



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Yvonne Davis
 Co-Vice Chair, Sen. Jose Rodriguez
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Rene Oliveira
 Treasurer, Rep. Armando Walle
 Secretary, Rep. Gina Hinojosa
 Legal Counsel, Rep. Rep. Ana Hernandez
 Freshman Rep., Rep. Evelina Ortega

Steering Committee:
 Rep. Diego Bernal
 Rep. Abel Herrero
 Rep. Armando Martinez
 Rep. Toni Rose
 Rep. Eddie Rodriguez
 Rep. Helen Giddings
 Rep. Rafael Anchia
 Rep. Chris Turner
 Sen. Sylvia Garcia
 Sen. Jose Menendez

Representative «Name»

Desk «Address»

LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business- Saturday, May 20, 2017

<p>SB 2076 By: Rodriguez SP: Pickett</p>	<p>Relating to the titling of motor vehicles; creating a criminal offense and authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 47 By: Zaffirini SP: Wu</p>	<p>Relating to a study on the availability of information regarding convictions and deferred dispositions for certain misdemeanors punishable by fine only.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>

<p>SB 497 By: Uresti SP: Wu</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of an office of data analytics in the Department of Family and Protective Services.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><u>LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Saturday, May 20, 2017</u></p>				
<p>SB 1430 By: Perry / et al. SP: Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to a requirement that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provide an expedited procedure for acting on certain applications for an amendment to a water right by certain applicants that use desalinated seawater.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>SB 2894 amends the Water Code to allow for an expedited consideration for an amendment to a water right for a permittee that utilizes desalinated seawater. Allows for new diversion points to be accessed. The amendment will also include the permittee's ability to divert the amount of water that is equal or less than the desalinated water use and the amount or less of water that was granted before the water amendment which can be at a combined rate. Water cannot be distributed into another river basin. TCEQ must prioritize projects being utilize for desalination. This decision will be made by the administrative law judge no later than 270th day after referral.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1538 By: Watson SP: Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the permissible uses of the floodplain management account.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>SB 1538 amends the Water Code to allow the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to allow the floodplain management account to be used for: the collection and analysis of floodplain information; flood planning, protection, mitigation, or adaption; and, public outreach education.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1001 By: Taylor, Larry / et al. SP: Paul</p>	<p>Relating to vehicles exempt from vehicle safety inspections.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>SB 1001 seeks to exempt certain trailers from vehicle inspection obligations by changing the gross weight requirements. Stakeholders realize the safety concerns for heavy weighing trailers traveling along public roads, but believe that safety should be focused more on the actual vehicle pulling the trailer. SB 1001 requires the Department of Public Safety to accept a certificate of inspection and approval of a motor vehicle or trailer that is registered or in the process of being registered in Texas. This certificate is to be issued by an authorized agent of the owner of a commercial fleet. Currently, trailers weighing between 4,500 and 7,500 pounds must be inspected. SB 1001 exempts trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, or mobile homes weighing 7,500 pounds or less from inspection. Concurrently, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, or mobile homes weighing more than 4,500 pounds must pay a \$7.50 fee to be remitted to the comptroller and divided amongst the Texas Mobility Fund, General Revenue, and the Clean Air Account. This fee is to be collected at the time of vehicle registration.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 2205 By: Hancock / et al. SP: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to automated motor vehicles.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>SB 2205 addresses the regulation of autonomous vehicle technology. This bill is a response to new developments in technology relating to autonomous vehicles. There is presently no statute that addresses, governs or specifically allows this technology. SB 2205 requires the Department of Public Safety to govern automated motor vehicles and automated driving systems. It also establishes that an automated motor vehicle may not operate on a highway with the automated driving system engaged, unless: 1) it is capable of complying with traffic and motor vehicle laws in this state, 2) equipped with a recording device installed by the manufacturer, 3) equipped with an automated driving system in compliance with federal law and federal motor vehicle safety standards, 4) registered and titled in accordance with state law, and 5) covered by motor vehicle liability coverage or self-insurance in the legally proper</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>



