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**LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business- Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<b>HB 3027</b> By: Phelan	Relating to the applicability of open meetings and public information laws to regional water planning groups and their committees.	Government Transparency & Operation	HB 3027 amends Texas Water code to make regional water planning groups and committees of a regional water planning group participate in Chapters 551 and 552 of the Government Code. These chapters layout the provisions for open state meeting laws and state public information laws.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a>

**LSG Floor Report For Emergency Calendar - Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

<b>HB 500</b> By: Geren / Johnson, Eric / Howard / King, Phil / Davis, Sarah / et al.	Relating to the effect of certain felony convictions of public elected officers.	General Investigating & Ethics	<p>HB 500 seeks to protect the integrity of elected office and public trust by prohibiting a retired public official from receiving payments from a public retirement system once convicted of “qualifying felonies”. The elected official must also vacate the office after final conviction of the felonies. A “qualifying felony” includes any felony involving bribery; the embezzlement, extortion, or other theft of public money; perjury; coercion of public servant or voter; tampering with governmental record; misuse of official information; conspiracy or the attempt to commit any of those foregoing offenses; or abuse of official capacity. This bill applies to all elected officials from statewide to local municipalities. The pension payments include any public system which includes but not limited to: ERS, TRS, etc.</p> <p>As stated before, once the conviction of the felony becomes final the elected official must be removed from office. Currently, a conviction of a felony makes an elected ineligible to run for office again but there are no clear rules for those convicted regarding the remainder of their current term. This bill would provide a process and help protect the public’s trust in state government and elected office. The expulsion from office requirement would not take effect in the following scenarios: under indictment, those who are appealing a conviction, or those undergoing deferred adjudication.</p> <p>I court has the capability of awarding a member’s spouse all or part of the retirement annuity if it’s forfeited by the bill. The provision is void if the spouse is also found a party of the felony along with their spouse. In the case of felony being overturned the individual and alternative payees would again be eligible for the annuity and any accrued totally payments.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a>
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<p><b>HB 501</b> By: Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to the disclosure of certain contracts, services, and compensation in personal financial statements filed by public officers and candidates.</p>	<p>General Investigating &amp; Ethics</p>	<p>HB 501 expands the disclosure requirements for those who are required to submit a personal financial statement to the Texas Ethics Commission. This bill requires three new reporting requirements for elected officials. They include the following:</p> <p>If the total amount of or services provided by the elected official, their spouse, or dependent exceeds a certain amount on one or more contracts in a year the official must include necessary information on their personal financial statement. They must also report any services affiliated with the individual's spouse or dependents with at least 50% ownership.</p> <p>It also expands bond counsel services and provides criteria for disclosing required information on their personal financial statements. HB 501 expands the reporting requirements on referral fees received by removing that only legal referrals need to be reported. Previously, this section only referred to legal referrals and now is more encompassing of referral fees. This bill also stipulates what must be reported regarding these referrals to the Texas Ethics Commission on the individual's personal finance statement.</p> <p>While this bill is a step in the right direction. There are those who are concerned that the threshold for ownership aforementioned in the analysis is too low and won't properly catch the majority of the individual and familial interests.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 505</b> By: Geren/ Howard</p>	<p>Relating to restrictions on lobbyist expenditures from certain political contributions.</p>	<p>General Investigating &amp; Ethics</p>	<p>This bill prohibits registered lobbyists from making contributions to elected officials before the second anniversary of the official leaving office. This change is designed to prevent the ability of former legislators to immediately transition to a lobbying role and take advantage of their non-public information. By formally creating a "cooling-off" period before former legislators may use leftover campaign contributions for lobbying activities, HB 505 protects the integrity of the political process and restricts the undue influence of lobbyists on legislators as they transition to the next phase of their careers.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a></p>

