

State and Local

Bullock certifies hike in tax will balance state budget

AUSTIN (AP) — State Comptroller Bob Bullock certified Wednesday that the largest tax increase in any state's history will balance the \$38.3 billion 1988-89 budget that lawmakers passed just before their special session expired.

Bullock put his signature on the certification about 12 hours after Gov. Bill Clements, who ran last year on a no-new-taxes promise, signed into law what an expert said is the largest tax package in any state's history.

"I reluctantly signed them," Clements said. "I certainly am not happy about them. They are higher than I would have liked. They're higher than other people, other leaders in the Legislature, would have liked. But I also want to quickly add that we did what we had to do."

An economist for the National Conference of State Legislatures said the \$5.7 billion Texas tax hike is a national record.

"In a nutshell, you can say in absolute dollars, if you don't take inflation into account and if you don't take the size of the state into account, it is the biggest," Steve Gold of Denver said.

The budget battle, ignited in February 1986 when Bullock predicted a growing state deficit as a result of falling oil prices, ended Tuesday night after a hotly partisan battle in the Texas House. It took a complicated series of procedural maneuvers to get the plan approved.

Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio and tax-bill sponsor, said, "I am persuaded that the citizens of our state will be more than happy to pay an increased three-quarter

of a cent on the sales tax. And I'm persuaded that the professionals will pay an increased \$110 for their fees with a smile on their face. I don't think we overburdened any particular section of the economy."

The comptroller's staff Wednesday prepared charts showing that even with the tax increase, Texans face a tax burden that is far below the national average.

The increase means Texans' annual tax load will be \$53.76 per \$1,000 in personal income. That is an increase of \$3.36 per year. The national average is \$74.11 per year.

Calculated on a per-person basis, Texans will pay \$730 a year in state taxes, up from \$667 in 1986 and below the national average of \$973.

Clements said it adds up to relatively little.

"I think the people of Texas will understand that we had to balance the budget and that we have stopped the growth of government," said the Republican governor who had vowed to veto any tax increase above the \$2.9 billion that would have been raised by keeping the sales tax at 5 1/2 percent and the fuels tax at 15 cents per gallon.

As of Oct. 1, Texans will pay a 6 percent state sales tax. The current 5 1/2 percent rate had been scheduled to roll back to 4 1/2 percent on Sept. 1. Many Texans also pay 2 percent in city and mass transit sales taxes.

Under the tax bill, the increased sales tax also will be collected on 17 services that had been exempt, such as garbage collection, janitorial services and exterminating.

TDC guards question labor heads about risks of contracting AIDS

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Prison employees are swamping labor union representatives with questions about inmates exposing them to AIDS, a union spokesman said.

Three Texas Department of Corrections workers were spattered with AIDS-contaminated blood while intervening in an attempted suicide, and a fourth guard was spattered with urine by the prisoner in a separate incident, officials said.

"They are upset about the whole thing, and they feel the TDC doesn't care about them," Texas State Employees Union spokesman Jerry Taylor said. "And they're right."

The union is calling for AIDS screening of all inmates entering the TDC. Such testing, however, has been criticized as too costly and ineffective by prison medical personnel.

Taylor also objected to placing in the general population those inmates who tested positive for the AIDS virus, even though they may not have AIDS itself.

Dr. Michael Warren, interim medical director of the prison system, said, "Those that come in contact with the disease should be concerned. It's a disease for which there is no cure."

But Warren questioned the recent

rise in apprehension among prison workers afraid of catching acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"No one needs to be scared and the one thing we have to avoid is panic," he said Tuesday.

Since 1984, when the prison system started to track AIDS cases, 16 men and one woman have died of the disease. The most recent death occurred on Sunday. In the past three years, prison doctors have tested 1,050 inmates for AIDS, TDC spokesman David Nunneke said.

Of those, 166 inmates tested positive for AIDS or the AIDS-related syndrome.

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- * Research Assistant

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Applications are available in Student Publications Office, 230 Reed McDonald. Deadline for summer position applications is Friday, July 31 at 5 p.m.

