

SECURE AND SOVEREIGN TEXAS

RESOURCING TEXAS LOCAL COURTS FOR BORDER-RELATED CRIME

WRITTEN BY
Selene Rodriguez
June 2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---------|
| Executive Summary | Page 3 |
| The Rise in Border-Related Offenses in Texas | Page 4 |
| The Border Prosecution Unit | Page 6 |
| Looking Forward: Equipping Courts Across Texas to Meet the Additional Demand | Page 6 |
| Texas Legislation | Page 6 |
| The Challenge | Page 6 |
| Other Critical Infrastructure | Page 9 |
| Recommendations | Page 8 |
| Appendix | Page 9 |
| References | Page 11 |

RESOURCING TEXAS LOCAL COURTS FOR BORDER-RELATED CRIME

WRITTEN BY **Selene Rodriguez**

KEY POINTS

- **Under U.S. and state law**, there is a process by which illegal aliens must undergo upon arrest in Texas.
- **The Border Protection Unit** plays a role in the judicial process in Texas for border-related criminal activity.
- **Operation Lone Star** has led to a record increase in state funding for border programs and law enforcement, and the need for those additional resources is only going to persist.
- **New state legislation** will likely lead to an increase in court cases for Texas local courts, which will require additional funding, personnel, and resources.
- **The Texas Legislature** should continue to approve funding that is necessary for the state to stay caught up on prosecuting border-related crime and illegal immigration into the state, as necessary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2021, the state of Texas has borne the consequence of millions of illegal border crossings. While surges of illegal immigration into the United States have occurred since the drawing of the U.S.-Mexico border, the surge since 2021 has been unprecedented. Between fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2019, encounters at the southwest border surpassed 1,000,000 five times ([United States Border Patrol, n.d.](#)). Now, under the Biden administration, migrant encounters at the southwest border have surpassed 1,000,000 in fiscal year 2020, fiscal year 2021, fiscal year 2022, and fiscal year 2023 ([Committee on Oversight & Accountability & Committee on Homeland Security, 2024](#)). The continuous flow of illegal immigration has caused a humanitarian and national security crisis, allowing for human smuggling and drug trafficking to run rampant in Texas communities.

Under Texas' Operation Lone Star, 62 counties operating under a disaster declaration are receiving historic amounts of emergency funding from the state of Texas (see Appendix). In fact, had the state not stepped in to mitigate the damage caused by the federal government delinquency, many border counties would not have had the funding or resources to react to the rise in criminal activity, and thousands of illegal aliens would have gone without proper adjudication.

The ongoing border crisis continues to demand additional resources for agencies across Texas, including jails and law enforcement agencies. However, this research is focused on the border crisis' impact on local courts, and it outlines steps necessary to ensure the judicial system of Texas is prepared to meet the current and anticipated future demand.

As the state continues to build upon its border security toolbox, one thing is clear: the local courts in Texas will require additional

resources, funding, and personnel if they are to maintain the rule of law and adjudicate border-related crimes without sacrificing the regular county and municipal court caseloads.

THE RISE IN BORDER-RELATED OFFENSES IN TEXAS

Operation Lone Star (OLS) was launched by Texas Governor Greg Abbott in March of 2021 as a joint operation between the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) and the Texas Military Department (TMD), with the mission to counter the flow of illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and human smuggling. The relationship between TMD and TxDPS in OLS is not one of direct command but rather a partnership where both entities work together towards a common goal. The TMD's role in OLS is primarily to observe and report any illegal activity in areas known for high drug and human trafficking. They provide support to DPS, which is committed to enforcing the law and thwarting criminal activities at the border. Initially, OLS was limited to Val Verde and Kinney counties, but has since expanded along the Texas-Mexico border. As part of OLS, TxDPS troopers have conducted arrests for crimes such as criminal mischief, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and criminal trespassing.

