

## **Legislative Update**

### **February 7, 2025**

#### **FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.**

##### **Counter-UAS Subcommittee Hearing**

The Subcommittee on Aviation met on January 6, 2025, to examine the state of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the United States. Testimony was heard from a diverse range of industry experts, including representatives from both the public and private sectors. Among the witnesses was Chris McLaughlin from DFW Airport, who discussed efforts to mitigate UAS activity in restricted airspace and collaborate with local partners to ensure compliance with aviation laws at all levels. Subcommittee members focused their questions on current UAS safety regulations and potential legislative actions to enhance oversight and responsible use of the technology.

#### **FROM AUSTIN**

The Governor delivered his State of the State Address on February 2, 2025, setting a broad agenda for the Legislature. His agenda included seven emergency measures to help Texas: lowering property taxes, investing in the state's water infrastructure, increasing teacher pay, strengthening vocational career training programs for students after high school, allowing public funds to be used for private education, strengthening the state's bail laws, and establishing a cybersecurity hub in San Antonio. The Governor's classification of these emergency measures will allow lawmakers to bypass the constitutional ban on adopting any legislation in the first 60 days without 80% support from both chambers, expediting these items through the legislative process.

#### **HIGHLIGHTED BILLS**

##### **Tolling**

HB 2323 Shaheen – Relating to the cessation of tolls by toll project entities in certain circumstances. Would remove the sections of Transportation Code on surplus toll and system revenue. Additionally, a toll project must be maintained without tolls when the costs of acquisition and construction of the project and bonds have been paid, then become part of the state highway system.

#### **RECENT HEARINGS**

##### **US HOUSE**

- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation met on February 6 to examine the existing federal counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS) authorities that permit certain federal agencies to detect and mitigate unauthorized or unlawful UAS operations.

#### **UPCOMING COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

##### **TEXAS SENATE**

- Senate Finance will meet on February 11 to consider SB 1, General Appropriations Bill - Article VI - Natural Resources. This includes The Commission of Environmental Quality.
- Senate Finance will meet on February 12 to consider SB 1, General Appropriations Bill - Article VII - Business and Economic Development. This includes the Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

##### **TEXAS HOUSE**

- Committee assignments are expected soon; hearings should begin in the next few weeks.

##### **US HOUSE**

- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit will meet on February 12 to review the programs over roadway safety in the United States.