

2019 Legislative Summary

86th Legislative Session

2020-2021 Budget (HB 1)

[HB 1](#) includes \$250.7 billion (all-funds) pending any line-item vetoes by the Governor. \$84 billion was allocated to health and human services programs including Medicaid - an increase of just 1% from the 18-19 budget to maintain current funding levels and caseload growth. \$900 million in general revenue was cut from the Medicaid program due to a projected increase in federal matching funds. Texas HHSC is also tasked with implementing additional cost-containment measures to restrain spending in 2020-2021.

[SB 500](#), the supplemental spending bill includes \$9.9 billion in additional funding to close the current 18-19 budget deficit for Medicaid and other programs.

Legislation

[HB 392](#) (Blanco) – allows Employee Retirement System of Texas to explore different methods of providing long-term care insurance coverage to eligible members, including through individual plans.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

[HB 823](#) (Davis) – amends current law allow an applicant for an assisted living facility license or for a renewal of such a license to obtain an on-site health inspection not later than the 21st day after the date the request is made.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

[HB 1848](#) (Klick) – will require each long-term care facility's infection prevention and control program to include monitoring of key infectious agents and multidrug-resistant organisms as well as procedures for making rapid influenza diagnostic tests available to residents.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

[HB 2050](#) (Paddie) - amends current law relating to consent requirements to include a form of written consent for the prescription of certain psychoactive medications to residents of nursing facilities and related institutions.

LeadingAge TX position: Opposed enrolled version. Neutral on committee substitute.

[HB 2205](#) (Clardy) - amends current law relating to the informal dispute resolution process for certain disputes between the Health and Human Services Commission and long-term care facilities.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

[HB 3051](#) (Turner/Kacal) - amends current law relating to the renewal of a preauthorization for a medical or health care service.

[HB 3329](#) (Frank/Klick) - clarifies current statute to allow assisted living communities to perform health maintenance activities (HMAs) as defined by the Texas Board of Nursing.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

[HB 3703](#) (Klick et al.) - amends current law relating to the prescription of low-THC cannabis for medical use by certain qualified physicians to patients with certain medical conditions.

[SB 670](#) (Buckingham) – creates payment parity and greater access for telemedicine services under the Medicaid program.

[SB 999](#) (Campbell) – directs DSHS to create a state plan for education on and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

[SB 1519](#) (Kolkhorst) – establishes a Long-Term Care Facilities Council as a permanent advisory committee to HHSC.

LeadingAge TX position: Support

Resources

[Texas Legislature Online](#) – Search Legislation

[Legislative Budget Board](#) – 2020-2021 Budget Documents

[Health and Human Services Commission](#) – Presentations and Reports to the 86th Legislature

For more information contact Alyse Meyer, VP of Advocacy at alyse@leadingagetexas.org or 512-467-2242.