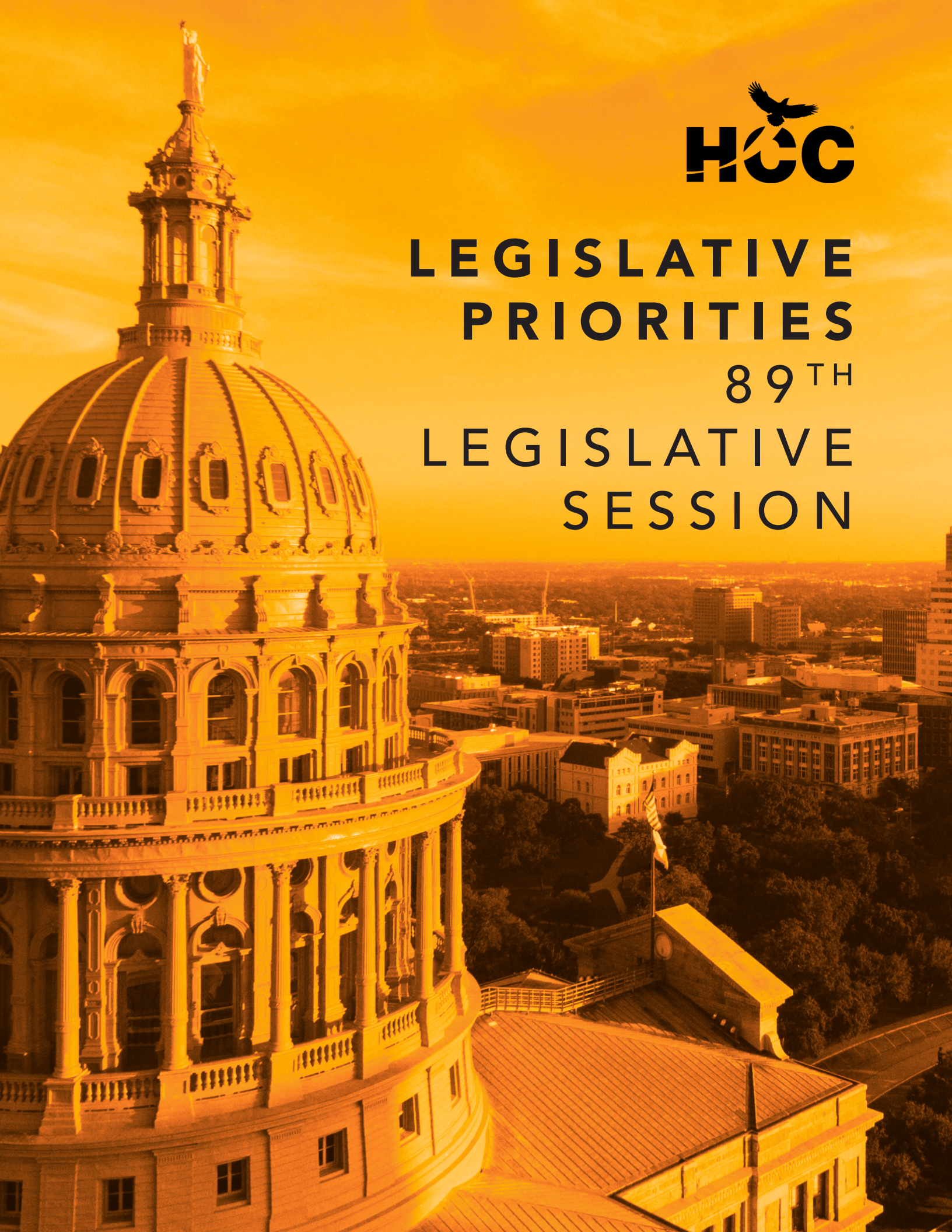




**LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**
89TH
**LEGISLATIVE
SESSION**



A photograph of a classical building with columns and a tower, viewed through a window frame, with a yellow overlay. The building features a prominent portico with several columns and a central tower with a pyramidal roof. The scene is framed by the dark, out-of-focus panes of a window. The entire image is bathed in a warm, golden-yellow light, creating a high-contrast, monochromatic effect. The text 'TABLE OF CONTENTS' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

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INTRODUCTION

Houston Community College (HCC) identifies in this publication its legislative priorities, offered generally to maximize opportunities for student success. Notably, HCC acknowledges the prior passage of House Bill 8 (88R), which fundamentally changes the method by which community colleges receive state appropriations, now based on outcomes (*i.e.*, awarding credentials of value, completions, and transfers), in support of *Building a Talent Strong Texas*.

As the Texas Legislature convenes the 89th legislative session, HCC specifically asks members to consider the following legislative priorities:

- ▶ Improving and enhancing HB 8 (88R) implementation
- ▶ Improving access to nursing clinical rotation slots
- ▶ Continuing to scale workforce partnerships
- ▶ Developing state agency workforce credentials

Notably, each priority operates to help the state *Build a Talent Strong Texas*.

Serving as one of the largest community colleges in the nation, HCC enriches the community by delivering relevant, high-quality education and training, which ensures success for all students, the community, the economy, and beyond.

Our institution leverages its Centers of Excellence to connect students to advanced universities and to the region's workforce. Moreover, with almost a third of the student body enrolled in workforce programming, HCC is providing much needed talent to the regional labor market. We are making a positive difference in the lives of our students, our community, and the state of Texas.

HCC welcomes the opportunity to collaboratively work with the 89th Texas Legislature with the intent of *Building a Talent Strong Texas*. As we seek to improve higher education, particularly as it applies to community colleges, HCC identifies its legislative priorities in greater detail in the pages that follow.

HCC LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVING AND ENHANCING HB 8 (88R) IMPLEMENTATION

HCC Legislative Recommendation

- ▶ Ensure that state appropriations for outcomes are fully funded for FY25 and the FY26-27 biennium.
- ▶ Amend the State Funding Performance Tier, allowing an outcome to count for students successfully transferring to a private institution of higher education after completing 15 Semester Credit Hours at a public junior college.

Objective

To promote the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's goal of **Building a Talent Strong Texas**.*

IMPROVE ACCESS TO NURSING CLINICAL ROTATION SLOTS

HCC Legislative Recommendation

- ▶ Advance strategic expansion of opportunities for clinical nursing education, despite out-of-state educational providers moving into Texas.
- ▶ Assess whether existing circumstances benefit or adversely impact the state's investment in existing programs.

Objective

To promote the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's goal of **Building a Talent Strong Texas**.*

* Expands on the successes and progress of the 60x30TX plan by increasing employment opportunities and income for individuals; creates a deeper talent pool for employers and aligns students' skills with workforce demands.

SCALE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS

HCC Legislative Recommendation

- ▶ Support the continuation and coordination of the state's workforce education grant programs for community college students.
- ▶ Programs should include but not be limited to TRUE, Lone Star Workforce for the Future, Skills Development Fund, and JET.

Objective

To promote the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's goal of ***Building a Talent Strong Texas***.*

STATE AGENCY WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS

HCC Legislative Recommendation

- ▶ Build on the success of existing law (HB 584/88R) that allows the Department of Information Resources to partner with community colleges to develop a credential for expedited agency employment that addresses workforce shortages.
- ▶ Support new legislation that extends this opportunity to other state agencies.

Objective

To promote the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's goal of ***Building a Talent Strong Texas***.*

* Expands on the successes and progress of the 60x30TX plan by increasing employment opportunities and income for individuals; creates a deeper talent pool for employers and aligns students' skills with workforce demands.

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