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LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business- Friday, May 19, 2017

<p>SB 1501 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 & 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 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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 2 By: Bettencout SP: Bonnen, Dennis</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of the ad valorem tax system.</p>	<p>Ways & 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. 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. 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>	<p>Favorable w/Concerns Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, • 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, • 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, • 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, • Regarding property taxation and assessment: Renaming the effective tax rate as the “no-new-revenue tax rate”, and the effective maintenance and operation (M&O) tax rate to the “no-new-revenue M&O tax rate”, • 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 the Comptroller. Similarly, the taxing unit cannot adopt the rates until the designated officer/employee certifies accuracy on the forms and the values match the unit’s certified appraisal roll values, • 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, • 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, • 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, • 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. <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</p>	
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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.

LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar- Friday, May 19, 2017

<p>SB 8 By: Schwertner SP: Burkett / Cook / Laubenberg / Raney / Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to certain prohibited abortions and the treatment and disposition of a human fetus, human fetal tissue, and embryonic and fetal tissue remains; creating a civil cause of action; imposing a civil penalty; creating criminal offenses.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p><i>Note:</i> This bill makes multiple references to "partial birth" abortion procedures; this is a politicized term that is medically inaccurate. The medical procedure referred to in this bill is a dilation & extraction (D&X) abortion, which is already banned at the federal level.</p> <p>SB 8 makes various changes in statute related to permitted types of abortion procedures and creates criminal and civil penalties in relation to these procedures. This section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans D&X abortion procedures, except in situations where the procedure is necessary to save the mother's life • Establishes a state jail felony charge for any physician who performs a D&X procedure in violation of the bill • Creates a civil cause of action for the father of a fetus or the parent of a woman under 18 who receives a D&X abortion to obtain relief for physical and mental anguish and up to three times the cost of the procedure • Allows a physician subject to criminal or civil action under the bill to request a hearing before the Texas Medical Board (TMB) to determine whether the procedure was necessary to save the woman's life. Any TMB findings under this provision are permissible for use in court <p>Additionally, the bill establishes provisions related to the donation and disposition of embryonic and fetal tissue. This section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits donation of human fetal tissue for research if the tissue was obtained as the result of an elective abortion or was not obtained in a hospital or ambulatory surgical center. This effectively bans fetal tissue donation from abortion clinics • Requires written informed-consent for any fetal tissue donation permitted within the law • Establishes a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to \$10,000 for an individual who offers monetary compensation to a woman for the purpose of donating fetal tissue or knowingly solicits tissue from a fetus gestated solely for research purposes. This provision addresses a non-issue, as there are no documented incidences of this happening • Requires facilities to maintain records related to fetal tissue donation for seven years <i>or</i> if the woman was younger than 18, the later of the woman's 23rd birthday or seven years • Requires facilities authorized to accept fetal tissue donations to submit an annual report to DSHS outlining the type of fetal tissue donated and the accredited higher education institution that received that tissue • Requires all embryonic and fetal tissue remains to be disposed of by interment, cremation, incineration followed by interment, or steam disinfection followed by interment 	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a burial or cremation assistance registry of participating funeral homes, nonprofits, and cemeteries willing to provide free common burial or low-cost private burial for the remains • Authorizes DSHS to suspend or revoke a healthcare facility’s licensure if they violate any rule related to the disposition of fetal remains • Establishes a civil penalty of \$1,000 for an individual who violates these provisions • Explicitly prohibits the purchase and sale of human fetal tissue <p><u>Concerns</u> Many provisions in SB 8 are duplicative, such as banning D&X procedures when they have been federally outlawed since 2003. Texas law also currently prohibits the sale or profit from donation of fetal tissue, and there is no clear logic that supports the necessity of increasing these regulations. Proponents of increased regulations on disposition of fetal remains often cite videos obtained by the “Center for Medical Progress” that show Planned Parenthood employees allegedly discussing the potential profit the organization stood to gain from the sale of fetal tissue. It has been repeatedly determined that these videos were falsified and doctored; additionally, felony charges were filed against the creators for violating the privacy rights of the individuals they recorded. There is no discernable need to impose additional regulations on fetal tissue disposition, as it is already done in alignment with medical best-practices. Notably, increased fetal tissue disposition regulations have been blocked by district courts in Texas and Indiana; the Texas District Judge called the regulations “unconstitutionally vague” and noted that they would likely impose an undue burden on a woman’s constitutional right to access an abortion.