			<p>coverage amount in this state. This legislation defines automation driving system in alignment with the definitions of the National Highway Traffic Administration.</p> <p>In 2015, more than 3,500 people died in automobile crashes. Autonomous vehicle technology may have the potential to decrease these sad and unfortunate numbers. Legislation is needed to ensure safety of these sorts of vehicles on the public roadways, while allowing the development of this technology. In order to ensure these vehicles are able to operate on the public roadways, SB 2205 also mandates that a political subdivision may not impose a franchise or other regulation related to the operation of such vehicles.</p> <p>SB 2205 also states that the owner of the automated driving system is considered the operator of the vehicle for purposes of assessing compliance with applicable traffic or motor vehicle laws, even if they are not physically present in the vehicle while it is operating. In the event of an accident, the human operator or automated motor vehicle must comply with Transportation Code, Chapter 550. This may cause some confusion for operators of automated motor vehicles and other persons related to such a circumstance going forward; however, this would need to be understood and addressed as such situations present themselves in the future.</p>	
<p>SB 634 By: Estes SP: Button</p>	<p>Relating to reporting requirements for certain skills development fund workforce training program providers.</p>	<p>Economic & Small Business Development</p>	<p>Technical and community colleges (including the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service) who receive funding from the skills development fund are required to submit biennial reports to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) summarizing the training programs delivered. In previous years, there have been issues with some entities who receive skills development funds failing to comply with these reporting requirements. SB 634 attempts to address this issue by requiring entities who fail to meet their reporting requirements to repay any funds they received from the skills development fund to the Comptroller’s office. These entities would also be ineligible to receive future skills development fund grants.</p> <p>It is important to ensure proper oversight in provision of skills development fund grants, and entities that do not meet their reporting requirements should not continue to receive additional grant funds. It may be unnecessarily punitive, however, to require colleges to repay the funds that they have likely already spent to administer trainings. If passed, it will be important to ensure colleges have ample time to repay the funds to mitigate the financial detriment the college may face.</p>	<p>Favorable w/concerns Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 964 By: Rodríguez SP: Nevárez</p>	<p>Relating to the Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>SB 964 allows for the Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District to be a Groundwater Conservation District. The territory of the district corresponds with county boundaries but can be modified under Chapter 36 of the Water Code or by other laws. The bill lays out the creation and composition of the board and processes for dealing with vacancies. The district may not impose taxes but fees may be assessed. The bill also sets a limit for production fees for water users on \$1 per acre foot of water for agricultural purposes or 17 cents per 1,000 for other purposes. Appropriate notices of this change have been posted by requirements of law.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 613 By: Whitmire / et al. SP: Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to services provided by the Health and Human Services Commission to sexually violent offenders who are incompetent to attend sex offender treatment.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>SB 613 allows the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide inpatient mental health treatment to certain sexual offenders. HHSC has found that previous legislation on their ability to provide psychiatric treatment was not specific enough. This bill clarifies the law to state that HHSC can provide inpatient mental health treatment to offenders of violent sex crimes, if that person lacks the mental capacity to understand the sex offender treatment program. Inpatient care would take place until the individual proves able to participate in the sex offender treatment program.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>



<p>SB 1248 By: Buckingham / et al. SP: Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to municipal regulation of manufactured home communities.</p>	<p>Land and Resource Management</p>	<p>This bill amends the Local Government Code to address issues occurring in manufactured home communities that exist within the zoning jurisdictions of many municipalities. It states that the governing body cannot mandate a change in the nonconforming use of a manufactured home lot located within the boundaries of a manufactured home community if the nonconforming use of land creating the manufactured home community is authorized by law and at least 50% of the lots in the community are physically occupied as a residence. Under the provisions of this bill, requiring a change in the nonconforming use includes necessitating the quantity of designated lots as nonconforming use to be reduced and declaring that the nonconforming use of the lots have been continuously abandoned for less than 12 months. It explains that a non-conforming use applies to the whole community rather than to individual lots in the community. The bill also guarantees community owners and residents have the ability to replace existing homes with newer homes as long as it complies with stipulated provisions. It also states that family owned land with several manufactured homes that do not involve a lease are not considered to be manufactured home communities. This bill preserves the vested property rights of manufactured home communities inside a city's jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1021 By: Nelson SP: Price</p>	<p>Relating to reports on the consolidation and certain functions of the health and human services system, including advisory committees within the system, and the re-creation of the Texas system of care framework.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>SB 1021 implements reporting requirements for reporting recommendations from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The recommendations would be in regards to DFPS remaining a standalone agency. In a means to overhaul the culture of DFPS and more specifically CPS, certain legislation has been taken up in an attempt to ensure DFPS remain an agency outside of HHSC. The bill outlines calls for assessments to on potential conflicts of interests and consistency of data sharing between the commission and HHSC. The recommendations and assessments would be submitted to the Health and Human Services Transition Legislative Oversight Committee. This bill will help to ensure a that any transition of services between HHSC and DFPS remain smooth and transparent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1085 By: Bettencourt SP: Roberts</p>	<p>Relating to the certification of unopposed candidates for the board of directors of the North Harris County Regional Water Authority.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>SB 1085 would remove North Harris County Regional Water Authority from having to place a notice at polling locations notifying voters that a candidate for the board of directors has been removed from the ballot because they are running unopposed. Notice will be given on the ballot that the candidate was unopposed and therefore elected. Since notification is given through the language in a ballot the posting by the Water Authority is unnecessary.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1264 By: Huffman SP: Alvarado</p>	<p>Relating to psychological counseling for certain grand jurors.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 1264 allows any person serving as a grand juror or alternate grand juror in any grand jury investigation or criminal trial to receive up to 10 hours of post-investigation or post-trial psychological counseling related to secondary trauma. The bill specifies that an eligible juror has 180 days after the date on which the grand jury or jury is dismissed to request the psychological counseling through the commissioners court-approved program. The bill further provides a form letter allowing individuals reporting for jury service to donate all or a portion of the person's daily reimbursement to any commissioners court-approved program offering psychological counseling in criminal cases involving graphic evidence or testimony. Secondary traumatic stress from evidence and testimony in a criminal case can impact the health and wellness of jurors as a result of indirect trauma, with symptoms that can mirror posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Offering psychological counseling already available to trial jurors experiencing secondary trauma provides equity in services and care to grand jurors.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1260 By: Creighton</p>	<p>Relating to the Chambers County Improvement District No. 2.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<p>Chambers County Improvement District No. 2 was created during the 81st legislature. It currently encompasses 723 acres within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Baytown. SB 1260 provides clarifications to the District's creation legislation by making provisions to demonstrate the nature of the district as a political subdivision. It also subjects the district's directors to the same disqualification provisions as a municipal utility district, and makes other clarifying changes related to conflicts of law and inclusion of</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tiffany Williams 210-382-4295</p>



