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**LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business- Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

<b>SB 762</b> Menéndez / et al. SP: Moody	Relating to the prosecution of offenses involving cruelty to animals; increasing a criminal penalty.	Criminal Jurisprudence	SB 762 enhances the punishment for certain offenses of cruelty to non-livestock animals and reduces the circumstances constituting penalty enhancements for related acts of cruelty. Per the bill, an individual that tortures, kills, or causes serious bodily injury to an animal, or does so without the owner’s consent, commits a third-degree felony; the aforementioned acts constitute a second-degree felony if that person has been previously convicted of certain acts of cruelty or neglect to livestock animals. Furthermore, the bill stipulates that a person causing two animals to fight or using a live animal as a lure in dog race training commits a state jail felony whether they have been previously convicted of any offense of cruelty to livestock animals. SB 762 seeks to provide greater punishment for individuals abusing animals by providing a streamlined penalty enhancement framework.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a>
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**LSG Floor Report For Emergency Calendar- Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

<b>SB 5</b> By: Huffman / et al. SP: King, Phil	Relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification; providing a criminal penalty.	Elections	<p>SB 5 only minimally codifies some of the basic remedies created after the court struck down the 2011 Voter ID law because of its discriminatory nature, with some notable deviations and omissions. These remedies were seen as a way to quickly enfranchise discriminated voters prior the 2016 election, but as legislation it falls drastically short of actually providing an avenue that truly uplifts a voter’s right to access the polling booth. SB 5 also adds an overtly punitive criminal penalty, a felony of the 3rd degree, for those who make a false statement or information on the declaration of a reasonable impediment affidavit.</p> <p><b>Acceptable Forms of ID</b></p> <p>The bill increases the expiration date for all forms of photo ID from 60 days to 2 years within statute; however, the interim charges allowed for a 4-year expiration date to be acceptable. A person over the age of 70 may use a form of photo ID that has expired as long as the remaining information on the ID is correct. Again, this bill omits a provision from the interim charges where the address did not have to match the voter rolls. New forms of non-photo identification are laid out in the bill that contain the name and the address of the voter that include: a government document, which can include a voter’s registration card; a current utility bill; bank statement; government check; and, a paycheck. Also, a birth certificate or another government document that can be use in a court of law to establish a person’s identity. When a form of non-photo ID is used the voter must sign a declaration of a reasonable impediment as to why they lack a photo ID.</p> <p><b>Declaration of a Reasonable Impediment</b></p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a>
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			<p>For voters without access to a photo ID that is consistent within statute, the alternative forms prescribed in the bill along with a declaration of a reasonable impediment will be sufficient in proving identification. If a voter lacks and photo ID but comes to vote, it will be the duty of an election officer to inform the person their right to vote through signing a declaration of a reasonable impediment if they meet the requirements. The reasonable impediment form where a voter can state why they do not have a photo identification, includes the following reasons: lack of transportation; lack of a birth certificate or other documentation needed to obtain an ID; work schedule; lost or stolen ID; disability or illness; family responsibility; or, they have applied for an ID but it has not yet arrived. However, the interim charges allowed for the voter to state "other" and list their own reasonable impediment and SB 5 will now codify only the impediments assigned in the bill. And while an election officer cannot question the reasonableness of the affidavit, the bill does not implicitly restrict the election officer to ask or challenge. The affidavit, which will be prescribed by the Secretary of State, will include notice of the criminal penalty of perjury for a false statement or false information on the declaration. <b>If a voter commits this offense it is considered a 3rd degree felony which is punishable from no less than 2 and up to 10 years of imprisonment; and, a potential fine of \$10,000.</b></p> <p><b>Mobile Photo ID Units</b> The Secretary of State will be in charge of creating mobile units for providing identification for the purposes of voting. The SOS will work with the Department of Public Safety to ensure security and best practices are met. A constituent group can request these units free of cost. If the SOS deems that security can be an issue while providing this service the request can be denied. However, no state money has been allocated for this project.</p> <p>SB 5 takes well below the bare minimum of what was recognized by the courts to mitigate the harsh discrimination of the 2011 Voter ID law. Removing the option for a voter to specify their impediment coupled with the overreaching criminal penalty, which includes false information, will suppress voter turnout by the very nature of its severity. Voter suppression and discrimination happens much more frequently than voter fraud. The state should not discourage people from exercising their right to vote. As of April, of this year, the voter ID legislation has twice been ruled by a federal judge to have discriminatory intent and SB 5 does not come close to meeting the threshold for real voter enfranchisement.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar- Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

<p><b>SB 314</b> By: Schwertner / et al. SP: Flynn</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Optometry Board; authorizing a reduction in fees.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>SB 314 is the sunset bill for the Texas Optometry Board (TOB), the entity responsible for the oversight and regulation of the practice of optometry in the state. In addition to extending the agency's abolishment date to September 2029, the bill makes various statutory changes to the Occupations Code as it relates to the practice of optometry. Many of these changes serve to align TOB with other state regulatory boards that govern various medical professions. The bill primarily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates training requirements for TOB members, including a new requirement that they receive a training manual annually and sign for receipt of the manual. The bill outlines required information to be included in the manual</li> <li>• Prohibits TOB from accepting anonymous complaints. The bill outlines complaint processes and provides confidentiality protections to people who file complaints. Provisions are also included regarding the process for notifying a licensee that a complaint has been filed against them</li> <li>• Requires the use of fingerprinting and criminal background checks in consideration of licensure applications</li> <li>• Authorizes TOB to review a national practitioner database to determine whether a licensure applicant has had disciplinary action taken against them in another state</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stipulates that TOB licenses are valid for one or two years, contingent upon board rule</li> <li>• Provides procedures by which TOB can request a license applicant or licensee to submit to a mental or physical examination by a physician; this provision is standard in many professional boards. The bill also includes the process by which an applicant or licensee can contest the request</li> <li>• Repeals various sections of code that no longer reflect the current practice of optometry</li> </ul> <p>The statutory changes enacted by SB 314 serve to make TOB regulations consistent with those of other regulatory boards that govern health professions. These changes will improve the board’s efficiency, which is crucial to ensuring the best possible provision of optometry services to Texans.</p>	
<p><b>SB 224</b> By: Watson / et al. SP: Davis, Sarah / Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the sunset review date for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and the time for awarding cancer research and prevention grants.</p>	Public Health	<p>SB 224 extends the sunset date for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) from 2021 to 2023. Additionally, it extends the deadline for provision of CPRIT grants from 2020 to 2022. CPRIT grants have effectively demonstrated cost-saving benefits; every dollar spent by CPRIT on cancer prevention or screening yields a \$22 return on treatment cost-savings. CPRIT has not yet used the entirety of its \$3 billion constitutional allotment; to date, they have only been able to award 1,123 grants totaling \$1.78 billion. If CPRIT is abolished in 2021, approximately \$121 million would be left unused and could not be re-appropriated. Extending the sunset date and grant provision deadline will allow CPRIT to fully utilize their constitutional allotment and will allow researchers to continue searching for cancer treatments and cures. The fiscal note associated with this bill (\$11.4 million negative fiscal impact annually from 2021-2041) is due to additional debt-service payments required for bonds made during the extended grant provision period. However, these costs should be considered in relation to the potential economic and public health benefits that result from additional screening and research performed under these grants.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1929</b> By: Kolkhorst / et al. SP: Burkett /Walle</p>	<p>Relating to maternal mortality and morbidity and pregnancy-related deaths, including postpartum depression.</p>	Public Health	<p>Texas’ maternal mortality rate is alarmingly high; a 2016 study in <i>The Journal Of Obstetrics and Gynecology</i> revealed that it is not only higher than the national average, but is the highest in the developed world. The DSHS Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force was established by the Legislature in 2013 to study the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity and to make recommendations for ways to reduce the incidence of pregnancy related deaths among Texas women. To date, the task force has published two reports detailing its findings on the causes of maternal mortality in Texas. While the picture is still incomplete, the findings have begun to unearth the root causes of maternal mortality among women in Texas. The top causes of maternal mortality that have been identified by the task force include cardiac incidents (20.6%), drug overdose (11.6%), hemorrhage (9%), homicide (9%), and suicide (5%). In addition to primary causes, the task force also identified racial and geographic disparities in incidence of maternal mortality; for example, while Black women account for just 11% of total births in Texas, they constitute 30% of all maternal deaths.</p> <p>SB 1929 seeks to address the causes of maternal mortality identified by the task force by instructing DSHS to evaluate and compile a list of methods for reducing maternal mortality that focus on the most prevalent causes identified by the task force. Additionally, the department should compile a list of methods for treating postpartum depression in economically disadvantaged women. DSHS will be required to submit a biennial written report summarizing these efforts to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Legislative Budget Board, and appropriate standing committees of the Legislature. Finally, the bill requires DSHS to apply for federal grant funds available for the screening and treatment of postpartum depression under the 21st Century Cures Act of the US Congress, passed in 2015. These provisions will all work concurrently to put the recommendations of the task force into action, and will begin the critical work of addressing maternal mortality in Texas.</p> <p>In addition to the aforementioned provisions, SB 1929 extends the abolishment date of the DSHS Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force to 2023 and authorizes the task force to select all cases of maternal mortality for review (currently, they are only</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



authorized to randomly select cases). The bill also expands the scope of the task force to include the study and review of rates and disparities in pregnancy related deaths as opposed to just looking for trends. These changes ensure that the task force has ample time, a large sample of cases to investigate, and the statutory authority to investigate disparities, all of which will result in more accurate, usable recommendations.

**LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar- Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

<p><b>SJR 1</b> By: Campbell / et al. SP: Fallon</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>SJR 1 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow the surviving spouse of a first responder killed or fatally injured in the line of duty to receive a property tax exemption of all or part of the total appraised value of their homestead residence. The bill further provides that a surviving spouse receiving the aforementioned exemption is entitled to receive a tax exemption on a property that the individual qualifies as their residence homestead in an equal dollar amount of the first property's exemption in the last year they received the exemption if the individual has not remarried. The bill also allows the legislature to prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the proposed tax exemption, and the temporary provision expires January 1, 2019.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SJR 34</b> By: Birdwell SP: Geren</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders after the expiration of the person's term of office.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>SJR 34 amends the Constitution to provide guidelines for the time period within which an officer appointed by the governor can perform their duties after their term expires. Currently officers are able to continue with their duties until their successors step in; this is known as a "holdover" provision, which is meant to limit vacancies in appointed positions. SJR 34 allows a non-salaried officer appointed by the governor to continue their duties until the last day of the next legislative session following their appointment expiration. If no one is appoint prior to this date, or they are not re-appointed, a new appointment would have to be made at this time. This will help ensure that presiding officers are not holding their positions for indefinite amount of time and that the governor will fill potential vacancies in a timely manner. Appointed positions have limited terms to ensure the appropriate transition of power and influence; this joint resolution will help ensure that there is a timely and seamless transition between appointments of the same office.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SJR 6</b> By: Zaffirini / et al. SP: Schofield</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SJR 6 proposes a constitutional amendment to be submitted to voters in the November 2017 election. SJR 6 provides that the legislature may require a court to provide notice to the Attorney General for pleadings filed that challenge the constitutionality of a state statute. Furthermore, this joint resolution prescribes a waiting period of no more than 45 days during which the court may not issue a judgment finding the statute unconstitutional.</p> <p>In 2011, the Texas Legislature enacted HB 2425; then, in 2013, the Court of Criminal Appeals (CCA) held that this statute, Section 402.010 in Government Code, violates the separation of powers provision in the constitution. The CCA reasoned that this requirement for the court to refrain from entering a judgment for purposes of notifying another branch of government that is not itself a party to the action violates the separation of powers between the government branches. It is concerning to propose the continuation and validation of this section when the CCA has declared it unconstitutional. However, SJR 6 proposes that this issue be submitted to voters.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>

**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Tuesday, May 23, 2017**



<p><b>SB 1148</b>  <b>By:</b>                  Buckingham / et al.                  SP: Bonnen, Greg / Darby / et al</p>	<p>Relating to maintenance of certification by a physician or an applicant for a license to practice medicine in this state.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>SB 1148 would prohibit hospitals and insurance plans from differentiating between physicians based on their maintenance of board certification for the purposes of hiring or credentialing decisions. Board certification, which is separate from required licensure by the the Texas Medical Board, is an <b>optional</b> certification available for physicians that demonstrates that they have reached a superior standard of practitioner knowledge and competency. Maintenance of certification (MOC) is the continuing education component of board certification; physicians must pass the maintenance of certification exam every 10-years to maintain their board certification. Eligibility criteria and MOC requirements for board certification are determined at a national level by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS); this accrediting entity works in conjunction with 24 specialty boards to oversee board certification of physicians from a range of practice areas.</p> <p>Some physicians assert that MOC is an unnecessary requirement that is profit-driven and offers no proven quality benefit to patients. For this reason, SB 1148 would prohibit hospitals from requiring maintenance of certification as a requirement for physicians employed by the hospital; it also disallows them from considering MOC in hiring decisions. The bill also prohibits insurance plans from considering a physician’s MOC status in relation to credentialing, reimbursing, or contracting with a physician. The bill makes exceptions for hospitals whose accreditation or certification is contingent upon the entity requiring physicians’ MOC to be up to date. Finally, the bill instructs TMB to conduct a study on various factors related to board certification and MOC.</p> <p><b>The provisions of SB 1148 are concerning for a number of reasons, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibiting hospitals from considering MOC as a hiring or continuing employment requirement strips them of the ability to make internal decisions on how to best serve their patients</li> <li>• Many hospitals with specialty certifications, such as neonatal trauma centers, require MOC to maintain compliance with federal regulations relating to accreditation and reimbursement. While this bill narrowly makes exceptions for these types of hospitals, there are still concerns regarding unintended consequences that may jeopardize a hospital’s specialty status</li> <li>• The bill may create irreconcilable differences between state, federal, and accrediting body regulations relating to board certification. This could make it difficult for physicians practicing in Texas to relocate to other states and vice-versa</li> <li>• Without MOC, hospitals may not be able to ensure their physicians are up-to-date on the latest medical technologies and innovations; without this ability, the quality of care for Texas patients may suffer</li> <li>• Board certification is an optional accreditation obtained by physicians; requirements and regulations for this certification should be determined by the accrediting body, not the state Legislature</li> <li>• The bill conveys prioritization of convenience for physicians over ensuring quality patient care</li> </ul> <p>While physicians’ concerns with MOC may be legitimate, they should be worked out with ABMS directly as opposed to being addressed via statewide legislation. <b>If SB 1148 passes, Texas will be the first state to remove MOC as a requirement for physicians to maintain current board certification; this effectively lowers the standard of care for Texans as opposed to patients in other states.</b> Additionally, it is virtually impossible for us to predict the various unintended consequences that may result from passage of this legislation. It is in the best interest of the public health of Texans for hospitals to maintain internal decision making authority regarding the credentialing and privileging of physicians. We should continue to hold our physicians to the highest practice standards to ensure quality of care, optimal patient outcomes, and continuation of our state’s prominent reputation in the medical community.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b>                  Evaluated by:                  Tyler Anderson                  210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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<p><b>SB 15</b> By: Huffines / et al. SP: Fallon</p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>SB 15 authorizes the surviving spouse of a first responder killed or fatally injured in the line of duty to receive a property tax exemption of the total appraised value of their homestead residence. The bill outlines specific criteria the surviving spouse must meet to receive the exemption, including meeting eligibility survivor requirements as determined by the Employees Retirement System of Texas and has remained unmarried since the death of the first responder. The bill further provides that a surviving spouse receiving the aforementioned exemption is entitled to receive a tax exemption on a property that the individual qualifies as their residence homestead in an equal dollar amount of the first property's exemption in the last year they received the exemption if the individual has not remarried. The surviving spouse is entitled to receive a certificate from the chief appraiser of the property's related appraisal district providing necessary information to determine the tax exemption amount for the subsequently qualified homestead. The bill also makes conforming changes adding the provision to statutes relating to the application for exemption and a late application for homestead exemption, and the process by which to calculate prorating taxes for a loss of exemption under the bill's provisions. The bill further adds the aforementioned provisions to the determination of school district property values. The provisions in the bill relate only to a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2018. The Legislative Budget Board estimates a negative impact of \$4,000 to the General Revenue Related Fund through the 2018-19 fiscal biennium should the related constitutional amendment pass. SB 15 seeks to provide assistance to surviving spouses who might be in jeopardy of losing their home as a result of high property taxes.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1553</b> By: Menéndez / et al. SP: Bernal</p>	<p>Relating to the refusal of entry to or ejection from school district property.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>This bill changes the way public schools must handle refusal of entry or ejection from district property. Before a person may be removed from the grounds, school officials must determine that they pose a risk of harm or are acting inappropriately for the setting, and a verbal warning must be issued. In the event that a criminal trespass warning (CTW) is issued, the individual must be given information on how to appeal the decision and regain access to the school. A CTW's duration is limited to two years and cannot interfere with a parent or guardian's ability to attend meetings related to their child's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee. SB 1553 creates a more uniform method of handling disruptions involving visitors on school grounds. Some districts issue CTWs indiscriminately as a means of control, even when it negatively impacts the students or discourages parental involvement. By requiring that a verbal warning be issued before a CTW is considered, school officials are given the opportunity to diffuse a difficult situation before it escalates.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 255</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Simmons</p>	<p>Relating to training for governmental entities and vendors, including purchasing and contract management training; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill expands training and reporting requirements for employees of state agencies involved in contract procurements. As part of a broader initiative to standardize contracting processes across agencies, SB 255 transfers the responsibility for designing and implementing a contracting curriculum to the comptroller's office covering concepts relating to identifying contracting needs, developing and accessing proposals, and ethical concerns. Employees who work in information resource technologies contracts are required to take specialized training program developed in conjunction with the Department of Information Resources. The bill also requires state agencies to submit a report detailing their training-related expenses and outcomes to the Legislative Budget Board before the end of each fiscal year. These changes will help agencies serve as responsible stewards for state funds by helping everyone understand the contracting process.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 679</b> By: Hancock / et al. SP: Dale</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of chiropractors to form certain business entities with certain other professions.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>SB 679 authorizes chiropractors to enter into joint business ventures, such as professional limited liability companies and nonprofit organizations, with physicians and podiatrists. Current statute only allows physicians and podiatrists to form business entities; extending this statutory authority to chiropractors would allow them to contribute to these ventures, which are often jointly owned healthcare practices or community based clinics. These types of entities allow for multidisciplinary consultation and collaboration among practitioners, as well as decreased overhead costs for business owners. The bill does not expand the chiropractor's scope of practice and ensures that each licensed professional participating in the joint venture is only practicing within their respective professional scope.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			Research shows that inter-professional collaboration in healthcare delivery increases patient access to care, healthcare utilization, health outcomes, and provider satisfaction. As our nation’s healthcare model transitions toward integrated care, it will be important that as many licensed practitioners as possible are able to jointly provide services. Allowing chiropractors, who obtain doctoral degrees and are licensed in Texas, to participate in collaborative care through business ownership authorization will increase access to care and reduce healthcare costs for Texans. Additionally, it may incentivize out-of-state practitioners to relocate to Texas, increasing the number of licensed professionals practicing in Texas.	
<b>SB 801</b> By: Seliger / et al. SP: King, Ken	Relating to the instructional material list and supplemental instructional materials adopted by the State Board of Education.	Public Education	<p>This bill would grant the State Board of Education more latitude in their evaluation of instructional materials for public schools. Textbooks and supplemental materials are only evaluated on three standards at this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be free of factual errors,</li> <li>• Covers at least 50% of the TEKS standards for the grade level, and</li> <li>• Meets certain physical specifications (e.g. quality of the binding).</li> </ul> <p>SB 801 would add requirements that the textbooks be suitable for the subject and grade level, and that they be reviewed by experts in that subject and grade level.</p> <p>TEKS details the core concepts determined to be appropriate for each grade level in great detail. Section 112.14(b)(6)(A), covering third grade science, includes the line “explore different forms of energy, including mechanical, light, sound, and heat/thermal in everyday life,” for example. With such clearly delineated objectives, and current statute requiring that textbooks address those objectives, the additions proposed in SB 801 are unnecessary. SB 801 is vague concerning how the State Board of Education would determine suitability or what an expert review entails. Without clearly defined objectives, students could miss out on important learning opportunities.</p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1566</b> By: Kolkhorst SP: King, Ken	Relating to certain powers and duties of the board of trustees of an independent school district and the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school.	Public Education	<p>SB 1556 amends the Education Code to improve oversight of school district operations. Under the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A school board may require a chief business official or curriculum director to testify at a public hearing held by the board.</li> <li>• Information requested by a school board member must be given to them within 20 business days of their request, 30 business days in situations that cause a delay</li> <li>• Requires school districts to create a policy regarding visits by members of their board of trustees</li> <li>• The board of trustees must provide oversight regarding student academic achievement and strategic leadership for maximizing student performance</li> <li>• The board of trustees must create a website that board members and campuses may use to review campus and district academic achievement data</li> <li>• The website must include district data regarding student academic achievement and growth, teacher and student attendance, and student discipline records</li> <li>• Trustees must complete at least three hours of training every two years on evaluating student academic performance; minutes reflecting trustees that fail to complete the required training will be posted on the district’s website until the trustee meets the requirement</li> <li>• The education commissioner must develop a board of trustees’ improvement and evaluation tool designed to assist a school district in improving board oversight and academic achievement</li> </ul>	<b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>SB 807</b> By: Creighton SP: Workman</p>	<p>Relating to choice of law and venue for certain construction contracts.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Expands the same protections afforded to general contractors and subcontractors who contract with entities in other states to engineers and architects providing design services. These protections are provided by Chapter 272, Business and Commerce Code. When a project is in Texas, this statute allows a clause to become void in a construction contract when it requires a dispute to be decided under the law of another state, or to be heard there. Currently, this law does not apply to design professionals. SB 807 simply allows this protection to apply to engineers and architects who provide design services on projects in Texas.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1698</b> By: Lucio / et al. SP: Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to outreach and awareness for women veterans in this state.</p>	<p>Defense &amp; Veteran's Affairs</p>	<p>SB 1698 requires that the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) submits a report to the legislature regarding Texas Women veterans by November 1 of each even numbered year. In a 2016, demographic study it was found that women veterans accounted for 10% of the overall Texas population and only continues to grow. This bill would require TVC to report the total number of women veterans in the state, if and where they are accessing services, issues that are unique to them and recommend policy proposals and initiatives to address these needs. Utilizing this information stakeholders would be required to participate in a women veteran's community outreach program to ensure that women receive benefits and services available to them. Women veterans have particular needs that stem beyond what all veterans encounter both in service and transitioning into civilian life. It has been found that 1 in 5 women in the military experience military sexual trauma (MST), this level of trauma can come with a number of co-occurring mental health issues. This bill will help ensure that women receive treatment and services unique to them.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 132</b> By: Creighton / et al. SP: Parker</p>	<p>Relating to the savings incentive program for state agencies.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill amends the Savings Incentive Program so that state agencies retain a greater portion of any appropriated non-federal funds they save during a fiscal year. The program currently grants agencies 25% of savings capped at 1% of their total appropriation for a fiscal year, to be used at the agencies discretion as long as their decisions do not expand services or require later funding. SB 132 removes the 1% cap on potential savings and increases the agency's rebate to 50%. The additional 25% must be used to pay down the principal on any outstanding general obligation bonds or provide bonuses to employees in the departments where savings were realized. The impact of these changes on General Revenue is entirely dependent on state agencies implementing cost-saving measures identified by their employees.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1138</b> By: Whitmire / et al. SP: Krause / Dean / Guillen / Villalba / Blanco / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the blue alert system to aid in the apprehension of an individual suspected of killing or causing serious bodily injury to a law enforcement officer.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p>	<p>SB 1138 requires the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a statewide blue alert system, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Office of the Governor, and other appropriate law enforcement agencies. This system is to be activated to aid in the apprehension of an individual suspected of killing or causing serious bodily injury to a law enforcement officer. Public and commercial television and radio broadcasters, private commercial entities, state and local government entities and other appropriate entities, shall be recruited by DPS to aid the implementation of this system.</p> <p>In 2008, Governor Rick Perry signed an executive order, which in effect created the Blue Alert program. This program is designed to aid law enforcement in the apprehension of an individual suspected of killing or seriously injuring law enforcement officers. SB 1138 adopts this program into Chapter 411, Government Code.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1215</b> By: Hughes SP: Shine / Oliveira / Workman / Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to responsibility for the consequences of defects in the plans, specifications, or related documents for the construction or repair of an</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p>	<p>This bill provides that a person required to perform work under a construction contract, such as a builder, is not responsible for defects as a result of design plans and is not required to warranty the accuracy or adequacy of related design documents provided to them. SB 1215 also prevents the waiving of this provision in a contract agreement.</p> <p>Currently, when there is a defect in design plans and/or building, and subsequent litigation, everyone involved in the contract is brought to the table for a fact finding by the court. The court then determines who is liable for the different damages involved. SB</p>	<p><b>Will of the House w/Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>