</p> <p>The provisions in the bill are not supported by a legitimate state interest, as they do not advance a public health or safety benefit. The bill essentially serves no discernible purpose and will only further the stigmatization and inaccessibility of abortion care for Texas women. It is an unnecessary intrusion into the patient-practitioner relationship and seeks to control a woman’s personal healthcare decisions. It will also likely be challenged and found unconstitutional in court, which will impose a significant financial burden on the state.</p>	
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LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Friday, May 19, 2017

<p>SB 30 By: West SP: Thompson, Senfronia / Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to inclusion of instruction regarding interaction with peace officers in the required curriculum for certain public school students and in driver education courses and to civilian interaction training for peace officers.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p>	<p>This bill requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the State Board of Education to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish each agency’s responsibilities as it relates to curriculum and instruction on proper interaction with peace officers during traffic stops and other in-person encounters. The State Board of Education must adopt rules to include this instruction in one or more courses for students in grades 9-12 as required curriculum. The Commission must include instruction related to this subject in driver education and driver safety courses. Furthermore, as part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the Commission must require an officer to complete the civilian interaction training program, which is related to proper interaction with civilians during traffic stops and other in-person encounters.</p> <p>SB 30 details information that instruction for such programs must include: the role of law enforcement, the duties and responsibilities of police officers, a person’s rights regarding interactions with police officers, proper behavior for civilians and police officers during an interaction, laws regarding questioning and detention by police officers, and how or where to file a complaint against or a compliment on behalf of a police officer. This legislation seeks an equitable solution without victim-blaming one side over the other.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
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			<p>SB 30 has the potential to decrease tensions in interactions between civilians and police officers that otherwise may lead to argument, injuries, and even death.</p>	
<p>SB 1849 By: Whitmire SP: Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to interactions between law enforcement and individuals detained or arrested on suspicion of the commission of criminal offenses, to the confinement, conviction, or release of those individuals, and to grants supporting populations that are more likely to interact frequently with law enforcement.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 1849, the Sandra Bland Act, introduces necessary reforms to the local and statewide criminal justice and corrections systems in Texas to provide equity to individuals living with mental health or substance abuse issues, as well as education and accountability to law enforcement agencies. The bill addresses several areas for improvements including rules and procedures outlined in the following articles:</p> <p><u>Identification and Diversion of Appropriate Individuals and Services</u> Provisions within this article amend law enforcement and judicial identification and diversion processes for individuals suspected of living with a mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance abuse issue relating to the commitment or discharge of the accused, as well as grants for serving these individuals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 12-hour period for sheriffs to provide written or electronic notification to a magistrate that an individual in custody has a mental illness or intellectual disability, based on information establishing a reasonable belief, • Requiring each law enforcement agency to prioritize the diversion of a person suffering a mental health crisis or the effects of substance abuse to an available and appropriate treatment center within the agency’s jurisdiction. This provision only applies to individuals accused of a nonviolent misdemeanor, with the exception of certain offenses involving intoxication and public safety such as DWI, intoxicated assault, and intoxicated manslaughter, • Allowing the Department of State Health Services to award an unlimited number of grants to local entities including local governments, nonprofit, and faith-based community organizations, that are establishing or expanding regional rural community collaboratives serving two or more counties, and • Ensuring collaboration and involvement of local law enforcement agencies by providing evidence of an established and publicly-accessible plan regarding funding sources and coordination between the entity, local