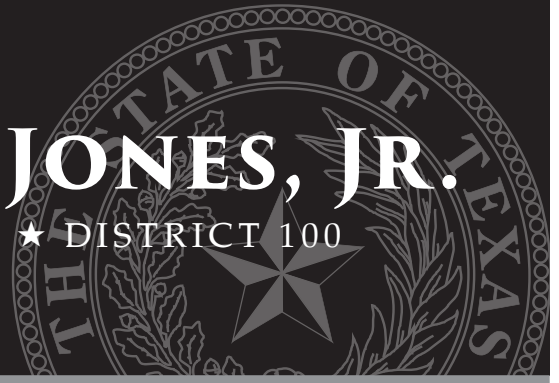




VENTON C. JONES, JR.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 100



88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dear House District 100 Neighbors,

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative. I approach this role with the utmost respect and strive to advocate for the needs and concerns of our district, and the great state of Texas. During the 88th Legislative Session my agenda consisted of pragmatic priorities that were shaped by community feedback, and covered issues surrounding the economy, public health, public education, and equality. As a new member to the Texas House of Representatives, I was proud to be named "Freshmen of the Year" by the other Representatives for my work during the 88th Legislative Session.

HD 100 Office 88th Regular Legislative Session Highlights :

- 16 Bills Authored; 6 Bills passed out of the Texas House of Representatives
- 36 Bill Joint-Authored; 4 were signed into law by the Governor
- 65 Bills Co-Authored; 16 were signed into law by the Governor
- \$151.6 Million secured in the 2024-2025 biennium budget for HD 100

Easing the pocketbooks of Texas homeowners by reducing their property tax bills was a high priority. During the second Special Session, lawmakers provided property tax relief with an \$18 billion tax cut that increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 and compresses School District Maintenance & Operations (M&O) taxes by an additional 10.7 cents per \$100 of the appraised value of the home. Moreover homeowners 65 years of age and older, and disabled homeowners will see their homestead exemption rise to \$110,000. Texans got to vote on this property tax reduction plan through a constitutional amendment.

Upon reflection on the recently concluded 88th Legislative Session, I am grateful and proud to have served on the Public Health and Corrections Committees. These committees offered the opportunity to focus on issues of importance to our district, such as safeguarding public health and ensuring our criminal justice system's fair and effective administration.

While much was accomplished during the legislative session, there is still work to be done. I will continue to advocate for the priorities and values that you have entrusted me to represent in the Texas House of Representatives. Your voices matter, and we encourage you to reach out to us with your concerns, ideas, and suggestions at district100.jones@house.texas.gov. Together, we can shape a brighter future for our district and our beloved state.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Venton Jones".

State Representative, District 100
Texas House of Representatives



88th Legislative Session Staff (left to right) - Alaina Dixon, Cecilia Garcia, Toni Bryant, Rep. Venton Jones, Gavin Nicholson, and Kevin Roberts.

★ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ★

AUTHORED BILLS

The following bills authored by Representative Jones passed out of the Texas House of Representatives.

House Bill 2053

Issues a specialty license plate for faculty and alumni of The Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center.

House Bill 2235 | *Oliverson* | *Rose* | *Anderson* | *Wu*

Recommends HIV testing as a part of routine medical exams. By default, a medical provider currently does not provide an HIV test as part of routine testing and the burden of testing is placed on patients who may assume that HIV testing is already included or who may think they are not at risk.

House Bill 3067 | *DeAyala* | *Frazier* | *Garcia*

Expands school and university system officers to the list of authorized peace officers.

House Bill 3282

Allows counties the authority to create scrap tire disposal facilities.

House Bill 3377 | *Oliverson* | *Rose* | *Anderson* | *Wu*

Recommends HIV testing as part of standard STI screenings. Having HIV testing as a standard of practice with STI screenings would help identify people living with HIV as early as possible and reduce the transmission to other Texans.

House Bill 4286

Allows for the best candidate to be appointed candidate for the Texas Funeral Service Commission.



Representative Venton Jones with Authored Bills voted out of the Texas House of Representatives.

LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

House Bills and House Concurrent Resolutions	17
House Resolutions Filed	13
Committee Hearings	7
Bills Signed into Law	29

BILL HIGHLIGHTS: AUTHORED AND SPONSORED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE VENTON JONES THAT ARE NOW LAW



Representative Jones serving as Speaker of the Day in the Texas House of Representatives.

House Bill 8 | *VanDeaver*

Reforms Texas' community college finance system to align policy and funding incentives with the rapidly changing needs of the workforce.

House Bill 9 | *Ashby*

Bolsters the Texas Broadband Development Office's efforts to expand internet availability in the state.

Status: Became law, takes effect January 1, 2024, but only if the voters approve HJR 125

House Bill 12 | *Rose*

Expands Medicaid coverage up to one year for new mothers.

House Bill 25 | *Talarico*

Creates the Texas Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program, allowing the U.S. to import prescription drugs from EpiPens to cancer medications from Canada.

House Bill 567 | *Bowers*

Prohibits discrimination based on hairstyle in employment, education, and housing opportunities.