	improvement to real property.		1215 may cause builders to not be held liable for defects when they otherwise would be held liable in some circumstances under the current procedure. The bill clarifies that contractors have a duty to notify if they notice design defects, and if they do not notify they may be held liable. However, there may be cases where the contractor sends a notification, and yet, should still be held liable in some way, but is not because of this provision. It appears that the current procedures for handling these wide variety of circumstances is better than statutorily mandating across the board that a builder or person required to perform work under a construction contract should not be responsible for defects in design plans.	
<b>SB 1731</b> By: Birdwell / et al. SP: Meyer	Relating to the repeal of laws governing certain state entities, including the functions of those entities.	State Affairs	<p>SB 1731 abolishes multiple state entities that are currently inactive and have been for years. These entities include: the Agriculture and Wildlife Research Management Advisory Committee, the State of Texas Anniversary Remembrance Day Medal Committee, the Texas Bioenergy Policy Council, the Border Security Council, the College Opportunity Act Committee, the Texas Distinguished Service Awards Committee, the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Advisory Board, and the Fire Ant Research and Management Account Advisory Committee. The bill also makes necessary changes in the Agriculture and Health and Safety Codes to reflect the abolishment of these committees.</p> <p>Many of the issues addressed by these committees, such as border security and emissions oversight, now fall within the jurisdiction of major state agencies or committees that are currently functioning. While many of these committees once served vital purposes, they are no longer necessary and should be eliminated from state law to avoid possible ambiguity and contradictory language.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1963</b> By: Creighton SP: Phelan	Relating to requirements for educator preparation program support for certain candidates for certification.	Public Education	The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) recently proposed a rule change, which was adopted by the Texas Education Agency, requiring advance educator preparation programs to conduct at least one of three face to face observations of a candidate pursuing a career as an educator other than a classroom teacher (i.e. school principal, superintendent, school counselor) to be in person. SB 1963 essentially reverses that rule change by prohibiting the Board from imposing a rule that requires an educator preparation program to conduct one or more formal observations for a candidate seeking certification, other than that of a classroom teacher, to be on the candidate's site in a face-to-face setting. Before the SBEC rule change, educator preparation programs could conduct all three required observations through the use of electronic transmission or other technology based methods (i.e. Skype). The recent rule change limits the ability of academic institutions to offer fully online advanced educator preparation programs and increases the cost of those programs. However, interested parties contend that the requirement for one face to face observation is reasonable and enhances the ability of institutions to produce highly qualified administrators.	<b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 196</b> By: Garcia / et al. SP: Coleman	Relating to a notification requirement if a public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, does not have a nurse, school counselor, or librarian assigned to the school during all instructional hours.	Public Education	Under current law, public schools and open enrollment charter schools are not required to employ a full-time nurse, counselor, or librarian; nor are they required to inform parents about the lack of these employees at the schools. These employees may just be part time, and only present at the campus for part of the regular instructional day. SB 196 seeks to enhance transparency by requiring schools to inform parents if the school does not employ a full time, or the equivalent of a full time, school nurse, counselor, or librarian. The school could meet this notification requirement by posting the notice on the school's website. SB 196 does not mandate that schools hire a full-time school counselor, librarian, or nurse. The bill does require that the school make a good faith effort to provide the notification bilingually to parents whose primary language is not English. Effectively, SB 196 increases transparency between schools and parents and encourages open communication.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>SB 195</b> By: Garcia / et al. SP: Allen</p>	<p>Relating to funding under the transportation allotment for public school students subject to a high risk of violence while walking to school.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>SB 195 seeks to provide safe transportation for children who encounter potentially violent situations on their walk to and from school by providing the school districts with access to additional funding. Under current law, school districts may apply for an additional amount of up to ten percent of its regular transportation allotment if the district transports children living within two miles of the school, who would be subject to hazardous traffic conditions if they walked to school. SB 195 amends the Education Code to also allow school districts that have children living within two miles of the school in areas presenting a high risk of violence to qualify for this additional funding. The bill specifies that an area presents a high risk of violence if law enforcement records indicate a high incidence of violent crimes in the area. Districts may use part or all of their additional funds to support community walking transportation programs.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 248</b> By: Schwertner SP: Shine / Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the dissolution of the Chisholm Trail Special Utility District.</p>	<p>Special Purpose Districts</p>	<p>SB 248 allows for the dissolution of the Chisholm Trail Special Utility District. If the majority of the district's board member vote in favor of dissolution than a notice will be posted for a hearing on the matter. Voting on dissolution can only occur after a final lawsuit that the district is a party in after the final judgment has been made. Notice of the hearing must be posted two weeks prior at the courthouse in each county and once in the newspaper. All interested parties must be heard in the matter and if two-thirds vote in favor of dissolution, after all assets and liabilities have been transferred to the city the district may official dissolve. All matters, materials, duties, and responsibilities will be transferred to the city. If one of the aforementioned items needs approval by a state agency it will be granted without notice or hearing. Contracted parties will not be harmed through the process of transfer. The board's decision for dissolution is final.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 261</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the bulk purchase of information technology commodity items by the Department of Information Resources.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>SB 261 exempts the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) from two procedural requirements when making bulk purchases of information technology commodities that are for use by multiple state agencies. The mission of the DIR is to provide technology solutions and value that facilitate the fulfillment of the various purposes of the Texas state government, educational institutions, and local government entities. Information technology commodity items include commercial software, hardware or other technology services. Government Code, Chapter 2157, governs the DIR's and state agencies' purchasing of information technology commodities. The chapter mandates that a state agency cannot enter into a contract to purchase a commodity item if the value of the contract exceeds one million dollars. Furthermore, it is required that the agency submit requests for pricing to a certain amount of vendors depending on the value of the contract. SB 261 simply clarifies that in bulk purchases of information technology commodities for use by more than one agency, these two requirements do not apply.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 455</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to the operations of the Employment-First Task Force.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>This bill cleans up language regarding the Employment-First Task Force regarding the transition of certain departments into the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Employment-First is a trans-theoretical framework for which individuals with certain needs such as intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are met with finding employment as the foundation for building to independence. SB 455 strikes language regarding the task force having representatives from DARS, DADS and DSHS and incorporates ensuring there are more HHSC representatives that mirror each of those previous agencies. It also requires the task force meet quarterly and extends that task force from 2017 to September 1, 2021. SB 455 will ensure that this task force remain intact throughout the transition from having multiple state departments absorbed into HHSC. This is extension will provide more time to gain better insight into accessibility and programmatic strategies for those who need to adopt this framework.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 468</b> By: Lucio SP: Oliveira</p>	<p>Relating to the extraterritorial jurisdiction of certain municipalities in coastal border counties.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p>	<p>This bill seeks to address issues relating to the extraterritorial jurisdiction in the City of Brownsville and neighboring towns and communities. Fifteen years ago, legislation was passed to limit the City of Brownsville from further extending their city limits through strip annexation due to the land locking of small towns near Brownsville. This previous bill addressed the issue of strip annexation but concerns have been raised that it went too far. This bill seeks to address that concern by allowing towns the ability to opt out of the previously stipulated protection if it is in the best interest of the municipality. This would allow these municipalities the ability to enter</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			into mutual agreements independent of the previous law and passage of this bill could also result in resolving current litigation. Cities who choose not to opt out will maintain the current protections provided to them under the law.	
<b>SB 470</b> By: West SP: Neave	Relating to the establishment of one or more supplemental county civil service commissions in certain counties.	County Affairs	The workload of some county civil service commissions regarding county employment issues has increased to a level necessitating the creation of supplemental commissions. SB 470 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the commissioners court of a county in which a county civil service system has been created to establish one or more supplemental commissions to assist the county civil service commission in specific duties to alleviate the workload. This bill would allow the commissioners court to delegate the responsibility of hearing disciplinary actions and grievance procedures to a supplemental commission. SB 470 is bracketed for Dallas county and is the senate companion to HB 1756 by Neave. Both versions were voted unanimously out of their committees.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tiffany Williams 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tiffany@Texaslsg.org">Tiffany@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 584</b> By: West / et al. SP: Rose	Relating to guidelines for prescribing opioid antagonists.	Public Health	SB 584 requires the Texas Medical Board (TMB) to create guidelines for prescribing opioid antagonists. Opioid antagonists are prescription medications that block the body's opioid receptors. They are typically utilized for reversing the side effects of opioid-related drug overdoses or assisting one from weaning from an opioid dependency. Prescription opioid deaths continue to be on the rise; in 2015, there were 33,000 opioid related deaths nationwide, half of those stemmed from prescription opioids. Texas attributed for 2,588 of all opioid related deaths that year. This bill would require that TMB consult with several expert groups including the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to create guidelines. Those required guidelines will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribing an opioid antagonist to a patient prescribed an opioid.</li> <li>• Identifying patients at risk of opioid-related drug overdose and prescribing the antagonist to them or someone close to them.</li> </ul> For patients who need opioids to deal with extreme pain, opioid antagonists can save lives. This bill will allow for more guidance on prescribing these important medications without creating a civil or criminal penalty for providers regardless of their choice to prescribe opioid antagonists. Allowing providers to feel more comfortable with their choices will help them to prescribe based on what is best for the patient. For friends or family who have a loved one who is at great risk of an overdose from highly addictive drugs having this available will provide a safeguard. This bill will potentially reduce the high number of opioid related deaths each year.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 490</b> By: Lucio SP: Huberty	Relating to information regarding the number of school counselors in public schools.	Public Education	SB 490 amends the Education Code to require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to collect data through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) on the number of school counselors providing counseling services at each campus. The statutory mission of PEIMS is to provide the legislature with the information they need to make informed policy decisions. The lack of data that specifically conveys the presence of school counselors impedes that mission and fails to recognize the impact of these important employees.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 491</b> By: Watson / et al. SP: Howard	Relating to the statewide preceptorship program in family medicine.	Higher Education	SB 491 allows the Higher Education Coordinating Board to contract with statewide preceptorship programs in family medicine for medical students in preceptorship programs. Stakeholders believe that increasing options for preceptorship programs will help meet the demand of physicians needed in Texas.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 262</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Guillen	Relating to certain purchasing by state agencies and local governments.	State Affairs	SB 262 requires the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR), in cooperation with state agencies, to periodically assess the risk to this state related to the purchases of information technology items. Based off of that assessment, this bill requires the DIR to verify the purchase transaction reports of the monthly sales of the commodity items submitted by vendors required by Chapter 2157, Government Code. Part of the mission of the DIR is to negotiate with vendors for purposes of obtaining the best value possible of related commodity items for the state. This bill generally adds more specifications in monitoring these purchases for the sake of mitigating costs to the state in the purchases of information technology items.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>SB 498</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Neave</p>	<p>Relating to the use of person first respectful language instead of the term "ward."</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 498 directs the Legislature, the Texas Legislative Council, and other state agencies and entities to avoid using the term "ward" in any new provision of law. Additionally, this bill directs such entities to replace the term in existing law as appropriate. The preferred terms and phrases provided by the bill include: "person", "incapacitated person", and "person with a guardian." The bill explicitly clarifies that no law is invalid solely because it did not utilize these preferred terms.</p> <p>A person under guardianship is an incapacitated person who has legally been deprived of rights for purposes of allowing another to manage their affairs. The term "ward" can be offensive as it connotes the person as akin to property. This fosters feelings of devaluation and isolation for persons under guardianship, as they are also already legally deprived of rights to manage their own affairs. In an effort to ensure the dignity, wellbeing and respect of such persons are encouraged and protected, SB 498 provides the gradual change from use of the term "ward" to use of preferred terms, such as person with a guardian. This meets the standards of existing law mandating the use of person first respectful language as it relates to persons with disabilities. This is a vital step in reforming the guardianship proceeding system, so that it is a system that values the personhood of incapacitated persons while simultaneously affording them the help they need.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 625</b> By: Kolkhorst SP: Stephenson</p>	<p>Relating to public access to financial and tax rate information of certain special purpose districts; imposing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Special Purpose Districts</p>	<p>SB 625 creates a Special Purpose District Public Information Database for the purposes of public access to information. The comptroller will be required to create a database with information on special purpose that can impose taxes, assessments, fees; and during the most recent fiscal year had outstanding bonds, gross receipts or collections of more than \$250,000. The information in the database will include the following: The name of the district and board members; contact information of the main office and website; and, the name of the employee in charge. Contact information for those contracted by the district to will also be included for any utility operator or tax assessor-collector. All fees, bonds, taxes, and debt obligations will be posted; as well as the ad valorem tax rate as ascribed by Chapter 49 and 26 of the Water and Tax Code, respectively.</p> <p>A list of special purpose districts that have not complied with the specifications of the database will also be made available. For districts that do not comply a notice will be provided by the comptroller. If by the 30th day the information is not submitted then the district is subject to a \$1,000 fine to the state. The comptroller will provide an additional notice and liability for the same civil penalty; at which point the non-compliance will be noted on the database. If the district fails for a third time fails to comply the same civil penalty can be incurred and the district will go on the noncompliance list until the district submits the appropriate information. The attorney general is allowed to sue for collections.</p> <p>More transparency of information regarding special purpose districts is beneficial to both those who live inside and outside of the district. However, it would be prudent to ensure that these specific special purpose districts have the capacity to fulfill the requirements illustrated in the bill.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 670</b> By: Birdwell/ Nelsen/ Schwertner SP: Price</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment of the commissioners of the health and human services agencies by the governor.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>SB 670 amends the Government Code so that health and human services agencies outside of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) system have commissioners appointed by the governor. Current law states that agency directors are appointed by the executive commissioner of HHSC. This would align with recent proposed legislations so that the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) have a commissioner appointed by the governor with input from the Senate. This will ensure those separate departments all have similar appointments and create clear boundaries between HHSC and the departments.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



