



LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 1606 By: Huberty	Relating to the authority of the Texas Military Department to purchase food and beverages.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	<p>HB 1606 amends the part of the Government Code regarding appropriated funds that support military housing and training. This bill changes the title of the section from "Use of Funds to Support Military Housing and Training" to "Maintenance and Operation of Military Housing." It continues to detail that the Texas Military Department can use these funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • military housing • military duty training • students who are participating in the Texas ChalleNGe Academy. <p>The Texas ChalleNGe Academy is a tuition-free military academy sponsored by the Texas National Guard that provides academic learning and discipline to at-risk juveniles from ages 16-18. This has been rated as having no significant fiscal impact. It adds a means to support Texas military in their training.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
HB 409 By: Springer	Relating to the designation of a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1810 in Jack County as the Luther G. Prunty Memorial Highway.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	<p>HB 409 is a memorial highway bill to name F.M. 1810 in Jack County the Luther G. Prunty Memorial Highway. Luther Prunty passed away in 2015 at the age of 102. During WWII as a mobilized member of the Texas National Guard, he survived 3 ½ years as a POW laboring at the Death Railway.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
HB 947 By: Ed. Thompson/ Larry Gonzalez	Relating to the designation of a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 1462 in Brazoria County as the Lieutenant Colonel Roy Lin Tisdale Memorial Highway.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	<p>HB 947 is a memorial highway bill that names a part of FM 1462 in Brazoria County the Lieutenant Colonel Roy Lin Tisdale Memorial Highway. LTC Tisdale was a respected and loved soldier. He was shot and killed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina while conducting unit safety training.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org

<p>HB 1483 By: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to the designation of State Highway 191 in Ector County as the Chris Kyle Memorial Highway.</p>	<p>Defense & Veterans' Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1483 would create the Chris Kyle Memorial Highway along a portion of Highway 191 in Ector County. The Odessa-born native Texan was a U.S. Navy SEAL veteran and sniper. The 150 confirmed kills attributed to Mr. Kyle during his four tours in Iraq earned him recognition as one of our most accurate marksmen. He tragically lost his life in February of 2013. This bill will ensure his legacy continues in his home state.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1709 By: Gooden/ Burkett</p>	<p>Relating to procedures for the dissolution of the Bois D'Arc Island Levee Improvement District of Dallas and Kaufman Counties.</p>	<p>Special Purpose Districts</p>	<p>HB 1709 would grant the authority to the Commissioners Courts of Dallas and Kaufman Counties to dissolve the Bois D'Arc Island Levee Improvement District. The Levee Improvement District was created during the 78th Legislature which would be overseen by a board of directors. Since the district's creation no board members have been elected. Eligibility of members requires land ownership and residence within the district; currently 6 people meet that criteria.</p> <p>Dallas and Kaufman Counties do not have authority to do potential repairs on the levee because the Bois D'Arc Island Levee Improvement District supersedes the counties. Liability which currently falls under the Improvement District would belong to Kaufman and Dallas Counties within their respective boundaries if the Improvement District is dissolved.</p> <p>The dissolution of this district by Dallas and Kaufman County will be applicable no later than 18 months after a regularly scheduled election occurs if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate amount of board members are not elected. • An appropriate number of members are elected but fail to attend at least 50% of the board meetings within a twelve-month period. <p>Kaufman County currently has \$7,000 in its coffers from taxes collected prior to the creation of the Levee Improvement District. This bill gives the Commissioner's Court responsibility for decisions regarding the taxes previously collected. There are no other obligations of this district including: assets, contracts, bonds, or provided services that would be violated, diminished, or impaired with the dissolution.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 132 By: Minjarez/ Bernal/ Thierry/ Justin Rodriguez/ Miller</p>	<p>Relating to the ability of certain relative caretakers of dependent children to receive supplemental financial assistance and be assigned as protective payees for financial assistance payments.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>HB 132 amends the Human Resources Code to extends the eligibility of who can receive supplemental financial assistance as caregivers. Currently, funds are only available to a small amount of kinship caregivers.</p> <p>Updated Criteria of the bill would include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowering the age of eligibility from 45 to 25 • Incorporating other kin to include aunts, uncles, sisters, or brothers. <p>This bill would further encourage relatives to take in children and increase a child's chances for a permanent home. The second and third largest populations of kinship caregivers are aunts and uncles; this bill will hopefully lower the amount</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>



