



## Legislative Executive Summary

### S.B. 1605 The Creation of a Senate Year in Review Address

**Summary:** This bill creates an annual address as an item of business during the General Assembly at or near the end of the Senate executive term, and delivered by either the President of Senate or another member of the executive team to the GA, that consists of two main components. The first is the general explanation of all approved Senate legislation throughout the executive term (i.e. the term the President is serving that is about to conclude or has just concluded). This legislation also includes joint resolutions; any legislation that Senate has approved should be explained. The address is intended to be as accessible and transparent as possible to UT by providing this information all in one sitting, while also breaking down what can be difficult language to understand. Also, other outstanding non-legislative work Senate has done should be included as well in order to bring attention to those events.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why is this necessary?
  - a. This report can show the entire student and administrative population in one sitting what pieces of legislation have been passed by Senate and why these pieces of legislation are important. The address can also help provide clarity by summarizing what can be sometimes very difficult language to understand.
2. How long would this address take?
  - a. That depends on the year and what all Senate has done, but the report should be generally less than ten minutes.
3. How can students access this information?
  - a. The most direct way would be to attend the address itself. However, because not every student will attend, a transcript should also be published online.
4. Why does this address need to be in person instead of just releasing a transcript online?
  - a. Only releasing all of the information online could lead to unintentionally over-complicated technical language, as opposed to an in-person explanation; the latter of these two options is more easily able to use simpler terms to explain legislation.
5. What outside achievements should be considered, and how will these be filtered?
  - a. Mainly, philanthropy work would be recognized, and this should be filtered by the discretion of the specific council(s) involved in the work on a case-by-case basis.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

2201 Speedway A6210 • Austin, Texas 78712-0179 • (512) 471-3166 • Fax: (512) 471-3408 • [www.utsenate.org](http://www.utsenate.org)

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**S.B. 1605**

A Bill in Support of Creating a Yearly Address Explaining Passed Legislation and Other Major Accomplishments

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin Senate of College Councils passes several pieces of legislation throughout each executive term; and,

WHEREAS, An annual address given to the Senate of College Councils General Assembly explaining passed Senate legislation, including joint resolutions, throughout the President of Senate's executive term helps Senate in being as transparent to the student body as possible; and,

WHEREAS, This address can assist in explaining legislation that may have very technically difficult language to understand; and,

WHEREAS, Including major accomplishments of the councils of Senate in the address, to be filtered at the discretion of the councils involved, show additional transparency to the student body; and,

WHEREAS, The address should remain brief enough to simply provide a general overview of the aforementioned legislation and accomplishments; and,

WHEREAS, Creating, posting, and publicizing an online transcript of this address can further expand student awareness of the activities of Senate; therefore, be it

ENACTED, That the Constitution of UT Senate of College Councils, Article Five, Section Six, is amended to include "During the last General Assembly of the President's term, the President is responsible for delivering an address to the General Assembly that



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briefly lists and explains all passed Senate legislation, including Joint Resolutions, throughout the President’s term. This address should also include major accomplishments of the councils throughout the President’s term, and the councils involved with those accomplishments are free to filter which are important enough to be mentioned in the address. A transcript of the address is required to be posted online and publicized to the university, and the address should take no more than ten minutes to deliver.”

AUTHORS, Michael Walsh, *At-Large*, UT Senate of College Councils

SPONSORS, Sergio Cavazos, *President*, UT Senate of College Councils

Austin Reynolds, *Vice President*, UT Senate of College Councils

W. Bishop Wash, *Policy Director*, UT Senate of College Councils