House Bill 568 | *Bowers*

Provides training for peace officers for interactions with people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

★ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ★

BILL HIGHLIGHTS: AUTHORED AND SPONSORED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE VENTON JONES THAT ARE NOW LAW

House Bill 755 | *Johnson, Julie* | *Lalani* | *Harless*

Amends the Insurance Code to prohibit a health benefit plan issuer that provides prescription drug benefits from requiring an enrollee to receive more than one prior authorization annually of the prescription drug benefit for certain prescription drugs prescribed to treat an autoimmune disease, hemophilia, or Von Willebrand disease.

House Bill 916 | *Ordaz*

Requires commercial health plans in the state to cover prescriptions of contraceptive drugs.

House Bill 968 | *Gates*

Allows a child to remain in their home if a parent being accused of being abusive or neglectful voluntarily leaves.

House Bill 1193 | *Turner* | *Collier*

Amends the Property Code to prohibit a property owners' association from including or enforcing a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts a property owner from renting a dwelling to a person based on the person's method of payment, including payments made in whole or in part by a federal Section 8 housing choice voucher or any other federal, state, or local housing assistance provided to a person or to a property owner on behalf of a person, such as rental vouchers, rental assistance, or rental subsidies from a nongovernmental organization.

House Bill 1275 | *Plesa*

Provides a Personal ID certificate to persons 65 years of age or older when they surrender their Driver's license to the Department of Public Safety.

House Bill 1743 | *Leach* | *Noble* | *Collier* | *Thompson, Senfronia*

Amends the Human Resources Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to ensure that an inmate confined in a TDCJ facility who is likely to be eligible for SNAP benefits on discharge or release on parole, mandatory supervision, or conditional pardon is assessed by HHSC to determine eligibility for those benefits before the inmate's discharge or release.

House Bill 2708 | *Swanson*

Requires the visitation policies of the institutional division and state jail division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to allow in-person visitation for eligible inmates or defendants, as applicable, regardless of the implementation of video visitation or visitation by other electronic means.

House Bill 3553 | *Thierry*

Enhances the penalties for trafficking if offense is committed within one-thousand feet of a school.

House Bill 3554 | *Thierry*

Increases the penalty of human trafficking to a first-degree felony if the offense is committed at certain locations like schools, child-care facilities or shelters.

House Bill 3980 | *Frazier*

Allows firefighters and firefighter's organizations to set aside a portion of their hours for business leave.

House Bill 4034 | *Johnson, Julie*

Raises the cap on death benefits for qualified survivors of active service members who die in the line of duty.

SB 840 | *West* | *Anchia* | *Johnson, Julie*

Increases the criminal penalty for assaulting a certain hospital personnel.

SB 629 | *Menéndez*

Requires the commissioner of state health services to add opioid antagonists to the advisory committee that oversees administration of epinephrine auto-injectors on institutions of education. Allows school personnel and volunteers to administer opioid antagonists. Amends current law regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists on public and private school campuses.

SB 1413 | *Johnson*

Grants authorization to fire departments to remove property if it blocks roadways or endangers public safety.



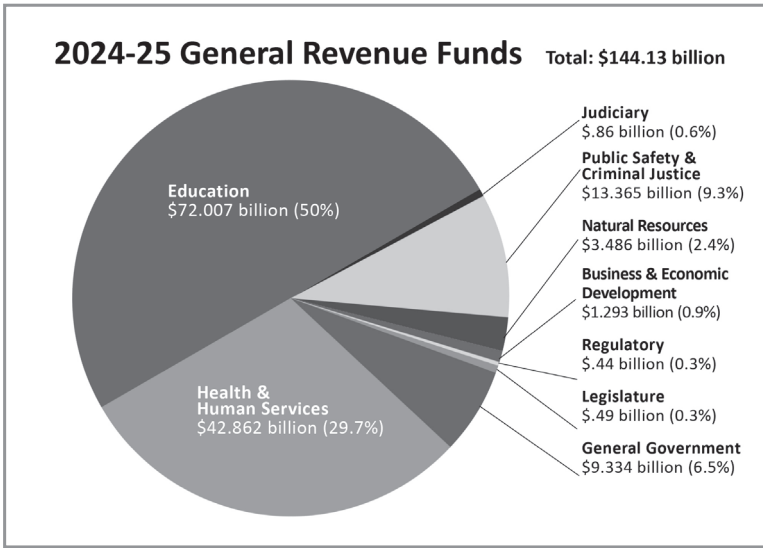
Representative Jones laying out House Bill 2055 before the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.