mental health authorities, and community stakeholders, as well as evidence of a diversion policy from local law enforcement; <p><u>Bail, Pretrial Release, and County Jail Standards</u> The bill outlines provisions regarding the process of an appropriate individual’s release on personal bond and general duties, reporting, and investigation requirements for the Commission on Jail Standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring court clerks to provide notices of indictments to an individual or their counsel at the earliest possible time, both in misdemeanor and felony cases, • The Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) to establish and adopt rules and procedure, no later than September 1, 2018 to improve safety for individuals who are imprisoned in county jails, including giving prisoners 24-hour access to mental health professionals at the facility or through a telemental health service, providing for a prisoner to be transported to a health professional, and installing automated electronic sensors/cameras to ensure accurate and timely safety checks for at-risk individuals, • Requiring TCJS to establish minimum standards of care and treatment of prisoners by ensuring continuity of prescription medications, and further requiring a qualified medical professional to review an individual’s current medications upon that individual being taken into custody, 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCJS establishment of the Prisoner Safety Fund, a General Revenue- Dedicated fund, and outlining funding sources to be used only to pay for required capital improvements to county jails; allowing TCJS to establish a grant program to counties for funding capital improvements to a county jail with a maximum capacity of 96 prisoners, • Requiring county jails to submit publicly-accessible reports of serious incidents occurring in the preceding month, including attempted suicide, death, serious bodily injury, assault, sexual assault, and any use of force resulting in bodily injury, to TCJS within the first five days of each month, and • Requiring TCJS to appoint outside law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations regarding a death of a prisoner; <p>Peace Officer and County Jailer Training The bill further outlines proposed requirements relating to the Jail Administrator positions within county jails, law enforcement officer school curriculums and trainings, County Jailer training, continuing education programs, and proficiency certificates, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures requiring the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCLE) to develop an examination for an individual assigned to the county Jail Administrator position, approved by TCJS, • Minimum curriculum requirements of a 40-hour statewide education and training program for new officers over de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques for interactions with individuals with mental health impairments, as well as interactions with members of the public including techniques to limit the use of force resulting in bodily injury, and • Instituting an 8-hour mental health training program for County Jailers, approved by both the TCLE and TCJS; <p>Motor Vehicle Stops, Racial Profiling, and Issuance of Citations Provisions within the bill stipulate required procedures and updates to racial profiling policies and public education, reporting and analysis of collected data, providing funding or equipment to law enforcement agencies, and civil penalties, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing reporting information relating to a law enforcement agency’s compliment and complaint process on each ticket, citation, or warning issued by a peace officer, • Requiring data reporting and collection on motor vehicle stops made by a peace officer in which a ticket, citation, or warning issued, and to resulting arrests made, regarding whether the peace officer used physical force resulting in bodily injury, and the location and reason for the stop, • Requiring law enforcement agencies to do internal reviews of data collected in an effort to identify improvements to the agency’s motor vehicle stop procedures, and requiring the chief administrator to audit reports to ensure that race/ethnicity of the individual driving the motor vehicle is being reported, • Requiring the law enforcement agency to determine the feasibility of equipping each officer who regularly detains or stops motor vehicles with body cameras, • Provisions requiring a comparative analysis of contraband search numbers to stop population made, rather than total population, • Imposing a civil penalty of no more than \$5,000 per violation should a chief administrator of a law enforcement agency intentionally fail to submit required data reports <p>Furthermore, the bill repeals partial exemptions for law enforcement agencies using video and audio equipment in motor vehicle stops, in which peace officers regularly using squad cars and motorcycles equipped with video camera and transmitter-activated</p>	
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			equipment did not have to report data from motor vehicle stops made. TCLE must evaluate and amend compiling and reporting guidelines by September 1, 2018 for the purpose of academic scrutiny, as well as providing an accessible and downloadable format of any public information within the bill, including a glossary of terms to increase public understanding and knowledge. SB 1849 makes a concerted, thorough effort to increase transparency, accountability, and improve relations with law enforcement agencies through public education of agency guidelines and procedures. The bill further safeguards counties against unfunded mandates within improvements to the county jail system. SB 1849 provides local law enforcement with the needed tools to promote advancement for vulnerable populations within the Texas criminal justice system.	