<p><b>SB 719</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Raney</p>	<p>Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to collect and study data on the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities in workforce education programs.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>SB 719 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board to collect and maintain accurate information on the participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) enrolled in the workforce education program, and workforce continuing education program that is eligible for formula funding. Data on retention, graduation, and professional licensing must also be collected. SB 719 seeks to promote post-secondary education in persons with intellectual and developmental disorders by making sure useful information is collected that could help improve the services provided to people with IDD.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 810</b> By: Kolkhorst/ et al. SP: Howard</p>	<p>Relating to the use of open educational resources.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>SB 810 seeks to address the rising costs of college textbooks prices, by requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish and administer a grant program for professors that wish to use open education resources (OER in their classrooms, but can't afford to change their curriculum. Data gathered from student public interest research groups shows that since 2006, the cost of a college textbook has increased by 73%. Furthermore, evidence on trends in higher education from College Board reports that on average, undergraduate students spend \$1,230 to \$1,390 on books yearly. Separate from books and supplies students have numerous financial obligations such as tuition, housing, food, and transportation. With the 60x30 goals in place, it is prudent that measures that ensure college costs expenses are affordable for students should be considered. SB 810 defines OER as teaching, learning, or research that is in a public domain, or has been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use of the resource. The bill requires institutions or bookstores to provide students with information on a course requiring or recommending OER. SB 810 authorizes the coordinating board to establish an administer a grant program to encourage faculty in higher education institutions to adopt, modify, or develop courses that only use OER. A faculty member may apply for the grant for multiple courses. For each course identified in an application the coordinating board will select qualified individuals to review the curriculum of the course, and evaluate the application. Faculty that receive grants must ensure that OER is used at no cost to the student other than printing. Faculty must also submit a report to the board on the number of student that completed the course, amount of money saved by the student, description of the OER used, and another faculty that may have adopted the course curriculum. The coordination board may not use more than \$200,000 for the programs purposes. SB 810 requires the coordinating board to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of creating a state repository of the OER. The study must consider methods for facilitating public access of OER, resources needed to create the repository, and any challenges. The coordinating board must collaborate with stakeholders, including the Texas Education Agency. No more than \$100,000 may be used for the purposes of the study.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 919</b> By: Rodriguez SP: Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant to sign a death certificate in limited situations.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>SB 919 authorizes advance practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) to provide the signature of medical certification on the death certificate of a patient who was receiving hospice or palliative care. Currently, only physicians are authorized to sign death certificates; oftentimes, however, patients receiving hospice or palliative care solely receive treatment from a PA or an APRN. Requiring the bereaved family of a deceased patient to seek out a physician to sign the death certificate can be an administrative, emotional, and sometimes financial burden. Recognizing this issue, 27 states have given statutory authority for APRNs and PAs to sign death certificates in certain circumstances. This bill would extend that authority to licensed APRNs and PAs in Texas, resulting in increased administrative support and necessary closure for grieving Texas families.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1016</b> By: Creighton SP: Bell</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment and duties of court investigators for certain courts in guardianship proceedings.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Authorizes judges of non-statutory probate courts the authority to hire court investigators in guardianship proceedings with approval from the county commissioners court. Guardianship proceedings are understood as a very serious matter. Such proceedings are essentially a legal mechanism by which a person who is incapacitated is deprived of their personal rights in order to have another person manage their affairs, since they do not have the capacity to do so themselves. It is thereby a general goal to use guardianship proceedings as a last resort if other related legal mechanisms are not sufficient. Court investigators in a guardianship proceeding review and investigate applications to determine the necessity of the guardianship. Currently, judges of statutory probate courts must</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p>appoint one court investigator for all the statutory probate courts in a county. The commissioner’s county court may authorize additional investigators if necessary.</p> <p>SB 1016 simply provides this same resource for non-statutory probate courts. Only the state’s ten most populous counties even have statutory probate courts. It is important that judges in other courts have the authority to hire court investigators for purposes of furthering the well-being of parties involved in guardianship proceedings and mitigating potential for abuse, exploitation or neglect of persons under a guardian</p>	
<p><b>SB 1056</b> By: Perry SP: Murr</p>	<p>Relating to the transfer of certain probate proceedings to the county in which the executor or administrator of a decedent's estate resides.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Authorizes a court to transfer a probate proceeding to another county in which the administrator or executor of the will resides. Sometimes upon a person’s passing, there are no relatives for that decedent in the county that they resided. In these circumstances, the executor or administrator of that decedent’s estate may live across the state and have to travel back and forth between their own residence and the decedent’s. SB 1056 simply allows for the probate proceeding to be transferred to the county in which the administrator or executor of the decedent’s estate resides. This is only applicable when there is no immediate family member residing in the same county as the decedent.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1091</b> By: Seliger/ et al. SP: Howard</p>	<p>Relating to limitations on courses that may be offered for dual credit by school districts and public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>SB 1091 amends the Education Code by placing limitations on courses that can be offered at public institutions to ensure successful credit transfer. There has been a huge expansion in students taking dual credit courses. Thus, community colleges are often the first experience for students entering higher education. Per the Greater Texas Foundation, nearly 80% of Texas students completing bachelor’s degrees were previously enrolled in a community college, yet two out of five students lose all their credits when transferring to 4-year universities. Furthermore, there is a negative impact on Bachelor degree completion, with only 42% of students finishing when universities accepted only some of their transferred credits. SB 1091 seeks to address this problem by creating provisions that ensure dual credit courses taken by high school students count toward their degree. SB 1091 states that dual credit courses must be in the core curriculum of public institutions, be a career and technical education course, or be a foreign language course. The bill requires that institutions of higher education implement policy to grant course credit for entering freshmen that have completed dual credit courses. This provisions on applies if the courses taken were in the core curriculum, a career and technical education course, or a foreign language course. Dual credit courses completed by student enrolled in early college education programs are not affected by this provision.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1450</b> By: Taylor, Larry SP: Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to the rulemaking authority of the commissioner of insurance with respect to certain agreements and the effect of those agreements on this state's authority to regulate insurance.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill amends the rules relating to agreements limiting state authority to regulate insurance. Under this provision, the commissioner of insurance cannot adopt or enforce a rule which implements any interstate, national, or international agreement that infringes on state authority to regulate the insurance industry in Texas. Legislative approval would be needed in order for an agreement under this section to be enacted.</p> <p>This legislation is in response to an agreement made by the Obama Administration regarding covered agreements. There is concern that this bill is unconstitutional since states do not have the authority to decide which international agreements they will honor and which ones they will not.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1511</b> By: Perry SP: Price</p>	<p>Relating to the state and regional water planning process and the funding of projects included in the state water plan.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>SB 1511 amends the Water Code for certain uses of the state water implementation fund. The fund will now include prioritization of projects by regional water planning groups. Those projects that were given a higher priority will be assessed in terms implementation and what impediments occurs within the decade that they were prescribed. This bill will also create an interregional planning council that will be made up of one member from each regional water planning group. This council will serve to create better cooperation and share best practices among the state’s regional water planning groups. The council will hold one public meeting accessible to the</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			public and prepare a report on the findings. The when the State Water Plan is being decided on it will now also include a representative from the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Included in this state plan will now include unnecessary or counterproductive drought strategies. Assessments will also be made of the needs in specific areas and if aquifer storage a recovery facilities could be a viable solution. Municipal water groups will also need to sets goals for the purposes of understanding water use by person each day. Strategies that are deemed infeasible by a water planning group and have not been acted upon in a meaningful capacity will be amended to become more feasible. A regional planning group may choose to meet every ten years instead of five if there have been no significant changes in surface or groundwater or any other reason. The planning group must still implement new regulations and update any information regarding surface or groundwater. Allowing for more dialogue between the regional planning groups will be beneficial to the state as a whole. Especially when sharing information regarding drought procedures and utilizing best practices. It also makes sense for smaller planning groups to meet once every ten years if it not necessary to meet every five.	
<b>SB 1525</b> By: Perry SP: Larson	Relating to a study by the Texas Water Development Board of water needs and availability in this state.	Natural Resources	SB 1525 would require the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a study on water needs and water availability in the state and produce a water resource map. The study will consider multiple avenues for accessing water throughout the state and consider: the divergence of water from contiguous states and floodplains; water used in the operations of oil and gas; and, locations for desalination facilities. The study will also research the costs from the production of desalination to reaching end users. Stakeholder involvement as well as potential public-private partnerships will be considered. A report and map will be submitted to the appropriate members of the legislature no later than December 1, 2018. All aspects of the study can be done using resources already within the Texas Water Development Board.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1557</b> By: Kolkhorst SP: Shine/ Darby	Relating to the administration of gasoline and diesel fuel motor fuels taxes and the fee on the delivery of certain petroleum products.	Ways & Means	SB 1557 requires purchasers or exporters of tax-free gasoline and diesel fuel who subsequently sell the motor fuels in Texas tax-free to certain license holders to report the transactions to the Comptroller per specified guidelines provided within the bill. The specific license holder purchasing the motor fuels extends to a supplier, permissive supplier, distributor, importer, or exporter, and the bill outlines the transaction information that must be included in the report to the Comptroller and the sales invoice per transaction. The bill outlines circumstances prohibiting a tax exemption on gasoline or diesel fuel if sold to an individual without a required license or, if before export, the motor fuel is sold in Texas to a licensed purchaser and subsequently delivered to a destination within the state. In these instances, the motor fuel seller and person redirecting the motor fuel delivery would be liable for and collect or pay the tax, respectively. An unlicensed purchaser of fuel subsequently exported out of the state is able to submit a refund claim within one year of the purchase, and would need to submit export documentation with the claim. The bill further provides that the Comptroller must assess taxes imposed on motor fuels against the exporter if they fail to report all tax-free sales as required. Procedures and further reporting requirements are outlined within the bill, and the bill would not change how sales occur. Regarding suppliers of the petroleum products delivery fee, bulk facility operators are currently required to remit the fee. The provisions within the bill would require the supplier who ordered the withdrawal from the petroleum bulk product to remit the fee; similarly, the individual directing the delivery would be required to pay the fee in the circumstances that the product was delivered to a destination in Texas. The bill makes further conforming changes to existing statutes and repeals sections relating to gasoline tax and diesel fuel tax exemptions. Currently, the tax on gasoline and diesel does not apply to motor fuels exported out of state, and there is no way to track whether the fuel was actually transported out of Texas. State Federal Highway funds relate to the amount of exported motor fuels reported, and SB 1557 seeks to collect the adequate revenue legally due to Texas.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1592</b> By: Schwertner	Relating to the amount of an administrative penalty assessed	Public Health	SB 1592 increases penalties for freestanding emergency medical care facilities that commit administrative violations by removing the \$1,000 cap on penalties DSHS can impose on facility owners and raising the cap on penalties for continuing violations from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Increasing the penalties will bring the standards for freestanding ERs up to par with hospital based ERs. Violations committed	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson



