

Your Help Is Still Needed For State Tourism Funding

HB1 was voted out of House Appropriations and is scheduled for consideration by the entire House of Representatives beginning April 1. The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to perform final mark-up this week of SB1, including the tourism budget for state tourism promotion.

If you have not yet called your legislator about tourism funding, **NOW** is the time to pick up the phone and make that call. Without the \$30 million funding, it is projected that Texas stands to lose \$3.6 billion in visitor spending and \$189 million in tax revenues. Texas cannot afford to make this mistake. Call NOW and let your legislator know that Travel Matters to Texas – to our communities, to public education, to health & human services, and it should matter to them.

Your support is needed to encourage Legislators to fully fund state tourism advertising and promotion.

The Appropriations Committee responded to constituent concerns by adding nearly \$1 million to the **TX Historical Commission** budget earmarked for the Texas Heritage Trails, a program scheduled for termination in HB1 as filed. The additional money will allow the 10 regional Trails offices to remain intact with current funding and offer some limited support to the Trails through restored THC staff. Still in jeopardy are critical visibility functions such as the Trails travel brochures, the 10 independent websites of the Trails regions, and other promotion and coordination elements provided since 1999 by Historical Commission staff.

Texas Parks & Wildlife is asking the legislature for more flexibility with their budget allowing them to level budget cuts over the two years of the biennium as opposed to all in the first year which will cause significant operational problems. In addition, TPWD is requesting transferability authority to allow the agency to move money from one strategy to another to lessen the impact on core support services. TPWD is seeking restoration of a key rider to the budget bill which has allowed TPWD to budget any excess revenue it raises over the state comptroller's biennial revenue estimate.

There are new Talking Points for each of the state agencies on our website. Visit **TTIA's [Advocacy](#)** section for more information.