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CREIGHTON ASKS GOV. ABBOTT FOR A PROPERTY TAX SPECIAL SESSION

Texans Deserve Meaningful Property Tax Reform

Austin – The Senate passed the Property Tax Reform & Relief act 68 days ago, leaving more than sufficient time for the Texas House Leadership to pass the bill. Only recently, a very weak version of the Senate's comprehensive property tax relief measures were added to an ad valorem tax bill in the House. The most important provisions to lower the rollback rate and to call for automatic tax rate approval elections were eliminated. These provisions are crucial to lower property tax rates and to provide the most transparency for hard-working taxpayers.

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick appointed Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) to the conference committee on property tax reform to resolve differences in the bill between the two chambers.

"There is no greater issue impacting working families throughout Texas than rising property taxes," said Senator Creighton. "The financial burden property taxes are putting on families must be addressed immediately."

During the 84th Interim, Senator Creighton was appointed by Lieutenant Governor Patrick to the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and traveled the state listening to Texans. Yesterday, the Texas House missed an important deadline in order to consider conference committee reports and continue working on the bill. Therefore, the property tax issue will not be resolved during the regular 85th legislative session.

"We can't continue to treat this issue like a political football and punting it down the field," said Senator Creighton. "The people of Texas deserve action now. The Texas House Leadership fell short of the reform Texans deserve by leaving out a key measure from the Senate's bill which requires voter approval before tax rates can be raised."

"I urge Governor Greg Abbott to call a special session on property tax reform," concluded Senator Creighton. "Texans deserve meaningful property tax reform and I am committed to that goal."

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Senator Brandon Creighton represents Senate District 4, which encompasses Chambers, Jefferson and parts of Montgomery, Harris and Galveston Counties.