SB 968 By: Watson SP: Leach / Alvarado / Howard / et al	Relating to requiring certain public and private institutions of higher education to provide students and employees an option to electronically report certain offenses to the institution.	Higher Education	Underreporting of sexual offenses on college campuses is a critical issue. Due to the fear of revictimization or penalty sexual violent occurrences go undocumented leading to the statistics on the frequency of sexual violence being vastly higher. SB 968 seeks to solve this problem by requiring postsecondary educational institutions to provide a student or employee of the institution an option to electronically report to the institution allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking committed against or witnessed by a student or employee regardless of where the offense occurred. The bill allows for the electronic option to be anonymous, and states that it be easily accessible through a link on the homepage of the institution. SB 968 require the commissioner of the Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a nine-member advisory committee to submit to the coordinating board recommendations for rules that may be adopted pertaining to the online reporting.	Favorable Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org
SB 969 Watson SP: Leach / Alvarado / Howard	Relating to requiring certain public and private institutions of higher education to provide amnesty to students who report incidents of sexual assault.	Higher Education	SB 969 seeks to encourage students both victims, and witness of sexual assault to report these occurrences without fear of being penalized for student conduct violations. SB 969 states that an institution may not take any disciplinary action for student conduct violations if that student, in good faith, reports an incident of sexual assault. Per this bill, this provision is not applicable to a student who reports their own involvement in the commission or assistance of sexual assault. SB 969 requires the commissioner of the Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a nine-member advisory committee to submit to the coordinating board recommendations for rules that may be adopted pertaining to implementation and enforcement of this provision.	Favorable Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org
SB 2006 By: Watson SP: Morrison, Geanie W.	Relating to erecting or maintaining certain outdoor signs regulated by the Texas Department of Transportation	Transportation	SB 2006 addresses the decision in a recent Third District Court of Appeals case, Auspro Enterprises v. Texas Department of Transportation, that found a large portion of the Texas Highway Beautification Act unconstitutional; this decision was made on the basis that it violates the First Amendment right to free speech. In order to address and remedy this concern, this bill shifts regulatory focus away from the signs content, which is the key part of the court’s opinion. Thus, it repeals a number of sections that relate to regulation of content, and replaces “outdoor advertising” with “commercial signs” throughout the Transportation Code. Currently, the case has been filed for appeal with the Texas Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court of Texas does not take up the appeal, or if the Supreme Court upholds the decision of the lower court, there would effectively be no billboard regulations in this state. This may cause signs being placed to purposely block one another, causing beautification concerns and safety hazards, as currently there are regulations on the size of signs and distance between signs. The State may also lose 10% of its federal highway funding for failure to meet a federal mandate requiring the effective control of outdoor advertising.	Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org
SB 22 By: Taylor, Larry	Relating to the establishment of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)	Public Education	SB 22 establishes the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Program. P-TECH is a work-based education program that uses partnerships between school districts, institutions of higher education, and businesses to create a direct pathway from high school to college and/or the workplace. The P-TECH program must:	Favorable Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295



<p>SP: Lucio III</p>	<p>program and to the repeal of the tech-prep program.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be open enrollment and provided at no costs to students • Provide for a course of study that enables a participating student in grade levels 9 through 12 to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses • Allow a participating student to obtain a high school diploma and an associate’s degree, 2-year postsecondary certificate, or and industry certification within 6 years • Allow students to complete work-based training through an internship, apprenticeship, or other job training program. <p>The bill instructs the commissioner to collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop and implement a plan for the P-TECH Program that addresses certain program facets including credit transfer policies between institutions of higher education.</p> <p>The bill also provides specifications regarding articulation agreement requirements and memorandum of understanding requirements, including a requirement that each memorandum of understanding must include an agreement that the regional industry or business partner will give participating students first priority in interviewing for any job for which the student is qualified. School districts may obtain accident medical expense, liability, or automobile insurance coverage to protect participating students and business partners. A student who participates in a P-TECH program would be entitled to immunity in the same manner as a professional employee of a school district.</p> <p>SB 22 also creates a P-TECH Advisory Council composed of members representing industry and business partners, school districts, and institutions of higher education. The council would provide recommendations to the commissioner regarding the establishment and administration of the P-TECH program as well as the criteria for a campus’ designation as a P-TECH school.</p> <p>A P-TECH student would only be entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program in proportion to the amount of time spent by the student on high school courses.</p>	<p>Arielle@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 81 Nelson SP: Davis, Sarah / Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the operations of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas; authorizing a trust company to charge the institute an investment fee.