

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Ways & Means
For SB 4

Compiled on: Monday, May 5, 2025 11:12 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: May 5, 2025 9:00 AM

HD Chambers, Executive Director
Texas School Alliance, Executive Director
Austin, TX

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SB 4 by Senator Bettencourt (Engrossed)
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To the Honorable Chairman Morgan Meyer and all Texas House Ways & Means Committee Members:

TSA would like to respectfully register our position on SB 4 (engrossed) as ON the bill. While we appreciate the effort put forth in Senate Bill 4 to reduce property taxes and ease the financial burden on property owners within our state, we would like to express some concerns regarding certain technical aspects of the bill that we believe require further consideration.

Sections 1.02 and 1.03 of the bill appear to stop short of fully protecting school districts from the impact of the loss of property value associated with the increased homestead exemption.

- First, it appears to limit hold-harmless funding for the loss of I&S taxes to debt eligible for state assistance as of January 1, 2025 (defined elsewhere in statute as debt on which a payment was made prior to September 1, 2023).
- Second, it appears to eliminate the M&O and I&S hold harmless provisions protecting districts from the loss of revenue for prior homestead exemption increases.
- Third, the language reduces I&S hold harmless funding when districts make more than the minimum required debt service payment, which could result in increased interest costs over the long term.

The loss of this funding will have a significant impact on the school district's ability to provide the services required by the state of Texas and expectations placed on schools by students and families. At a time where funding for Texas public schools is not nearly adequate, it is confusing that the Texas Legislature would consider reducing funding to public schools based on a reduced collection of taxes in order to increase the homestead exemption.

We thank you for your attention to these matters and for your continued support of Texas public schools. We think addressing these concerns would help ensure that the bill provides desired property tax relief without inadvertently hurting school funding. The Texas School Alliance looks forward to working collaboratively to provide meaningful tax relief while also protecting school districts from a loss in revenue.

For further information, please contact Mr. HD Chambers, Executive Director, at hdchambersjr@gmail.com or by phone at 281-782-4989.

TSA represents 50 of the largest school districts in Texas and educates close to half the state's students. Our members cover the breadth of Texas' geographic expanse, from the Rio Grande Valley to the Panhandle, from near the eastern border to Far West Texas.

Amanda Brownson

TASBO

AUSTIN, TX

The Texas Association of School Business Officials appreciates the effort put forth in Senate Bill 4 to reduce property taxes and ease the financial burden on property owners within our state. However, we would like to express some concerns regarding certain technical aspects of the bill that we believe require further consideration.

Sections 1.02 and 1.03 of the bill appear to stop short of fully protecting school districts from the impact of the loss of property value associated with the increased homestead exemption. First, it appears to limit hold-harmless funding for the loss of I&S taxes to debt eligible for state assistance as of January 1, 2025 (defined elsewhere in statute as debt on which a payment was made prior to September 1, 2023). Second, it appears to eliminate the M&O and I&S hold harmless provisions protecting districts from the loss of revenue for prior homestead exemption increases. Third, the language reduces I&S hold harmless funding when districts make more than the minimum required debt service payment, which could result in increased interest costs over the long term.

We thank you for your attention to these matters and for your continued support of Texas public schools. We think addressing these concerns would help ensure that the bill provides desired property tax relief without inadvertently hurting school funding.

We look forward to working collaboratively to provide meaningful tax relief while also protecting school districts from a loss in revenue.