SP: Faircloth			the district area within special zones. This bill will authorize the District to construct and finance road facilities as well as maintain and operate these facilities which will allow for the planned business park to be built within this area.	Tiffany@Texaslsg.org
SB 1743 By: Zaffirini SP: Hinojosa, Gina / Minjarez / White	Relating to transferring the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities to The University of Texas at Austin and renaming the office the Office for Healthy Children.	Human Services	This bill transfers the Texas Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (TOPDD) from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). The name of the office would also be changed to the Office for Healthy Children. Currently the office is held within the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) which will be fully dissolved and absorbed into HHSC as of September 1, 2017. The TOPDD is responsible for analyzing the root cause of preventable development disabilities, as well as, using intervention and services to reduce the impact of said disabilities. SB 1743 will help to ensure the office is health in an institution that garners the resources capable for conducting such research and will also hope to promote transparency for the program.	Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
SB 2117 By: Seliger SP: Price	Relating to the creation and operations of a health care provider participation program by the City of Amarillo Hospital District.	County Affairs	S.B. 2117 allows the Amarillo Hospital District the ability to create a Local Provider Participation Fund. The Amarillo Hospital District currently benefits from the Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver dollars to help meet the health care needs of the Amarillo area. However, the creation of a Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) could allow the Amarillo Hospital District to maximize the 1115 Waiver dollars received for indigent care. SB 2117 provides the mechanism to generate funds for intergovernmental transfers to use federal dollars for indigent care. Participation in this program empowers local communities, provides access to federal funding, and alleviates the uncompensated healthcare cost for hospitals without raising local property taxes or accessing state general revenue.	Favorable Evaluated by: Tiffany Williams 210-382-4295 Tiffany@Texaslsg.org
SB 1291 By: Creighton SP: Faircloth	Relating to permits for oversize and overweight vehicles in a certain county.	Transportation	SB 1291 amends language to clarify that both non-tolled main lanes and fronted roads are intended for use under the overweight vehicle permit specifically for Highway 99. SB 1291 amends the Transportation Code to include that Highway 99, and the frontage road of Highway 99 be authorized via a oversize or overweight permit to transport cargo along the roads in Chambers County. The bill excludes that portion of the highway where a toll is required. Highway 99 is an expanded heavy haul corridor that has never been utilized for this specific purpose. The provisions in this bill would increase transportation going into Chambers County and lead to improvements in the county's economic growth.	Favorable Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org
SB 440 By: Rodríguez SP: Nevárez	Relating to the use by certain municipalities of hotel occupancy tax revenue to improve or expand certain airports.	Ways & Means	SB 440 authorizes the municipality of Marfa, Texas to utilize hotel occupancy tax (HOT) revenue to improve or expand an airport owned by Presidio County that is used for private air service to transport tourists, and is located more than 150 miles from the nearest airport with regularly scheduled commercial airline flights. Per the bill, the municipality is prohibited from either using more than 15 percent of the HOT revenue collected during that year or a total amount that would exceed the amount of hotel revenue likely to be attributable to tourism during the 15-year period that begins on the date the municipality first implements the HOT revenue to improve or expand the airport. The bill further prohibits the municipality from using HOT revenue for the aforementioned airport improvements after the ten years of first utilizing the funds. Allowing Marfa to utilize HOT revenue to improve or expand qualified airports will bolster accommodation for tourism resources by introducing a new revenue stream to fund the construction of these improvements.	Favorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org
SB 920 By:	Relating to access to a residence or former residence to retrieve	Business & Industry	Authorizes a court to issue a temporary ex parte writ in order to retrieve specific items of personal property, and includes threat of family violence as a possible explanation for use on a court application to prove inability to retrieve such items from a residence. Last session, the Texas Legislature passed HB 2486, which allows a person to apply for an order authorizing them to enter a residence	Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed



<p>Whitmire / et al. SP: Lucio III</p>	<p>personal property, including access based on danger of family violence.</p>		<p>accompanied by a peace officer to retrieve property. This was vital to ensuring people may enter a residence to retrieve important personal items in otherwise difficult circumstances that would not allow them to enter. The person applying for this order must prove to the court that they are unable to enter the residence holding their property, and follow a host of other requirements in their application according to the list under the Property Code. This list does not include the threat of family violence as proof that a person is unable to enter the residence.</p> <p>Sometimes a person is told by their abuser that if they want to retrieve a personal item, such as expensive medication, clothing, a checkbook, etc., that they would suffer consequences if they went to retrieve it. SB 920 ensures that a person is protected in these situations, and retrieves their important personal property. Furthermore, this bill amends the Property Code to include electronic records containing legal or financial records in the list of property that the state will provide assistance and protection for purposes of retrieving. Lastly, SB 920 authorizes the court to issue a writ for retrieving property without providing notice and hearing if: the current occupant poses a clear and present danger of family violence, and the personal harm to be suffered by the applicant for the writ, or their dependent, will be immediate and irreparable if they cannot retrieve the property.</p>	<p>210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 813 By: Hughes / et al. SP: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to recovery of damages, attorney's fees, and costs related to frivolous regulatory actions by state agencies.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Authorizes a claimant to bring an action against a state agency if the agency makes a frivolous regulatory action against the claimant. SB 813 mandates that a claimant may recover damages, reasonable attorney's fees and court costs incurred in defending against a frivolous regulatory action if the person prevails in the judicial review and the state agency is unable to demonstrate that the agency has good cause for the action. Presently, a person or small business might not be granted the recovery of attorney's fees and court costs in these circumstances. SB 813 codifies this more explicitly as a possibility for courts to grant to the claimant in these cases. On the other hand, it may be concerning to grant the recovery of attorney's fees from state agencies in some cases as these are taxpayer dollars, and this bill may cause claimants to force state agencies to demonstrate good cause for action more than they otherwise should.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1232 By: Huffman / et al. SP: Alvarado</p>	<p>Relating to inappropriate conduct between a person and an animal; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 1232 creates the criminal offense of bestiality, punishable by a state jail felony or a second-degree felony depending on the specific circumstances involved in the offense. Currently, an act of inappropriate sexual conduct with an animal is classified as a Class A misdemeanor under the offense of public lewdness. The bill outlines specific acts qualifying a commission of the offense, including knowingly engaging in sexual contact or touching in a manner that is outside the bounds of a generally accepted or awful animal husbandry or veterinary practice. The bill also extends criminal sanctions of a state jail felony to individuals acting with the intent to engage in conduct classified as bestiality, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessing, selling, transferring, or purchasing an animal, • Organizing, promoting, conducting, or participating as an observer of prohibited conduct, • Causing a person to engage or aiding a person in engaging in prohibited conduct, • Permitting prohibited conduct to occur on premises under an the individual's control, • Engaging in prohibited conduct in the presence of a child under 18 years of age, in which the offense would constitute a second-degree felony, or • Advertising, offering, or accepting the offer of an animal to be used in prohibited activities. <p>Added provisions within the bill classify bestiality as a second-degree felony if the prohibited behavior results in serious bodily injury or death of the animal. The bill outlines provisions regarding community supervision for an individual convicted of bestiality in which the judge has discretion to require the individual to relinquish custody of any animals they possess, to prohibit the person from possessing or exercising control over any animals or living in a household with animals present, or to require the individual to participate in a psychological counseling treatment program or other appropriate program for a certain period of time. The bill further includes a violation of bestiality as a reportable conviction or adjudication, as well as including actions affecting animals of the offense</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>