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) was established via a constitutional amendment in 2007 and given \$3 billion in bonds authorized by the state to fund innovative cancer research and prevention programs in Texas. While CPRIT plays a critical public health role, there have been ethical concerns in the past about their administrative and financial activities. SB 81 makes programmatic alterations to address issues with management of certain benefits, funding of CPRIT grants, and certain reporting requirements. The bill adds members of the CPRIT oversight committee to Chapter 572 of the Government code, subjecting them to increased ethical standards including mandated reporting of personal financial statements to the Texas Ethics Commission. The bill would also allow CPRIT to transfer management of securities and other revenue-sharing obligations to the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, housed within the Comptroller’s office, and grants them the necessary power to manage and maintain the assets. The bill also removes a duplicative political contribution reporting requirement; currently, oversight committee members have to report contributions twice. The bill streamlines grant provision and asset management while effectively increasing the agency’s ethical standards.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1045 By: Estes SP: Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to the consolidation of public notice requirements for certain air quality permit applications.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>SB 1045 amends the Health and Safety code to allow for the consolidation of public notices for air quality permit applications that meet certain time requirements. Currently, when a new permit, a permit amendment, or permit renewal is submitted it goes through two notice periods open to public comment. Under this bill, if within 15 days of the permit being submitted to TCEQ it is deemed administratively complete with a preliminary decision and draft then the two notices can be consolidated into one.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295</p>



			While the intention of the bill is to expedite the process for simpler and less technical permits, the language does not expressly disallow more controversial permits to get through this proposed system. This bill would remove one of two opportunities for a community's ability to weigh in on permits that might directly affect their quality of life. While efficiency within the permitting process is a laudable goal, it should not be through limiting a citizen's right to voice oppositions or concerns regarding permits for facilities that affect air quality. Fourteen counties in Texas are nonattainment areas, where air quality standards do not meet the Federal Regulations under the Clean Air Act. The onus should always be placed on the facility and within the system to address the concerns of the community.	Erin@Texaslsg.org
SB 47 By: Zaffirini SP: Wu	Relating to a study on the availability of information regarding convictions and deferred dispositions for certain misdemeanors punishable by fine only.	Criminal Jurisprudence	SB 47 requires the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System to conduct a study on how counties store and destroy criminal records relating to misdemeanors punishable by fine only, excluding traffic offenses. The bill outlines specific areas of study regarding public access and availability of records for the aforementioned misdemeanors, Class C misdemeanors, including conviction records and those relating to deferral of final disposition and suspension of sentence for both adults and children under 18 years of age. The bill further requires information regarding the records destruction process, including the reasons and criteria for any destruction of records. Finally, provisions within the bill require information regarding the retention schedule for criminal records of local agencies in each county if the agency routinely destroys the records. The Office of Court Administration must issue the report to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker, and the appropriate standing committees of each chamber before January 1, 2019. Public availability of criminal history records can negatively impact an individual's ability to progress in life and can limit and jeopardize housing, employment, and education opportunities due to the negative stigma associated with criminal convictions. Studying county record retention practices can provide valuable and necessary information to create uniformity in statute across the state regarding equitable treatment of persons with a criminal history as the Legislature can consider the study's recommendations. SB 47 places no additional burdens or duties on local county officials or sheriffs, and has no fiscal impact.	Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org
SB 725 Miles SP: Bernal / Giddings / Huberty	Relating to donation and distribution of surplus food at public schools and grace period policies for public school students with insufficient balances on prepaid meal cards.	Public Education	<p>Texas ranks second nationally in food insecurity. A national study on hunger conducted by the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, Feeding America, revealed that more than 4.65 million Texans, including nearly 1.9 million children, have limited or uncertain access to enough food for a healthy lifestyle. Although many schools have been innovative in finding ways to address the needs of their hungry students, the overlapping of local, state and federal laws creates confusion regarding if and when a school may give leftover food to hungry students. As a result, many schools throw away untouched and unopened food that could be given to the hungry students on their campus. SB 725 creates a procedure that allows schools to distribute food they would normally throw away to the food-insecure students at the school.</p> <p>The bill allows a district employee or parent of a student enrolled at the school to be a designee of a third-party nonprofit organization. The designee becomes an agent of the nonprofit in that they are permitted to collect the surplus food that the school wishes to donate. The donated food may be received, stored and distributed on the campus.</p> <p>SB 725 also revises the grace period policies for students with insufficient balances on prepaid meal cards. Current law requires any Texas school district in which students use a prepaid meal card or account to purchase school meals to have a grace period during which students continue receiving meals even after their accounts are depleted. SB 725 ensures that school districts implement a reasonable grace period policy by providing certain guidelines.</p> <p>The bill requires districts to make at least 1 attempt per week to notify the parent of a negative balance or other amount due as well</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org



			as provide assistance to parents with completing an application for free or reduced lunch. The bill also authorizes districts to solicit and maintain in a separate account, private donations for the purpose of paying the balance on unpaid meal accounts. Effectively, SB 725 will help feed hungry children across the state and reduce food waste.	
