



State Representative **GARY VANDEAVER**

December 2022 E-Newsletter



HD 1

87th Legislature Report - House District 1 Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties

December 2022



First day of the 88th Regular Session.
The 88th Texas Legislature convenes on

January 10 and adjourns its regular session on May 29. The legislature meets in regular session for 20 weeks every odd-numbered year beginning at noon on the second Tuesday in January and ending 140 days later. The Texas Constitution gives only the governor the authority to call 30-day special legislative sessions, and it gives only the governor the power to determine what issues are dealt with during a special session. A governor can call as many special sessions as he or she deems appropriate.

On opening day each regular session, the House of Representatives chooses one of its members to serve as the Speaker of the House who serves as its presiding office. The Speaker maintains order, recognizes members to speak during debate and rules on procedural matters.

One of the most important tasks a Speaker does each session is appoint committees, designate the committees' chairs and vice-

chairs and decides which representatives will serve on each committee. Each session there are subject-matter committees and procedural or administrative committees. Most members serve on two or three different committees. If you wish to learn more about House committees click the link: <https://house.texas.gov/committees/>.

Toy buying tips and guidelines. As you finish your Christmas shopping especially if young children are on your gift list, pay extra attention to toys and



Tips for buying toys and treats this holiday season:

- Always shop from stores and online retailers you know and trust.
- Check for additional safety information from online and retail sellers, especially when shopping for children.
- Look for a choking hazard warning or statements, especially when purchasing toys and games that contain small parts.
- Avoid buying counterfeit items.
- Look for a certification mark from an independent testing organization and the manufacturer's label.

TEXAS Health and Human Services | Texas Department of State Health Services

other items that can pose choking hazards. The Texas Health and Human Services and the Texas Department of State Health Services have published these buying tips (see graphic) when purchasing items for young children. The last thing any of us want is to give a gift that harms our children and grandchildren, so not only "check your list twice," look to make sure the toys are not a health hazard.

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Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Healthcare Apprentice Initiative. The TWC recently informed my office about one of its new programs to help address the state's critical shortage of nurses and other healthcare professionals. TWC has set aside \$15 million in start-up funding "to offer employers an innovative approach to hiring and training future nurses and healthcare staff." There was a shortage of nurses and healthcare workers prior to the pandemic, which just accelerated the shortfall of trained, available staff. Data from the TWC found that by 2032, "Texas will face a deficit of 57,012 registered nurses needed in our labor market." Steps need to be taken today to close this gap by providing education programs and training opportunities for the needed professionals in this critical field. For more information about developing a Healthcare registered apprenticeship program, email the TWC at ApprenticeshipTexas@twc.texas.gov. Also, here is a link for more information: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/files/twc/healthcare-apprenticeship-initiative-twc.pdf>.

Comptroller's office "Fiscal Notes." The Texas Comptroller's office has prepared and distributed its publication *Fiscal Notes* for decades. This monthly newsletter provides information about the numerous challenges facing residents, communities and industries in the state; features innovative approaches used by individuals to address problems; and informs the public about the many intertwined pieces of the state's currently thriving economy. If Texas was a country, its economy would rank among the top 10 in the world.

This fall, several editions of *Fiscal Notes* have included articles that touch on issues and challenges many of us face everyday in our lives and jobs. Here are links to these

editions that touch on the availability (or lack thereof) of healthcare in rural Texas: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2022/oct/hospitals.php>; the importance of the state's agriculture industry to the state's economy: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2022/oct/agriculture.php>; and how the ongoing drought is affecting our state: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2022/dec/drought.php>. The information in these articles is well-researched and very timely in helping Texans have a better understanding of the key issues that impact our day-to-day lives.

Texas-sized Christmas Tree. The grand



Christmas tree in the House Chamber of the Texas Capitol came from the Elves Christmas Tree Farm,

a family-run business in Denison, Texas. The tree is a Virginia Pine and is named "Mamie" after the former First Lady, Mamie Eisenhower. Each year I have the opportunity to donate an ornament representing HD 1 for the House Christmas tree. As mentioned in the November e-



Photo: House Photography.

newsletter, local physician and artist, Dr. Gary Bachers, created this year's ornament that is now hanging on the tree in the House Chamber.

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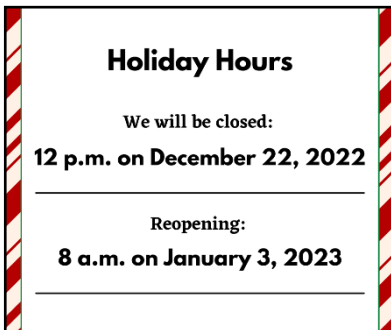
Bill filing continues. To date, **1417** House and Senate bills have been filed for consideration this session. I have filed three additional bills since last month for a total of nine House bills filed so far. Here is a link to Texas Legislature Online where you can follow a bill's progress, watch committee hearings and see what is happening on the floor of the Texas House and Senate: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>. Here is information about the bills I recently filed:

HB 977 - Relating to the creation of a Texas Commission on Assessment and Accountability.

HB 1066 - Relating to a psychological assessment of homicidal risk of a public school student following the student's expulsion or placement in a disciplinary alternative education program for certain conduct.

HB 1067 - Relating to the detachment and annexation of school district territory by petition.

Office hours. My Capitol and District



encourage you to leave a voicemail, and someone will return your call when the offices reopen.

Merry Christmas. May God be with you



The VanDeaver family.

through Christmas and the New Year and fill you with blessings of love, joy, health, peace and prosperity. May this day and the days

ahead hold many blessings for you and yours. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Social Media. Follow me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more updates.

My office is here to help. I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or the Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.