TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

89th Texas Legislative Session | How to Get Involved

Policy Priorities

- **1. Strengthen Homeless Crisis Response Systems:** Support coordinated, data-driven systems that prevent and end homelessness and improve access to housing, health, and crisis services.
- **2. Expand Affordable, Accessible Housing Opportunities:** Increase affordable housing options, reduce barriers to housing, and strengthen programs that help Texans obtain and maintain stable housing.
- **3. Targeted Intersectional Assistance:** Address barriers faced by disproportionately impacted populations, including youth, veterans, students, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.
- **4. Oppose Policies That May Hinder Efforts to End Homelessness:** Monitor legislation that, in THN's assessment, may restrict effective homelessness responses or create additional barriers to housing and services.

THN works to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. The following legislation is organized by policy priority and reflects bills THN and its partners are tracking.

1. Strengthen Homeless Crisis Response Systems

Bill	Policy Summary	Status / Notes
HB 2808 (Rose)	Homeless housing and services programs for youth and young adults.	Filed 2/13/25; referred to Intergovernmental Affairs 3/19/25.
HB 636 (Walle) / SB 2488 (Parker)	Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network expansion; real-time data sharing and system integration.	HB filed 11/12/24; heard 3/18/25.
HB 1173 (Raymond)	Administration of the homeless housing and services program by TDHCA.	Filed 11/12/24; referred 3/7/25.
HB 2142 (Cole)	TDHCA study on feasible models to address homelessness.	Filed 1/28/25; referred 3/14/25.
HB 2754 (Garcia)	Pilot grants for personalized treatment protocols for homeless veterans with substance use disorders.	Filed 2/12/25; referred 3/19/25.
HB 2016 (Bucy)	Establishes the Housing Texas Fund administered by TDHCA.	Filed 1/22/25; referred 3/14/25.
HB 3205 (Campos)	County housing-first initiatives fee in certain counties.	Referred 3/20/25.
SB 2487 (Parker)	Procedures and certain facilities providing crisis and mental health services.	Filed 3/13/25.
SB 1164 (Zaffarini)	Emergency detention and court-ordered inpatient and extended mental health services.	Referred 2/28/25.

2. Expand Affordable, Accessible Housing Opportunities

Bill	Policy Summary	Status / Notes
HB 714 (Walle) / SB 337 (Eckhardt)	Texas Tenant Readiness and Landlord Incentive Pilot Program.	Filed 11/12/24; referred 3/4/25.
HB 1608 (Garcia)	Veterans' land bank program through the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.	Filed 11/12/24; referred 3/12/25.
HB 438 (Rosenthal)	Limits rent increases for tenants in certain low-income housing tax credit developments.	Filed 11/12/24; referred 2/28/25.
HB 570 (Lalani)	Requires certain housing assistance applicants to be informed about available public assistance.	Filed 11/12/24; referred 3/3/25.
HB 2724 (Cole)	Equitable operations policies for certain emergency homeless shelters.	Filed 2/12/25; referred 3/7/25.
HB 2426 (Garcia)	Assessment of surplus government property for housing homeless veterans.	Filed 2/4/25; referred 3/17/25.
SB 2983 (Parker)	Homelessness and affordable housing strategies, including land repurposing and tax revenue use.	Filed 3/14/25.

3. Targeted Intersectional Assistance

Bill	Policy Summary	Status / Notes
HB 1144 (Shaw)	State and local government disaster preparedness.	Filed 11/12/24; referred 3/7/25.
SB 1324 (Johnson)	Housing assistance pilot program for certain public junior college students.	Filed 2/14/25; referred 2/28/25.
HB 505 (Bucy) / HB 1042 (Bhojani) / HB 1712 (Collier)	Access to certified birth records, driver's licenses, or ID certificates for homeless individuals.	Filed 11/12/24–12/30/24; heard 3/25/25.
HB 2476 (Simmons)	Living-expense grants for certain public higher education students.	Filed 2/5/25; referred 3/17/25.
HB 1785 (Bucy)	Eligibility for homeless individuals to take the high school equivalency examination.	Filed 1/8/25; referred 3/14/25.
HB 1966 (Garcia)	Study of housing needs for youth transitioning from foster care or the juvenile justice system.	Filed 1/22/25; referred 3/14/25.

4. Legislation That May Hinder Efforts to End Homelessness

THN is tracking these bills because they may, in THN's assessment, limit effective community responses to homelessness.

Bill	Policy Summary	Status / Notes
SB 399 (Sparks)	State-funded homelessness program effectiveness and beneficiary self-sufficiency.	Referred to Senate Finance 2/3/25; House Delivery of Government Efficiency 3/27/25.
SB 617 (Schwertner)	Hearing and public notice requirements for municipal property conversions to house homeless individuals.	Passed Senate 4/2/25; referred to House Intergovernmental Affairs.
SB 241 (Flores)	Prohibitions on camping in a public place.	Passed Senate 4/8/25.
SB 2623 (Creighton)	School safety zones; may restrict homeless service provision within 1.5 miles of certain zones.	Heard 3/8/25; left pending.
SB 38 (Bettencourt) / HB 32 (Button et al.)	Eviction from real property of certain persons not entitled to occupy the premises.	Senate action 4/1–4/9/25; House committee action 4/8/25.

How to Get Involved

Advocates play an essential role in educating policymakers and advancing effective solutions to homelessness. There are several ways to support THN's legislative priorities:

Stay informed. Follow THN's legislative updates and track bills that affect people experiencing homelessness and the systems that serve them.

Contact your legislators. Share how proposed policies affect your community, programs, and the Texans you serve. Personal stories and local perspectives help policymakers understand the real-world impact of legislation.

Participate in advocacy events. Join THN and partners for advocacy days, legislative visits, and other opportunities to engage directly with elected officials.

Share your expertise. Help policymakers understand effective, evidence-informed approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

Mobilize your network. Encourage colleagues, community partners, and local stakeholders to stay engaged and communicate with their elected officials.

Together, advocates can help advance policies that make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring across Texas.

Note: *Bill descriptions and legislative status have been condensed from the source document for readability. The underlying bill list and policy-priority organization have been preserved*.