			of denials for relatives and promote a willing population of caregivers. Expansion of eligibility will also support the child and provide a continuation of services. With more potential kinship caregivers, who have limited funds need the assistance and in order to make the important decision of adding one or more child into their homes.	
HB 256 By: Hernandez	Relating to the authority of a city attorney to seek an injunction to abate a common nuisance under the Alcoholic Beverage Code.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	<p>Amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code in order to authorize a city attorney to sue in the name of the city for an injunction to abate and temporarily/permanently enjoin a common nuisance under the Alcoholic Beverage Code. As it stands in the Alcoholic Beverage Code, only the county attorney, district attorney or attorney general may sue for an injunction relating to a place where alcoholic beverages are sold, bartered, manufactured, stored, possessed, or consumed. This is contrary to who is authorized to sue for common nuisances under Chapter 125 in the Civil Practices and Remedies Code, which includes city attorneys. This bill is essentially a clean-up bill as it allows a city attorney to bring a common nuisance claim under the Alcoholic Beverage Code in line with common nuisance action remedies afforded cities in Chapter 125.</p> <p>Without this bill, cities lack the ability to address establishments that violate the Alcoholic Beverage Code, including common nuisances such as serving alcohol to minors or serving past 2 AM. These establishments often serve as “fronts” for criminal activities such as sex trafficking. Additionally, in cities such as Houston without zoning, these establishments may be in closer proximity to homes and other neighborhood entities, thus making them even more of a serious problem for working Texas families and communities. This legislation is imperative to effectively address these nuisance establishments.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org
HB 1148 By: Sarah Davis	Relating to emergency health care services and trauma care systems.	Public Health	<p>Regional advisory councils (RACs) are the administrative entities responsible for coordinating administrative oversight, monitoring personnel, and managing competing interests for emergency healthcare trauma systems in Texas. As our state’s population has grown in recent years, RACs have experienced an exponential increase in administrative responsibility. CSHB 1148 would create at least 8 administrative cooperatives to streamline the administrative responsibilities of RACs and to encourage collaboration by breaking down silos between RACs. The bill allows for any RAC to apply to serve as an administrative cooperative in their trauma service area if they are interested and outlines application requirements. These administrative cooperatives would be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application and compliance management • HR and employee benefit management • Payroll • Contract management and monitoring • Administering and distributing allocated funds to each RAC under the cooperative’s jurisdiction • Entering into a centralized purchasing agreement with all RACs under the cooperatives jurisdiction to consolidating purchases • Submitting an annual report to DSHS on the cooperative’s expenditures on service provision compared to the amount of money that would have been spent if each RAC had performed its own administrative functions 	Favorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org



			<p>The bill allows for a RAC to apply to retain certain administrative functions if they make a formal request to DSHS and can substantiate a claim that they can perform the function in a more cost-effective manner than the administrative cooperative. The bill also outlines processes by which individual RACs can request to transfer administrative cooperatives should a logistical issue require it.</p> <p>In addition to establishing the administrative cooperatives, CSHB 1148 mandates that the cooperatives, in collaboration with each individual RAC and DSHS, establish a written 25-year plan related to the coordination of emergency health services throughout Texas. The bill also requires that the executive commissioner and DSHS conduct a comprehensive review of the rules regarding the minimum standards and objectives for trauma care systems every seven years.</p> <p>CSHB 1148 will improve the efficiency of RACs by consolidating administrative functions and performing them more cost-effectively. This fiscal streamlining will allow for RACs to improve the quality of their individual healthcare programming and will ensure that tax dollars are being used to effectively provide emergency trauma related healthcare services to Texans. Additionally, the bill encourages collaboration between RACs which will contribute to a more cohesive system of trauma care providers across Texas. The bill's requirement for the development of a 25-year strategic plan will further contribute to this cohesion by providing a uniform vision for RACs across the state.</p>	
<p>HB 1020 By: Smithee/ Farrar</p>	<p>Relating to volunteer practice by an inactive member of the State Bar of Texas.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Allows the Supreme Court of Texas (SCOT) to promulgate rules for inactive members of the State Bar of Texas solely so that they may provide pro bono legal services. Retired lawyers, and lawyers who are inactive for other reasons such as raising children, have a wealth of legal knowledge and experience. They should be able to engage in volunteer practices of legal aid to people who would otherwise need to self-represent.</p> <p>There are 5.3 million low-income people with unmet civil legal needs. A recent study by the University of Texas San Antonio shows that due to a lack of resources, legal aid can meet only 10 percent of civil legal needs in Texas. Meanwhile, there are over 16,000 inactive attorneys who could provide services pro bono. Without this legislation, they are not allowed to practice law. By passing this bill, SCOT may choose to enable these inactive attorneys to provide pro bono legal services. The Court would also enact rules to ensure these attorneys are competent to handle these cases. While other efforts to increase pro bono services are important, such as recruiting or matching attorneys with cases in their practice areas, these efforts cannot be nearly as effective as opening up access to these 16,000 inactive attorneys. Twenty-nine other states currently allow their inactive members to practice law for pro bono purposes. This legislation addresses imperative needs of working Texas families by increasing the pool of attorneys available to perform pro bono work and stand true to the American commitment of justice for all.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>

