



## **NLAC UPDATE**

### **The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature is in the books!**



The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature concluded on May 27<sup>th</sup>, having passed 1,426 bills in its 140-day session - a small percentage of the more than **7,000** bills filed.

This session, nursing legislation addressed a variety of health care concerns, including APRN scope of practice, nursing education, mental health issues, workplace advocacy concerns, women's health, and more. A brief recap is available in the **Capitol Update** below. TNA members may visit TNA's [Nurse Action Center](#) for an update. **NOTE:** you must be signed-in to the TNA website to access the Nurse Action Center.

**NLAC will NOT meet again in person until Spring 2020**, when the coalition will begin working on its agenda for the 2021 legislative session. We have received a lot of interest in holding a virtual summit, during which organization representatives will provide a report of their bills in a recap of the 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session, along with an overview of the pertinent nursing issues each NLAC member organization foresees for the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. Currently, we're exploring dates and format. Please take this [short survey](#) to help us determine certain components of this meeting,

which we hope all Texas nurses will attend.

Just because the session is over, doesn't mean the work ends. TNA kicks off policy and legislative development for the next session with its [2019 Policy Summit on June 7 in Georgetown](#). Nurses will learn about the importance of their involvement in policy and advocacy initiatives, and then they'll participate in interactive sessions that will explore health care trends, workforce demographics, nursing issues, and how nurses can influence care delivery and the practice environment.

TNA will also be holding state candidate/legislator meet-and-greets throughout the next year so that Texas nurses know which lawmakers support inclusion of nursing's feedback and expertise in addressing the state's health care issues.

**How does your organization plan to continue engaging members now that session is over?** How will you spark policy and legislative advocacy within your membership? Share your initiatives with us so that we may all learn from each other and improve our efforts to empower the nursing profession in Texas.

*\*Nursewatch will take the summer off and then NLAC members will begin receiving monthly updates in fall 2019. You can follow Nursewatch via Twitter at [@TXNursesLege](#) for updates on what's happening at the capitol and in Texas politics.*

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## Capitol Brief: 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature - The Results

by Andrew Cates

There was not much legislative action this session as the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature chugged slowly through the first half of 2019. TNA monitored over 400 bills related to nursing and health care policy, 145 of those bills were on behalf of NLAC.

While much of the nursing legislation fell victim to the low passage rate of this legislature, there was some success!

- [HB 1401](#), filed by Rep. Donna Howard, related to the dedication of tobacco settlement funds to nursing and allied health, passed the House and Senate, and was sent to Governor Abbott at the end of last week.
- [HB 2410](#), filed by Rep. Stephanie Klick, relating to the ability of nurses to verbally call safe harbor protections, made it past both chambers at the last minute and was also sent to the governor at the end of last week.

Get my full recap of the 2019 legislative session at the [TNA Policy Summit on June 7 in Georgetown](#). The deadline for online registration is May 31.

**Note:** If your organization would like a recap of the nursing legislative outcomes of the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, I'll be available for speaking engagements, starting in September. Please send your speaker/presenter requests to Cathy ([cwhite@texasnurses.org](mailto:cwhite@texasnurses.org)) by August 30, 2019.

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## Upcoming Events

- [TNA Policy Summit](#) – June 7, 2019 in Georgetown. Online registration closes on May 31.
- [TNA Nurse Talks Empowerment Series](#) – ongoing. Web series designed to bring more nurses into conversations that can inform TNA's decision-making processes and policy priorities to ultimately benefit all Texas nurses. CE available for most sessions.
- [2019 TxANA Annual Convention](#) – September 27-29, 2019 in Plano

*If your NLAC organization/association is having an open event, please send the information to TNA Government Affairs Coordinator [Cathy White](#) for inclusion in upcoming issues of **Nursewatch**.*



**Did you know that the Texas Medical Association outspends all nursing groups 4 to 1 in campaign contributions?**

They spent \$1.5 million on Texas elections in the last election cycle alone!

Help us combat TMA's influence at the state Capitol.

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[Texas Nurses Association](#)

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