			to the definition of “cruelly treated”. Finally, the bill updates the procedures for a hearing in the order of disposition or return of an animal in that a finding that an individual is guilty of bestiality is sufficient to establish a presumption that any animal within the person’s possession has been cruelly treated, regardless if that animal was subjected to behavior constituting bestiality.	
SB 977 By: Schwertner / et al. SP: Ashby	Relating to the use of state money for high-speed rail operated by a private entity.	Transportation	The current high-speed rail project between the cities of Houston and Dallas presents important concerns for the residents living in the communities along the proposed route of the rail. SB 977 seeks to solve this problem by excluding the legislature or any state agency from accepting or using any state appropriated funds for planning, construction, maintenance, security, promotion, or operation of a high-speed rail operated by a private entity. SB 977 also requires state agencies to prepare and submit semiannual reports on each expense they make. The concerns of property rights for the community residents are valid and clear. However, the broad language in SB 977 not only prohibits state appropriations for the current rail project cost, but prohibits any money for rail projects that may formulate in the future. Therefore, tying the hands of future legislatures, and keeping them from participating in possible future projects.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org
SB 873 By: Creighton SP: Murphy	Relating to the authority and liability of owners and managers of apartment houses, manufactured home rental communities, condominiums, and multiple use facilities in charging tenants for submetered and nonsubmetered master metered water and wastewater services.	Natural Resources	SB 873 amends the Water Code regarding tenant complaints concerning overcharges in water and wastewater bills by an owner or landlord. Under current law there is an avenue for renters to be able to file a suit for being overcharged for water and wastewater by a landlord. This bill would mandate that a tenant's only recourse would be to go through the Public Utility Commission and no longer through the courts. This bill would also drop penalties that a tenant can receive one month’s rent and 3 times of the overcharge to only the overcharge, which if sought in a formal hearing by the landlord or owner through the PUC would require the tenant to travel to Austin. Allowances for hidden fees is also made available through the language within the bill. SB 873 removes language that protects landlords through a good faith clause, which in the context of the bill, would not be applicable due to the aforementioned constrained provisions because they would no longer be needed. This bill unnecessarily removes protections for tenants seeking retribution on overcharges for water and wastewater. The lessened penalties also incentivize bad behavior by the owner of a property by not providing deterrent. Additionally, this bill would put a strain on the Public Utilities Commission which would now be responsible for servicing all overcharging claims. The public has a right to a private cause of action for being taken advantaged of and this bill would take that ability away.	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org
SB 547 By: Kolkhorst SP: Lambert	Relating to the provision of services and resources to certain individuals by a state supported living center and to the creation of a schedule of support services a state supported living center may provide and procedures for establishing applicable fees for those services.	Human Services	SB 547 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a list of services provided by state supported living centers (SSLCs), as well as create a schedule of fees an SSLC may charge for services. SSLCs are campus-like residential facilities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that provide treatment and medical services including dental. Some individuals with an IDD may live in communities that have an SSLC in the area. This bill allows for the schedule of fees to use the reimbursement rate of services under Medicaid or submit written justification of the rate. The bill also allows an expansion of services for individuals in communities that have a severe IDD but may not live in an SSLC. This will expand the utilization of state facilities and benefit rural areas by expanding services.	Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
SB 1076 By: Schwertner	Relating to amounts charged to an enrollee in a health benefit plan for prescription drugs covered by the plan.	Insurance	This bill amends the Insurance Code to the limit the required payment for prescription medication stipulated by a health plan. Any plan that covers prescription drugs cannot require that an enrollee pay more than the lowest cost of either the applicable copay, the allowable claim amount for that medication, or the amount the person would pay out-of-pocket at the point of sale. For purposes of this bill, an enrollee means someone covered under a health benefit plan, including a covered dependent. Under this legislation,	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295



