

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

P.O. Box 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0784

TO: House Members and Staff

FROM: Will Metcalf, Chairman

DATE: July 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Article X Funding

There are many questions regarding the impact of the Governor's veto of Article X funding to the Texas House of Representatives. If Article X funding is not restored prior to September 1st, the House will not have the authority or funding to pay for employee salaries and the many services, contracts, and leases currently in place. The implications to the operation of the House are significant, and the list below outlines some areas of major impact.

- Payroll, Benefits and Insurance
 - The House will not have funding to pay staff salaries.
 - Staff members will be responsible for paying the entirety of the health insurance monthly premium, including the portion of the premium traditionally paid by the state.
 - Absent a state salary, staff members will not be able to contribute to the Employees Retirement System (ERS) for the time they are not paid.
- District Office Lease Payments and Telephone Services
 - Lease payments will cease beginning September 1, 2021. House Accounting will notify landlords beginning in August to cancel district office leases effective September 1, 2021, due to inability to pay.
 - District office telephone services will be cancelled. It is likely that district office telephone numbers will change when service is restored, requiring additional changes on stationery & business cards.
- Equipment and Service Contracts
 - Cleaning services, including COVID-19 disinfection for the House Chamber, will be disrupted.
 - Cable service, in the Capitol and Extension, will be cancelled.
 - Copiers and outside printing contracts will be cancelled.
- Direct Billed Travel
 - The option to direct bill airfare to the House will end mid-August for members

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and staff.

- Travel Reimbursements
 - Travel reimbursements will be suspended as of August 30th. The Texas Constitution allows members to be reimbursed for personal car mileage only for session or special session travel.
- House Printing & Reproduction
 - Newsletters will not be printed and mailed by the November 13th mailing deadline.
- House Calendars
 - Contracts involving third party work on the House calendar cannot be entered into unless funding is restored by mid-August. This will, at a minimum, delay the printing and delivery of the 2022 House calendar and could jeopardize its normal distribution timeframe.
- Office supplies
 - Office supplies cannot be ordered after mid-August. This will limit the availability of office supplies to the inventory on hand.
 - Special Purchases will not be allowed after August 6th. This includes any supplies that House Supply does not carry in stock.

For questions, please contact the House Business Office at 512-463-0835.

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