Under OLS, there is a specific legal process that an illegal alien must submit to upon arrest in Texas. OLS arrests were initially intended for human smuggling and criminal trespass on private property. As of January 12, 2024, OLS has reported more than 38,300 criminal arrests resulting in 34,700 felony charges ([Office of the Texas Governor, 2024](#)). Once apprehended, Texas law requires arrestees be taken before a magistrate within 48 hours of arrest and informed of their legal rights ([Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 15.17](#)). During this initial appearance, the magistrate judge renders a probable cause determination, and if found, the judge determines the conditions—if any—for a defendant's pretrial release. Currently, resources allocated under OLS provide for magistrates to meet with defendants via Zoom at designated processing centers, facilitating the initial appearance to take place within 12 to 24

hours of arrest. Upon a finding of a probable cause, the defendants are taken to an OLS-designated jail facility, such as the Segovia and Briscoe units.

As of July 2023, OLS has led to "over 394,200 illegal immigrant apprehensions and more than 31,300 criminal arrests, with more than 29,100 felony charges reported" ([Office of the Texas Governor, 2023, para. 2](#)). Furthermore, Texas law enforcement has seized over 422 million lethal doses of fentanyl ([Office of the Texas Governor, 2023, para. 2](#)), and this is in addition to fentanyl seized by Customs and Border Protection operations at and in between ports of entry (POEs).

On June 1, 2021, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration along the Texas-Mexico border which provides "more resources and strategies to combat the ongoing influx of unlawful immigrants and authorizes the use of all necessary and available state and local resources to protect landowners in these counties from trespassers and the damage caused to private property" ([Office of the Texas Governor, 2021a, para. 2](#)). Now, 62 counties in south Texas have joined the state partnership and issued their own disaster declarations. Those counties include Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Brewster, Brooks, Caldwell, Cameron, Chambers, Coleman, Colorado, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lavaca, Live Oak, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Real, Refugio, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shackelford, Sutton, Terrell, Throckmorton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Willbarger, Wilson, Zapata, and Zavala Counties.

Kinney County in particular faced heavy financial burdens. Between August 2021 and January 2023, law enforcement working in Kinney County had made more than 5,000 arrests on criminal trespass and evading on foot charges (B. Smith, personal communication, January 2024). In fiscal year 2022, the county totaled 3,045 felony smuggling arrests, compared to a total of 67 in fiscal year 2021 and

64 in fiscal year 2020 (B. Smith, personal communication, February 2024). According to The Center Square, “all felony arrests and charges from January 2021 to January 2023 totaled 5,524... [a]nd arrests would be higher if there were more law enforcement officers in the field” (Blankley, 2023). Since Kinney County does not have enough jail space or a detention center to hold all the offenders, law enforcement must transport detainees to centers in Val Verde and Jim Hogg Counties—a cost that in 2022 had already exceeded \$100,000 (B. Smith, personal communication, February 2024).

In October 2021, Governor Abbott allocated more than \$36.4 million in grant funding for law enforcement and prosecution activities in direct support of OLS (Office of the Texas Governor, 2021b). Kinney County received the highest amount out of 12 counties at \$3.19 million (Office of the Texas Governor, 2021b). As part of the grant, TMD sent in paralegals to help with the caseload, which greatly eased pressures on the county. The Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) also stepped in and provided the county with an appellate team. The entire Kinney County judicial system received additional personnel, including the judge’s office, the clerk’s office, the attorney’s office, and law enforcement. Kinney County Attorney Brent Smith stated that as of January 2024, his office is now fully equipped with personnel and resources to take on their current OLS caseload. However, he notes that it will continue to cost money to maintain the resources that Kinney County (and other OLS-participating counties) must utilize (B. Smith, personal communication, January 2024).

