

Texas Judicial Council Legislative Priorities

As the policy making body of the Judicial Branch, the TJC regularly recommends to the legislature ways to improve the administration of justice in Texas. At its June 2018 meeting, the TJC endorsed the following proposals:

1



Improving Data Collection & Transparency

2



Improving the Judiciary's Response to Disasters

3



Enhancing Court Security

4



Improving Transparency from the State Commission on Judicial Conduct

5



Increasing Accountability in the Guardianship System

6



Supporting Specialty Courts

7



Combating Opioid Abuse

8



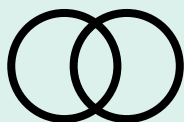
Enhancing Public Safety through Modernization

9



Supporting Reforms Impacting Youth in State Custody

10



Addressing the Needs of Dually-Involved Youth

11



Ensuring Adequate Judicial Compensation

12



Supporting Funding for Civil Legal Aid in Texas

13



Ensuring Adequate Court Funding

14



Appropriating All Funds Collected for Improving Indigent Defense

15



Addressing the Needs of those with Mental Health Concerns

16



Improving the Civil Justice System

17



Addressing the Needs of Youth in Class C Misdemeanor Matters

Texas Judicial Council Proposals

86th Legislature

Bill	Summary	Status
Court Jurisdiction	<p>This bill enacts the recommendations of the Judicial Council and Civil Justice Committee to revise the jurisdiction of the JP, CC, and DC as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase civil floor for DC from \$200 to \$10,000; • Increase civil floor for CCAL from \$200 to \$5,000; • Increase civil maximum for JPs to \$20,000 	<p>SB 561 - Zaffirini</p> <p>HB 1033 – Murr (increases Civil max to \$20,000 for JP)</p>
UPL & Barratry	<p>This Bill would clarify UPL and barratry statutes to differentiate between providing legal information and legal advice and to authorize legal assistance software applications that provide legal information.</p>	<p>Draft pending review</p>
Judicial Qualifications modifications	<p>Implements TJC and Civil Justice Committee recs to modify qualifications for JPs, CCAL, SPC, municipal courts, DJ and appellate judges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise age for CCAL/SPC from 25 to 30 • Require JPs and municipal courts to be at least 25 if licensed attorney or 30 if not attorney • Require municipal courts of record judges to have same qualifications as DJ • Require JPs in counties over 500k to be attorneys • Increase years as practicing lawyer for appellate judge from 10 to 12 years and for DJ from 4 to 8 years. 	<p>SB 561 – Zaffirini (county & municipal courts only)</p> <p>SJR 35 – Zaffirini (appellate & district judges only)</p> <p>SJR 25 – Hinojosa (district judges only – doesn't match TJC recommendation)</p>
Bail Modernization	<p>This bill would enact the Criminal Justice Committee's recommendations on bail modernization as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require pretrial risk assessment; • Amend Constitutional bail provision and related statutes to provide presumption of pretrial release through personal bond; • Amend Constitutional bail provision and related statutes to allow preventive detention for high-risk defendants; • Provide funding for pretrial supervision; • Provide funding to ensure magistrates are adequately trained; • Require pretrial release decision data collection; • Expressly authorize CCA to adopt rules to implement; • Provide for transition period to implement. 	<p>Bill anticipated to be filed next week</p>

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86th Legislature

Mental Health Recommendations	<p>This is the bill that would enact the Mental Health Committee’s recommendations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 1326 cleanup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “assessment” ○ TCOOMMI form ○ Reporting cleanup • MH records in pen packet • Education of part-time and 54A magistrates • Outpatient commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarify standard ○ Transfer from inpatient to outpatient ○ Noncompliance hearing ○ Require publicly funded facilities to coordinate admission, treatment plan, discharge plan with LMHA and provide medication upon discharge ○ 46B to civil commitment without dismissal • Flexibility for competency restoration for violent offenses 	<p>HB 598 – Price (magistrate training)</p> <p>HB 600 – Price (SB 1326 cleanup)</p> <p>HB 601 - Price/SB 432 – Zaffirini (SB 1326 cleanup)</p> <p>SB 362 – Huffman (Outpatient Commitment)</p> <p>SB 562 – Zaffirini/HB 599 - Price (MH records to TDCJ)</p>
Court Security Recommendations	<p>This is the bill that would enact the Court Security Committee’s recommendations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 42 (85R) cleanup 	<p>SB 489 - Zaffirini</p>
Data Committee Recommendations	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and Data Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case-level Data • Case Management System 	<p>Bill in drafting stage</p>
Disaster Bill	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and PTC Committee related to disasters.</p>	<p>SB 40 – Zaffirini</p>
SCJC Modifications	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and PTC Committee related to the SCJC as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report number of complaints deferred pending criminal investigation and number referred to law enforcement • Website index of pending cases by case number and current status / age • Website simple directions how to file complaint, etc 	<p>SB 467 – Zaffirini</p>

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Guardianship Recommendations	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and MH-Guardianship as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Guardianship Compliance Project • Establish regional specialized guardianship courts • Statewide Public Guardianship Office 	<p>SB 31 – Zaffirini (GCP Expansion and name change)</p> <p>SB 536 – Zaffirini (specialized guardianship courts)</p>
Specialty Court Oversight	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and CJ Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Title 2, Subtitle K, Government Code to provide Judicial Branch with additional oversight of specialty courts 	<p>Bill draft pending</p>
Opioid TF	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and CJ Committee to establish Opioid TF.</p>	<p>Bill draft pending</p>
Youth in Custody	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and JJ Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure flexibility for TJJD for placement of children in custody; • Clarify risk assessment must be used before every disposition, including deferred pros; 	<p>Bill draft pending</p>
Dually-Involved Youth	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and JJ Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify sharing provisions of HB 932 (2017) and HB 1521 (2017) and require automatic exchange of info between TJJD and DFPS; • Revise TFC and Govt Code to expand jurisdiction of Children’s Courts to oversee cases involving dually-involved youth; • Revise TFC to allow transfer of venue of juvenile case to court with venue over child welfare case. 	<p>Bill draft pending</p>
Judicial Longevity Pay	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and Civil Justice Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce longevity for judges from 16 to 4 years – 0.2% per year. 	<p>HB 847 – Wray</p>
Class C against Youth	<p>This bill would enact the recommendations of the TJC and JJ committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class C non-traffic from criminal to civil • JCMs 	<p>Bill draft pending</p>