SB 790 Miles SP: Howard / Alvarado / Minjarez / Davis, Sarah / Blanco	Relating to the continuation of the women's health advisory committee.	Public Health	SB 790 extends the abolishment date for the of the women's health advisory committee (WHAC) from September 2017 to September 2019. WHAC was established in 2014 to provide recommendations to HHSC on the consolidation of major women's health programs. While this consolidation has been completed, it is critical that WHAC have ample time to evaluate the accessibility and effectiveness of women's health care services in Texas. At a time when the overall health of women is declining, it is imperative that Texas women have access to reliable, quality care. Some programs under the committee's jurisdiction, such as Healthy Texas Women, were rolled out as recently as June 2016. Extending the committee's abolishment date ensures that program implementation and effectiveness can be accurately measured, and that any necessary programmatic adjustments can be made.	Favorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org
SB 1187 By: West SP: Phillips	Relating to the offense of operating a motor vehicle without financial responsibility.	Transportation	When a driver is stopped by a peace officer, sometimes the individual is issued a citation for failure to prove motor vehicle liability insurance, even though they may actually have insurance. SB 1187 requires a peace officer who issues this sort of citation to include an affirmative indication that they were unable at the time of the alleged offense to verify this financial responsibility for the vehicle through the verification program. Furthermore, this bill prohibits the Department of Public Safety from assessing a surcharge on the person's license based on this offense if the person proves they had the insurance at the time the offense was alleged to have occurred. A person should not be assessed fees for failure to have motor vehicle liability insurance simply because they could not prove it at the time. SB 1187 simply remedies this concern.	Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org
SB 497 By: Uresti SP: Wu	Relating to the creation of an office of data analytics in the Department of Family and Protective Services.	Human Services	SB 497 requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to create an office of data analytics. DFPS has made grade strides in recent years to combat high turnover rates. Yet in FY 2016 the FTE turnover rate remained at 19.9%. The purpose of the office of data analytics would be to mitigate employee turnover by monitoring patterns for employee separation, implementing a clear system for employee complaints, and monitor management. The duties of the office of data analytics are outlined in the bill. SB 497 will potentially serve to be an effective tool for employee retention at DFPS and in turn will help to ensure quality investigation and case management for CPS and Adult Protective Services (APS).	Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
SB 922 By: Buckingham SP: Gonzales, Larry	Relating to the reimbursement of certain providers under the Medicaid program for the provision of telehealth services.	Public Health	<p>Many rural school districts in Texas are unable to offer necessary professional services and therapies to their students due to a lack of qualified providers in their area. To address this problem, SB 922 instructs HHSC to ensure Medicaid reimbursement is provided to school districts or open enrollment charter schools who utilize telehealth technology to provide certain health services to their students. The bill requires reimbursement for services provided by licensed social workers, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, professional counselors, and school psychologists. Medicaid reimbursement under this bill would only be available to school districts and charter schools that are authorized health care providers under Medicaid. The bill also stipulates that parental consent is required before any services can be administered to the child.</p> <p>Expanding Medicaid reimbursement to services provided via telehealth technology will allow school districts in rural areas to provide their students with quality therapies that will improve both their educational and health outcomes. Telehealth services have proven to be equally as effective as face-to-face services, and are much more feasible for some school districts to provide. Additionally, the bill increases equity by ensuring that all Texas schoolchildren have access to these vital services regardless of their zip code.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org