**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<p><b>HB 3218</b> By: Phillips</p>	<p>Relating to health maintenance organization contracts with certain entities to provide health care services.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill amends the Insurance Code so that Health Maintenance Organizations may enter contracts with providers that are part of service networks already under contract with the HMO. Expanding the scope of providers available to the organizations may allow them to develop more comprehensive networks for their clients. Any contract between these organizations must continue to hold the HMO ultimately responsible for meeting statutory requirements, and the providers are treated as delegated entities under Chapter 1278 of the Code. HB 3218 helps ensure that contractual definitions, which can be complicated in a field as interconnected as medicine, do not impede the delivery of health care services.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 1285</b> By: Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the delegation of death certification to attending physicians in certain counties.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 1285 allows a medical examiner to delegate, with the physician's consent, the authority to complete the medical certification for a person's death to that person's attending physician. Provisions in the bill would pertain to medical examiners in a county with a population of one million of more people that determine a person's death is due to natural causes, and further allows the medical examiner to delegate to another attending physician who treated the person during the year preceding their death. The bill specifies that the person conducting an inquest or an attending physician that was granted certification authority has five days after the death or fetal death certificate is received to complete the medical certification. HB 1285 takes effect September 1, 2017.</p> <p>Currently, there is a gray area in law regarding completion of medical certifications done by either the county of the person's attending physician, as the state does not explicitly address this common practice. HB 1285 seeks to align current common practices with state statute and serves to save taxpayer dollars in counties that utilize medical examiners' services. In 2006, the Texas Association of Counties</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			gathered data from various medical examiners and found that the average cost of an autopsy was \$1248, while it cost a county an average of \$131 to transport. By allowing medical examiners to delegate the authority to complete the medical certification to a person's attending physician, the professionals who are in the best position to certify a patient's death can provide the last service to a long-time patient.	
<b>HB 3360</b> By: Button/ Deshotel/ Villalba/ Gooden/ et al	Relating to a periodic review by the Economic Incentive Oversight Board of the ad valorem tax incentive program established by the Texas Economic Development Act.	Economic and Small Business Development	HB 3360 instructs the Economic Incentive Oversight Board (EIOB) to conduct a review to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, and financial impact of the state property tax incentive program (ad valorem tax incentive). Created during the 84th Legislature, EIOB is tasked with examining many of the state's economic incentive programs; the ad valorem tax incentive program is one which allows school districts to offer temporary limitation on the property value of new investments for school property tax purposes. It is important to evaluate whether or not this incentive is working efficiently and benefitting all Texans. EIOB's review should evaluate whether the incentive program is being implemented effectively and is in compliance with the intent of the original legislation. The bill instructs the Oversight Board to develop economic performance indicators to guide their evaluation of the program and to make recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the program to the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office and the Legislature. Additionally, it requires the board to provide these recommendations to the governing body of a school district or the comptroller's office should those entities request them. Overall, this review will increase government accountability and transparency as it relates to the ad valorem tax incentive program.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 136</b> By: Bell/Koop/ Johnson, Jarvis/ Israel/ Villalba/ et al	Relating to inclusion of career and technology education and workforce training in the mission of public education.	Public Education	Interested parties contend that the statutory mission for public education should reflect the state's interest in preparing students for higher education and preparing students to enter the workforce. HB 136 amends the Education Code to specify that curriculum should prepare students for higher education and the workforce. The bill also directs the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency to assist school districts and charter schools in providing career and technology education and effective workforce training opportunities to students.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3997</b> By: Raymond	Relating to fees imposed by a county for licensing a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.	