<p>SP: Oliverson</p>	<p>against freestanding emergency medical care facilities.</p>		<p>under this section could include things such as failing to remove expired medications from their inventory, lack of adequate physician oversight, and various patient care violations. With Texans increasingly utilizing freestanding ERs to access their emergency care, it is imperative that administrative regulations are adhered to in order to ensure patient safety.</p>	<p>210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1633</b> By: Perry SB: Oliverson/ et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of pharmacy services through a telepharmacy system; establishing a remote dispensing site license.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>In some areas of Texas, particularly in rural communities, it can be difficult for patients to access a pharmacy; 97 counties in Texas have less than 4 pharmacies serving their communities, while 20 counties have no pharmacies at all. To address this issue, SB 1633 seeks to allow for remote dispensing of prescriptions via telepharmacy systems. The bill would allow for the establishment of remote dispensing sites that cannot be located within a 25-mile radius of an existing Class-A pharmacy. These dispensing sites would be staffed by a pharmacy-technician under the remote supervision of a licensed pharmacist; the bill stipulates that a pharmacist can oversee up to two remote dispensing locations in addition to the pharmacy in which they primarily work. Remote dispensing sites would not be authorized to dispense Schedule-II drugs, and would be required to transition into full Class-A pharmacies if their number of average daily prescriptions filled exceeded 125 per day (to be calculated each calendar year). The bill requires the supervising pharmacist to must make monthly on-site visits to the dispensing sites for the purpose of taking inventory and delivering any other necessary services. Finally, the bill would require pharmacy-technicians employed at dispensing sites to have been licensed for at least one year and to take a training course specific to utilizing telepharmacy systems.</p> <p>While authorizing remote-dispensing sites may increase pharmacy access for some Texans, the bill does present a number of concerns. These concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacy technicians are not as highly trained as pharmacists; while there is pharmacist oversight written into the bill, it is minimal and leaves room for errors in the filling and dispensing of patient prescriptions</li> <li>• Pharmacy technicians may not fully understand some complexities of filling and dispensing drugs, such as interactions between different drugs that may be harmful to patients</li> <li>• While the bill doesn't explicitly increase a pharmacy technician's' scope of practice, they will likely be taking on increased responsibility and tasks without direct pharmacist supervision</li> <li>• Allowing pharmacists to oversee multiple remote dispensing sites in addition to their primary pharmacy stretches their oversight across multiple locations; this leaves room for critical errors that may be harmful to patients</li> <li>• Allowing for the establishment of remote dispensing sites may cause economic hardship for independent pharmacists in small communities who already have a hard time competing with larger pharmacy chains. This may force some independently owned pharmacies to shut down</li> <li>• Larger pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens, would be more financially capable of opening and overseeing remote dispensing sites; while the bill may be targeted at allowing multi-site expansion for independent pharmacists, it is likely to be most capitalized on my corporate owned pharmacies</li> <li>• The bill creates a profit incentive for establishing a remote dispensing site, which could come at the cost of quality patient care</li> <li>• There is currently a small number of vendors that providing telepharmacy software in Texas; this bill would allow them to capitalize on the rapid expansion of remote dispensing sites in the state</li> </ul> <p>While the intention of increasing patient access to pharmacies is admirable, SB 1633 does raise numerous legitimate concerns that should be considered. Although the bill attempts to minimize risks, It may be premature to implement this type of remote-dispensing</p>	<p><b>Will of the House w/ Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>





