



# ***Legislative Update***

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# *Major Issues*

- **Budget**
  - Outlook better than initially expected
- **Redistricting**
  - Several bills filed, least likely to get done
- **Covid**
  - Multitude of bills on different aspects
- **Electricity**
  - In response to winter storm, dominant issue right now



# *Other Issues*

- **Broadband**
  - Expansion of broadband, particularly to rural TX
- **Public meetings**
  - Multiple bills filed to expand use of virtual meetings by govt entities
- **Public funds for lobbying**
  - Two different versions, one limited to cities and counties only
- **Eminent Domain**
  - Several bills refiled from last session



# ***Water Issues***

- **Produced water**
  - Bill filed to study expanding use of water from oil and gas process
- **Groundwater/Surface water Interaction**
  - Multiple bills filed to study the issue
- **Groundwater**
  - Usual GW issues such as loser pays, appeals processes for permittees
- **TPWD bills**
  - Bills filed regarding TPWD standing in water right permits and promotion of Water Trust



# ***River Authority Specific***

- **Presiding Officer Designation**
  - Requires Gov designation of PO, filed last session
  - Two versions, one applying to RA's only and one to all entities under Sunset
- **Election of RA Board Members**
  - Interim study on electing Board members to RA's
  - Would look at adding two elected members and adding one while reducing appointed by one



# ***BRA Sunset***

- **Filed last Tuesday**
- **Includes following across-the-board provisions**
  - **Grounds for Board member removal**
  - **Requirement for Board member training**
  - **Requirement for public testimony at Board meetings**
  - **Requirement of policy separating Board (policy-making) and staff functions**
  - **Requirement to maintain complaint tracking system**



# Brazos River Authority