County Affairs	Certain counties in Texas that regulate junkyards or automotive wrecking/ salvage yards can currently only recover a \$25 fee for the issuance or renewal of a license. These parties believe this fee to be inadequate to cover the administration of a viable wrecking and salvage yard enforcement program, especially in geographically large counties like Webb county.  H.B. 3997 amends the Transportation Code to change the fee amount for the issuance or renewal of a license of a junkyard or automotive wrecking/salvage yard. This bill is bracketed for Webb County to change the amount from \$25 to an amount, capped at \$150, necessary to pay for the administration and enforcement of the ordinance requiring the license.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tiffany Teate 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tiffany@Texaslsg.org">Tiffany@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 874</b> By: Kuempel	Relating to a charitable raffle ticket awarded as a bingo prize.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	HB 874 allows a licensed authorized organization to award a ticket for a charitable raffle as a bingo prize. The bill specifies that the bingo prize amount is the cost to purchase the raffled ticket. This bill will help nonprofit organizations utilize an important revenue stream to achieve their charitable purposes.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>HB 928</b> By: White/ Neave/ Giddings</p>	<p>Relating to assisting certain children who are in foster care or who have been adopted in the process of applying to institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>HB 928 moves to create further provisions for the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to assist and encourage foster youth and those who have already been adopted to obtain higher education. Children under 18 who have been in foster care or were in foster care, including those who have been adopted are eligible for tuition and fee waiver for higher education. Many children in the CPS and foster care system are not aware of the benefits that are available to them for education and beyond. In fact, only about 3% of foster children and former foster youth utilize their tuition and fee waiver scholarship.</p> <p>This bill would make provisions to inform foster youth and former foster youth of the tuition and fee waivers and scholarships available to them. DFPS would be required to partner with superintendents to identify those eligible for these higher educate benefits. An employee of DFPS would also be required to assist with applications for school and financial aid, campus visits, entrance exams and the like. Due to the challenges and traumas faced by a child or young adult who have experiences in the foster care system, many do not graduate college nor attended higher education. This has led to homelessness among those most vulnerable Texans. Research has shown that around 35.1% of young adults who experience homelessness have spent time in foster care and of that, 56.4% have reported to have aged out. Focusing on encouraging and assisting the pursuit of higher education is a simple first step in achieving this.</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>HB 1414</b> By: Cortez/ Arevalo/ Gutierrez/ Perez/ Anderson, Charles "Doc" / et al</p>	<p>Relating to the overseas military e-mail ballot program.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 1414 amends the Election Code to extend the ability for a member of the armed forces serving overseas who is eligible for hostile fire pay to return their ballot by verified email. The bill lengthens this program from ending in 2017 to 2021 and allows for any county wanting to participate in the program and has ability to do so the opportunity.</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>HB 300</b> By: King, Phil / Zerwas / Kacal / Cook / Burns / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to decreasing the fee for the issuance of an original or renewed license to carry a handgun.</p>	<p>Homeland Security and Public Safety</p>	<p>This bill will reduce the cost of the license to carry (LTC) original application from \$140 to \$40 and will make a consistent charge of \$40 for renewal application. The price is currently regulated by DPS. Since the bill offers the consistent charge of \$40, it also eliminates the current law of DPS's director setting the rules of setting the renewal fee in an amount that is sufficient to cover the actual cost to the department, which consists of: verifying the information contained in the renewal application form, conducting any necessary investigation concerning the license holder's continued eligibility to hold a license, and issuing the renewed license.</p> <p>The bill additionally decreases certain types of application fees to certain groups such as certified handgun instructors, people who qualify as indigent, senior citizens, and active or retired judicial officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified handgun instructors will still have to pay the \$100 training from DPS but, they will only have to pay \$40 for their original and renewable license to carry application.</li> <li>• Applicants that are indigent will get a 50% reduction on issuance of a duplicate or modified license. Indigent means when an applicant's income is not more than 100% of the applicable income level established by the federal poverty guidelines. Additionally, \$5 on any fee required for the issuance of a renewed license.