For additional information contact: Greg Keith 846-6949

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2.05 7280 ⁰⁰	14500 ⁰⁰
2.04 4850 ⁰⁰	9700 ⁰⁰
2.03 4785 ⁰⁰	9700 ⁰⁰
2.02 7650 ⁰⁰	15000 ⁰⁰
2.01 5875 ⁰⁰	12000 ⁰⁰
1.83 2900 ⁰⁰	5800 ⁰⁰
1.55 2255 ⁰⁰	4500 ⁰⁰
1.25 3675 ⁰⁰	6100 ⁰⁰
1.08 2325 ⁰⁰	4800 ⁰⁰
1.17 2525 ⁰⁰	4900 ⁰⁰
1.16 1395 ⁰⁰	2700 ⁰⁰
1.10 1345 ⁰⁰	2600 ⁰⁰
1.08 2250 ⁰⁰	4400 ⁰⁰
1.08 2895 ⁰⁰	5600 ⁰⁰
1.06 1975 ⁰⁰	3800 ⁰⁰
1.02 2375 ⁰⁰	4500 ⁰⁰
1.02 2685 ⁰⁰	5100 ⁰⁰
1.00 2895 ⁰⁰	6500 ⁰⁰
1.00 1950 ⁰⁰	3800 ⁰⁰
1.00 1345 ⁰⁰	2700 ⁰⁰
0.97 1520 ⁰⁰	3100 ⁰⁰
0.96 1840 ⁰⁰	3500 ⁰⁰
0.87 895 ⁰⁰	1750 ⁰⁰
0.84 1275 ⁰⁰	2500 ⁰⁰
0.80 1025 ⁰⁰	1950 ⁰⁰
0.80 1200 ⁰⁰	2300 ⁰⁰
0.78 995 ⁰⁰	1675 ⁰⁰
0.78 1095 ⁰⁰	2200 ⁰⁰
0.78 725 ⁰⁰	1475 ⁰⁰
0.77 985 ⁰⁰	1800 ⁰⁰
0.75 750 ⁰⁰	1550 ⁰⁰
0.75 1095 ⁰⁰	2075 ⁰⁰
0.75 950 ⁰⁰	1750 ⁰⁰
0.72 1175 ⁰⁰	2200 ⁰⁰
0.73 1145 ⁰⁰	2500 ⁰⁰
0.71 1045 ⁰⁰	2050 ⁰⁰
0.71 1175 ⁰⁰	2300 ⁰⁰
0.71 1055 ⁰⁰	2100 ⁰⁰
0.71 1095 ⁰⁰	2100 ⁰⁰
0.71 895 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
0.71 1195 ⁰⁰	2300 ⁰⁰
0.71 1175 ⁰⁰	2300 ⁰⁰
0.70 890 ⁰⁰	850 ⁰⁰
0.70 795 ⁰⁰	1600 ⁰⁰
0.69 775 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
0.69 775 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
0.67 760 ⁰⁰	1450 ⁰⁰
0.65 815 ⁰⁰	1500 ⁰⁰
0.63 975 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
0.62 715 ⁰⁰	1400 ⁰⁰
0.61 775 ⁰⁰	1400 ⁰⁰
0.61 715 ⁰⁰	1400 ⁰⁰
0.60 895 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
0.60 695 ⁰⁰	1200 ⁰⁰
0.59 930 ⁰⁰	1800 ⁰⁰
0.59 930 ⁰⁰	1800 ⁰⁰
0.57 695 ⁰⁰	1400 ⁰⁰
0.55 895 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
0.55 865 ⁰⁰	5500 ⁰⁰
0.55 695 ⁰⁰	1400 ⁰⁰