Nearby, Maverick County has also benefited from the emergency funding under OLS. Significantly larger in size and population than Kinney County, Maverick County will have received \$8.5–9 million by the end of fiscal year 2024, over the course of three years (J. Iracheta, personal communication, April 2024). Like other border communities, Maverick County is on track to process roughly 4,000 OLS-related cases, versus 1,200–1,500 annual regular county cases by the end of this year (J. Iracheta, personal communication, April 2024). The funds have provided this

county with resources to renovate their infrastructure, acquire technology, law enforcement assets and court system upgrades. According to Maverick County Judge Iracheta, the resources were “needed to handle the influx of migrant cases” (J. Iracheta, personal communication, April 2024). Judge Iracheta noted that “every year we have increased the number of participants in the operation to be able to adjust for what arises ... we will still need more resources and personnel to handle the situation.” According to him, even if there isn’t new legislation in place that would increase border-related court cases, “the caseload is still significant” for Maverick County (J. Iracheta, personal communication, April 2024).

It is not just border counties that face these challenges. Jim Hogg County, located roughly 60 miles from the Texas-Mexico border, was among the first set of counties to declare a disaster, and has since benefited greatly from the additional funding and grants from the Legislature and Governor’s Office. One of the reasons specified for their participation in the disaster declaration is a significant increase in human smuggling attempts that often end in vehicle bailouts. As Jim Hogg County Judge Juan Carlos Guerra explained, “[i]f you were to tell me you were going to pull the plug tomorrow, we would no longer be able to prosecute OLS cases. The County cannot afford to maintain what we have without OLS funding,” but thanks to the funding in place, “right now the situation is under control” (J. Guerra, personal communication, February 2024). Judge Guerra notes that the emergency funding from the Governor and the Legislature has been used in Jim Hogg County for visiting judges, for online magistrations by the Office of Court Administration, and for additional personnel, such as attorneys and clerks. He remarked that after enforcing the criminal trespass initiative, vehicle bailouts have gone down significantly in his county, while vehicle bailouts have risen in counties that have yet to implement the initiative (J. Guerra, personal communication, February 2024).

In March 2022, Megan LaVoie, administrative director for the Office of Court Administration (OCA), testified before the Texas Senate Committee on Border Security that OCA got involved at the behest of the Governor's Office to assist in the judicial process, particularly in smaller counties. An initial award of \$950,000 was allocated for visiting judge salaries under OLS, and was utilized by Kinney, Maverick, and Jim Hogg Counties. LaVoie stated in her testimony that while the governor works to make the resources available, the counties are responsible for requesting additional assistance, which the Legislature must approve by an additional appropriation if there is no disaster declaration declared by the governor.

While the need for additional judicial personnel is apparent, thoughtful consideration must be given to the many other needs of these counties because of the border crisis. For example, OLS emergency funding provided local courts with laptops, computer monitors, printers, computer software, and office supplies. Between August 2021 and January 2024, Kinney County had 40 regular county cases (B. Smith, personal communication, January 2024). In contrast, the county absorbed more than 5,000 OLS cases in that same period. Like many other rural Texas counties, Kinney County must make up for the lack of proper infrastructure. The additional OLS personnel present in the courthouse building have had to take up office space in the county courtroom, leaving only the district courtroom left available to hold court (B. Smith, personal communication, January 2024). This has forced the county attorney and district attorney to coordinate their schedules to share the district courtroom. To alleviate this, a county commissioner designated the civic center as an overflow judicial center for additional court space. While this is not unusual for smaller counties in Texas, this arrangement can cause disruptions in timely and efficient court hearings.

THE BORDER PROSECUTION UNIT

One factor of importance to this issue is Texas' Border Prosecution Unit, which has grown in personnel and caseloads since 2021. The Border Prosecution Unit

(BPU) was authorized by the Texas Legislature in 2009 to provide prosecutorial resources in aid of state border security operations. The BPU covers 17 prosecuting offices throughout Texas' border region, including 48 counties and six additional counties outside of the border region housing Texas Anti-Gang centers in Bexar, Harris, Dallas, Lubbock, McClennan, and Smith Counties. The primary responsibility of the BPU is the targeted investigation and prosecution of border crimes, with an emphasis on violent crime (murder, kidnapping, extortion), on criminal enterprises associated with cartels and drug trade, on financial crimes, and on human trafficking. The BPU supports the coordination of law enforcement, court management, and prosecutorial functions related to OLS cases throughout the Texas border region.