</li> <li>• Applicants that are senior citizens (60 years older+) will get a 50% reduction on issuance of a duplicate or modified license. Additionally, \$5 on any fee required for the issuance of a renewed license.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable w/Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active or retired judicial officer will have to pay an application license fee of \$25. Originally, the regulation of the price for this group was set by DPS. Eligibility to get a LTC remains the same.</li> </ul> <p>For any individual that wants to get a LTC, will still have to go through the necessary training before they submit an application. License to Carry classes cost on average \$100 depending on the area that the resident lives in. The training course has to cover these four topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laws that relate to weapons and the use of deadly force.</li> <li>Handgun use and safety, including use of restraint holsters and methods to ensure the secure carrying of openly carried handguns.</li> <li>Non-violent dispute resolution.</li> <li>Proper storage practices for handguns with an emphasis on storage practices that eliminate the possibility of accidental injury to a child.</li> </ul> <p>Fiscal Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPS reports that the total number of original and renewal LTC applications have increased from 155,932 applications in FY 2011 to 386,397 applications in FY 2016. The average rate of growth over these years is 23%. This analysis assumes that number of applicants for an original renewal LTC would total 308,064 in FY 2018 and 316,959 in FY 2019. DPS reports the per-applicant cost to administer the LTC program totals \$27, which accounts for background checks required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the state. DPS also reports that the cost of these background checks are paid for by an applicant’s LTC application fee. The remaining portion of each application fee is deposited into General Revenue.</li> <li>The Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates a loss of \$22.0 million in FY 2018 and \$16.5 million in FY 2019 to General Revenue.</li> <li>LBB assumes administrative duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished utilizing existing resources.</li> <li>According to the Texas Association of Counties, there may be a cost to counties currently conducting the mental health background check; however, they do not anticipate those costs will be significant.</li> </ul> <p>The concern is that the loss of revenue that comes from the reduction costs of LTC applications because that means a few government agencies will be receiving additional budget cuts.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1296</b> By: Frullo / Oliverson / Larson / Zerwas / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to health benefit coverage for prescription drug synchronization.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill creates a mechanism for individuals to synchronize their prescription refill schedule to make managing their medications easier. Qualifying medications must be used for the treatment of a chronic medical condition, and Schedule II drugs are prohibited in addition to Schedule III drugs containing hydrocodone. These restrictions include most of the prescription opiates, including codeine and morphine. In order to qualify for a medication synchronization plan, an individual must obtain approval from their physician, pharmacist, and health benefit plan provider. HB 1296 also includes a requirement that health plans allow partial prescription costs to be prorated to assist with a synchronization plan. Overall, the provisions within HB 1296 create a system that helps people effectively treat their medical conditions while mitigating the risk of prescription drug abuse.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 20</b> By: Capriglione / Bonnen, Dennis / Howard / Walle / et</p>	<p>Relating to the review, oversight, and reporting of certain state agency contracts.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill creates a central database for state contracts maintained by the Legislative Budget Board and grants the LBB additional compliance oversight over those contracts. This database, published by the LBB, would make contract information more accessible to the public by consolidating everything on one site; currently, each state agency is responsible for publishing this information on their website. The disclosure requirements apply to major consulting service contracts as defined in current statute, and to any contract expected to exceed \$50,000 with exceptions for institutes of higher education for sponsored research and hospital institutional funds.</p> <p>HB 20 codifies the LBB’s responsibilities with regards to monitoring of state contracts. Regardless of its funding source, the LBB has the authority to examine the details of a contract to ensure that it follows the guidelines established by its contract management</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a></p>





al.			guide and the comptroller’s procurement guide. These monitoring activities and their recommendations to agencies on how to address infractions set the LBB as the enforcement body for all state contracts in an effort to eliminate overlapping duties and increase transparency.	
