

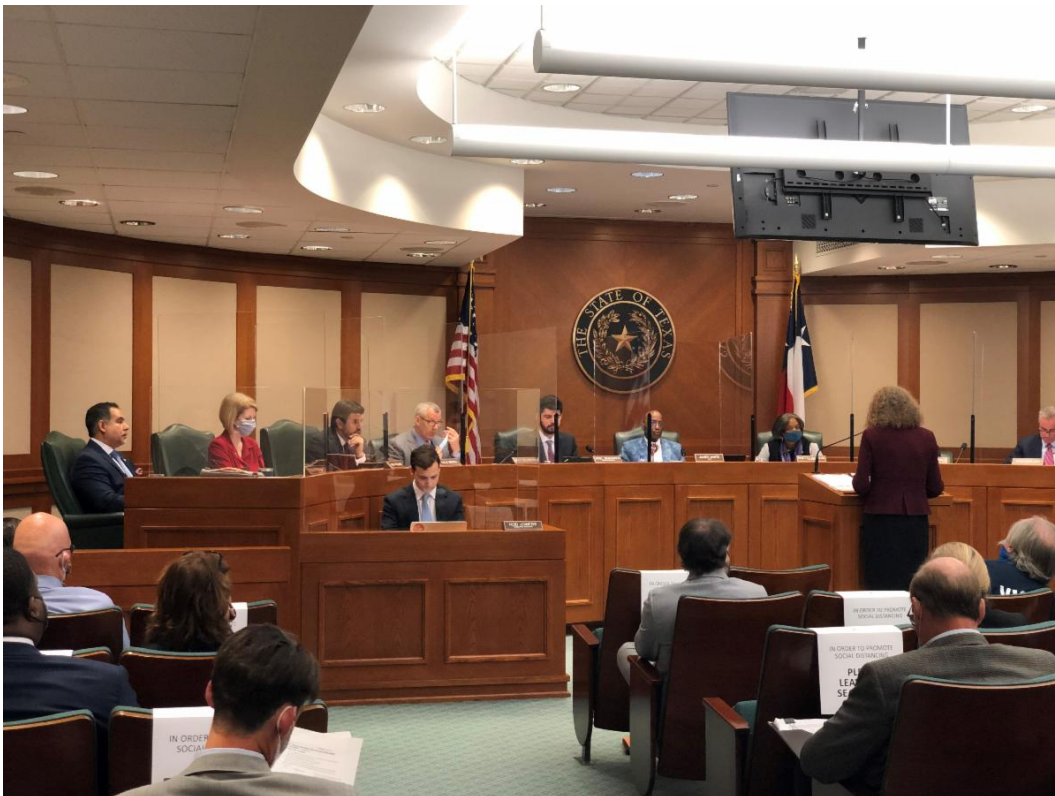
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**EDDIE MORALES, JR.**  
**DISTRICT 74**

BREWSTER • CULBERSON • HUDSPETH • JEFF DAVIS • KINNEY • LOVING • MAVERICK • PECOS • PRESIDIO • REEVES • TERRELL • VAL VERDE

Friends,

This week we leave behind the cold and tumultuous season of winter we experienced, and move into the season of spring. Although we are still in the middle of a global pandemic, I am hopeful that we can still welcome some spring weather and new beginnings.

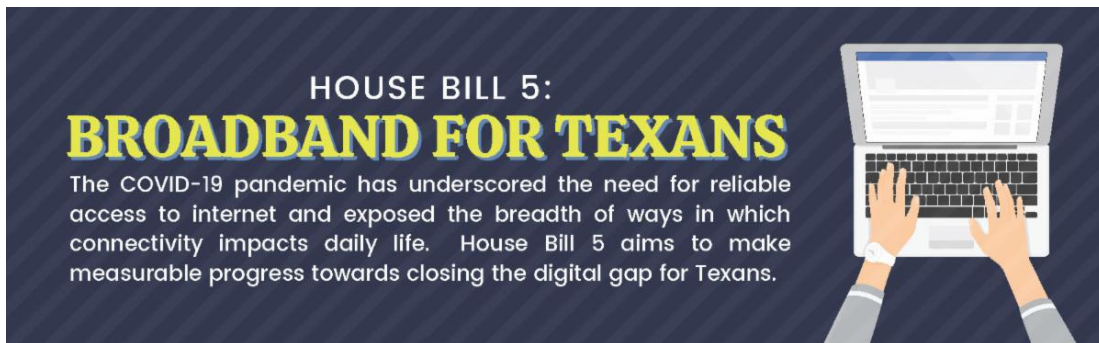
Here's what happened this week in Austin:



Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee Hearing

This week, the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs and the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety met. In these committees, we heard testimony from members of the legislature, state agencies, and the public. We heard public testimony on bills and voted legislation out of committee into the next stage of the process.

I am very proud of our efforts with DPS Director McCraw to expand DPS presence in south central Texas and specifically the Del Río sector. McCraw deployed 75 plus troopers last week to the area. We now have a strong state law enforcement presence assisting the local law enforcement agencies and Border Patrol, with more boots on the ground personnel expected in the coming days. Through this joint cooperation of agencies, we are already seeing a reduction in the number of undocumented immigrant apprehensions.

