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**LSG Floor Report For Emergency Calendar- Thursday, May 18, 2017**

<p><b>SB 11</b>          By: Schwertner          SP: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of services provided by the Department of Family and Protective Services, including foster care, child protective services, and prevention and early intervention services.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>SB 11 aims to take on the difficult task of redesigning foster care in Texas, by creating a community-based foster care program, through which a single source continuum contractor (SSCC) can contract with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide child placement and case management. On Thursday December 17, 2015, United States District Judge Janis Jack of Corpus Christi ruled that Texas’ foster care system was violating the constitutional rights of children. She sighted years of neglect and inappropriate placements that left children to have multiple placements. In some Texas counties, the average number of placements can be up to 15 per child. At any time, there are roughly 30,000 children in conservatorship care in Texas. These children are trapped in a broken system that can lead to further abuse and neglect they may have already been subjected to. The issue of foster care is a decades long problem, past attempts have been made to overhaul the system but to no avail. What remains is a shortage of foster care capacity, leaving foster parents overwhelmed with little support due to continuously high turnover rates of CPS case workers. SB 11 is the legislatures newest attempt to mend the wounds of Texas foster care.</p> <p><b>Community-Based Foster Care</b>          The bill seeks to redesign foster care requiring DFPS to contract with community-based, nonprofits, including faith based organizations, to provide child placement and case management services. The nonprofits work through the SSCC to meet the goals and requirements laid out by the bill. The bill requires that an organization place children in the least-restrictive environment with an emphasis on a family home environment if possible, being kinship or foster care. The ultimate goal would remain family reunification whenever possible for the child.</p> <p>Different from other proposals of foster care redesign, SB 11 privatizes case management by taking this service from DFPS and placing them into nonprofits contracting with the SSCC. The bill lays out the duties that would be required of the case workers under the SSCC. Little department oversight would be required of DFPS. However, before a catchment area can implemented, case management services within DFPS must conduct a readiness review of an SSCC. Qualifications of an SSCC are laid out in the bill and they would be required to hold a license from the DFPS. The bill also offers a contingency plan for the termination of contracts.</p> <p><b>Program Expansion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 11 provides a roll out plan for both community based foster care and transfer of case management services.</li> <li>• The bill give a deadline of December 21, 2019 for DFPS to identify no more than eight catchment areas they find will best implement community-based foster care.</li> <li>• Provisions of expanding case management services will be slower, allowing DFPS to identify only two catchment areas to initially transfer services too.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable w/Concerns</b>          Evaluated by:          Kylie McNaught          210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case management may not be transferred to an SSCC until foster care services are successfully transferred.</li> <li>• Annually DFPS shall report to the legislature the readiness of remaining catchment areas</li> <li>• Based on availability of funds and readiness of remaining catchment areas DFPS would create a timeline for the continued roll out of services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Oversight</b>  A community engagement group will be implemented in each catchment area by utilizing community stakeholders. The group will be responsible for reporting feedback of the program implementation to DFPS. They will also be responsible for helping an SSCC to facilitate the use of local prevention and early intervention resources as well as other community resources.  The Child Protective Services Legislative Oversight Committee would be comprised of members of both legislative chambers and members of the public appointed by the governor. The duties of the committee are outlined in the bill and rely mostly on the facilitation of transferring services and the reorganization of DFPS administrative structure.</p> <p><b>Medical and Mental Health Screenings</b>  The bill provides new provisions for medical and mental health screenings. Currently DFPS policies for medical and mental health screenings of a child that has been taken into conservatorship is within 30 days. This requires that screenings be conducted within three days for urban and suburban communities and five days for rural communities. It would also be required that any movement of placement of a child who is enrolled in the STAR Health Program notify the Managed Care Organization (MCO) within 24 hours.</p> <p><b>Foster Capacity Needs Plan</b>  One of the major issues facing children in the child welfare system is the limited number of foster parents. The causes of this include both the overwhelming nature of taking in a child with little support from the department and the financial burden it can put upon a family. SB 11 would require DFPS to provide monetary assistance for day care to foster parents who work full or part-time. This will help to incentivize more foster care parents to take on this important responsibility and assist those who have already done so. DFPS would also be required to develop a plan to mitigate the foster care capacity crisis. This would be done in collaboration with advocacy groups, faith-based entities and nonprofits through the collection of data on the need and availability per region. It requires both short-term and long-term goals.</p> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill transfers for the first time, case management away from the state with minimal government oversight. Some agencies who take on this great responsibility lack the decades of experience with foster children and case management that many DFPS workers have.</li> <li>• While a pilot program for placement has already been implemented in the Ft. Worth area and has shown success, rural areas may not have the same resources.</li> <li>• Privatization of foster care has been attempted in three states, and has been found to be no more successful than the current system Texas has now.</li> <li>• Initial roll out for the program expansion is only a maximum two years and reconsidered annually thereafter, such a monumental project should be allowed more time to be thoughtfully implementing.</li> <li>• While the bill does not expressly state provisions for it, many have concerns that faith-based organizations may be at liberty institute discriminatory practices. The bill does not expressly protect children who may be denied services if they are LGBTQI+ or protect same-sex couples seeking to adopt. Some are concerned that religious entities may deny abortion access to teens in the system who have been sexually assaulted or are victims of sex-trafficking. Though protections for these seem</li> </ul>	