<b>HB 664</b> By: Canales	Relating to the release on bail of a defendant arrested following a violation of a condition of community supervision.	Corrections	This bill allows a judge or magistrate to release certain parole violators out on bail. Current statute states that certain individuals who violate their community supervision can only be released on bail by the judge who ordered the arrest for the violation. This leads to some of these individuals be left in jail for more than 48 hours at a time. This allows for a judge and magistrate to authorize the violator to be released on bail prior.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2501</b> By: Phillips	Relating to insurance requirements for certain nonemergency medical transportation.	Insurance	This bill excludes non-emergency medical transportation companies from current statute within the Insurance Code, which requires transportation network companies (TNCs) to provide automobile insurance on personal vehicles used for those services in addition to the driver’s personal insurance. This bill would still require vehicles to maintain auto insurance, but the TNC is not responsible for coverage. These medical transportation companies provide assistance to individuals with mobility issues so that they can attend doctor’s appointments and receive other services. Providing an exemption from these rules as long as the companies do not utilize an electronic application, such as those used by commercial ride-sharing companies, keeps medical transportation accessible for the state’s Medicaid and Medicare recipients.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2950</b> By: Burkett / Thompson, Senfronia / Flynn / Raymond	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Nursing and to the regulation of the practice of nursing.	Public Health	CSHB 2950 is the Sunset Bill for the Texas Board of Nursing (BON), the entity responsible for licensing and regulating the practice of nursing as well as accrediting nursing education programs. In addition to extending the agency’s abolishment date to September 2029, the bill makes various changes to the Occupations code in relation to the practice of nursing.  <u>Section 301.059</u> updates training requirements for board members to include training on the scope of the board’s rulemaking authority and laws applicable to BON duties. The executive director of the board is instructed to create a training manual to be distributed annually to each board member and requires each board member to sign and submit a statement acknowledging receipt of the manual.  <u>Section 301.157</u> instructs BON to develop a process for students enrolled in out of state nursing education programs that do not meet standards equivalent to those for in-state students to apply for an initial license. It instructs out-of-state programs whose students have a passage rate lower than BON’s required average to complete and submit a self-study in accordance with the board’s guidelines (after the first year), allow BON to conduct a desk review and on-site evaluation of the program (after the second consecutive year), and to provide notice on the program’s website that prospective students may need to complete additional requirements to obtain licensure in the state of Texas because due to the program’s inability to meet BON standards (after the third consecutive year). This provision states that students enrolled in programs not meeting BON standards before the 4th consecutive year of the program’s inadequate performance is still eligible to apply for initial licensure; students who enroll after the 4th consecutive year will must complete additional requirements to apply for licensure. is It also clarifies eligibility requirements for out-of-state students to become licensed. <b>These provisions offer a clear, fair path for clinical competency programs and out-of-state nursing students to continue to become licensed in Texas if their school is not performing well.</b>  <u>Section 301.252</u> amends the qualifications for nurse licensure by stating that professional character considered in licensing decisions should include only behavior related to the practice of nursing; a decision by the board that an applicant’s professional character	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>



			<p>related to nursing warrants denying licensure must be based on a “clear and rational connection” between a violation of this chapter and the applicant’s ability to effectively practice nursing. <b>This clarification will ensure that nurses are being disciplined appropriately while ensuring that licensure decisions are not overly punitive.</b></p> <p><u>Section 301.257</u> increases flexibility and oversight of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). CSHB 2950 allows BON to require a licensee to participate in TPAPN, a non-punitive and confidential program for nurses to seek help for substance abuse and psychiatric issues, at the time of initial licensure. This decision would be made based on the individual’s criminal record and employment history. It also allows individuals to request reevaluation of their assignment to TPAPN should they feel they do not need to participate in the program and authorizes BON to waive participation in the program should the licensee achieve a satisfactory period of treatment or documented sobriety.</p> <p><u>Section 301.4106</u> would require BON to establish individualized requirements for TPAPN participants and ensure that the requirements and treatment plans referred to the program are administered consistently. This is important to ensure that TPAPN is delivering the necessary critical assistance and desired benefit to the nurses who participate.