

## **89<sup>th</sup> Legislature Bill Summaries**

The TxIDTF Legislative Subcommittee has compiled a summary of bills from the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature Session that impact impaired driving and traffic safety.

To read the summaries, click on the bill hyperlink below, and you will be directed to the appropriate summary on the subsequent pages.

### **Included Bills:**

- **HB 46**
- **HB 2017**
- **HB 4215**
- **SB 296**
- **SB 650**
- **SB 745**
- **SB 826**
- **SB 1886**

**HB 46**

**Subject: Relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis under the administration of the Texas Compassionate Use Program; requiring registration.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends Section 487.053(a), Health and Safety Code, addressing the Texas Compassionate-Use Program. It increases the number of medical cannabis dispensing licenses available, up to a total of 15, also allowing for registered satellite locations. A package or medical device cannot contain more than 1 gram of tetrahydrocannabinol. This bill changes one percent by weight, to 10 milligrams per dosage unit. Methods of delivery were added: absorption, insertion, and pulmonary inhalation of aerosol or vapor. It also adds qualifying conditions to the current list: a condition causing chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, Crohn's disease or other inflammatory bowel disease, and a terminal illness or a condition for which a patient is receiving hospice or palliative care. It also allows a physician to submit a request to the Department of State Health Services and provide evidence to the legislature that low-dose cannabis may be beneficial for treating a medical condition not currently listed.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-HB46-Enrolled](#)

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**HB 2017**

**Subject: Relating to increasing the minimum term of imprisonment and changing the eligibility for community supervision, mandatory supervision, and parole for certain persons convicted of intoxication manslaughter.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends Penal Code Chapter 49 by amending Section 49.09(b-2) It makes Intoxication Manslaughter a first-degree felony if the defendant has a prior conviction under Chapter 49 and at the time of the commission of the instant offense was in violation of Chapter 51. Currently, Chapter 51—criminalizing unlawful entry into the state—is not being prosecuted due to federal court stays. The bill also prohibits probation and restricts parole for this new enhanced offense. Until issues are resolved with Chapter 51 of the Penal Code, this new law should have no effect on actual prosecutions.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-HB2017-Enrolled](#)

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**HB 4215**

**Subject: Relating to the regulation of delivery network companies; requiring an occupational permit; authorizing a fee.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends Occupations Code, Chapter 2402, defining delivery networks. A “delivery network company” is a business entity that offers a digital network to arrange for the delivery of food, beverages or consumer goods. It does not apply to an entity that only delivers its own goods. The delivery network company is required to implement an intoxicating substances policy that prohibits a delivery person who is logged into the network from any amount of intoxication. Additionally, before a delivery network

company authorizes an individual to access the digital network, the company must verify the individual is at least 18 years old, maintains a valid driver's license and is not on the national sex offender registry. In the past three years, the individual cannot have been convicted of: more than 4 moving violations, fleeing from police, reckless driving, and driving without a license. In the preceding seven years the delivery person may not have been convicted of: DWI, use of motor vehicle to commit a felony, felony involving property damage, fraud, theft, violence, or terrorism.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-HB4215-Enrolled](#)

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#### **SB 296**

**Subject: Relating to driving safety or motorcycle operator training course (DSC/MOC) dismissal.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

Chapter 45A, Subchapter H of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides Texas driver's license holders an option to have certain fine-only traffic charges dismissed by taking a DSC/MOC. Currently, under Article 45A.352, eligible defendants are *entitled* to use this option to dismiss one eligible charge per year. Courts are authorized to collect a \$10 reimbursement fee from such defendants. Judges have discretion whether to grant additional DSC/MOC dismissals within the same year.

SB 296 amends Article 45A.352(b) to provide that if a defendant is charged with more than one eligible offense arising out of the same criminal transaction, the defendant is entitled to have each offense dismissed following completion of a single DSC/MOC. It further provides that courts are authorized to collect a separate \$10 reimbursement fee for each charge dismissed.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-SB296-Enrolled](#)

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#### **SB 650**

**Subject: Relating to requiring the use of electronically readable information to verify a purchaser's age in the retail sale of alcoholic beverages.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends Alcoholic Beverage Code 109.61. A person shall visually inspect and access electronically readable information on a driver's license or identification certificate for the purpose of verifying a purchaser's age in any retail sale of an alcoholic beverage for off-premise consumption. This subsection does not apply to license holders who allow for on-premise consumption of alcoholic beverages. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) shall adopt rules not later than September 1, 2027, but the violation of any rule promulgated by TABC prior to 9/1/27 is not actionable.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-SB650-Enrolled](#)

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#### **SB 745**

**Subject: Relating to enhancing the criminal penalty for the offense of intoxication manslaughter in certain circumstances.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends Penal Code Chapter 49 by amending Section 49.09(b-2) It makes Intoxication Manslaughter a first-degree felony if the defendant causes the death of “more than one person during the same criminal transaction.” This bill will allow prosecutors to try multiple fatalities coming from one crash as a single first-degree felony with a punishment range of 5 to 99 years or life instead of multiple second-degree felonies with a range of 2 to 20 years. Before this bill juries were limited to assessing 20 years regardless of the number of lives taken and then attempting the complicated process of “stacking” sentences. This simplifies the multi-victim Intoxication Manslaughter in many ways, but most importantly gives this offense a much more severe range of punishment.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-SB745-Enrolled](#)

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**SB 826**

**Subject: Relating to the operation of a motor vehicle in a school crossing zone while intoxicated; increasing a criminal penalty.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends 49.04 of the Penal Code by adding Subsection (e). That subsection makes DWI a state jail felony if “the person was operating the motor vehicle in a school crossing zone during the time the reduced speed limit applies to the zone.” It is now a state jail felony if a person drives with a child in the car. It makes sense to make impaired driving in an active school zone the same level offense. Interestingly this legislation came out of case law where impaired drivers were in school zones to pick up their children.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-SB826-Enrolled](#)

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**SB 1886**

**Subject: Relating to the execution of a search warrant for taking a blood specimen from certain persons in certain intoxication offenses.**

**Effective: September 1, 2025**

This bill amends Article 18.067 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to expand which peace officers may execute blood search warrants in impaired driving cases. Previously, the law required that officers executing such warrants in an adjacent county also be authorized to make arrests in that county—a restriction that was more burdensome than for other types of warrants. SB 1886 removes this procedural barrier by allowing any peace officer physically present in the adjacent county to execute a blood search warrant, regardless of whether their department has arrest authority there. This change simplifies the process and resolves issues that arise when counties contract with other jurisdictions for law enforcement or jail services.

Read the full text of the bill here: [Texas-2025-SB1886-Enrolled](#)

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