<p>SP: Bonnen, Greg</p>			<p>clawbacks by health insurance plans and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) would not be possible. Clawbacks happen when a health plan or PBM requires a higher payment to the pharmacy from an enrollee when they purchase their medication and then "claws back" what is leftover by lowering future payment amounts to the pharmacy. This has been known to cause policyholders to pay more for their medication than if they had paid out-of-pocket. This bill would allow for more reasonable costs to the consumer for their prescribed medication for those enrolled in a health benefit plan with prescription drug coverage.</p>	<p>Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 669 By: Nelson / et al. SP: Zerwas / Wray</p>	<p>Relating to the system for protesting or appealing certain ad valorem tax determinations; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>SB 669 requires the Comptroller to create and appoint a property tax administration advisory board for the purpose of state administration of property taxes and oversight of appraisal districts and local tax offices. Per the bill, the advisory board can make recommendations to the Comptroller regarding effectiveness and efficiency improvements to the property tax system, practices, and complaint resolution procedures provided through formal meetings; the bill also outlines the appointment process and composition of board members. Provisions within the bill regarding local administration of the property tax outline review board members' eligibility requirements and panel selection by district judges. Similarly, the bill outlines specific training requirements and curricula for appraisal review board members for an appraisal district of at least 8 hours of classroom education and at least 4 hours of training for a continuing education course. The bill creates requirements for the Comptroller to additionally approve curricula and provide an arbitration manual to use in the training of arbitrators, as well outlines policies and procedures related to the training program, including contracting with service providers. The Comptroller can assess a fee of no more than \$50 per person trained. Further provisions require the Comptroller to prepare an appraisal review board survey form allowing property owners filing a correction to the appraisal roll or a local review protest, the designated agent of the property owner, or a designated representative of the appraisal district who attends the hearing on the motion/protest to submit comments and suggestions regarding an appraisal review board. The bill outlines specific information required within the form, requirements for administering the survey, and the process and provisions under which a survey can be accepted and submitted. A chief appraiser would be prohibited from charging a property owner or agent for information and data on procedures relating to an appraisal review board hearing; provisions outlining delivery requirements are also provided. Per the bill, an appraisal review board would be prohibited from determining that the appraised value or a property an individual is currently protesting to be a greater amount than the appraised value listed in the appraisal records submitted by the chief appraiser to the board. Provisions outlining the process of scheduling hearings on protests filed are further outlined within the bill, as well as conforming changes. Lastly, the bill amends property tax appeals through binding arbitration to allow a property owner to appeal a review board order regarding the property's appraised or market value in the case that the property is the owner's residence homestead or the appraised/market value is \$5 million or less. The bill further outlines qualifications and procedural requirements relating to serving as an arbitrator, in which an individual agrees to conduct an arbitration for a fee of no more than \$1,200 if the aforementioned property does not qualify as a residence homestead or is more than \$3 million but less than \$5 million.</p> <p>The fiscal implications of SB 669 estimate a negative impact of \$406,000 to the General Revenue Related Funds through the 2018-19 fiscal biennium. As appraisal review boards would no longer be able to determine the appraised value of a protested property to be a greater amount than the appraised value reflected in the appraisal records, there is a chance that taxable property values could be reduced. The Legislative Budget Board contends that the funds lost could be increased from costs related to the Foundation School Fund through the operation of school finance formulas. SB 669 seeks to increase fairness and accountability within the property appraisal review process by proposing more thorough training for appraisal review board members and arbitrators, as well as requiring taxpayers to receive information regarding the system to increase understanding and participation.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>