			statewide without first studying the possible health impacts on patient safety outcomes and the possible economic impacts on independent pharmacists.	
<b>SB 1663</b> By: Huffman SP: Flynn	Relating to contributions to, benefits from, late fees imposed by, and the administration of systems and programs administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.	Pensions	<p>The bill amends the Insurance Code and sections of the Government Code to make clarifications and changes to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). It clarifies that student employment does not qualify that individual to apply for TRS service credit. It also makes administrative adjustments including protecting employees' personal information and barring TRS employees from doubling up on benefits. SB 1663 also maintains that a retiree that works during the first twelve months after their retirement who waives their compensation or works as an independent contractor or volunteer is considered to be an employee of the public school or higher education employer.</p> <p>The bill would also grant the TRS board to go into an executive session to deliberate on certain investment strategies. It also gives TRS the authority to charge late fees, which cannot exceed \$1,000 for each business day and \$25,000 per reporting period if the employer reports are filed late. The bill stipulates that TRS use electronic methods to disseminate information to members. SB 1663 removes the auxiliary personnel positions from the TRS Retiree Advisory Committee and reduces the committee from a total of nine members to seven members. It also eliminates the prohibition on members who do not complete a service credit purchase by using an installment payment method from using that method for the next three years.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1664</b> By: Huffman SP: Flynn	Relating to contributions to, benefits from, membership in, and the administration of systems and programs administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.	Pensions	<p>This bill seeks to ensure efficiency in TRS benefit delivery by updating and cleaning up language in the law regarding the Teacher Retirement System's administration and programs. It amends the Education Code by removing the requirement that the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) determine the rules for comparing a districts group health coverage to specified basic health coverage. It also removes statute which requires districts to report their compliance with state law concerning group health benefit plans to the TRS director and updates the mandatory contents of the annual report.</p> <p>SB 1664 also amends the Government Code by adding a provision for the retirement system to use a test applied under common law, guided by the IRS for determining an individual's employment status.</p> <p>It changes the deadline by which payments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• military service</li> <li>• out-of-state service</li> <li>• developmental leave</li> <li>• work experience in a career or technological field</li> <li>• transferred service</li> </ul> <p>These payments must be completed no later than two calendar months after the later of the member's retirement date or the last day of the month in which the member submits a retirement application and before the later of the due date for the member's first monthly annuity payment or on the date TRS issues the first monthly annuity payment.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>



			The bill makes administrative changes and grants additional time for TRS members to purchase service credit at retirement, as well as granting members additional time for buying sick or personal leave credit. Service credit payment under this provision must be received by the retirement system no later than 90 <sup>th</sup> day after the system issues a cost statement for the purchase of the service credit. A one-time extension may be granted to complete the service credit purchase if the listed criteria are met.	
<b>SB 1665</b> By: Huffman SP: Flynn	Relating to the investment authority of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.	Pensions	This bill stipulates that investment securities includes any derivative instrument and any other instrument commonly used by intuitional investors to manage institutional portfolios. It also states that the board of trustees can give investment authority to managers outside the fund that may invest or manage no more than 30% of the trusts total assets. The bill also repeals a provision which granted the board the ability, for a temporary amount of time, to buy or sell certain investment instruments.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1680</b> By: Lucio/ et al. SP: Raymond	Relating to a task force of border health officials.	Human Services	<p>SB 1680 moves to establish a task force of border health officials. Residents along the border have a life and culture unique from the rest of the state and country. Amid the growing awareness of Zika virus, many stakeholders have acknowledged that the border areas have health issues unique to them. Border residents have found a higher rate of positive testing for Zika virus, accounting for 39 residents. 90% of those testing positive are thought to be contracted along the Matamoros border. While many Texans travel internationally for only a set amount of time, border residents may go to Mexico daily, increasing their chance of contracting communicable diseases. This bill builds a task force that would communicate the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The task force would consist of local, state, federal and Mexican stakeholders. The duties of the task force are outlined in the bill. All health issues local to border areas, stemming from Zika virus to obesity will be targeted by the task force. Sunset provisions will be upheld, with a review date of September 1, 2029.</p> <p>By allowing stakeholders to address health needs and raise residents’ awareness of how to mitigate said issues, this task force possesses the ability to better many people's lives along the border. SB 1680 stresses the need for community participation to increase cultural competency when working with this population, in doing so it will help create programs that are unique and tailored to an important part of the Texas landscape.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1780</b> By: Zaffirini Sp: Guillen	Relating to the amount of compensation and allowances of a county auditor in certain counties.	County Affairs	<p>Senate Bill 1780 amends the Local Government Code to allow Live Oak County to exceed the statutory limit for the salary of a county auditor. Current law restricts the compensation of a county auditor from exceeding the salary of the highest paid elected county officer, other than a judge of a county court which is set by the commissioner’s court. Current statutory restrictions on the auditor's compensation would create obstacles for Live Oak county to keep their current auditor as well as attract a new, highly-qualified certified public accountant with the necessary auditing skills.</p> <p>SB 1780 creates a necessary provision for Live Oak County because the current auditor's salary is based on the highest paid elected official (county attorney) who recently left office in 2016. Therefore, the auditor's salary would then have to be based on the salary of the county judge for the next budget cycle which would result in a significant pay cut for the auditor. SB 1780 would give Live Oak County the tools they need to staff a qualified CPA.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tiffany Williams 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tiffany@Texaslsg.org">Tiffany@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>SB 1805</b> By: Lucio SP: Lucio III	Relating to the multiuse training and operations center facility.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	SB 1805 updates the Government Code as it relates to the ongoing efforts in establishing and constructing a military and law enforcement training facility in the Port of Brownsville. Last session, the Texas Legislature passed HB 11, that established this multi use training facility initiative. SB 1805 simply updates this statute in two ways. One, it adds “navigation districts” to the list of entities that may donate land to the state for the facility. Two, the bill expands the title and purposes of the facility, so that it is called the	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed



			<p>“multi use training and operations facility”, and has purposes including not only training, but also housing law enforcement assets and equipment and supporting and initiating tactical operations and law enforcement missions.</p>	<p>210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 1090</b> By: Lucio SP: Davis, Sarah / Anderson, Rodney / Minjarez / Laubenberg / Farrar / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the unlawful restraint of a dog; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>Inhumane tethering practices can cause grave health consequences for dogs including embedded collars, choking, and even death. Law enforcement agencies and animal rights advocates assert that current statute related to unlawful restraint of a dog is ambiguous and unenforceable due to contradictory sections and vague definitions, allowing dog abusers to repeatedly offend. SB 1090 completely rewrites Subchapter E of the Health and Safety Code to ensure there are clear, enforceable laws related to unlawful tethering. It outlines clear definitions for adequate shelter, collar, harness, restraint, and proper fit to make the law easily interpretable for both dog-owners and law enforcement. Major provisions of the new code include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandates that dogs have adequate shelter, shade from direct sunlight, and access to water when restrained</li> <li>• Bans the use of chains and other weighted restraints for tethering</li> <li>• Stipulates that items used for tethering must be five times the length of the dog or at least 10-feet and that the tether must be attached to a properly fitted collar or harness</li> <li>• Streamlines the enforcement process by removing the mandatory written warning 24-hour window (which allows offenders to rectify the violation, avoid a criminal penalty, and then repeatedly re-offend)</li> <li>• Creates offenses for tethering a dog in violation of this subchapter of a Class C misdemeanor (each citation under this bill stipulates a separate offense)</li> </ul> <p>To ensure that the law isn’t overly punitive, the bill outlines certain exceptions including dogs restrained on public camping sites, dogs restrained for the use of shepherding or herding livestock, dogs left in open-air truck beds for no longer than the time required for the owner to complete a temporary task, dogs temporarily restrained while in public, and dogs restrained while actively engaged in hunting or field training. Additionally, the bill explicitly states that it does not preempt local tethering ordinances, should those ordinances meet the minimum requirements of the law.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>SB 26</b> By: Estes/ et al. SP: Landgraf / Pickett / Dale / Reynolds</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas emissions reduction plan and other related programs and measures to reduce emissions.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>Texas Emission Reduction Plan is set to expire at the end of the next fiscal biennium. Through this bill TERP would continue indefinitely until Texas reaches EPA ambient air quality standards of attainment. With many areas in Texas considered nonattainment or affected areas where the air quality is below the standards set forth in the Federal Clean Air Act, it is imperative that Texas recommits to the emissions reduction plan. Since TERPs inception 170,000 tons of nitrogen oxide have been mitigated.</p> <p>Health and safety allows for TCEQ and the comptroller to provide grants or funding, expanding what can be funded to include foreign source emissions research; government alternative fuel fleets; and, what contaminants can be studied through a contract with A&amp;M. Grants applications will be streamlined through TCEQ and allows for applications to be submitted through their website.</p> <p>The bill also reestablishes the light duty vehicle incentive program for purchase or lease, which failed to be renewed last session. These are vehicles with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less and run on compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, or a hydrogen fuel cell. This incentive could be up to \$5,000 if all of the vehicle requirements are met and runs on compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum and the incentive is restricted to 1,000 vehicles per biennium. A vehicle operated by an electric drive can receive up to \$2,500 and will be restricted to 2,000 cars per biennium. The commission will compile a list each year of vehicles that meet the criteria. The bill lays out the responsibilities of TCEQ.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p>SB 26 provides for new regulations concerning the drayage truck purchase incentive. These types of vehicles are used is seaports and rail yards. The truck or equipment must have an electric motor, meet federal emissions standards, and meet at least a rate of 25% less nitrogen than the vehicle being replaced.</p> <p>Through the grant program money is being reallocated in ways that will best benefit the reduction of emissions. \$500,000 is being allocated for the research into foreign emission sources or an exceptional event that increased emissions that were reported. \$500,000 will go into the state’s clean air account in nonattainment and affected counties. Grant money can also be awarded to the governmental fuel fleet program. Allocations within the fund may also go to the replacement of school buses built before 2007 under the Clean School Bus program. Currently buses may only be retrofitted. Requirements for which type of buses with a model year of 2006 or earlier must meet certain requirements in order to be replaced and must be operated on a regular basis for 5 years.</p> <p>Grant funding may also be expanded to include new processes by which to reduce emissions from upstream and midstream oil and gas production. Preference will be given to grants to now also include projects that prevent or recover the loss of natural resources and that recover heat that will then go into the generation of electricity.</p> <p>SB 26 also combines the Clean Transportation Triangle and the Alternative Fuels Program and also renames it the Clean Transportation Zone. This program main goal is to build out alternative fuel pumping stations along corridors of travel. Having these pumping stations will promote alternative fuels and allow for their ability to be utilized for longer distances. Grants awarded under this section must abide by all laws and taxation of fuels. Offenses under the section would allow TCEQ to revoke a grant. Restrictions on the use of a grant are limited to only the building of a facility to pump alternative fuels.</p> <p>Under Chapter 394 of the Health and Safety code, the term natural gas is expanded to also include an engine that functions on both natural gas and diesel fuel to be considered under the grant program. Replacement of heavy-duty or medium duty engines could qualify for pre-approval</p> <p>TCEQ must establish a program assisting state agencies, county, municipalities, or political subdivisions that have 15 or more cars in the fleet the ability to opt into a program for replacement of vehicles that run on alternative fuels. Grants that are awarded on this section can be combined with other grants as long as it is not a TERP grant and cannot exceed the total cost of the motor vehicle upgrade.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1834</b> By: Buckingham / et al. SP: Cospers</p>	<p>Relating to the allocation of money associated with delays of transportation projects.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>SB 1834 requires TxDOT to establish a system that tracks the liquidated damages, or financial penalties, including road user costs, incurred as a result of delayed transportation project contracts. Furthermore, this bill provides that TxDOT must each year determine the amount of those financial penalties attributable to each department district, and then allocate that amount to those districts for future projects.</p> <p>This bill provides relief for communities that were impacted by delayed transportation projects. Currently, TxDOT assesses financial penalties on contractors when contracts are delayed for related projects. However, the communities affected by those delayed projects are not experiencing any financial relief or direct benefits from the compensation received by TxDOT for those delays. Thus, revenue made to TxDOT that is from a late project in one department district may be used by the Department for other projects</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: 210-382-4295</p>



