent—although I'm having trouble finding it in the text of that language—that the minority party vice-chairs will have an increase in their budget. Is that your position? Is that your understanding? Or are you willing to silence confusion on that and commit that the vice-chairs will receive no increase in appropriations as a result of their new powerful positions?

SPEAKER: Mr. Harrison, that business is not before the house.

HARRISON: Because the vice-chairs, which are, for the first time ever, banned from being republicans—are, from the plain reading of the rules, allowed to—and the chair is required to—promptly schedule hearings on any topic they want? It is not possible that, even given the sparse committee time allocated between now

and the end of this session, the majority party will be able to hold hearings on any liberal topic they want, including gun control, Medicaid expansion, climate change, abortion, transgenderism, and illegal immigration. Is that correct?

SPEAKER: Mr. Harrison, that business is not before the house. If you have questions about the rules, please bring them down front.

HARRISON: Is it true that these hearings will be televised under the House Rules, effectively turning the Capitol TV channel into the Texas DNC network to counterprogram the Trump Administration?

SPEAKER: Mr. Harrison, again, that business is not before the house. If you have questions about the rules, please bring it down front.

HARRISON: I just want to let the record demonstrate that you did not provide facts to dispute a single one of my contentions regarding the Democrat Empowerment Act that you rammed through this body, without debate, in a wholly unprecedented manner.

SPEAKER: That's not a question, Mr. Harrison.

LOWE: Is the speaker supposed to be an administrator of this body or act as a political actor?

SPEAKER: That is not a proper parliamentary inquiry.

LOWE: Of course it's not.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPPER: Is the speaker relying on **HR 4**, Section 14(a)(3), to set and administer committee and office budgets?

BURROWS: Again, that business is not before the house. If you have questions about it, please bring it down front to the parliamentarian.

HOPPER: During the 88th Legislative Session, the text of **HR 4**, Section 14(a)(3), was passed by the body, correct?

SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Hopper. That is not the business before the house. If you have questions about that, please bring it down front.

HOPPER: During the 88th Legislative Session, **HR 3**, a Housekeeping Resolution, was enrolled, correct?

SPEAKER: That business is not before the house. If you have questions pertaining to that, please bring them down front.

HOPPER: During the 88th Legislative Session, the text of **HR 4**, Section 14(a)(3), was not relied on to set and administer committee and office budgets, correct?

SPEAKER: Same as before. That business is not before the house at this time. If you have questions pertaining to that, please bring it down front.

HOPPER: What is the legal authority relied upon by the speaker to employ the procedure of relying on **HR 4**, Section 14(a)(3), to set and administer committee and office budgets?

SPEAKER: That business is not before the house. If you have questions pertaining to that, please bring it down front.

HOPPER: What lawyers were consulted by the speaker to employ the procedure relying on **HR 4**, Section 14(a)(3), to set and administer the committee and office budgets?

SPEAKER: Mr. Hopper, that business is not before the house. If you have questions pertaining to that, please bring them down front.

HOPPER: How does the reliance on **HR 4**, Section 14(a)(3), to set and administer committee and office budgets comport with Article III, Section 44, of the Texas Constitution?

SPEAKER: Again, that business is not before the house at this time. If you have questions pertaining to it, please bring it down front.

### REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED

Representative Toth moved to print remarks between the chair and Representatives Money, Lowe, Harrison, and Hopper.

The motion prevailed.

### HR 106 - ADOPTED (by McLaughlin)

Representative McLaughlin moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **HR 106**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

**HR 106**, Recognizing January 28, 2025, as Dimmit County Day at the State Capitol.

**HR 106** was adopted.

On motion of Representative Darby, the names of all the members of the house were added to **HR 106** as signers thereof.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The chair recognized Representative McLaughlin who introduced a delegation from Dimmit County.

### CAPITOL PHYSICIAN

The chair presented Dr. Jose Hinojosa of Corpus Christi as the "Doctor for the Day."

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

**HR 118 - ADOPTED**  
**(by Patterson)**

Representative Patterson moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **HR 118**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

**HR 118**, Recognizing January 28, 2025, as Leadership Frisco Class XXVIII Day at the State Capitol.

**HR 118** was adopted.

On motion of Representative Leach, the names of all the members of the house were added to **HR 118** as signers thereof.

**HR 110 - ADOPTED**  
**(by Lalani)**

Representative Lalani moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **HR 110**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

**HR 110**, Recognizing Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on January 28, 2025.

**HR 110** was adopted.

**HR 119 - ADOPTED**  
**(by Lalani)**

Representative Lalani moved to suspend all necessary rules to take up and consider at this time **HR 119**.

The motion prevailed.

The following resolution was laid before the house:

**HR 119**, Recognizing January 28, 2025, as UTHealth Houston Legislative Day at the State Capitol.

**HR 119** was adopted.

On motion of Representative Reynolds, the names of all the members of the house were added to **HR 119** as signers thereof.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

REPRESENTATIVE MARTINEZ FISCHER: Members, I rise today to eulogize and honor a wonderful person. A constituent; a mentor; my campaign treasurer; former member of the Texas House; former member of the Texas Senate; and former member of the State Board of Education. I am talking about Dr. Joe Bernal of San Antonio. He passed away at the age of 97 in a very beautiful, peaceful way, wearing the Black Knights T-shirt of Bernal Middle School—a

school named after him in San Antonio. We affectionately referred to him as Joe B. Joe B. was a champion—was a force. If you paid attention to politics in the '60s, '70s, and even in the '80s, you knew Joe B., local hero.

Members of the Bexar County delegation and many members of South Texas—we all stand on his shoulders when we are here on the floor. He used to tell me all the time, "Trey, when you go to Austin, you need to go find common ground. But never forget: Sometimes, you have to stand your ground." And that's the way he lived. He was a champion for bilingual education. He repealed the laws of this state that said it was illegal to speak Spanish in a public school. And for those of you who have ever been to a very small, tiny university in San Antonio known as the University of Texas at San Antonio, that is a university he founded when he was here in the Texas Legislature. He has a wonderful family. He will now be reunited with his beautiful wife, Mary Esther Bernal—a force of her own. A former trustee of the San Antonio Independent School District. Their children will mourn their loss, but they are very happy to know that Joe B. and MEB have been reunited in heaven. So I would appreciate and very much thank you if we can recognize Senator Bernal with a moment of silence.

### **REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED**

Representative Moody moved to print remarks by Representative Martinez Fischer.

The motion prevailed.

### **PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:43 a.m., Representative Moody moved that, at the conclusion of the signing of bills and resolutions and the receipt of messages, the house adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The motion prevailed.

The chair called the house to order at 3 p.m.

### **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).

### **BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS SIGNED BY THE SPEAKER**

Notice was given at this time that the speaker had signed bills and resolutions in the presence of the house (see the addendum to the daily journal, Signed by the Speaker, House List No. 1).

The following bills and resolutions were today signed in the presence of the house by the speaker:

### **HR 4**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with a previous motion, the house, at 3:01 p.m., adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

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**ADDENDUM**

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**SIGNED BY THE SPEAKER**

The following bills and resolutions were today signed in the presence of the house by the speaker:

**House List No. 1****HCR 54****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

Tuesday, January 28, 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:****HCR 54**

Hunter

SPONSOR: Zaffirini

Granting the legislature permission to adjourn for more than three days during the period beginning on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, and ending on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Respectfully,

Patsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate