

89th Legislative Session Recap... for now

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

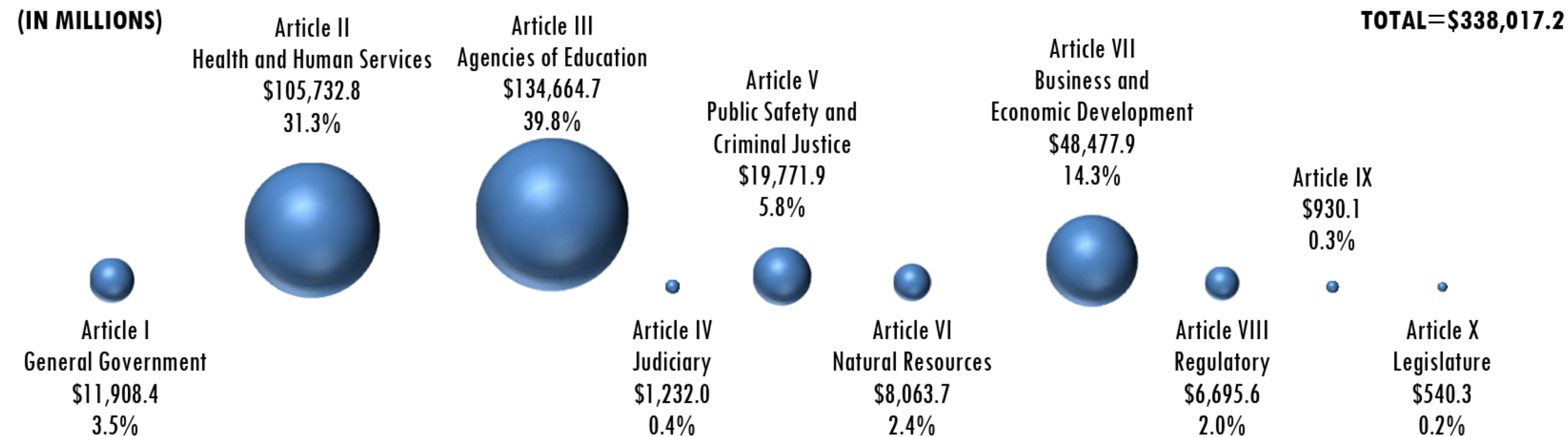


Texas Association of
Regional Councils



FUNDING BY ARTICLE

FIGURE 1
FUNDING BY ARTICLE, ALL FUNDS



NOTE: Object size is proportional to the percentage of recommended All Funds appropriation for all articles.

SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.



Budget Updates

**Funding of Interest to Regional
Councils**

Comptroller

Broadband Development Office:
\$233,400,000 - State Funds



911 - CSEC

- \$2.6 million per year increase over FY 24-25 funding levels
- \$99.9 million for Operations & Equipment

Office of the Governor

- \$10 million for Emergency Radio Infrastructure
- \$700 million for Criminal Justice Programs
 - Take a look at the list of riders
- \$450 million for Homeland Security
 - \$7 million for Nonprofit Security Grant Program



Community Development

Rider 12: COG CDBG Administrative Allocation

Kept in budget after initial elimination
in the Senate.





Environmental Quality

Regional Solid Waste Management Program

Level Funding
\$5.49 million/year



Property-Related Bills


SB 17: Ban on foreign land ownership

- Citizens of China, Russia, North Korea and Iran
- Does not apply to US citizens, LPRs but visa holders are restricted to small properties for residential
- Gives Governor power to designate other countries as hostile

SB 38: Squatters crackdown-allows for adjudication in civile courts

SB 4: Property tax cuts

- Raised homestead exemption from \$100K to \$140K
- Seniors and disabled to \$200K
- Must be approved by voters in November with cost to state of \$4b
- \$51b set aside for new and current

A tall, dark water tower stands against a bright, hazy sky. The words "ROUND" and "ROCK" are visible in large, bold, white letters on the tower's cylindrical body. The tower is supported by a lattice of cables and has a platform near the base.

Infrastructure

HJR 7/SB 7: Billions for water security

- \$1b year/ 20 year carve out of state's sales tax revenue for Texas Water Fund from 2027-47
- Split between new water supply projects and aging infrastructure + conservation (TWDB discretion)--Texas Water Fund Advisory Committee
- Prioritizes rural and small munis (150K and under)
- Proposition 4 on November ballot

Transparency Updates

HB 1522 -Open Meetings

- Three business days notice of meeting prior to scheduled meeting in place accessible at all times
- Physical copy of budget is being discussed or adopted, physical copy + taxpayer impact statement
- September 1 effective date.
- Not applicable to COGs under definitions.

HB 4219 - Updates public information requirements

- Public information officers must notify requestors in writing within 10 business days if no responsive records exist or if information is being withheld under a previous determination.
- See 552 of Government Code

SB 1173 - Competitive Procurement Threshold Updates

- Amends Local Government Code to increase the threshold requiring competitive procurement from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- HUB requirement for purchases between \$3,000 and \$100,000.
- Only applies to specific governmental entities. See statute.

HB 2237 - Severance Packages--limites to 20 weeks of pay at rate earning when terminated

SB 1851 - Annual City Audits

HB 3512

AI Training for Local Governments

Existing cybersecurity training requirements will now include requirements for artificial intelligence training for local governments.

Directs DIR to certify at least 5 AI training programs annually.

Effective 9/1/25



HB 3512

Housing Finance Corporations

Limits HFC activities to specific local governmental boundaries unless authorized by impacted local government bodies.

- for an HFC sponsored by a municipality, the boundaries of the municipality;
- for an HFC sponsored by a county, the boundaries of the county; or
- for an HFC sponsored by more than one local government, the boundaries of each municipal and each county sponsor.

HB 3000

Rural Ambulance Grant Program

- Housed at Comptroller
- Creates a program to assist rural counties with the purchase of ambulances
 - Counties of 68,750 or less
 - \$500,000 available for populations under 10,000
 - \$350,000 available for 10,000 - 68,750
 - 30 days of start of fiscal year--January 1, 2026

HB 3824

BESS Fire Safety Standards & Emergency Operations Plans

- Requires the insurance commissioner to adopt fire safety standards and testing rules for battery energy storage systems (BESS) ≥ 1 MWh, effective for installations on or after January 1, 2027. Excludes those owned by traditional electric utilities.
- Local Governments cannot enforce conflicting ordinances.
- Facility owners must fund an independent evaluation by a licensed engineer or expert to verify compliance, with reports shared with local governments upon request. 5 year inspection.
- Mandates BESS facilities to provide emergency operations plans and conduct fire safety inspections every five years.
- Requires operators to give local fire responders access to emergency plans, safety data sheets, and annual training at no cost.
- Delegates enforcement authority to the state fire marshal, including setting administrative penalties for noncompliance.

Health & Human Services

SB 5/SJR 3- Constitutional Amendment to Create Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas--Proposition 14

HB 3595 - Inclusion of temperature regulation in ALF emergency preparedness & contingency operations plans.

- In the event of a power outage, the facility must provide:
 - a climate-controlled area of refuge with at least 15 square feet per resident for each resident other than a bedfast resident;
 - a climate-controlled room for each bedfast resident who was unable to transfer out of bed, turn and position themselves in bed, and be transported by another person during an emergency; and
 - notice to the Health and Human Services commission (HHSC) of an unplanned interruption or loss for more than 12 hours of electric utility service.

Public Safety & Emergency Management

SB 34 - Wildfire Preparation, Prevention & Mitigation

- Texas Interoperability Council
- Increase in cap to volunteer fire department assistance fund
- Statewide database of firefighting equipment available across the state
- (Also included in SB 767)

SB 36 - Creation of Homeland Security Division within DPS

- Coordinate intelligence, risk assessments, and emergency planning, focusing on critical sectors like energy, water, and transportation.
- Lead outreach and volunteer programs, shares threat info, and protects sensitive data from private partners.
- Assists with grant priorities, supports research, advises on budgets, and takes over key border intelligence centers.

HB 4341 - Critical Infrastructure Emergency Response Mapping

- Requires critical infrastructure facilities--public and private airports, military installations--to develop an accurate emergency response map
- Creates a grant program to be administered by DPS





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