<p>SB 80 By: Nelson SP: Price</p>	<p>Relating to certain required reports prepared by state agencies and other governmental entities.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill amends report recipient lists in statute and removes reporting requirements in different agencies to avoid redundancies. The reports included in SB 80 was compiled by the Legislative Budget Board and Texas State Library based on recommendations from agencies about reports that are no longer necessary or refer to programs or agencies that no longer exist, but are still required under statute. Notable changes include removing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunset Commission as a recipient for state agency strategic plans, internal audits, and reports from the Office of the Public Utility Counsel, • Department of Aging and Disability Services as a recipient of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless’ annual report (HHSC, DSHS, and DFPS all receive copies of this report), and • LBB as a recipient of HHSC reports regarding capitation payments to managed care organizations for Medicaid services. <p>Several programs, such as the Residential Mortgage Fraud Task Force and Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee, continue the operations without reporting requirements repealed within SB 80. These changes will allow state agencies to concentrate their efforts on providing their services without spending time on reports that were introduced in statute and not reevaluated for the usefulness of the information they contain.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 Joel@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1831 By: Buckingham / et al. SP: Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to an annual report on state programs not funded by appropriations.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill requires the comptroller to issue an annual report regarding programs within state agencies that are not funded by appropriation of state funds. This report must include information about how these programs are funded and identify their statutory basis for reference. SB 1831 provides future legislators with information that could be useful to identify programs that may have been overlooked and require state funding to fulfill their purpose, but the report could be used to justify the abolishment of programs for the same reasons. Transparency in program operation is important, but the potential elimination of programs that have gone dormant because of the appropriation process instead of their obsolescence could affect vital state services, depending on what the first report finds.</p>	<p>Favorable w/ Concerns Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 Joel@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 894 By: Buckingham SP: Muñoz, Jr.</p>	<p>Relating to the Health and Human Services Commission's auditing of Medicaid managed care organizations and auditing and collection of Medicaid payments, including the commission's management of audit resources.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>This bill seeks to address issues with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) audits of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Currently HHSC contracts with two agencies for audits over MCOs and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). The purpose of the audits is to utilize accuracy assessments to determine if an MCO is in compliance. Since the 84th Legislative Session it has been found that in multiple instances HHSC has failed to use information gathered from audits to address major issues, including those with an MCO found to be most outside compliance. It has also been found that there has not been a thorough review contracting PBMs since 2012.</p> <p>SB 894 sets provisions to offset issues with delayed reimbursement payments for services received by a Medicaid patients. It also outlines new requirements for HHSC to document and select audits of MCOs. SB 894 requires that HHSC creates policies and procedures for following up on negative audit findings as well as create policies for determining action plans. SB 894 would require HHSC to conduct periodic audits on PBMs. Overall this bill standardizes the processes for maintaining quality control for Medicaid programs that support the care for vulnerable Texans. Ensuring compliance and streamlining reimbursement will help to keep those 4,000 pharmacies enrolled as Medicaid providers and existing Medicaid MCOs accountable.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1124 By: Hinojosa SP: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the administrative attachment of the Texas Forensic Science Commission to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 1124 transfers the administrative attachment of the Texas Forensic Science Commission to the Office of Court Administration. The Texas Forensic Science Commission was created in 2005 by the Texas Legislature. It has the responsibility of improving upon forensic science used in criminal courts. It is administratively attached under law to Sam Houston State University. The code is clear that Sam Houston State University solely offers administrative support, and has no authority or responsibility with respect to the duties exercised by the Commission. At the time the Commission was created, there was no way to set it up as an independent agency. Now that the Commission operates independently, SB 1124 transfers administrative attachment to the Office of Court Administration.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>



<p>SB 1330 By: Seliger SP: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to funding for the operations of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>SB 1330 amends the Health and Safety Code to allow that fees collected for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste to be deposited in a dedicated account and not in general revenue. These fees are used to support the efforts of the facilities but currently that money comes out of TCEQ funds. This bill will ensure that the proper money can be allocated to this dedicated fund to benefit of the facilities and not at a loss for TCEQ.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 Erin@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1893 By: Birdwell / et al. SP: Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to the administrative judicial regions in this state.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 1893 amends the Court Administration Act for the purposes of reworking current administrative judicial regions, and amends Chapter 71, Government Code, to require the Texas Judicial Council to collect certain judicial statistics. There are currently nine administrative judicial regions. One presiding judge is appointed by the governor for each region with the responsibility of administration of justice in trial courts in their region. Their duties include: assigning temporary judges to courts as needed, appointing and overseeing the child protection and child support courts, hearing recusal motions filed on the trial courts, reviewing appeals from the denial of public information requests within the judicial branch, and reviewing appeals from the Judicial Branch Certification Commission. These regional presiding judge’s workloads have increased overtime, in particular the first and second administrative judicial regions. Additionally, the current boundaries of these regions have caused several district courts to be split across two regions. This has caused the district judges of such courts to work with two regional presiding judges.</p> <p>Due to these workload concerns, and confusion within the judicial administration boundary structure, SB 1893 reworks the current boundaries to address these issues. The bill creates two new administrative judicial regions, and transfer some counties from the first and second administrative judicial regions to the newly created tenth and eleventh regions.</p> <p>SB 1893 also requires the Texas Judicial Council to collect judicial statistics and other pertinent information that is in relation to the amount and character of any business transacted by the presiding judge of each administrative judicial region. These presiding judges must report any of this information monthly. These efforts are a creative tool for policymakers to measure efficiency, and increase transparency.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 879 By: Uresti SP: Rose</p>	<p>Relating to a review of a person's disqualification to serve as a relative or other designated caregiver for a child.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>SB 879 allows for individuals who have been disqualified from being a designated kin or kinship caregiver for a foster child based on a previous low-risk criminal offense to appeal the disqualification. Currently individuals who have been convicted of non-violent crimes may not be able to serve as a kinship caregiver. This bill would require DFPS to compile a list of what they determine low-risk offenses. DFPS would also be required to provide the potential relative caregivers of the procedures for reviewing low-risk offenses as well as placing information in their website. As Texas has a crisis of capacity for foster parents, allowing those who have or could be disqualified from relative or designated kin caregiver to appeal their disqualification will provide more homes for children within the child welfare system.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 687 By: Uresti / et al. SP: Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the collection and use of certain information relating to child abuse and neglect and the provision of prevention and early intervention services; creating an offense.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>This bill allows the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to utilize risk terrain mapping to identify area with high risk of child abuse or neglect, which could then be used for creating prevention and early intervention (PEI) programs for this area. While much focus has been placed on addressing the needs of children who have suffered from abuse, neglect or exploitation, a greater emphasis needs to be placed on PEI of child maltreatment. This bill allows DFPS to use risk terrain modeling systems to identify area with higher instances of child abuse or neglect. These target areas can then offer voluntary preventative services to individuals. The bill also allows HHSC to enter into agreements on behalf of DFPS with institutions of higher education to conduct evidenced based reviews of PEI programs for effectiveness. SB 687 emphasizes the importance of PEI programs in areas that need it most and in doing so the provisions of this bill could reduce instances of child maltreatment.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org</p>