<p>SB 1129 By: Hinojosa SP: Herrero</p>	<p>Relating to franchises granted by navigation districts.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>This bill amends the Water Code to extend the franchising period for port facility franchises. It changes statute to allow for a 50-year time frame, replacing the current 30-year period. It also states that the third meeting in which the commissioner votes on whether to grant a franchise cannot happen before the date the required notice is published for the third time. If the franchise is granted, the effective date the grantee files the written acceptance with the commission. This bill would allow for an increase in investment opportunities in Texas ports as it provides greater flexibility in the franchising time period.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1220 By: Miles SP: Vo</p>	<p>Relating to ensuring continuity of education and access to higher education, career information, and skills certification for foster care youth and former foster care youth.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>This bill would require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to create a program to enhance employment and higher education opportunities for foster youth and former foster youth. A major factor that can lead to homelessness for former foster youth is the limited support in access to job training, certificates and higher education. Many foster youth are at a greater risk of not graduating secondary school. This bill takes several steps to address education and job training for current and former foster youth. The bill requires the school a child is transferred to, to place the child in comparable courses or programs they participated in at their previous school. This includes comparable services. It also requires DFPS to collaborate with local stakeholders to implement a career development and education program. The program would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting the current or former foster youth in obtaining a diploma or GED. • Assisting in obtaining workforce certificates. • Career guidance. • Providing information on available programs and scholarships for higher education. <p>With so many youth in state conservatorship at risk of homelessness it is vital to encourage the pursuit of higher education and job training. SB 1220 could play an important role of using community collaboration to support Texas children.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 2227 By: Hinojosa SP: Martinez, "Mando"</p>	<p>Relating to an increase in and the use of the fee for permits issued for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles carrying cargo in Hidalgo County.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>This bill amends the Transportation Code to increase the permitted fee amount to not exceed \$200 per trip. This is an increase from the current fee, which is not to exceed \$80 per trip. It is believed that the current fee is too low to cover the administration costs and to maintain the permit registration system. This bill seeks to address this issue by raising the maximum fee limit for oversized vehicles. The bill also stipulates that collected fees not to exceed 5% are to be used to leverage funding from other sources for the purpose of constructing or improving certain road and bridge projects in Hidalgo County. According to TxDot and the LBB, the Hidalgo County Regional Mobile Authority could retain 15% of the collected fees along with the 5% of collected fees for permits applying to certain roads. According to the LBB, the bill would result in revenue gains of up to \$442,800 each year to the Hidalgo County RMA.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 2118 By: Seliger SP: Davis, Sarah / Howard / Laubenberg / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>SB 2118 allows the Higher Education Coordinating Board to authorize that public junior colleges statewide offer up to three baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of applied science, applied technology, and nursing. To determine if a public junior college can offer a baccalaureate program, the coordinating board must apply the same standards used to approve baccalaureate programs at general academic institutions, consider workforce needs, and examine the success of the associate degree program offered at that junior college in the same field. Eligible public junior colleges must have a \$6 billion property valuation, receive a positive assessment of financial stability from the coordinating board, and submit a report including information on the long-term financial plans, faculty recruitment strategies, program course delivery, and articulation and dual enrollment agreements. The coordinating board may not let a public junior college offer a baccalaureate degree in a field if there is an articulation agreement in place with a general academic institution sufficiently meeting the needs of that field.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</p>



			To provide a degree program in nursing, public junior colleges must provide evidence of secured adequate long-term clinical space, establish success in the corresponding associate degree program, follow standards of the Texas Board of Nursing, and be accredited by a United States Department of Education recognized nursing body. Public junior colleges will receive contact hour funding for the baccalaureate program, and must charge the same amount of tuition and fees as they currently do for a corresponding associate degree program. SB 2118 provides a comprehensive approach for public junior colleges to meet the educational and workforce needs of the state by offering baccalaureate degrees at an affordable cost. If enacted, SB 2118 would not affect the three existing community colleges that are currently offering baccalaureate programs.	
