

TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
85th Legislative Session - May 26, 2017
Weekly Legislative Update

TWO MORE DAYS TO PASS OUR BILLS!
Sunday, May 28, 2017 – Last Day for Senate Concurrence
YOUR CALLS WORK!

CALL TO ACTION

All TCA Members need to [contact their State Senators and the Lt. Governor](#)

TCA has 3 important bills waiting for the Senate to concur on House Amendments by midnight on Sunday, May 28, 2017.

- **Message to State Senators:**
 - Concur with the House version of **SB 490**. No fiscal note. No staffing requirements. No substantive change from Senate bill.
 - Concur with the House version of **SB 196**. House amendment removes small districts from posting requirements. No fiscal note. No staffing requirements.
 - Concur with the House version of **SB 80** and extend the mental health licensing boards to 2021.
- **Message to Lt. Governor Dan Patrick** (dan.patrick@ltgov.texas.gov; 512-463-6700)
 - Support concurrence on **SB 196**. This is legislation that you co-sponsored as chair of the Senate Public Education Committee. No fiscal note. No staffing requirements. Applies only to large school districts.
 - Support concurrence on **SB 490**. This legislation simply publishes data on school counselors that is already being collected by TEA.
 - Support concurrence on **SB 80** to extend the sunset date for mental health licensing boards. Failure to extend these boards will harm the public who need access to mental health professionals. Delays also penalize the thousands of candidates who are awaiting licensure and will make the mental health workforce shortage worse.

What Happened this Week:

- Tensions continue to run high between the House and Senate with just 3 days left for action on legislation. Many bills are “hitching” rides on bills that are moving – resulting in amendments, the need for concurrence and/or conference committees.
- **SB 490** and **SB 196** were amended on the House floor and sent to the Senate for concurrence which means they agree to the amendments added in the House. **SB 490** picked up some language from another bill to require postsecondary counseling for students in the foster care system and for school counselors to report to the students and their guardians how often the information was provided. **SB 196** was amended to limit the reporting requirements to large school districts. Although we would prefer not to have the amendments, we are requesting concurrence to ensure the bills pass.

- **SB 2078** which was amended on the House floor on Sunday to try to address the Senate’s “bathroom bill” concerns, was not approved by the Senate. This bill goes to conference committee.

Legislative Tracking Report reflects actions through May 25, 2017. Remember, bills that may appear to be dead have been or will be added to bills that are moving. TCA will provide a more detailed summary of all legislation in early June.

Go to www.capitol.state.tx.us to read complete bill texts. Contact TCA Executive Director, [Jan Friese](#), with questions.

Thank you for all you do to support professional counselors, your students and your clients!

Connect with us:



Copyright Texas Counseling Association 2017

Texas
Counseling
Association