In support of OLS, supplemental funding of \$3.765 million was authorized under HB 9 ([HB 9, 2021](#)) which included funding for an additional 15 attorneys and 9 investigators. As of March 2022, the BPU's funding provides for 51 attorneys, including 30 local counsels, three regional counsels, 11 TAG counsels, three human trafficking counsels, and five OLS counsels. Nineteen investigator positions are funded in full or partially by state grants.

LOOKING FORWARD: EQUIPPING COURTS ACROSS TEXAS MEET THE ADDITIONAL DEMAND

Texas Legislation

A series of big-ticket border security bills were debated by the Texas Legislature in 2023, most of which carried with them expanded funding and the need for additional resources for border counties. During the 88th Regular Session, HB 20 was introduced with the goal of creating a Texas Border Protection Unit, something a state has never had to do before ([HB 20, 2023](#)). Its accompanying legislation, HB 7, would have provided additional resources needed for the court systems that would be involved in magistrating and adjudicating the arrests ([HB 7, 2023](#)). Neither HB 20 nor HB 7 passed. During the same legislative session and in two additional special sessions, three other border security

Table 1*Border Prosecution Unit Outcomes*

| BPU Measure | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of cases filed | 6,241 | 7,350 | 8,540 | 20,221 | 28,366 |
| Number of cases prosecuted | 5,746 | 5,056 | 5,610 | 13,528 | 23,560 |
| Number of cases resulting in convictions or community supervision | 3,255 | 2,648 | 3,317 | 6,798 | 12,427 |
| Number of cases dismissed | 1,204 | 1,259 | 1,900 | 3,409 | 5,939 |
| Number of cases referred by federal agencies for state prosecution | 505 | 413 | 429 | 1,312 | 877 |
| Number of cases referred for federal prosecution | 169 | 160 | 212 | 336 | 225 |

Source: Office of the Governor Public Safety Office

bills were introduced. SB 4, which passed during the third special session in 2023, included increasing the mandatory minimum penalty for people engaged in human smuggling and operating a stash house (SB 4, 2023). The other two bills were very similar, as one created a new state criminal penalty for illegally entering the state of Texas from Mexico, and the other (which also included the new criminal penalty) added the component for removing the illegal alien back to Mexico via a lawful port of entry. The overarching goal for each of these bills was to disincentivize aliens from illegally entering Texas. Ultimately, it was SB 4 from the fourth special session that passed and was signed by the governor (SB 4, 2023). Senate Bill 4 made illegally entering the state of Texas from a foreign nation a criminal offense. The bill enables the state of Texas to issue orders returning illegal aliens to the foreign nation from which they unlawfully entered or attempted to enter. Though still not enforceable due to ongoing litigation at the time

of this writing, some counties anticipate that the proper implementation of SB 4 will result in a significant increase in criminal caseloads across Texas (Murphy & Verduzco, 2024).

During the legislative debate on the above-mentioned bills, both Republicans and Democrats shared the same concern: so long as Texas is faced with an unsecure border and left abandoned by the federal government, Texas courts will require increased funding, additional personnel, and supplementary resources to protect their communities and deter illegal immigration and the crime that accompanies it. State Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa remarked during a Senate Border Security committee hearing:

We don’t really have a handle on the cost. The number of immigrants doesn’t seem to be decreasing, it seems to be increasing... We

need to be prepared. Not only our jails, the cost is being added to our local court system. They will need additional court room. We have the counties having to appoint indigent defense attorneys. The prosecutor units also don't have enough personnel, we will have to increase that. This whole... series of events that take place... it's a real challenge for us to get a handle of. ([Texas Senate Committee on Border Security, 2023](#))

In October 2023, during a Senate committee hearing on SB 11 in the third special session of the 88th Legislature, BPU General Counsel Tom Krampitz testified that “it is very difficult to figure out how we’d handle [more court cases] without significantly more resources” ([Texas Senate Committee on Border Security, 2023](#)). He noted the difficulty of recruiting and retaining lawyers in the South Texas region, claiming that he didn’t believe “we can ever get to that point” of being fully staffed across the BPU’s 23 offices—altogether which lacked two-thirds of their staff. Furthermore, Mr. Krampitz testified that if SB 11 were to pass, the BPU would need at least 55 new judicial and support positions.