</p> <p><u>Section 301.255</u> requires Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to review a patient’s prescription history through the Prescription Monitoring Program (housed within the Texas Board of Pharmacy) before prescribing them opioids, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, or carisoprodol. Failure to follow this protocol will result in disciplinary action. This important provision will ensure that patients with potentially harmful prescription histories do not have access to addictive substances such as Opioids.</p> <p><u>Section 301.452</u> instructs BON to adopt rules ensuring that licensure denials and disciplinary actions are based on objective criterias that are clearly connected to the licensee’s conduct and that any negative outcomes resulting from that conduct impact that person’s ability to effectively practice nursing. This section further ensures that BON is being judicious with disciplinary actions.</p> <p><u>Section 301.5525</u> instructs BON to periodically check information under the Prescription Monitoring Program to determine whether any APRNs are engaging in potentially harmful prescribing patterns. Considerations for behavior that constitutes harmful prescribing practices should include the number of times an APRN prescribes a Schedule II drug and patterns of prescribing those drugs in conjunction with other dangerous drugs. The board may initiate a complaint against any APRN that engages in behavior that constitutes a harmful prescribing practice. <b>This provision is critical in maintaining APRNs prescribing authority while ensuring that controlled substances are not being prescribed in a way that makes them easily available to those who are abusing them.</b></p> <p>Additionally, CSHB 2950 provides for the adoption of a revised Nurse Licensure Compact; the Compact allows nurses to have multi-state licenses that allow them to practice in both their home state and other compact states. The purpose of the compact is to promote public health, facilitate the exchange of information and expertise between compact states, decrease redundancies in the consideration of nurse licensure, and provide opportunities for interstate practice. Rules adopted under the Compact may not alter the requirements or scope of practice of BON licensees; if they do, those rules are not enforceable in this state. <b>Texas has been a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact since 2000; CSHB 2950 simply adopts updated language to ensure statute is consistent with the current functioning of the compact, insuring continued mobility of nurses.</b> Finally, the bill repeals a number of sections of the Occupations Code that are no longer relevant or applicable to BON’s functioning or to the practice of nursing.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2715</b> By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the composition and use of money in the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p>	<p>HB 2715 amends the Natural Resources Code by taking administrative taxes collected from the Oil-Field Cleanup Fund, with accompanying taxes, penalties, and interest from the Gas Utility Pipeline Tax, and redirecting those funds into the Oil and Gas Cleanup and Regulation Fund. Thus, these funds would now be allocated from General Revenue to General Revenue Dedicated. The Legislative Budget Board estimates an impact to General Revenue in the amount of \$51,700,000 through the biennium ending in August 31, 2019. HB 2715 gives jurisdiction to the Railroad Commission (RRC) to use funds in the Oil and Gas Cleanup and Regulation Fund for</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			alternative fuel regulatory programs pertaining to, liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas safety. In addition, funds may also be used to regulate the rates and services of gas utilities, and the administration of surface mining programs. Redirecting these resources to the Cleanup Fund will provide the RRC with a secure stream of funding to use for problems such as well-plugging, and monitoring and enforcement measures.	
<b>HB 2039</b> By: Huberty / Koop	Relating to creating an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through grade three.	Public Education	Currently, the range of certification for early childhood educators is pre-K through 6 <sup>th</sup> grade. HB 2039 creates a new teacher certification focusing on pre-K through grade 3. Educating a student in kindergarten and educating a student in the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade requires a different skill set, so the intent of this bill is to create a new teacher certification that would adequately prepare educators for the unique challenges that come with educating younger students. This certificate would not be mandatory for teaching pre-K through grade 3, but it would provide teachers with more precise training for educating younger students. The bill provides specifics regarding course work for the certificate including instruction on establishing small group formats and teaching fundamental academic, social and emotional skills. The bill also allows currently certified educators to receive this additional certificate to train them in the nuances of early childhood education.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2174</b> By: Darby / et al.	