

## Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations (TANO)

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### \Summary of Issues Affecting Nonprofit Organizations *81st Texas Legislature, 2009 Regular Session*

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The 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature is in its last week of the 2009 Regular Session, and bills that are not receiving final consideration and approval now will be left to languish—perhaps to return another day. Following is the status of certain bills TANO has been monitoring since January that have been approved or are likely to be resolved in this session:

**HB 492:** A state government initiative to promote capacity-building to the faith and community-based nonprofit sector by designating a liaison to the sector in several major state agencies and establish advisory groups from the nonprofit sector. *Passed the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature.*

**SB 918:** Permits the Attorney General to be awarded its attorney's fees and costs of investigation in a court proceeding against a nonprofit entity in which misconduct or illegal activity has been determined. *Signed by the Governor on 5-23-2009.*

**SB 776:** New regulations that would require disclosure to the public of the nonprofit organization, if any, that benefits from household goods collected in collection bins; also requires similar disclosure to the public in door-to-door and mail solicitation of household goods donations. *Approved and sent to the Governor on 5-22-2009.*

**HB 671:** Would add nonprofits as a protected class under the Penal Code by permitting an enhancement (increase) in punishment ranges for a person convicted of theft from a Sec. 501(c)(3) organization. *Passed the House, and passed by the Senate Committee for Senate consideration on 5-27-2009.*

**HB 4219:** Land transfer fees that benefit designated nonprofit organizations authorized by covenants on properties in large-scale residential developments would have been voided by HB 4219. *After House passage, the bill has not moved ahead in the Senate.*

**HB 4103:** Clarifies that a board management committee of a religious organization could be comprised of non-directors. *Passed the House, and has been reported out of Senate committee, for full Senate consideration on 5-27-2009.*

**A complete report from TANO will appear after the end of the legislative session on June 1 detailing the fate of all bills tracked this year that affect the nonprofit sector in Texas.**