SB 2076 By: Rodríguez SP: Pickett	Relating to the titling of motor vehicles; creating a criminal offense and authorizing fees.	Transportation	SB 2076 provides a number of clarification and technical changes to the Certificate of Title Act, and contains recommendations from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles as it relates to vehicle titles. The main changes include aligning the vehicle identification assignments and inspections with current practice. This will allow for the expansion of the number of people authorized to perform the vehicle identification number inspections, thereby decreasing fraud, streamlining processes and improving the customer experience. SB 2076 also cleans up language as it relates to improving the salvage titling statute, so as to ensure accurate information is captured on such vehicles for purposes of reporting to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System. This system is a federal database that houses vehicle history information and contains information reported by states, insurance companies and the salvage industry. This bill also assesses a felony charge for providing false information or illegally signing the name of another person as it relates to the titling for nonrepairable or salvage motor vehicles. Currently, the Transportation Code assesses criminal offenses related to a number of circumstances involving a person applying to the department for a motor vehicle title and knows that a vehicle is a nonrepairable motor vehicle. Thus, this bill simply adds this other related circumstance to the list.	Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org
SB 297 By: Hinojosa SP: Miller / et al.	Relating to the compensatory time and overtime pay for commissioned officers of the Department of Public Safety.	Appropriations	<p>This bill would change the way overtime calculations are conducted for commissioned officers in the Department of Public Safety. Officers are required to work a 50-hour work week with 10 hours of mandatory overtime under the current system, but each 10-hour shift is considered regular work hours until an officer reaches the 40-hour threshold. SB 297 changes this system to a daily calculation so that anything beyond eight hours in a shift is considered overtime. Proponents assert that the changes give officers greater flexibility to handle personal emergencies as they arise by accruing their hours at a more incremental rate.</p> <p>The changes in SB 297 create a disparity in how these calculations are conducted between DPS officers and other state employees, many of whom are in critical roles with work days exceeding eight hours. The bill also gives DPS discretion over how to compensate officers for the overtime hours they accrue, either by overtime pay or compensatory. The fiscal note indicates that utilizing compensatory leave could have a positive impact on payroll expenditures; this would be achieved by giving the officers fewer hours and impacting their take-home pay. The bill contains no language requiring officers to agree to compensatory leave as an option, which makes its effects entirely dependent on DPS implementation.</p>	Favorable w/Concerns Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 Joel@Texaslsg.org
SB 1395 By: Creighton SP: Perez	Relating to the powers and duties of navigation districts and port authorities.	Transportation	SB 1395 provides a number of technical updates, clarifications and other improvements in statute as it relates to navigation districts and port authorities. Some of the larger clarifications include: allows a district to enter into negotiations with one or more potential buyers before giving notice of the sale or easement or lease, updates port competitive bidding requirements, allows the Executive Director of a navigation district to execute a lease, allows for the selection of the district's broker to review vendor proposals, permit investment into desalinization facilities and enable ports to enter into franchises. Texas ports are vital to this state's economy as a gateway for business and much of the state's commodities. These updates improve Texas' ports ability to respond to market demands in a more timely and cost-effective manner.	Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org



<p>SB 2282 By: Nichols SP: Ashby</p>	<p>Relating to the dissolution of the Angelina County Water Control and Improvement District No. 3 and the territory of the Angelina County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>SB 2282 would dissolve the Angelina County Water Control and Improvement District No. 3 and allow it to be absorbed within the Angelina County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1. One member from District No. 3's board of directors may be selected to serve as a nonvoting members of the Angelina County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1. Dissolution of the District No. 3 will be on the 30th day after this act takes effect, the terms of the board will expire, and all assets and liabilities will be under the Angelina County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
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