Relating to the regulation of motor fuel quality and motor fuel metering devices	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	Currently, car fuel dealers are required to have their motor fuel quality devices inspected by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) every four years. They are also required to have a third-party inspection done every 2 years by a TDA licensed inspector. This means that dealers are required to incur the costs of having duplicate services. Third party inspections are done by TDA licensed inspectors to do the same inspection the department does, but with the added benefit of being able to fix the identified problem. HB 2174 eliminates this duplication of services by requiring dealers to directly contract with third party inspectors to perform state inspections. The dealer would be required to provide a certificate of inspection before being allowed to register. To address concerns regarding fee increases, HB 2174 places a 5% cap on the amount fees may be increased and a \$250 cap on the amount of the penalty fee for late registration. This bill has the effect of increasing the efficiency of the inspection process while still protecting the consumer.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2817</b> By: González, Mary / King, Tracy O. / Stucky	Relating to the prosecution of and punishment for the offense of criminal mischief involving the death of a head of cattle or bison or a horse.	Agriculture & Livestock	Amends the Penal Code so that criminal mischief involving the death of a head of cattle or bison or horse is a felony in the third degree. Currently, if a person steals a head of cattle, it is punishable as a third-degree felony; however, if a person intentionally kills the cattle, it is a class A misdemeanor. There is no chance to acquire the animal again when it is killed and restitution is possible but rarely paid. HB 2817 simply equalizes this punishment for the intentional killing of head of cattle or bison or horse with the theft of those animals, and clearly exempts the killings during the course of regular agricultural labor duties or practices.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3276</b> By: Oliverson / Smithee / Cook / Turner / et al.	Relating to notice of health benefit plan provider network status provided by certain freestanding emergency medical care facilities.	Insurance	This bill requires freestanding emergency medical care facilities to post notice regarding their participation in health care plans in prominently visible locations on the premises and on their websites. HB 3276 updates two sections of the Health and Safety Code, for freestanding emergency care facilities and hospitals, with the new requirements. These facilities provide a viable alternative to traditional emergency rooms but can become financially ruinous to individuals seeking care under the assumption that their health insurance will pay for the visit. By ensuring that a list of health care plans that are accepted, patients can make more informed decisions about their care. These changes may also motivate these facilities to form relationships with more health care plans, leading to an increase in access to care.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>





<p><b>HB 3337</b> By: Bonnen, Dennis</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of certain persons to teach a driver education course.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p>	<p>This bill will allow parents who have a disability to designate a person 25 years of age or older to conduct a driver education course for the parent’s children who are required to complete a driver education course to obtain a Class C license. This designated adult still has to fit other requirement such as: possess a valid license for the preceding 3 years that has not been suspended, revoked, or forfeited in the past 3 years for an offense that involves the operation of a motor vehicle, has not been convicted of criminally negligent homicide and driving while intoxicated, and does not have six or more points assigned to the person’s driver’s license.</p> <p>This legislation amends the Education Code by removing the requirement for Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation on providing the approval of a parent-taught driver education course for the person conducting the course that is not disabled because of mental illness thus, giving more flexibility for these families. Additionally, this bill repeals the Transportation Code statute that authorizes a parent-taught driver education course provider to administer to a student the highway sign and traffic law parts of the examination required for driver's license applicants. Furthermore, this legislation repeals a statute of the Transportation Code, requiring DPS to provide approval of a parent-taught driver education course to conform to the repeal of the Transportation code statute mentioned previously in this paragraph. These changes are just meant to update the statutory language so it can all be aligned and eliminate future confusion.</p> <p>It is assumed the costs to implement the provisions of the bill could be absorbed within existing resources. Expanding the parent-taught driving education course to any adult will benefit minors that have parents with a disability it will not limit them from gaining this basic skill while being still being young. Additionally, some of these families probably can’t afford driver’s education course, the course is not offered at all high schools, or they may not have a safe state inspected vehicle to practice on. This bill will increase public safety because there will be less teenagers driving illegally and it will lower the incentive of minors teaching other minors how to drive. This legislature will make it possible for any non-relative supportive adult in a minor’s life to step up and teach them the basic skill of driving, which is a need because that is one of the few ways to travel in Texas due to lack of adequate public transportation.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 1133</b> By: Sheffield / Zerwas / Price / Cook / Raymond / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the reimbursement of prescription drugs under Medicaid and the child health plan program.