ROUND

Our Price	Compare At
54 8750 ⁰⁰	16000 ⁰⁰
54 6890 ⁰⁰	16500 ⁰⁰
53 9700 ⁰⁰	17500 ⁰⁰
53 4950 ⁰⁰	9850 ⁰⁰
52 8450 ⁰⁰	17500 ⁰⁰
52 12000 ⁰⁰	16250 ⁰⁰
51 7950 ⁰⁰	15500 ⁰⁰
50 7950 ⁰⁰	15500 ⁰⁰
50 6950 ⁰⁰	12750 ⁰⁰
49 6500 ⁰⁰	13000 ⁰⁰
48 6950 ⁰⁰	13000 ⁰⁰
42 6600 ⁰⁰	13500 ⁰⁰
41 4700 ⁰⁰	9850 ⁰⁰
40 5400 ⁰⁰	9850 ⁰⁰
35 3950 ⁰⁰	8500 ⁰⁰
35 3875 ⁰⁰	7500 ⁰⁰
30 3350 ⁰⁰	7500 ⁰⁰
20 1650 ⁰⁰	3250 ⁰⁰
15 11000 ⁰⁰	22000 ⁰⁰
10 6300 ⁰⁰	14000 ⁰⁰
07 3800 ⁰⁰	7500 ⁰⁰
06 3100 ⁰⁰	3500 ⁰⁰
03 1495 ⁰⁰	3000 ⁰⁰
02 1750 ⁰⁰	1095 ⁰⁰
02 2600 ⁰⁰	2200 ⁰⁰

PEAR

Our Price	Compare At
1.89 \$3495 ⁰⁰	6800 ⁰⁰
1.23 2750 ⁰⁰	5500 ⁰⁰
83 1975 ⁰⁰	3900 ⁰⁰
60 1195 ⁰⁰	2300 ⁰⁰
55 7850 ⁰⁰	16000 ⁰⁰
55 6950 ⁰⁰	17000 ⁰⁰
52 8950 ⁰⁰	17000 ⁰⁰
52 6650 ⁰⁰	14000 ⁰⁰
45 6950 ⁰⁰	6750 ⁰⁰
37 3250 ⁰⁰	6750 ⁰⁰
31 3500 ⁰⁰	5900 ⁰⁰
31 2450 ⁰⁰	

OVAL

Our Price	Compare At
1.52 \$2750 ⁰⁰	5800 ⁰⁰
1.15 2495 ⁰⁰	5500 ⁰⁰
83 1350 ⁰⁰	2700 ⁰⁰
78 1495 ⁰⁰	2800 ⁰⁰
71 1495 ⁰⁰	2800 ⁰⁰
46 3750 ⁰⁰	6750 ⁰⁰

EMERALD CUT

Our Price	Compare At
1.36 \$4900 ⁰⁰	7200 ⁰⁰
42 6950 ⁰⁰	1500 ⁰⁰

HEART

Our Price	Compare At
27 \$3350 ⁰⁰	6750 ⁰⁰

RADIANT

Our Price	Compare At
1.03 \$2600 ⁰⁰	5200 ⁰⁰

SQUARE

Our Price	Compare At
46 \$9200 ⁰⁰	1850 ⁰⁰
33 3850 ⁰⁰	750 ⁰⁰

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MARQUISE

Our Price	Compare At
2.78 \$13200 ⁰⁰	27500 ⁰⁰
2.14 4885 ⁰⁰	9800 ⁰⁰
76 2385 ⁰⁰	4200 ⁰⁰
1.23 2750 ⁰⁰	4500 ⁰⁰
1.10 3200 ⁰⁰	6400 ⁰⁰
1.01 11750 ⁰⁰	23000 ⁰⁰
91 2585 ⁰⁰	4950 ⁰⁰
74 995 ⁰⁰	1800 ⁰⁰
71 2900 ⁰⁰	5800 ⁰⁰
57 895 ⁰⁰	1900 ⁰⁰
57 895 ⁰⁰	1900 ⁰⁰
51 1400 ⁰⁰	1900 ⁰⁰
55 895 ⁰⁰	1700 ⁰⁰
54 795 ⁰⁰	1850 ⁰⁰
47 1300 ⁰⁰	1300 ⁰⁰
47 620 ⁰⁰	1300 ⁰⁰
47 4250 ⁰⁰	1300 ⁰⁰
35 890 ⁰⁰	890 ⁰⁰
31 8750 ⁰⁰	8750 ⁰⁰

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