

# State

## Legislature to meet again in summer

United Press International  
AUSTIN — The 1981 Texas Legislature wrote an unprecedented record of anti-crime measures during its 140 day regular session but left the critical issues of congressional redistricting and funding of college construction unresolved, forcing the lawmakers to meet again in special summer session to deal with those issues.

"I thank all of you for a great session. You've done well for the state and I mean that sincerely," Gov. Bill Clements told the lawmakers as the midnight adjournment neared.

"I regret that we will have to be

back soon." In contrast to previous sessions when the lawmakers have worked at a frantic pace in the final hours, the major issues this year died in conference committee, leaving the legislators joking and partying much of the final night.

Clements announced almost three hours before the session ended that he would call a special session during the summer, but declined to name a specific date. His aides speculated the session would begin by late July or early August.

Speaker Bill Clayton's proposal to establish a trust fund to meet future state water needs and pay

off state debts was the first casualty Monday among the remaining major bills. It was killed in the Senate on a parliamentary ruling.

Then a conference committee attempting to compromise on a constitutional amendment repealing the state property tax and establishing a new method of funding college construction announced its differences were irreconcilable.

Negotiations on congressional redistricting and a continuation of the regulation of physicians would fail later in the night, but by then Clements already had announced a special session was necessary.

He told reporters the Legisla-

ture had made a commitment in 1979 to abolish the property tax, and had not carried through on that promise.

"There will be a special session, and that will be the first item on the agenda," Clements said. The water fund, Medical Practices Act and congressional redistricting also will be on the agenda, along with any other items Clements selects.

"I really don't know of anyone that wants a special session, but we've just run out of time and not accomplished all that some of us wanted to or all that we should have," the governor said.

The Legislature approved and

sent to Clements nine of 11 bills in the governor's anti-crime package, and five more bills proposed by the "War on Drugs" committee headed by computer billionaire H. Ross Perot.

Included on the list of anti-crime measures passed was a bill allowing law enforcement officers for the first time in Texas to use wiretaps and electronic bugging devices to gather evidence in narcotics cases.

Before gaveling to a close, the Legislature also adopted a record \$26.8 billion state budget for the next two years that came within \$12 million of the spending limit.

## Police radio used by four escapees

United Press International  
FRANKLIN — Robertson County authorities may have been hampered in their search for four escapees because the getaway car contained a radio that could be used to monitor lawmen involved in the chase.

Four inmates, ages 19 and 20, broke out of the Robertson County Jail about 7 p.m. Monday but one was arrested within two hours in nearby town. There were reports the man had surrendered to authorities in Hearne, about 13 miles from Franklin.

Authorities late Monday night indicated they were having difficulty locating the car carrying the other three because the escapees could monitor police radio transmissions.

Three of the escapees were believed to be residents of Hearne. Authorities said no one was injured in the escape, but the inmates took a .45-caliber revolver and a car from a jail.

Authorities refused to release further details.

## Bilingual bill gets approval

United Press International  
AUSTIN — If Gov. Bill Clements signs the legislation, bilingual education programs will be extended through all elementary grades in Texas.

While Attorney General Mark White watched Monday, the legislation gained final approval only hours before the end of the session.

White has been involved in continued legal wrangling over the legislation, representing the state's various unsuccessful legal positions.

The House, which earlier had insisted on an amendment limiting participation in bilingual programs to four years, voted 82-52 to go along with the compromise bill deleting that provision.

White was on hand as a conference committee quickly approved the compromise version and sent it to the House and Senate for final approval. The bill has a price tag estimated at \$15 million.

Rep. Milton Fox, R-Houston, argued against House approval of the bill, saying, "The fact is that bilingual education as we have practiced it in Texas is perpetuating this segregation and I fear it will perpetuate a segregated society. I say bilingual is failing."

Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, the sponsor of the bill, contended Fox's amendment would have destroyed the bill.

The Fox amendment was deleted as part of the conference committee compromise, as was an amendment by Rep. Matt Garcia, D-San Antonio, that removed funding for pilot education programs from the bill. Garcia said he feared too many schools would institute pilot programs and drain funds from bilingual education.

Under the current appropriations bill, funding is set at \$56.85 per student during the program's first year and slightly higher the second. Truan estimated that 227,000 students in 350 Texas school districts would participate in the program.

Under the plan as passed by the Senate, bilingual education would be offered in grades kindergarten through elementary levels in school districts where 20 students per grade level speak limited English. Other language assistance programs would be offered in the junior high grades and high school.

"We now have the proper framework, but that is no good without adequate funding," Truan said. "I really don't know if this will be to the court's satisfaction."

Truan said he had expected the funding to be raised to nearly \$100 a pupil in conference committee, but the Senate later approved a conference committee report on the appropriations bill that funded the program at the lower level.

Legislators have known all session that they must pass a bilingual bill because of federal court order mandating expansion of bilingual education in the state. White currently is seeking a stay of the federal order pending appeal.

"I think that it supports our appeal in that it shows the court that we have a constitutional plan that will meet the appropriate educational needs," White said. "I'm not sure how far the funding goes, but I hope the Legislature has made it enough."

White later issued a statement saying: "I am pleased that our state legislature has passed a bilingual education bill. Passage of this legislation is evidence that Texans can work together to resolve their own educational problems without federal court intervention."

"In addition to enhancing our appeal, this legislation will allow our non-English speaking children to learn English quicker so that they can compete equally with other children, and thus be able to take advantage of the many opportunities that Texas has to offer."

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