			elsewhere in the state. This bill seeks to allocate the revenue from delayed transportation projects to the department district that was affected for use in transportation projects in that district.	
<b>SB 1854</b> By: Uresti SP: Allen / Reynolds	Relating to requiring the review of public school district paperwork to limit paperwork requirements.	Public Education	Under current law, the board of trustees of every school district is required to review the paperwork requirement imposed on classroom teachers and transfer the requirement to the appropriate non-instructional staff. SB 1854 enhances the efficiency of that process by requiring district-level committees to review teachers' paperwork requirements and make recommendations to the board of trustees regarding the transfer of said paperwork to the appropriate non-instructional staff. This will help ensure that classroom teachers are not spending valuable instruction time on extraneous paperwork.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 1897</b> By: Perry SP: Frullo	Relating to the declaration of a local state of disaster.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	SB 1897 codifies new regulations for presiding officers over a governmental subdivision to declare a local disaster. Many at this time report there is vagueness in the statute for declaring a local state of disaster. This bill outlines the information that must be provided in the declaration, as well as ensure that if applicable the political subdivision add the declaration to their website. SB 1897 also allows the presiding officer to request to suspend certain duties for a state agency upon a local disaster, this would be granted by the governor. While SB 1897 intends to maintain transparency, and ensure there are standard procedures, many of the description requirements outlined in the bill are already required by governmental subdivisions. Adequate guidelines can already be found in the Government Code announcing a disaster. Likewise, the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) also provides municipalities and counties with guidelines for declaring a local disaster. This bill in spirit draws out guidance for municipalities, but the nature of creating more regulation in this arena could result in more red tape for presiding officers and hence overwhelm municipalities in a time of crisis.	<b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 1922</b> By: Schwertner SP: Raymond	Relating to contract requirements for prescription drug benefits provided by Medicaid managed care organizations and a study regarding Medicaid prior authorization requirements for certain prescription drugs.	Human Services	This bill extends the period for which Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) must retain the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) formularies for prescription drugs. Current statute allows the enforcement of state preferred drug list and vendor drug program upon Medicaid MCO contracts until August 31, 2018. This bill extends this to August 31, 2023. SB 1922 also implements a requirement for HHSC to conduct a study every 10 years regarding the preferred drug list and those required for prior authorization. By keeping the MCOs with the formularies set by HHSC this will help the continuation of care for patients, as well as ensure patient safeguards.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 Kylie@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 1975</b> By: Whitmire / et al. SP: Pickett	Relating to establishing the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony Committee to recognize and honor peace officers who were killed in the line of duty.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	The bill establishes the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony Committee to plan, oversee, and facilitate annual ceremonies recognizing and honoring peace officers of this state who were killed in the line of duty. The committee consists of the following members: a president, or the president's designee of any law enforcement organization, a surviving spouse of a peace officer killed in the line of duty selected by Concerns of Police Survivors of this state; and non-voting members or designees of the members. The nonvoting members or designees of the members include: governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, attorney general, director of DPS, executive director of the board, and the executive director of TCOLE. The committee shall meet as necessary to plan and coordinate an annual memorial ceremony on the Capitol grounds to honor Texas peace officers who were killed in the line of duty. The bill would also authorize for the ceremonies to be funded with public or private money.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 1994</b> By:	Relating to residential mortgage loans, including the financing of residential	Investments & Financial Services	This bill seeks to regulate wrap mortgages to protect buyers from predatory actions by requiring licensure for those issuing the mortgages and increasing disclosure requirements. A wrap mortgage is a secondary loan that encompasses the primary mortgage and can be particularly lucrative for lenders. In theory, the wrap mortgage lender is supposed to accept payments from the borrower and	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages



<p>Zaffirini / et al. SP: Ortega</p>	<p>real estate purchases by means of a wrap mortgage loan; providing licensing requirements; authorizing an administrative penalty.</p>		<p>pass the appropriate payment on to the original lienholder, to ensure that the obligations of both financial products are satisfied; in practice, however, some unscrupulous lenders do not do this, causing the borrower to default on their primary mortgage.</p> <p>SB 1994 addresses the loopholes in statute governing these loans by requiring that anyone who engages in wrap mortgages be licensed as a mortgage banker or residential mortgage loan company, both of which already exist in the Administrative Code and are overseen by the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending. Establishing a licensure requirement for lenders within the regulatory framework provides an avenue for the state to pursue action against irresponsible lenders. The licensure requirement extends to all actors engaged in a shared business venture to deny them the opportunity to act as individuals and circumvent an exception for lenders who engage in less than five of these transactions each year.</p> <p>The bill also includes extensive requirements that lenders provide documentation to borrowers informing them of their rights and responsibilities as they enter into a wrap mortgage contract. This gives borrowers the chance to better understand the risks associated with the mortgage and seek remedy through the state government if their rights are violated. SB 1994 brings statute up to date with this emerging trend in real estate lending to prevent property owners from being taken advantage of.</p>	<p>210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2001</b> By: Watson / et al. SP: Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to the conduct that constitutes the practice of psychology.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is working under a definition of psychology that has been deemed unconstitutionally overbroad, and unenforceable. To guarantee consumer safety and adequate mental health care for Texans it is essential that there be a more tailored, narrow, and applicable definition of what psychology is. SB 2001 will enact a new definition that encompasses all facets of the profession of psychology, and implement recommendations from the Sunset Commission subcommittee on mental health in the description. SB 2001 outlines the practice of psychology as the observation, description, diagnosis, evaluation, assessment, interpretation, or treatment of and intervention in human behavior by applying education, training, and methods. The procedures practiced under this definition should be completed for purposes such as the prevention, treatment, and elimination of symptomatic or undesired behaviors, substance abuse, emotional problems, behavioral disorders, and mental illness. Under this bill, evaluating, assessing, or facilitating must be done by a license holder with the title or description of psychological, psychologist, or psychology. Providing clearer descriptions of psychology allows the state to enforce clear regulations of the profession, and guidelines for the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to follow.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2048</b> By: Bettencourt SP: Morrison, Geanie W.</p>	<p>Relating to the student loan program administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and to the repeal of a related bond program.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>SB 2048 amends the Education Code pertaining to the Hinson Hazelwood Student Loan Program to align statute with the current operations of the loan program. SB 2048 modifies the way bonds will be executed by the coordinating board. State tax exempt bonds are sold by the coordinating board to fund the issuance of student loans. The interest rate differential between the student loans and the bonds funds the programs administrative costs. SB 2048 directs proceeds from the sale of bonds to be placed in the student loan auxiliary fund. Per the bill, the coordinating board may authorize loans from the Texas Opportunity Plan Fund or the Student Loan Auxiliary Fund for issuance of loans under the Hinson Hazelwood Program. Through voter approval amendments to the Texas Constitution pertaining to the loan program have been made. SB 2048 eliminates the repealed sections aligning them with current practices. SB 2048 also modifies the Education Code to reflect current provisions made by the Department of Education to only allow federally selected entities to issues federal student loans.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2179</b> By: Taylor, Larry</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of certain insurance laws to certain farm mutual insurance companies.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill seeks to address large, for-profit insurance companies using farm mutual insurance companies for the purpose of “fronting”. Farm mutual insurance companies in Texas are exempt from various industry regulation under Chapter 911 of the Insurance Code. Due to this lack of regulation, large for-profit insurance companies use farm mutual companies to get out of regulations – this is known as “fronting”. This bill prevents these larger companies from using farm mutual insurance companies to take advantage of legislative exemptions provided in Chapter 911. Any farm mutual company acting as a fronting insurer will not qualify for the exemption from the property and casualty insurance premium tax.</p>	<p><b>Favorable w/ Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</p>



<p>SP: Morrison, Geanie W.</p>			<p>This bill will maintain the integrity of the farm mutual insurance companies that serve a vital role in the rural Texas community and will prevent large insurance companies from taking advantage of regulatory exemptions not intended to be used by for-profit insurers. There is some concern among farm mutual companies that this will have a negative effect on their company since it affects reinsurance.</p>	
<p><b>SB 2188</b> By: Taylor, Larry SP: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the average daily attendance calculation for students over 18 years of age who are in an off home campus instructional arrangement.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>The current school finance formula requires that a student receive 30 contact hours per week in order for the district to receive full average daily attendance (ADA) funding for that student. This presents a problem for schools that provide educational services to adult special education students. Under federal law, a student in a special education program is allowed to attend public school until they reach 22 years of age, even if they meet graduation requirements at an early age. Many schools help these students transition into adulthood by providing off-campus instructional arrangements, such as sending a teacher or educational aid with the student to provide on-site workforce training. The current 30 contact hour requirement means that schools providing these kinds of services to adult special education students receive no funding for the services they are providing. SB 2188 addresses this problem by allowing an adult special education student, who has met graduation credit requirements and receives off campus instruction, to be designated as a full-time equivalent student if the student receives 20 hours of contact a week. The student would be designated as part-time if he/she receives at least 10 hours, but less than 20 hours of contact a week.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2238</b> By: Garcia SP: Dale / Moody</p>	<p>Relating to certain sexual offenses and certain other offenses involving conduct of a sexual nature, including the creation of the criminal offenses of sexual coercion, indecent assault, and possession or promotion of lewd visual material depicting a child, and to certain criminal acts committed in relation to those offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 2238 creates the criminal offenses of sexual coercion, indecent assault, and possession or promotion of lewd visual material of a child. Per the bill, sexual coercion relates to a person coercing another individual to engage in sexual conduct or provide intimate visual material by communicating a threat to the victim. The punishment for an offense of sexual coercion would be a state jail felony, or a third-degree felony in the case that an individual has previously been convicted of the offense. The bill outlines instances of sexual assault in that an actor coerces another person to participate knowingly without consent, a threat to cause harm to another person, or continues the act after the victim has withdrawn consent to the act. The bill provides criminal punishment for the offense of indecent assault as sexual touching or exposing without consent as a Class A misdemeanor. The bill outlines provisions relating to aggravated sexual assault as an individual intentionally facilitating the assault with the use of a substance to impair the victim's ability to resist, such as a date rape drug. The bill further outlines the offense of possession or promotion of lewd visual material depicting a child, in which punishment is a state jail felony; the bill outlines instances in which the punishment of the offense is heightened to a third-degree and second-degree felony. The bill also provides provisions regarding protective orders to victims of indecent assault and makes other conforming changes in statute to temporary ex parte orders, required findings in the issuance of a protective order, a hearsay statement of a child victim, victims' rights, and violations of certain court orders. SB 2238 introduces the prohibition of sexual extortion to Texas through combating threats of sexual violence and assault and extending stronger protections to victims.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2270</b> By: Lucio / et al. SP: Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to expansion of a pilot program under the foundation school program for funding prekindergarten programs provided by certain school districts with early high school graduation programs.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>This bill expands the area for a pilot program from the 84th Legislation that funded certain low-income areas of south Texas for prekindergarten programs. In 2015 the pilot program was provided for Cameron County. This program was found to be very successful for the school districts it reached. Because of this SB 2270 expands the pilot program to the the entire Region 1 education service center (ESC). This will help to bring more low income school districts in south Texas pre-K level education without more cost to the state.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org</p>



<p><b>SB 1481</b> By: Taylor, Larry SP: Bohac / Howard</p>	<p>Relating to the instructional materials and technology allotment, open education resource instructional materials, and the State Board of Education long-range technology plan.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>SB 1481 generally encourages school districts to strategically consider how to use technology for supporting teaching and learning. One, this bill renames the “Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA)” to the “Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment.” The IMA was created by SB 6 by the 82nd Texas Legislature for purposes of purchasing instructional materials, technological equipment, and technology-related services. Thus, adding in “technology” into the name clarifies the intent and purposes of this appropriation, and encourages more of this funding to go towards technology, since currently the vast majority of this allotment does not. Second, the bill renames “open-source instructional materials” to “open education resource instructional materials.” Furthermore, SB 1481 provides that in selecting instructional materials each year, a school district or open-enrollment charter school may consider the use of open education resource instructional materials. This is for purposes of encouraging districts to be more aware of the free educational resources provided through the Texas Education Agency. If such free resources are utilized, school districts have the potential to save money, and stretch their instructional materials and technology allotment dollars to do more for their students.</p> <p>This bill also requires the State Board of Education to consider the technology needs of districts when planning the adoption process, as a means of ensuring there is money leftover for bringing more technology into Texas schools. SB 1481 lays the groundwork for a stronger relationship between curriculum and technology for purposes of improving learning outcomes for students.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 972</b> By: Zaffirini / et al. SP: King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to the reappraisal for ad valorem taxation purposes of real property on which a building completely destroyed by a casualty is located.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill would give property owners the chance to get their real property reappraised in the event of the total destruction of a building on their homestead. This type of reappraisal is currently available to the governing body of a declared disaster area, but SB 972 would extend the same right to homeowners in a time of crisis. Their request to the appraisal district must be made within 180 days of the building’s destruction. The results of the reappraisal would be used to adjust their ad valorem taxes for the year to account for the portion of the tax year after the incident, providing some financial relief to offset their loss. The appraisal district is required to include documentation of the adjustments in their records and to refund any overpayments by the property owner in light of their recalculated tax burden.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 Joel@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1122</b> By: Huffines / et al. SP: Anchia</p>	<p>Relating to abolishing certain county boards of education, boards of county school trustees, and offices of county school superintendent.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>SB 1122 only pertains to Dallas County. Dallas County Schools (DCS) is an intermediate educational agency that primarily provides transportation services to some Dallas County schools. Interested parties contend that the agency is an unnecessary layer of government that provides unreliable transportation, mis-manages taxpayer dollars, and behaves in an ethically unacceptable manner. SB 1122 essentially abolishes DCS and establishes a dissolution committee to determine the manner in which all assets, liabilities, contracts, and services provided by DCS are divided, transferred, or discontinued. The bill states that DCS is abolished effective November 15, 2017 unless their continuation is approved by a majority of voters in the November 2017 uniform election. The bill includes provisions intended to facilitate a smooth transition away from DCS without any transportation services being disrupted and without any district incurring a large unforeseen cost. SB 1122 instructs the dissolution committee to create a sinking fund to deposit all money received in the abolishment of DCS for the payment of all DCS debts. At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, all school buses and bus service centers will be divided proportionately between participating school districts at no cost.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 Arielle@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 41</b> By: Zaffirini SP: Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the demand for an accounting from an attorney in fact or agent of a principal by certain persons.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>A Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA or POA) is a legal document that gives someone one chooses the power to act in one’s place; for example, the trusted person one names will be permitted to take care of important matters, such as paying a bill, in the event that one is incapacitated. Presently, only the principal, who is the incapacitated or disabled person granting the POA, is authorized to demand a financial accounting from the attorney in fact. These financial accountings include information related to receipts and financial actions taken by the attorney in fact regarding the principal’s assets.</p> <p>Sometimes the principal may lack the ability to request an accounting, or may not suspect the need for an accounting. However, a family member or legal guardian of the principal may suspect financial exploitation by the attorney in fact. These persons should be</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org</p>





			authorized to demand an accounting from the attorney in fact. In the event that a principal is unable to demand an accounting because of their physical or mental condition, SB 41 authorizes a list of other individuals who may request the accounting on the principal's behalf, including: a guardian or spouse, a person named as a successor attorney in fact in the DPOA, an agent of the principal authorized to make healthcare decisions on their behalf under a medical power of attorney, an attorney of the principal, or any other family member who the court finds has standing to demand an accounting. This bill adds further vital statutory protections to incapacitated or disabled persons under a DPOA from financial exploitation.	
<b>SB 521</b> By: Creighton SP: Springer	Relating to the qualifications required of an appraisal district employee in order to testify as to the value of real property in certain ad valorem tax appeals.	Ways & Means	SB 521 prohibits an appraisal district employee from testifying regarding a property's real value in an appeal for excessive or unequal appraisal unless the employee is certified or licensed to perform appraisals of real estate. Proponents of the bill argue that this provision would level the playing field between taxpayers and appraisal districts by eliminating the double standard through requiring appraisal districts to hire licensed experts in appeals. However, the costs incurred by cities and smaller counties would be detrimental, as experts can cost upwards of \$10,000 and would create an exorbitant budget increase. In rural areas, it is difficult to find appraisers meeting the competency requirements as the few there have testified for a tax agent or firm before an appraisal review board and subsequently become ineligible to testify for an appraisal district due to conflicts of interest, rendering SB 521 infeasible and costly.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 38</b> By: Zaffirini / et al. SP: Murr	Relating to certain procedural matters in courts exercising probate jurisdiction.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	SB 38 cleans up two procedural issues in relation to the governance of guardianship proceedings. One, there is presently no statutory mechanism that allows a judge to transfer jurisdiction of a guardianship to another court when a person and their guardian change residence, unless the guardian applies for a transfer. This has caused serious lack of oversight over guardianships. Two, currently, the only way by which a guardian can be notified of removal from their role, or summoned to explain failure to comply with statutory requirements, is by way of law enforcement personally serving the notice. This is an antiquated procedure that is not a priority for law enforcement personnel amongst all of their duties. This has caused a serious delay of services that is detrimental to persons under guardianship.  In an effort to mitigate exploitation, abuse and neglect of persons under guardianship, SB 38 allows for a court, on its own motion, to transfer the transaction of the business of a guardianship to another county if a person under a guardianship resides in that county. Additionally, SB 38 allows a court to provide notice of guardian removal, or a notice of summons to a hearing regarding the failure to comply with guardian responsibilities, via certified mail.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 Serena@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 1504</b> By: Taylor, Van SP: Parker	Relating to the eligibility of certain victims of trafficking of persons for an order of nondisclosure.	Criminal Jurisprudence	SB 1504 requires an order of nondisclosure for victims of trafficking of persons who are placed on community supervision after a conviction of certain drug possession and delivery, trespassing, theft, prostitution, or promotion of prostitution offenses. The bill stipulates that the order of nondisclosure must pertain to the offense for which the defendant was placed on community supervision. Victims of human trafficking may accrue theft, drug possession and prostitution charges as a result of their victim status. These convictions often block their ability for a stable and safe living environment, employment in desired fields, pursuing higher education, obtaining professional licenses and so on. SB 1504 simply affords these victims the right to petition for an order of nondisclosure of specific criminal history record information that were a direct result of their victimhood in the trafficking of persons. This authorization is already legal in Texas law for prostitution convictions, and this bill extends this authorization to the aforementioned charges.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 Katherine@Texaslsg.org
<b>SB 1512</b> By: Taylor, Larry	Relating to replacement cost coverage in policies issued by the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.	Insurance	This bill changes the time period at which replacement cost coverage for a policy is determined. The replacement cost will be determined on the effective date an association policy, not the time of the incurred loss. It would require that a Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) policy indicate at the time of sale, rather than at the time of the loss, whether it will pay either the replacement cost coverage or actual cash value coverage. This is a pro-consumer bill that ensures that policyholders are able to receive the replacement cost coverage they are entitled to when they enter into a policy agreement.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org



SP: Faircloth				
<b>SB 1466</b> By: Taylor, Larry SP: Faircloth	Relating to maximum liability limits for windstorm and hail insurance coverage provided through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.	Insurance	This bill amends the Insurance Code to in regard to changing or altering the maximum liability limits for windstorm and hail insurance policies. It stipulates that the limits are considered to be approved unless the commissioner modifies or disapproves the liability limits within a 30-day time frame. This bill will address the concern that many of these limits have not been updated for a long time and would allow for the revision of the approval process.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org
<b><u>LSG Floor Report For Resolutions Calendar - Tuesday, May 23, 2017</u></b>				
<b>SCR 26</b> By: Estes / et al. SP: Darby	Urging Congress to review federal regulations on the oil and gas industry.	State & Federal Power & Responsibility, Select	With all-time high crude oil stockpiling and some of the largest reserves in the world sitting within Texas; it's hard to implicate federal government regulations on the loss in value over oil commodities. In Texas, we have one of the largest deposits ever discovered in the United States and the Texas Permian Basin alone accounts for 20% of the Country's crude oil production. The state of oil and gas doesn't appear to be hampered by the domestic regulations that some claim is the culprit for the loss as this resolution claims to be victim. With large imports from foreign countries and now record high crude oil inventories. This SCR is urging the federal government to roll back some of the regulations put in place to provide protections for our country and its environment. However, this would not address the real issues that are the root cause of our state's issue with production and instead further promote a misnomer of overregulation.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 Ana@Texaslsg.org