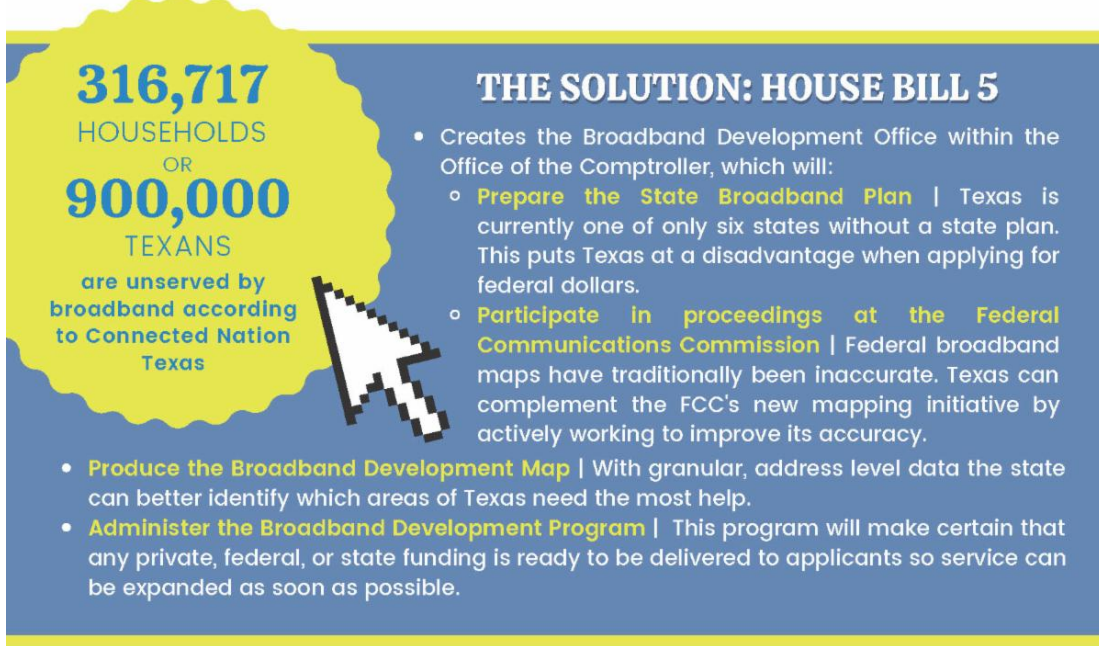


**HOUSE BILL 5:  
BROADBAND FOR TEXANS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for reliable access to internet and exposed the breadth of ways in which connectivity impacts daily life. House Bill 5 aims to make measurable progress towards closing the digital gap for Texans.

**THE PROBLEM:** The digital divide continues to widen and leads to social and economic gaps between those who have access to internet and those who do not.

Now is the time for the state to step in and help close the gap for the many Texans that still lack access or face barriers to the subscription of broadband.



**316,717**  
HOUSEHOLDS  
OR  
**900,000**  
TEXANS  
are unserved by  
broadband according  
to Connected Nation  
Texas

**THE SOLUTION: HOUSE BILL 5**

- Creates the Broadband Development Office within the Office of the Comptroller, which will:
  - **Prepare the State Broadband Plan** | Texas is currently one of only six states without a state plan. This puts Texas at a disadvantage when applying for federal dollars.
  - **Participate in proceedings at the Federal Communications Commission** | Federal broadband maps have traditionally been inaccurate. Texas can complement the FCC's new mapping initiative by actively working to improve its accuracy.
- **Produce the Broadband Development Map** | With granular, address level data the state can better identify which areas of Texas need the most help.
- **Administer the Broadband Development Program** | This program will make certain that any private, federal, or state funding is ready to be delivered to applicants so service can be expanded as soon as possible.

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:**

AARP | AT&T | Digital Texas Coalition | e-Health Alliance | Greater Houston Partnership | North Texas Commission | RGV Partnership | Texas 2036 | Texas Association of Counties | Texas Electric Cooperatives | Texas Farm Bureau | Texas Telephone Association | & Many More!

I am proud to announce that I support House Bill 5, which aims to make measurable progress towards closing the digital gap for Texans. Broadband is one of the top issues for constituents in House District 74, and I am confident that this bill will help get broadband to more Texans.

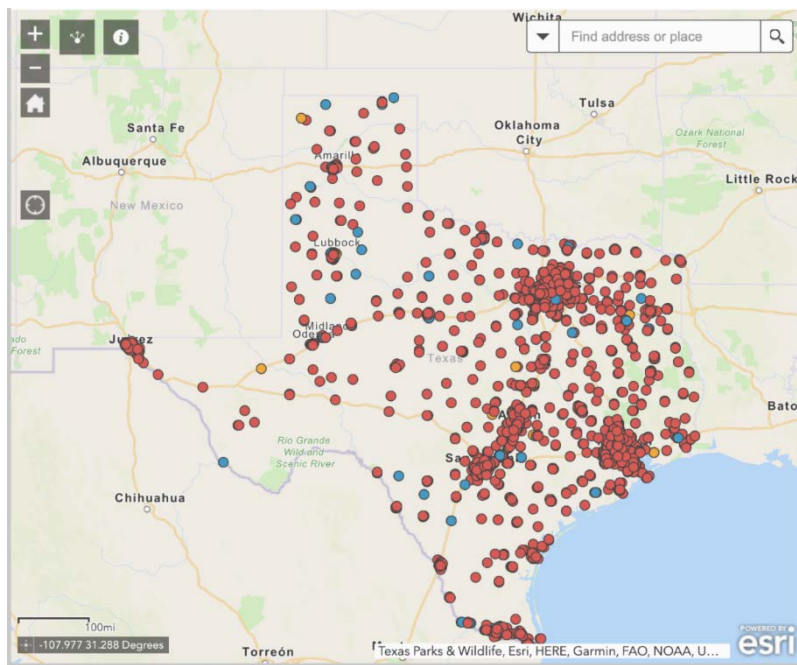


### Vaccination Phase 1C

Effective, March 15, 2021 we will be transitioning to Vaccination Phase 1C. Phase 1C now includes anyone over the age of 50 to 64.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news/releases/2021/20210310.aspx>

[Click the map to find a vaccine](#)



Sincerely,

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.