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			<p>implied, there are many loopholes in state and federal law that allow faith-based organizations to hold discriminatory practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bill does not address high turnover rates of case workers, nor does it address the limited amount of available services and resources to the children.</li> </ul> <p>It has been shown that there is a lack of urgency to find permanent homes for children. 30% of children who remain in foster care more than two-years lower their likelihood of permanency. The goal of CPS is family reunification yet when this does not work the child is placed in Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC), or foster care, at this point children are essentially the ward of the state. Adoption in Texas remains a long, tedious and expensive process. Leaving many children to be bounced from home to home. SB 11 is certainly a step in the right direction. Prioritizing the need for a child to remain within their community and thus disrupt normalcy as much as possible will help many children cope with the trauma of entering conservatorship. There is no doubt that the system as is in dire straits, as children continue to run away, sleep in caseworker offices or worse. Regardless of this, there should be thoughtful consideration in the capacity private entities have to carry out a such a huge project, especially as it affects the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar- Thursday, May 18, 2017**

<p><b>SB 2</b> By: Bettencout  SP: Bonnen, Dennis</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of the ad valorem tax system.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>SB 2, or the Property Tax Payer Empowerment Act of 2017, makes several reforms to the Texas ad valorem tax system administration. <b>One of the most negatively impactful provisions left out of the House version of the bill is the required 5% rollback tax rate. It is imperative to the wellbeing of counties and cities to maintain the current process for taxpayers to petition for a rollback election; any amendments or changes to the bill affect this provision would render the LGS rating unfavorable.</b> While the bill will not affect tax rates, taxable property values, collection rates, or other variables that could affect local or state taxing unit revenues, SB 2 seeks to provide transparency and accessibility to taxpayers through substantive changes to the process and methods by which information is made available to the public, as well as statutory changes relating to local property tax appraisal and review. Notable provisions within the bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requiring the Comptroller to prescribe tax rate calculation forms for designated officers or employees to use in submitting tax rates, both in taxing units other than school districts and school districts, and the requirements relating to the electronic fillable forms,</li> <li>Requiring the Comptroller to include school district tax rates in the taxing unit's imposed rates, as reported by each appraisal district, including submission guidelines and deadlines,</li> <li>Establishing special appraisal review board panels for properties appraised at \$50 million or more in specified property categories, in counties with a population of 1 million or more, including size, eligibility requirements, and other affairs relating to the aforementioned panels,</li> <li>Regarding a Notice of Appraised Value, requiring chief appraisers within an appraisal district to inform property owners of their right to protest to be heard by a special panel of the appraisal review board, as well as repealing the requirement to include the estimated amount of tax that would be imposed on the property through the previous year's tax rate, if the appraised value is greater than that of the preceding tax year,</li> <li>Regarding property taxation and assessment: Renaming the effective tax rate as the "no-new-revenue tax rate", and the effective maintenance and operation (M&amp;O) tax rate to the "no-new-revenue M&amp;O tax rate",</li> <li>Prohibiting a taxing unit's designated officers or employees (with the exception of school districts) to submit the no-new-revenue tax rate and rollback tax rate to the unit's governing body without first using the tax calculation forms prescribed by</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable w/Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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			<p>the Comptroller. Similarly, the taxing unit can not adopt the rates until the designated officer/employee certifies accuracy on the forms and the values match the unit’s certified appraisal roll values,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requiring taxing units to provide taxpayers with notices containing specified tax bill information, as well as requirements for public tax rate hearings and related notices,</li> <li>• Authorizing taxable property owners to file injunctions to restrain tax collection by their corresponding taxing unit within 15 days after adopting a tax rate, if the aforementioned unit or chief appraiser has not complied with the computation, publication, posting, or other related requirements. In this instance, the property owner is entitled to a refund of taxes paid, attorney’s fees, and related court costs,</li> <li>• Requiring each taxing unit to establish and maintain a public database containing property values, property taxes, tax rates, hearing dates, and other related information, as well as a website containing related information and audit information as prescribed by the Comptroller,</li> <li>• Regarding local review, repealing the provision that permits taxing units to challenge the level of appraisals of any category of property in the district or in territory within the district before the appraisal review board. Instead, the bill requires a notice of protest for property owners requesting to be heard by a special panel if the property is in a provided category.</li> </ul> <p>SB 2 further makes conforming repeals and changes to keep continuity between the proposed changed within related statutes. The Legislative Budget Board estimates a negative impact to General Revenue Related Funds in the amount of \$624,000 through the 2018-19 fiscal biennium.