<p>SB 2150 By: Huffman SP: Farrar</p>	<p>Relating to a revocable deed that transfers real property at the transferor's death.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 2150 clarifies the Texas Real Property Transfer on Death Act, Chapter 114, Estates Code. The transfer-on-death (TOD) deed was established by the 84th Texas Legislature for purposes of providing an alternative to probate for the transfer of real property. Much of the time, low-income homeowners cannot afford the costly expense of a lawyer to prepare a will, or their heirs cannot afford a lawyer and court costs to probate a will. A TOD deed allows a person to designate a beneficiary to receive property upon the person's death; it does not affect the property owner's interest in the property during their lifetime. For example, a property owner may revoke a TOD deed, sell the property, or encumber the property.</p> <p>This bill simply remedies a needed clarification in this Act. Generally, if a beneficiary dies before the original property owner, the TOD deed lapses or becomes void. However, under Chapter 255, Subchapter D, Estates Code, there is an "anti-lapse" statute by which certain gifts will instead pass on to the descendants of the predeceasing beneficiary. There is presently an unintended oversight in the TOD deed Act in which this anti-lapse provision only applies to cases in which the deceased individual designated more than one beneficiary. It was not intended that the benefit and application of the anti-lapse statute would differ between whether a person named one beneficiary or more. Furthermore, the anti-lapse statute itself does not distinguish between applying to a person with one beneficiary versus more than one. SB 2150 ensures these provisions are consistent, fair and uniformly applied, and it also makes relevant clarifications to the Transfer on Death Deed forms codified in Estates Code.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 528 By: Birdwell SP: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the term of a chief administrative law judge.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>The Chief Administrative Law Judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) is a judgeship appointment by the Governor every two years; the specific expiration date for the judge's term is not currently codified in statute, resulting in ambiguity and difficulty transitioning between appointments. SB 528 seeks to add clarity regarding the expiration date of the two-year term served by the chief administrative law judge by specifying that the term expires on May 15 of each even-numbered year. This clarification ensures that there is a standard date on which the judge's appointment should expire, bringing stability and predictability to SOAH and the transition between appointees.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 975 By: Birdwell / et al. SP: Schubert</p>	<p>Relating to the security of high-speed rail operated by a private entity.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>SB 975 would require any privately owned high-speed rail project that will reach 110 mph or more to implement all security requirements of the Transportation Security Administration, conduct periodic risk-based threat and vulnerability assessments, implement appropriate security measures to include intrusion protection and action controls, utilization of active or passive passenger screening protocols, and providing onboard security. Additionally, the bill requires high speed rail operators to designate employees whose duties include on-board emergency management and to require those employees to complete emergency management training. The bill stipulates that any costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill must be absorbed by the private owner(s) of the high-speed rail. Finally, the bill requires high-speed rail operators to coordinate with applicable federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to complete security activities and investigations regarding credible threats, major events, and vulnerable places along the rail line.</p> <p>While it is important to ensure security on public transit, this bill imposes certain safety requirements on high-speed rails that are not in place for other forms of transportation. The bill's intention is to regulate a high-speed "bullet train" proposed between Houston and Dallas; the bill is not bracketed, however, and could have unintended consequences on other proposed high-speed transit projects in the future. Texas does not currently have any high-speed rail projects as defined by this bill, therefore these provisions will not be going into effect and serve no true public safety purpose.</p>	<p>Will of the House w/ Concerns Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>