At the same Senate committee hearing, Megan LaVoie expressed that if legislation similar to this were to pass, “there would need to be additional resources provided to our county courts, whether it be visiting judges, court coordinators, and clerks to help move these dockets” ([Texas Senate Committee on Border Security, 2023](#)). While SB 11 88(3) did not pass, the above-mentioned SB 4 88(4) did. Some county officials have expressed that while they support the legislation, it will be logistically difficult to implement. Sheriff Thaddeus Cleveland in Terrell County shared that his office lacks “a van that we can use to transport people in” to transport arrestees to the port of entry for removal, which is more than two and

a half hours away ([Murphy & Verduzco, 2024](#)). He also shared that “his jail has a capacity for just seven people” ([Murphy & Verduzco, 2024](#)). This accounts for just one of the many counties that anticipate a need for additional resources when implementing more stringent border security laws in Texas. The Texas Legislature and Governor Abbott have recognized this need and they can continue to build on the steps they have taken thus far.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the demonstrated need for additional funding, resources, and personnel, there are necessary steps Texas leaders can take to bolster Texas local court systems.

Lawmakers should consider measures to expedite requests from smaller counties to ensure their courts can meet new demands without compromising the rule of law for the public. During the 88th Legislature, House Bill 7, authored by Representative Ryan Guillen, proposed funds for the specific purpose of construction and maintenance of facilities related to prosecuting and adjudicating offenses committed in the border region, including court facilities, processing facilities, detention facilities, and criminal justice centers ([HB 7 Bill Analysis, 2023, p. 12](#)). This legislation, which did not pass, aimed to relieve counties affected by the increase in migrant arrests including criminal trespass and human smuggling, and should be considered during the 89th Legislature.

Texas must continue to resource its local courts in the face of the growing border crisis. It is imperative that lawmakers consider legislation such as HB 7 in the 89th legislative session and make every effort to equip and support Texas counties to stop the flow of illegal entry into the state. ■

APPENDIX




GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 16, 2024

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:50pm O'CLOCK

APR 16 2024


Secretary of State

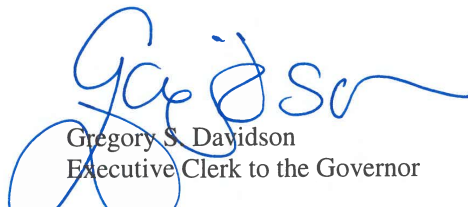
Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation renewing the disaster proclamation concerning border security.

The original proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor
GSD:gsd

Attachment

POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 512-463-2000 (VOICE) DIAL 7-1-1 FOR RELAY SERVICES

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on May 31, 2021, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the surge of individuals unlawfully crossing the Texas–Mexico border posed an ongoing and imminent threat of disaster for a number of Texas counties and for all state agencies affected by this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I amended the aforementioned proclamation in a number of subsequent proclamations, including to modify the list of affected counties and therefore declare a state of disaster for those counties and for all state agencies affected by this disaster; and

WHEREAS, the certified conditions continue to exist and pose an ongoing and imminent threat of disaster as set forth in the prior proclamations;

WHEREAS, a disaster has been declared at the local level by Coleman County;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby renew the aforementioned proclamation and declare a disaster for Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Brewster, Brooks, Caldwell, Cameron, Chambers, Coleman, Colorado, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lavaca, Live Oak, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Real, Refugio, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shackelford, Sutton, Terrell, Throckmorton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Wilbarger, Wilson, Zapata, and Zavala Counties and for all state agencies affected by this disaster. All orders, directions, suspensions, and authorizations provided in the Proclamation of May 31, 2021, as amended and renewed in subsequent proclamations, are in full force and effect.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 16th day of April, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Nelson".

