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## Sonogram, eminent domain, SBOE redistricting bills head to Governor's desk

**MAY 5** Written by: Andy Hogue  
5/5/2011 4:31 PM

Three bills are now on their way to the Governor's desk today -- two of which were designated as emergency items by Gov. Rick Perry earlier this year.

A conference committee report for eminent domain reform (SB 18) was approved by the House by 145 votes. The House concurred on the Senate's amendments to the Sonogram Bill (HB 15). Both are emergency items ... with three weeks left to go this session.

A redistricting map for the State Board of Education (HB 600) was also approved. It appears the Senate version of the map was retained.

"The Texas House has acted swiftly on priorities of the Texas voters," said Speaker Joe Straus, in a press statement. "I thank Rep. Solomons [author of the redistricting bill], Rep. Geren [SB 18 author] and Rep. Sid Miller [Sonogram sponsor] for their leadership, and I'm grateful for the House members' hard work so far during this session."

In the Sonogram Bill debate, Rep. Craig Eiland (D-Galveston) argued that the bill would cause trauma for women carrying fetuses with severe birth defects -- "disgraceful," he called it. But his amendment to add an exception was tabled 96-48. Other attempts to stall the bill were overcome easily.

Regarding the eminent domain bill, a long-time supporter of property rights reform chimed in.

"SB 18 is the next step along the road to restoring property rights protections to Texas landowners," said Bill Peacock of Texas Public Policy Foundation. "It bans taking that are not for public use and improves compensation for landowners. We look forward to moving the debate next session to protecting landowners from harmful regulations that reduce their property value without compensation."

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