



The Information Edge

Current Legal News from Collin County's
Curt B. Henderson Law Library

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WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

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Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Legislative Update

Summaries of Selected Legislative Updates from the 88th Texas Legislature that will go into effect this year (2025).

- HB3297

Relating to the elimination of regular mandatory vehicle safety inspections for noncommercial vehicles and the imposition of replacement fees.

HB 3297 in Texas effectively eliminates the mandatory annual vehicle safety inspection requirement for most non-commercial vehicles, meaning most Texas drivers will no longer need to get their cars inspected before registering them, with the change taking effect on January 1, 2025; however, emissions testing may still be required in certain counties depending on local ordinances.

- HB 4

Relating to the regulation of the collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' personal data by certain business entities; imposing a civil penalty. This Act takes effect July 1, 2024, except Section 541.055(e), Business & Commerce Code, as added by this Act, takes effect January 1, 2025.

It grants specific rights to consumers to determine whether an entity processes their personal data, to access it, to correct inaccuracies in the data, and to opt out of the processing of their personal data for certain purposes. The Act also imposes duties on entities subject to the Act to limit the collection of personal data, to provide notice about information collected, and to respond to consumer requests for access and correction of information, among other responsibilities.

The Act does not apply to state agencies or political subdivisions in Texas. The Texas Attorney General has exclusive authority to enforce the provisions of the Act. Complaints regarding a specific business's privacy practices should be directed to the Office of the Attorney General.

- SB 2, 88th 2nd C.S.

Relating to providing property tax relief through the public school finance system, exemptions, limitations on appraisals and taxes, and property tax administration; authorizing the imposition of a fee. Sections 3.05, 3.08, and 3.15(b) take effect January 1, 2025.

S.B. 2 removes the requirement for TEA to post the following information on its website for purposes of allowing the chief appraiser of each appraisal district and the assessor for each school district to make the calculations required to determine the amount of the elderly and disabled tax ceiling:

- each district's maximum compressed rate for each tax year beginning with the 2019 tax year; and
- each district's tier one maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate for the 2018 tax year.

The bill requires TEA to post instead each district's maximum compressed rate for the current tax year and the preceding tax year. These provisions are effective January 1, 2025.

Further information can be found on the [Legislative Reference Library of Texas](#)



Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
jsims@co.collin.tx.us

Macon B. Allen—Black History Month Spotlight

Macon Allen was born on August 4th in 1816. He was a teacher, lawyer and judge.

From Indiana, born Macon Bolling Allen, he grew up a free man. He learned to read and write on his own and eventually landed his first job as a schoolteacher, where he further improved his reading and writing skills. Allen moved to Portland, Maine in the early 1840s and studied law and worked as a law clerk for General Samuel Fessenden, a local abolitionist and attorney.

After passing the Maine bar exam, he was granted his license to practice law in Maine on July 3, 1844. Allen thus was one of the first Black men licensed to practice law in the United States. He experienced difficulty finding legal work in Maine because whites were unwilling to hire a Black attorney and few Black people lived in the state. In 1845 he moved to Boston, Massachusetts, walking fifty miles to the bar exam test site because he could not afford transportation, and passed the exam. Allen and Robert Morris together opened the first Black law office in the United States.

Racial prejudice in Boston again kept Allen from making a living as a lawyer, so he sought to become a judge to supplement his income. After passing a rigorous qualifying exam for Justice of the Peace for Middlesex County, Massachusetts in 1848, Allen became the first Black man in the United States to hold a judicial position; this despite not being a U.S. citizen under the Constitution. He moved to Charleston, South Carolina after the American Civil War to practice law and was elected to be a judge in the probate court of Charleston in 1874.

Following the Reconstruction Era, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked as an attorney for the Land and Improvement Association. He continued to practice law until his death at age 78. Macon Allen died on June 11, 1894.



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT)

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is offering free pro-se assistance to those who qualify every Thursday in the conference room of the 429th District Court in the Collin County Courthouse.

For more information please contact:
(972) 542-9405

Do I benefit from **LEGAL AID?**



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT) offers free civil legal assistance to low-income Texans who wouldn't otherwise be able to secure such legal representation.

Practices include:

- Support for Families
- Preserving the Home
- Maintaining Economic Stability
- Safety, Stability and Health
- Individuals with Special Needs
- Problems Affecting Groups of Individuals

No Kid Hungry—Texas

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY IN TEXAS

At No Kid Hungry, that's the promise. If it sounds simple, that's because it is. That doesn't mean ending childhood hunger is easy. They know what works, and they've made extraordinary progress for kids and families. But the job isn't done, and won't be done until Texas meets that promise and every single child in America has the food they need to grow up healthy and strong.

THE PROBLEM: KIDS IN TEXAS ARE HUNGRY

There is no possible excuse for children to go hungry in this country. Yet it happens - every day, in every community. More than 23% of children in Texas live in "food insecure" homes. That phrase may sound mild, but it means that those households don't have enough food for every family member to lead a healthy life.

We have plenty of food in the United States. And we have child hunger relief programs that work. The problem is that not enough kids are able to access them. That's a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry Texas works to ensure all children have access to the nutrition they need to grow and thrive.

Please visit <https://state.nokidhungry.org/texas/> to find information about a meal program near you.



Contact Information:

Jonathan Sims
Law Librarian
Email:
jsims@co.collin.tx.us

Hours of Operation:
Monday—Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

Did You Know?

Texas Law Help maintains an event page/calendar where those in need may be able to track down legal assistance from attorneys and discuss a legal issue one-on-one at a clinic hosted by a reliable nonprofit partner. Most clinics offer virtual appointments in order to maintain COVID-19 safety protocol.

Visit texaslawhelp.org/events for more info

**TEXAS
LAW
HELP
★ORG**

Important Announcement

Please keep in mind that if you are not comfortable visiting the library in person to do research, we have a number of resources available online. While we cannot provide legal advice, we may be able to guide you to the resources or forms necessary to assist you in your situation.

Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260.





**The Law Library
will be closed
April 18th for Good
Friday.**



New on the Shelf

- ◆ Police Misconduct Law and Litigation
- ◆ O'Connor's Federal Rules: Civil Trials—2025 Edition
- ◆ Bankruptcy Code, Rules & Official Forms—2024-25 Edition
- ◆ Texas Rules of Evidence Handbook—2025
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Family Law Handbook—2025
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action—2025
- ◆ Texas Construction Law Manual—2024-25
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Rules: Civil Trials—2025
- ◆ Texas Workers' Compensation Manual—2025 Edition



Legal Humor



"Permission to treat the witness as a reanimated collection of corpse castoffs?"