JANE NELSON
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:50 pm O'CLOCK

APR 16 2024

REFERENCES

- HB 7 Bill Analysis. Senate Committee Report. 88th Texas Legislature. Regular. (2023). <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/pdf/HB00007S.pdf#navpanes=0>
- Blankley, B. (2023, January 21). *Texas border sheriff sends SOS seeking aid: 'Illegal aliens wreaking havoc in our communities'*. The Center Square. https://www.thecentersquare.com/texas/article_cab41c94-99d8-11ed-bfe1-6f4738383962.html#
- Committee on Oversight & Accountability & Committee on Homeland Security. (2024, January 16). *Crisis at the border. Reports from the frontline*. <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Joint-CPA-Transcribed-Interviews-Report-01-16-2024-FINAL-pdf.pdf>
- Murphy, S., & Verduzco, E. (2024, March 21). *Law enforcement officials in Texas wonder how they will enforce migrant arrest law*. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/texas-migrant-arrest-law-enforcement-8fcb8ed6a6b85070a551ef3c55255062>
- Office of the Texas Governor. (2021a, August 30). *Governor Abbott renews border crisis disaster declaration in 43 counties* [Press release]. <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-renews-border-crisis-disaster-declaration-in-43-counties>
- Office of the Texas Governor. (2021b, October 14). *Governor Abbott announces over \$36.4 million in funding for Operation Lone Star initiatives in Texas* [Press release]. <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-over-36.4-million-in-funding-for-operation-lone-star-initiatives-in-texas>
- Office of the Texas Governor. (2023, July 21). *Operation Lone Star combats President Biden's humanitarian crisis* [Press release]. <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-combats-president-bidens-humanitarian-crisis>
- Office of the Texas Governor. (2024, January 12). *Texas transports over 100,000 migrants to sanctuary cities* [Press release]. <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/texas-transport-over-100000-migrants-to-sanctuary-cities>
- Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Article 15.17. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.15.htm>
- HB 9. 87th Texas Legislature. 2nd Called Session. (2021) <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/872/billtext/pdf/HB00009F.pdf#navpanes=0>
- HB 20. 88th Texas Legislature. Regular. (2023) <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/pdf/HB00020H.pdf#navpanes=0>
- HB 7. 88th Texas Legislature. Regular. (2023). <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/billtext/pdf/HB00007S.pdf#navpanes=0>
- SB 11. 88th Texas Legislature. 3rd Called Session. (2023). <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/883/billtext/pdf/SB00011E.pdf#navpanes=0>
- SB 4. 88th Texas Legislature. 3rd Called Session. (2023). <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/883/billtext/pdf/SB00004F.pdf - navpanes=0>
- Texas Senate Committee on Border Security. (2023, October 10). https://tlcenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=53&clip_id=18399
- United States Border Patrol. (n.d.). *U.S. Border Patrol monthly apprehensions (FY 2000 – FY 2019)*. Retrieved April 15, 2024, from https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2020-Jan/U.S.%20Border%20Patrol%20Monthly%20Apprehensions%20%28FY%202000%20-%20FY%202019%29_1.pdf

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Selene Rodriguez is the Campaign Director for the Secure and Sovereign Texas campaign at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. In this role, she conducts research on public policy issues; assists the Foundation in academic publication; educates lawmakers and members of the public on Foundation research; and provides formal testimony to local, state, and federal entities.

Prior to this position, Rodriguez served in the Marine Corps as an Intelligence Specialist and completed an internship at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Born and raised in Del Rio, Texas, Rodriguez graduated from Texas State University with a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science.

