# AUTHOR

Senator Nieves, Preston

# SPONSORS

Senator Miller, Elijah Senator Loosmore, Skyler Senator Molina, Alexander **S.B. 2017-2018**

# Date of First Reading:

**A Bill –**

**To be Entitled “The Legislative Transparency Act”, which would require proposed student government legislation to be made available on the student government website**

**WHEREAS:** The Texas State University Student Government has responsibility to actively engage with and address the concerns of the student body, and to promote the ideals of self-governance,

democracy, and servant leadership across the campus; and

**WHEREAS:** A significant part of this is maintaining sufficient levels of government transparency to avoid unreasonable or unnecessary barriers to the student body’s access to information pertinent to government activities, or ability to participate actively in discussion and debate about proposed university policies. Currently, inadequate access to information about the specifics of legislation proposed in the senate serves as an obstacle to meeting this obligation; and

**WHEREAS:** This barrier makes it easy for students to become too far removed from the legislative process to make their voices heard. It incentivizes passivity, especially among underrepresented groups. One of the missions of student government is to serve the student body beyond oneself. Title II, Chapter 100 §3 (c), (d), and (g) of Student

Government Code clearly demonstrate the importance of communication, addressing constituent’s needs, and exemplifying servant leadership to meeting this ethical standard; and

**WHEREAS:** The general student body, not just elected officials and those close to them, must have the ability to easily access details about proposed legislation a reasonable amount of time before it comes to a vote, as to ensure all groups have a chance to get their perspectives heard. Such action is required to prevent the status quo from becoming a pillar upon which elitism, favoritism, and privilege by association can rest; therefore

**BE IT ENACTED:** By the authority granted under Article III Section 1

1. of the student government constitution, Student Government Code Title VI, Chapter 200, Article IV shall be amended to include the following text after §5:

# §6 Pending Legislation

Legislation submitted in accordance with the guidelines set forth

in §1 and §2, that has not yet been voted on by the senate, is to be considered pending legislation from the exact time and date of the first reading until the date and time that legislation is voted on by the senate. Legislation that is considered pending, must be made accessible on the student government portion of the Texas State University website no later than 24 hours after the first reading.

* 1. The Student Government Chief of Staff is responsible for submitting relevant information about pending legislation to the director of programs and marketing, who is to update the student government website accordingly. Information that must be submitted and made available is; the authors and sponsors of the legislation, the

date of the first reading of the legislation, the status of the legislation, and the full text of the legislation. The inclusion of any additional information, including but in no way limited to a summary or analysis of longer bills and resolutions, is at the discretion of the Chief of Staff as they see fit to maintain consistency with the student government constitution and any applicable statutes in student government code.

* + 1. The status of pending legislation shall fall into the following categories; introduced, under review (by applicable commission or committee), and out of commission/committee.
    2. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for providing updates about the status of legislation to the director of programs and marketing in a timely fashion, whom is in turn required to update the student government website.
  1. Legislation that has been granted emergency status is exempt from the requirements set forth under this section.

**BE IT ENACTED:** That upon passage this legislation shall be forwarded to student body president Connor Clegg for further action.