</p> <p>Currently, local governments have the choice to increase property-tax revenue by up to 8% per year, excluding taxes from new construction projects. Should local governments propose increased property taxes over the 8% cap, taxpayers can petition for a special “rollback” election to determine whether to reduce the tax rate to the previous 8% ceiling. Major provisions within the Senate version of the bill included requiring a special “rollback” election if local property taxes increased by more than 5% by local governing units. Consequently, this decreased cap placed harmful restrictions on local cities and counties’ abilities to fund and provide public services, such as public safety, education, and health care, through a regressive system and decreased source of revenue. By removing restrictive requirements in the House version of SB 2, local governments are able to provide taxpayers with local control regarding property taxes, as well as providing taxpayers with necessary information regarding their tax bills. Ensuring clear and accessible information on property taxes and property owners’ rights bolsters relations between state and local governments, as well as providing accountability to taxpayers by providing a uniform and certified calculation process. However, any changes relating to limiting local governments’ ability to provide and fund services should be avoided, as instituting a smaller cap for property-tax revenue will do little to reduce the burden on homeowners. School districts receive more than half of local property taxes, which would remain unchanged by smaller property tax ceilings; instead, this would restrict cities and counties from being able to raise revenue for local services rather than reduce school property taxes. With an emphasis on local and state transparency provisions, the House version of SB 2 stands to make helpful improvements to the ad valorem tax system administration.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Thursday, May 18, 2017**

<p><b>SB 489</b> Lucio</p>	<p>Relating to recommendations regarding instruction in public schools</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>SB 489 amends the Education Code to instruct a school district’s local school health advisory council to provide recommendations on curriculum that will help to prevent the use of e-cigarettes by students. The council already makes recommendations on anti-smoking</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day</p>
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SP: Alvarado	to prevent the use of e-cigarettes.		curriculum for traditional tobacco cigarettes. SB 489 seeks to ensure that students will also be aware of the life changing health risks caused by smoking e-cigarettes.	210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 573</b> By: Estes SP: Frullo	Relating to the disposition of proceeds from the sale of freshwater fishing stamps issued by the Parks and Wildlife Department.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism	SB 573 seeks to enhance freshwater fish hatcheries, and purchase fish stock. The bill amends the Parks and Wildlife Code by removing restrictions on the use of revenue from the freshwater fishing stamp. SB 573 permits net receipts from the sales of fishing stamps to be used for the repair, maintenance, and renovation of facilities supporting research related to freshwater fisheries. Funds from stamp sales can also be used for the restoration, enhancement, and management of freshwater fish habitats, and the development of shoreline-based projects.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 693</b> By: Garcia SP: Phelan	Relating to three-point seat belts on buses that transport schoolchildren.	Transportation	This bill extends the definition of a school bus to include charter school buses and buses for multifunction school activities. This legislation makes exemptions to the requirement of the three-point seat belt on school buses that are 2017 or 2018 models. The bill recognizes that certain school districts may not be able to afford a school bus with a three-point seat belts thus, establishing an opt-out process for the board of trustees of school districts to determine if the budget allows them to purchase this type of school bus and votes to approve this decision through a public meeting. The state already requires people to have their seat belts at all times when they are traveling in a vehicle, this legislation is a step in the right direction for school districts to be equipped with school buses that have a three-point seat belt for every child. Three-point seat belts are great tools for ensuring a child's safety when they are being transported to schools or any school related activities.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 754</b> By: Perry SP: King, Ken	Relating to the extension and modification of a public-school district depository contract.	Public Education	Currently a school district and the district's depository bank may extend, not modify, a depository contract for up to two additional two-year terms. SB 754 provides greater flexibility by allowing districts to extend depository contracts for up to three additional two-year terms and modify the contract for any extension as long as both parties mutually agree to the terms.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1051</b> By: Watson SP: Dutton	Relating to the accommodation of a deaf or hard of hearing student in driver education; authorizing a fee.	Public Education	Many deaf and hard of hearing individuals find it difficult to take the driver education course that is required prior to obtaining a Texas driver's license because driver education schools are not required to accommodate them. SB 1051 addresses this problem by requiring driver education schools to make reasonable modifications for deaf and hard of hearing students and requiring the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to create a driver education course that presents the course curriculum in American Sign Language; the course must be available on TDLR's website. Effectively, SB 1051 helps members of the deaf and hard of hearing community to more easily gain the independence that a driver's license provides.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 720</b> By: Perry SP: Frullo	Relating to rules regarding the carcasses of certain birds or animals.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism	SB 720 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code by granting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission the authority to eliminate carcass, final destination, and final processing requirements pertaining to the removal of certain animal carcasses. SB 720 provides this provision to allow the commission the ability to quickly respond with any changes necessary to mitigate disease risk from the animal remains	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 957</b> By: Campbell	Relating to the content and numbering of propositions on the ballot.	Elections	SB 957 amends the Election Code to require the unique numbering or lettering of propositions on a ballot for the purposes of distinguishing between political subdivision propositions. State propositions will be numbered on the ballot and political subdivisions will have letters associated with the measures that correspond to their placement. Each proposition will also identify which authority	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen



<p>SP: Laubenberg</p>			<p>order the measure on the ballot. SB 957 requires that a constitutional proposition be placed first on the ballot. This bill will remove unnecessary confusion for voters when there are two propositions on a ballot with the same identifying number.</p>	<p>210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 966</b> By: Watson SP: Neave</p>	<p>Relating to criminal offenses regarding the consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by a minor.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 966 provides exemptions to minors committing an offense of consumption or possession of alcohol if the minor reports a sexual assault committed against them or another person, or if the minor is a victim of a sexual assault reported by another person. The bill specifies that the exemptions relate to a sexual assault reported to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A health care provider treating the sexual assault victim,</li> <li>• A law enforcement agency employee, including college campus police departments, or</li> <li>• The Title IX coordinator or another employee of an institution of higher education who is responsible for responding to reports of sexual assault.</li> </ul> <p>Provisions within the bill further entitle a minor charged with an offense of consumption or possession of alcohol to raise the defenses provided within the bill in the prosecution of the aforementioned offense, but only if the minor violates alcohol-related statutes at the time of a sexual assault committed that is either reported by the minor or committed against the minor and reported by someone else, with the exception of minors committing a sexual assault that is reported under the bill's provisions. Students at higher education institutions are less likely to report instances of sexual assault due to fear of charges associated with underage drinking, and as a result colleges face difficulties preventing sexual assault and providing resources for survivors of sexual assault: Overall reporting rates for sexual assault and sexual misconduct range anywhere from 5-28% on college campuses. SB 966 incentivizes reporting to survivors of sexual assault and bystanders by providing protections from criminal convictions.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1153</b> By: Menéndez SP: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to parental rights and information regarding certain intervention strategies used with public school students.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>SB 1153 seeks to increase transparency between schools and parents by granting parents the right to access their child's records relating to intervention strategies for learning difficulties. The bill requires each school district to notify the parents of each child receiving assistance for learning difficulties, including Response to Interventions (RtI) strategies. The notification must include a description of the assistance that may be provided to the child, information collected regarding intervention strategies used previously for the child, the duration for which assistance will be provided, and the estimated time frame within which a report on the child's progress will be provided to the parents. SB 1153 also seeks to inform parents of their rights by requiring that districts notify parents of their right to request an evaluation of their child for special education services at any time. In the interest of synthesizing data, the bill also requires an annual report through the Public Information Management System be made to record the aggregate amount of students receiving intervention strategies in the district during the year as well as the number of students receiving accommodations under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1501</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of motor vehicle towing, booting, and storage and to the elimination of required state licensing for vehicle booting companies and operators.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>SB 1501 removes the regulation of booting by a state licensure and expands a local authority's oversight. The bill also clarifies and cleans up language regarding towing enforcement, with particular focus on university campuses. Regulations regarding booting will be determined by the local authority in the same areas where both traffic and parking are also regulated. Section 4 in the bill alters who can sit on the Towing and Storage Advisory Board allowing the board to cast a larger net for members, implements more guidelines for a member who is a part of the Texas Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association, and adds someone who operates both a towing and vehicle storage facility. Regulations must include requirements set within statute regarding the attachment and removal of a boot, a system for complaints to be filed with information placed on the notice on the vehicle, and penalties for the company when the boot is removed outside of these requirements. When towing a vehicle both the operator and the company are subject to the same liabilities as peace officers if damage is done to a vehicle due to negligence. A boot must be removed within an hour of the</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			notification by the owner and if the company fails to do so, there will be no charge for removal. If more than one boot is placed on a vehicle the company may only charge the rate of a single boot. When towing is enforced due to a special event on a private or public university campus the authority must place a notice in the parking areas within 72 hours of the event with specific information indicating information regarding parking, and also placement and material of the signs. Vehicles towed under this section must be moved to another area of campus. If within 48 hours the car has not been claimed the car may be towed again as long as no additional cost is incurred by the owner of the vehicle. Moving the state licensure towards a local authority makes sense due to the low number of booting companies and that regulations on a state level are not heavily enforced. This bill will ensure that procedures are followed and complaints can be addressed. It also provides for a clear avenue to allow college campuses deal with unwanted parking when there is a special event.	