★ BUDGET UPDATE ★

2024-2025 GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS | TOTAL \$144.13 BILLION

The 88th Regular Legislative Session started with \$188.2 billion available for general-purpose spending, which included a historic \$33 billion surplus. In the end, \$321.3 billion was appropriated, a 23% increase from the previous biennium (\$297.2 billion). Investments were made in highway and water infrastructure, women’s health, pay raises for state employees, and a cost of living adjustment for retired teachers. Below are a few of the highlights:

- \$11.6 billion in all funds for mental health services, including:
 - \$2.2 billion for the construction of mental health hospitals in HD 100 and additional inpatient capacity
 - Increases for hospital operations and community mental health grants
- \$1.8 billion for state employee raises
- \$1.5 billion for broadband expansion, subject to voter approval
- \$1.54 billion for financial aid program
- \$5 billion for highway construction & improvement
- \$5 billion for a 13th check and a cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers
- \$1 billion for new state parks, subject to voter approval
- \$2.4 billion for water infrastructure projects, subject to voter approval
- \$1.95 billion to raise the base wage for home health care workers
- \$219.7 million for Foster Care rate modernization
- \$206.8 million for rate increases for pediatric services, women’s health-related surgeries, private duty nursing, and ambulances



Representative Jones and other members of the Texas House passing a resolution recognizing HIV Advocacy Day at the Capitol.



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 REP VENTON C JONES JR
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 AUSTIN TX 78768-2910

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★ REPRESENTATIVE JONES' BUDGET ITEMS ★

Representative Jones worked alongside the members of the Appropriations Committee to secure the following priority items for HD 100 in the final budget.

Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern

\$102 million was appropriated to construct the Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern in HD 100. The funds for this critical mental health facility were needed because of rising construction costs due to inflation. The Center, slated to open in 2025, will help fill the need for more inpatient psychiatric beds in North Texas.

Southern Gateway Park

The legislature appropriated \$10 million to complete the Southern Gateway Park. The park will span I-35E between Ewing and Marsalis avenues and reconnects historic Oak Cliff. The park is projected to open in late 2024.

Anti-displacement Efforts

Providing \$2 million in financial assistance to community organizations and nonprofit organizations to study and provide solutions on best practices to address housing displacement and gentrification issues.



Representative Jones welcomes members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated for Alpha Day at the Texas Capitol.

Reentry Services Program

\$5 million was appropriated to provide services to people reentering society from incarceration. The funds will go to non-profits, faith-based organizations, and community groups, primarily in Dallas and Houston, to help individuals get their lives on track and stay out of the criminal justice system.

Texans Feeding Texans

Helped secure over \$20 million to fund the Texans Feeding Texans program which will assist local food banks in their effort to help our community members facing food insecurity.

Urban Food Deserts Grants

Providing \$2 million in funding for the Texas Department of Agriculture to operate a program focused on urban food desert grants.

Closing Health Disparities

The Department of State Health Services has been provided with \$4 million in funding to distribute to nonprofit and community organizations to help end health disparities for people in the City of Dallas.

HIV/STD Prevention

Appropriates an additional \$2 million to the Department of State Health Services to reduce and prevent the spread of HIV & STDs in the State of Texas.

Training for TDCJ Correctional Officers

Allocates the Texas Department of Criminal Justice discretionary funding to train Correctional Officers on Intellectual and Developmental Disability conditions and needs.

Free School Breakfasts

Over the next biennium, \$6.6 million was allocated to provide complimentary breakfast to all children who qualify for reduced-price school meals. This will ensure that 70,000 children start their school days with a nutritious meal that enables them to focus and learn at their highest levels.

★ HOUSE DISTRICT 100 CONSTITUENT SURVEY ★

I would be pleased to hear from you. You can respond by using the QR code, or please feel free to e-mail me at venton.jones@house.texas.gov.

Be sure to include your name, home address, and phone number. I would like to know what issues are most important to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Rate the following issues in order of priority from 1 - 12 (1 being the top priority and 12 being the lowest priority).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Affordable Healthcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Gun violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Reproductive Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Deserts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Revitalization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political Corruption | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for Public Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Public Transportation |



Representative Jones with family on the opening day of the 88th Legislative Session

VENTON C. JONES, JR.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 100

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Committees: Corrections • Public Health

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
VENTON C. JONES, JR.



HERE TO SERVE YOU

Whether we are in legislative session or not, here are some ways my office can be of assistance to you and other constituents. Please feel free to reach out!

Assisting with State Agencies. Having trouble working with a State Agency? My experienced staff is here to help you navigate the bureaucracy of State Agencies.

Legislative Research. Wondering about the effects of a new state law? Have an idea for a new law? Or maybe a law that should be repealed? We would be happy to find answers to your questions or start the legislative drafting process. The Interim between legislative sessions is when staff do most of the legwork for new legislative proposals.

Meetings and Events. I love meeting with constituents back home or in Austin! If you would like to meet face-to-face or would like for me to attend an event, please do not hesitate to

contact my office at district100.jones@house.texas.gov.

Arranging Capitol Tours. Your Texas Capitol is a beautiful building highlighting our State's great past and present. If you're planning a trip to Austin, please contact my office to arrange a tour for yourself or a group.

Recognition: Flags & Resolutions. Do you know a resident of House District 100 who deserved to be recongnized? We would like to help honor them. We regularly recognize the milestones, academic or extracurricular achievements, and other noteworthy accomplishments with a Texas Resolution, a flag flown over the Capitol, or both! Simply send a detailed request to district100.jones@house.texas.gov.