



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## SERGIO MUÑOZ JR

State Representative District 36

86<sup>TH</sup> SESSION | #6 | JUNE 4, 2019

### A MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE MUÑOZ

## SINE DIE

[ sahy-nee dahy-ee, sin-ey-dee-ey; Latin si-ne dee-e ]  
Final adjournment of the legislative session. Literally, the phrase means adjournment "without a day" specified to reconvene.

**S**ine die! On Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, the 86<sup>th</sup> legislative session came to an end after a productive 140-day session. I am proud to continue my role as a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee and my new role as Vice-Chair of the Land and Resource Management Committee. Overall, I am proud of the accomplishments that my colleagues and I made this session such as crafting a state budget that meets the needs of Texans, addressed teacher pensions, and a reform to the school finance system. I would like to thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you for a fifth term in the Texas House of Representatives. I look forward to continuing to represent the great people of District 36. Thank you and God Bless!

### KEY BILLS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, RETIRED TEACHERS, AND VETERANS



#### Texas Legislature Passes HB 3, School Finance Reform Bill

HB 3 fundamentally transforms the way Texas invests in its students and makes school funding formulas more efficient and equitable.

HB 3 highlights:

- **\$2 Billion** for Teacher Pay Raises
- **\$4.5 Billion** for classroom investments
- Increases in state share of funding from **38% to 45%**
- Base per-student funding increased from **\$5,140 to \$6,160**
- **\$5 Billion** in property tax relief



#### Texas Legislature Passes SB 12, TRS Contribution Legislation

The Texas legislature passed historic legislation that increases the state's contributions to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).

SB 12 highlights:

- **"13th check"** one-time supplemental check for retirees.
- Increase in member contributions from **7.7% to 8.25% by 2025**
- Increase in state's contribution from **6.8% of payroll to 8.25% by 2025**
- Increase in school district contributions from **1.5% to 2% by 2025**
- Requirement that districts that pay into Social Security must also pay the district contribution

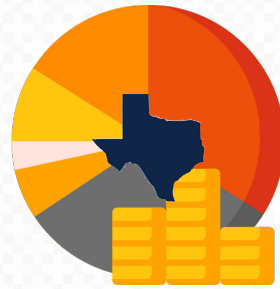


#### More than \$23.3M in Grants to 102 Veteran Programs

The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) approved grant awards supporting 102 veterans assistance programs totaling \$23,340,000 from the TVC's Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) 2019-2020 grant program. FVA grants have supported a wide range of services for veterans such as housing, food, financial aid, health care and job skills training. Since 2009, the TVC has awarded over \$114 million in grants to organizations, benefiting over 250,000 Texas veterans.

Veterans in need of services should call 1-800-252-8387.

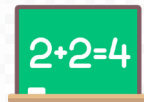
## TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSES HB 1, \$250.7 BILLION BUDGET



As the 86th legislative session comes to a close, the hard work done by the Appropriations Committee is finally coming to fruition with the publication of the final version of the Texas budget. Representative Muñoz voted in support of HB 1, which accomplishes funding towards high priority items and will greatly benefit the state. *Below are highlights of HB 1.*



**\$5.1 BILLION**  
in property tax relief



**\$3.5 MILLION**  
for Early Childhood School Readiness Program that can be used to fund all-day Pre-K.



**\$2.3 BILLION**  
for students with disabilities



**\$79.8 MILLION**  
for Texas Grants for college students



**\$2 MILLION**  
for school safety programming provided by Crime Stoppers



**\$2.5 MILLION**  
for Public Community and Junior Colleges like South Texas College



**\$2 MILLION**  
for Texans Feeding Texans Program



**\$2.5 BILLION**  
in federal funds for Hurricane Harvey disaster recovery



**\$58.4 MILLION**  
in total funds for human trafficking



**\$6 MILLION**  
for grants to Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) ready facilities



**\$3 MILLION**  
designated to address homeless youth



**\$3 MILLION**  
for Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program

### SB 500 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



Aside from the main appropriations bill, HB 1, the legislature also passed SB 500, a supplemental budget bill for items not covered in the original two-year budget.

**\$589 million** from the ESF for a one-time additional payment for retired educators, also known as a 13th check (SB 12).

**\$100 million** from the ESF for Disaster Grants.

**\$15 million** for hospitals. At least 40% must be used to fund hospitals in the RGV

**\$5.5 million** to Community Mental Health Crisis Services.

**\$50 million** from GR for a Rate Increase for Children's Hospitals.

**\$47 million** from the ESF for state flood risk maps and a state flood plan.

**\$10.9 million** from the ESF for the Post Disaster School Safety to provide a grant to any schools that experience a school shooting.

**\$100 million** from the ESF for additional appropriations for school hardening.

## LEGISLATION CO/JOINT-AUTHORED BY REPRESENTATIVE MUÑOZ, JR.

Along with the bills Rep. Muñoz, Jr. authored, he also teamed up with colleagues to pass other key bills that improve the overall quality of life of the people of District 36 and the state as a whole. Below are highlights of these bills.

**HB 1631**  
BY: STICKLAND

Rep. Muñoz co-authored this important legislation that prohibits the use of red light cameras. The bill prohibits a local authority from issuing a civil or criminal charge or citation for an offense or violation based on a recorded image produced by a photographic traffic signal enforcement system.

Joint-authored by Rep. Muñoz, this measure seeks to establish the creation of a public law school in the Rio Grande Valley.

**HB 103**  
BY: MARTINEZ

**HB 260**  
BY: BLANCO

Rep. Muñoz joint-authored this legislation that creates a cross-border motor vehicle traffic congestion web portal meant to reduce delays and provide real-time information on traffic conditions and border wait times.

A measure joint-authored by Rep. Muñoz to create a criminal offense for the operation of a stash house and provides for the use of contraband seized in relation to that offense, making it easier for law enforcement to effectively prosecute criminal organizations that use stash houses to commit illegal activities.

**HB 2613**  
BY: FRULLO

**HB 4531**  
BY: NEAVE

Legislation joint-authored by Rep. Muñoz to protect vulnerable adults from sexual assault and to aid in the prosecution and prevention of these offenses. The bill establishes a protocol by which health care facilities may provide a forensic medical examination and treatment.

Rep. Muñoz co-authored a measure to develop a disaster recovery task force to operate throughout the long-term recovery period following natural and man-made disasters by providing specialized assistance for communities and individuals to address financial issues, available federal assistance programs, and recovery and resiliency planning to expedite local-level recovery efforts.

**HB 6**  
BY: MORRISON

**SB 1017**  
BY: POWELL

Rep. Muñoz sponsored this legislation to create an advisory council on postsecondary education for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The advisory council will be tasked with developing educational outreach materials to raise awareness in Texas of postsecondary education opportunities for distributing them to all Texas public schools.

### ★ DISTRICT 36 LEGISLATIVE STAFF ★



## Thank you!

As this session comes to a close, I would like to thank my outstanding legislative staff for all their hard work throughout this legislative session. As legislators, we can attribute our success to the work of our staff, and I am proud to have such a diligent and dedicated team with me as I work to represent the great people of District 36 in the Texas legislature!

Top Row: **Eric Vargas**, Legislative Aide; **Rep. Sergio Muñoz, Jr.**; **Cynthia Pacheco**, District Office Manager  
Bottom Row: **Monica Flores**, Legislative Intern; **Lordel Mariano**, Chief-of-Staff; **Ariana Rivera**, Legislative Liaison;  
Not pictured: **Peter Salinas**, Communications Director.