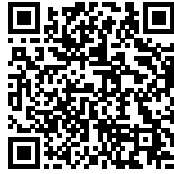




# Paul Bettencourt

**Senate** District SD-007  
**Republican**

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This legislator voted constitutionally on **67%** of the votes shown below.


### CPH: Estimated cost per household.


★ Pro-liberty    ✗ Anti-liberty    ? Did not Vote    CPH    Vote


**1. SB1070 ERIC Withdrawal (Passed 18 to 12 on 5/26/2023).** Withdraws Texas from Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). 

**2. SB3 Border Security (Passed 18 to 9 on 12/1/2023).** **\$150** Yes  
Allocates \$1.54 billion for border security over two years, funding law enforcement and border barriers. 

**3. HB900 READER Act (Passed 19 to 12 on 5/23/2023).** Prevents sexually explicit materials from being within reach of children in government schools, and it prevents vendors from selling such materials to school districts. 

**4. SB1 Education Savings Account (Passed 19 to 12 on 10/12/2023).** **\$49** Yes  
Would create an Education Savings Account (ESA) program providing \$8,000 annually per eligible child for private education and related expenses. 

**5. SB4 Illegal Immigration (Passed 17 to 11 on 11/9/2023).** Yes  
Establishes penalties for unauthorized entry or reentry into the state by individuals classified as "aliens" under federal law. 

**6. SB1158 Taxpayer-funded Events (Passed 28 to 3 on 4/17/2023).** Yes  
Expands eligibility for funding under the Major Events Reimbursement Program by amending the Government Code to classify each series of World Cup games in a designated market area as separate, single events. 



## TEXAS LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Sen. Paul Bettencourt**  
Lifetime Score: 71%

**TX Scorecard 2023-2**  
2023 1st Special Session Score

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Texas Legislature in 2023 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.



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### The Constitution

Learn more about the U.S. Constitution and our founding principles.



# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. ERIC Withdrawal

SB1070 withdraws Texas from Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

The Texas State Senate passed SB1070 on May 27, 2023 by a vote of 18 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because ERIC is a George Soros-funded program that states have no business being involved with. ERIC collects private election data handed over by the states and is not transparent in how it manages that data. Instead of cleaning up the voter rolls, they inflate voter rolls significantly via private voter data.

## 2. Border Security

SB3 allocates \$1.54 billion for border security over two years, funding law enforcement and border barriers. It includes \$40 million for enhanced law enforcement in Liberty County's Colony Ridge. Funds cannot be used for land acquired through eminent domain or for barriers on such land.

The Texas State Senate passed SB3 on December 1, 2023 by a vote of 18 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the bill strengthens border security and upholds American sovereignty. By funding enforcement and infrastructure, it counters federal policies that undermine the Constitution, deters illegal entry, and reinforces the rule of law to minimize unlawful immigration. This bill addresses the challenges of illegal immigration by safeguarding the nation's borders and supporting policies that enhance national security rather than weaken it.

## 3. READER Act

HB900, titled the READER act, prevents sexually explicit materials from being within reach of children in government schools, and it prevents vendors from selling such materials to school districts.

The Texas State Senate Passed HB900 on May 23, 2023 by a vote of 19 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because it protects children from inappropriate content and upholds family values. By blocking sexually explicit materials in schools, the bill reinforces parents' rights in education and fosters a learning environment rooted in academic excellence and moral integrity. It also ensures taxpayer dollars won't fund programs promoting woke culture or divisive propaganda. This legislation is a vital step toward reclaiming our schools and safeguarding our children.

## 4. Education Savings Account

SB1 would create an Education Savings Account (ESA) program providing \$8,000 annually per eligible child for private-education expenses, including tuition, textbooks, and tutoring.

The Texas State Senate passed SB1 on October 12, 2023 by a vote of 19 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the nays because all government money comes with strings attached. ESAs might sound good in theory, but they expand government involvement into all aspects of education — including homeschools and religious schools — and can potentially affect rules and curriculum. We encourage all parents to get their children out of government schools and instead pursue sound alternatives such as homeschooling and patriotic private schools, like FreedomProject Academy, that don't use government funds.

## 5. Illegal Immigration

SB4 establishes penalties for unauthorized entry or reentry into the state by individuals classified as "aliens" under federal law, with penalties escalating for repeat offenses or previous deportations. Courts can order violators to return to their country of origin under specific conditions.

The Texas State Senate passed SB4 on November 9, 2023 by a vote of 17 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill takes a strong stance against illegal reentry, reinforcing immigration laws that protect American sovereignty. By imposing penalties and curbing unlawful migration, SB4 helps counter policies that facilitate mass migration and undermine our Republic's constitutional foundations. It also safeguards the rule of law by ensuring that immigration-law violations are met with consequences, rather than leniency, which would further erode border security and national integrity.

## 6. Taxpayer-funded Events

SB1158 expands eligibility for funding under the Major Events Reimbursement Program by amending the Government Code to classify each series of World Cup games in a designated market area as separate, single events.

The Texas State Senate passed SB1158 on April 17, 2023 by a vote of 28 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because privately-owned billion-dollar entities such as the World Cup should be expected to pay for their own facilities and events, which they can more than afford. Forcing people to furnish proliferate amounts of taxpayer money when attending games or concerts to fund crony, corporate-sponsored projects violates their individual liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.