

From the office of  
Texas State Representative Dan Flynn

## **THE FLYNN REPORT**

*Legislative Newsletter*

*July 5, 2003*

Greetings Constituents, Supporters and Friends:

Last Monday the first called special session of the Texas Legislature that has occurred since 1992 began. This week Governor Rick Perry announced the addition of twenty-eight issues to the call of the special session. This action allows the Texas House and Senate to consider legislation relating to these issues during this special session. Twenty-one are topics that were discussed and debated in a government reorganization bill during the regular session but we were not able to adequately address them because of the walkout during the regular legislative session. Since the Texas Constitution authorizes the governor to set the agenda during a special session of the legislature. The current special session, which began June 30, was called for the purpose of congressional redistricting and these items were included.

- Legislation relating to corrections to HB 3588 from the just completed regular session concerning transportation and trauma issues.
- Legislation permitting the reorganization of legislative support agencies and offices.
- Legislation relating to a transfer in the oversight of Regional Planning Commissions to the State Auditor's Office.
- Legislation relating to the abolition of the Texas Commission on Private Security.
- Legislation relating to the abolition of the Office of State-Federal Relations and transferring its functions to the Governor's Office.
- Legislation relating to the abolition of the State Aircraft Pooling Board.
- Legislation permitting the Legislative Budget Board to meet by teleconference.
- Legislation permitting the governor to designate the presiding officers for executive branch agencies.
- Legislation modifying the governor's budget authority.
- Legislation relating to legislative and executive branch working papers on the budget.

- Legislation creating a study on private prisons.
- Legislation modifying the organizational pattern of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.
- Legislation designating the Texas Department of Public Safety as the agency to establish school bus safety standards.
- Legislation modifying the scope and function of the State Office of Risk Management.
- Legislation relating to a modification in the qualifications for the commissioner of insurance.
- Legislation appropriating fees established by legislation during the regular session that remain unappropriated.
- Legislation relating to the abandonment of proceeds on demutualization.
- Legislation to reestablish the runoff primary election date to the second Tuesday in April.
- Legislation to provide one uniform deadline for receiving late ballots for all elections and one uniform time period for the ballot board to convene to count late mail ballots.
- Legislation to provide for one uniform day for canvassing elections for the general election for state and county officers and for all other local elections.
- Legislation to reestablish the first Saturday in May as the May uniform election date.
- Legislation relating to civil claims involving exposure to asbestos.
- Legislation directing the Texas Coordinating Board for Higher Education to review the organization and operation of each university system office.
- Legislation streamlining the environmental permitting and regulation process in Texas for competitiveness with other states.
- Legislation relating to the procedures followed in condemnation proceeding in a county civil court at law in Harris County.
- Legislation relating to a reconstitution of the membership of the Texas Building and Procurement Commission.
- Legislation relating to a modification in the qualifications for membership on the Texas Veterans Commission.

- Legislation relating to a modification in the qualifications for membership on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

In addition to the special session that is currently ongoing the House Select Committee on Public School Finance is meeting. The Committee is charged with making recommendations regarding support structures needed for public education at the state, regional, and local levels. It will examine the operations and finances of state agencies, regional education centers, and local school districts, including issues relating to consolidation of administrative functions.

Speaker Craddick assigned 29 members to 8 different subcommittees, or working groups, charged with finding solutions to issues dealing with tax, cost adjustment, facilities, incentives and accountability, governance, alternatives, high school, and benefits/compensation recommendations. These committees are charged with examining the unique costs related with the effect of the state school finance system on connections between public and higher education. They will be recommending ways that the school finance system might facilitate smooth transitions from high school to higher education or advanced job training.

It is my belief the recommendations will be considered in another special session sometime in the fall or early spring of 2004. I am looking forward to working with members of this committee and would welcome suggestions and input that I will pass on to the committee.

As you can tell this is a long list of issues many of which I have not had the opportunity to review. The Speaker adjourned the House for the weekend and the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations giving me an opportunity to be in the district and attend special events in many of the cities. I was pleased to be able to be a part of events in Hunt, Rains and Van Zandt Counties. Susan and I enjoyed meeting and visiting with many of you during the weekend and are heading back to Austin for what promises to be a full schedule.

My staff and I welcome your input and your questions. You can reach us in our office located in the Capitol extension: **E1.324**. Mailing address: **P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX, 78768** and our phone number is **512/463-0880**. Canton District office: **P. O. Box 999, Canton, TX, 75103** phone number **903-567-0921**. Email **[dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us)**.

God bless you and God bless the great state of Texas.

Dan Flynn  
State Representative, House District 2