<b>SB 1329</b> By: Huffman SP: Smithee	Relating to the operation and administration of and practice in courts in the judicial branch of state government; increasing a fee.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	SB 1329 is an omnibus bill that primarily creates a number of new judicial districts and statutory courts. As the Texas population grows over time in some regions of the state and declines in others, this bill simply compensates for those changes by creating new judicial districts and courts to account for these changes. The bill also increases the fee for the issuance of an attorney's license or certificate affixed with a seal from \$10 to \$25, and makes clarifications regarding bailiff eligibility requirements in certain courts, and salary levels for some court officials in some courts.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 190</b> By: Uresti SP: Wu	Relating to the administrative closure of certain reported cases of child abuse or neglect made to the Department of Family and Protective Services.	Human Services	SB 190 codifies the procedures and timeline for closing an investigation for a report of abuse or neglect of a child. It has been found that prior to efforts put in place to retain caseworkers, high turnover rates, caseloads and blurred procedures had led to thousands of high-risk reports of abuse and neglect being untouched. During March 2016 in Harris County alone was found to have 20% of the potential Priority 1 and 2 (P1, P2) cases where never met with a face-to-face investigation. Since salaries have been increased and the state has begun an overhaul of the CPS system this number has decreased, yet still remains a problem. This bill adds a 60-day deadline for investigators to turnover a case to a supervisor for closure and outlines the means of determining if a case should be closed. Standardizing a timeline and accountability for closing a potential high-risk case will ensure children do not remain unseen and in turn will save countless innocent lives.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1096</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Smithee	Relating to guardianships; authorizing a fee.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	SB 1096 establishes the requirement of a mandatory registration program and central database for all guardianships, and requires training and criminal history background checks for individuals seeking appointment as a guardian. This bill also requires a peace officer or guardian to notify a court with jurisdiction over a particular guardianship if and when a person under guardianship is detained or arrested.  Guardianships and guardianship proceedings are important legal tools that allow for a person who is found incapacitated, often a person of older age, to have someone else make decisions for them on their behalf. The population of Texans age 65 and older are expected to double by 2030 to almost 6 million. Some of these persons will need guardianships. Currently, there is no training requirements for a person seeking appointment as a guardian. In 2013, the Legislature funded a pilot guardianship compliance project to review guardian's compliance with statutory requirements. The report from this project found a high risk of exploitation and neglect in this area, with over 40% of guardian's not in proper and required compliance. Furthermore, around 90% of these cases of noncompliance were guardians who were family members and trusted friends. It is extremely important for guardians to understand their obligations so that they can properly and effectively fulfill their role. Too often a guardian is just simply not aware of their duties, including filling out the necessary documentation such as initial inventory of the person under guardianship.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>



		<p>SB 1096 requires the Supreme Court to establish a process by which the Judicial Branch Certification Commission will perform training and criminal history background checks for individuals seeking appointment as guardian. This course would educate proposed guardians about: responsibilities, alternatives to guardianships, supports and services available to the proposed ward, and a ward's bill of rights. This would be a free online course available on the commission's website, and would be a few hours long. A court may not appoint an individual to serve as guardian without this training, unless waived by the court in accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court. In regard to the criminal history background checks, fingerprint-based checks are only required when the liquid assets of the estate of a ward exceed \$50,000, otherwise the criminal history check is name-based.</p> <p>This bill also requires registration and a subsequent database maintained by the Office of Court Administration. The database is required to be accessible to the Department of Public Safety for law enforcement purposes. Access shall be limited to properly trained staff, and this bill limits the information to be disclosed. This allows law enforcement to identify if someone is under a guardianship, since there is currently no easy way, and requires a peace officer or guardian to notify the court with jurisdiction over such guardianship if there is an arrest or detainment.</p>	
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