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill changes how prescription drug reimbursements are calculated for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Currently, the reimbursement rates are set by pharmacy benefit managers contracted by HHSC and rely on the Maximum Allowable Price; HB 1133 would shift to the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC), a more responsive price metric that reflects the actual cost to the pharmacists and can be updated every week. Switching to NADAC pricing allows all players involved in Medicaid prescription drug coverage to better understand the process and ensures that pharmacists receive equitable payments.</p> <p>The move to NADAC may prove challenging as a cost containment measure for the Medicaid system. The cost per prescription will generally be lower, but HB 1133 also requires that the executive director of HHSC reevaluate the dispensing fee every five years. The introduced version of the bill’s fiscal note indicates that changes to the dispensing fee could offset the savings on the medication itself, although the extent of the increased cost is uncertain at this point. While HB 1133 establishes a more transparent and accessible methodology for pharmacists serving Medicaid recipients, the fiscal impact is worth considering.</p>	<p><b>Favorable w/Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 3765</b> By: Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to directing payment, after approval, of certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act; making appropriations.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This is the miscellaneous claims bill, enumerating all of the outstanding claims for reimbursement by the state for issues that have passed their statute of limitations. Each of these claims has received a final determination or settlement and the recipients have filed a request for inclusion through the Comptroller’s office. The claims to be paid out of General Revenue total \$4,664,705 for the 18-19 biennium, as well as \$15,664,763 from the State Highway Fund and other assorted funds. HB 3765 also includes the mandate that those seeking reimbursement include appropriate documentation to the Comptroller’s office before the claim is processed.</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>HB 727</b> By: Guerra / Longoria / Sheffield / Davis, Sarah / Laubenberg</p>	<p>Relating to the use of home telemonitoring services under Medicaid.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 727 seeks to improve access to home telemonitoring services for Medicaid patients. Telemonitoring services are cost-effective and allow physicians to receive critical health information about a patient without that patient having to travel to a healthcare facility. They increase access to quality healthcare for Texans without transportation and those living in medically underserved areas. The bill makes two primary changes regarding home telemonitoring under Medicaid; firstly, it requires Medicaid to reimburse providers for services in the event of unsuccessful data transmission if the provider has attempted to communicate with the patient by telephone or in person. Additionally, the bill authorizes Medicaid to reimburse for telemonitoring services for pediatric patients with chronic or complex medical needs; the bill stipulates that patients eligible for this service are those who are being concurrently treated by at least 3 medical professionals, are diagnosed with end-stage organ disease, have received an organ transplant, or are diagnosed with severe asthma. <b>The bill does not require that Medicaid reimburse for these services if funds are not available, but rather expands patient criteria for allowable reimbursement if it is fiscally possible.</b> The bill has no fiscal note, as the cost-savings benefit of telemonitoring services will likely cover any costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill. Increasing access to telemonitoring will ensure better health outcomes for vulnerable Texans living in medically underserved areas.</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>HB 1426</b> By: Allen / White</p>	<p>Relating to the issuance of a certificate of relief from collateral consequences to certain persons placed on community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision.</p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>HB 1426 would allow eligible individuals who have successfully completed deferred adjudication community supervision or a term of community supervision to apply for a certificate of relief from collateral consequences as a result of a criminal history record. In the bill, "collateral consequence" is defined as the revocation, suspension, or denial of occupational licensure as an indirect consequence of one's criminal history record information. If a person with a certificate of relief meets the eligibility requirements, their criminal history record information for the related offense cannot be used as grounds for denying a professional license if they are otherwise qualified, <b>except</b> in the case that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A licensing authority is prohibited by law from granting specific occupational licenses to a person convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for a specific offense,</li> <li>• Persons seeking an occupational license relating to financial services or law enforcement and security,</li> <li>• A licensing agency wishes to grant the individual a provisional or probationary license.</li> </ul> <p>Eligibility requirements in HB 1426 prohibit violent crimes against the person, but address civil penalties attached to a criminal conviction that are not a part of direct consequences. Further provisions in the bill provide that a certificate is nullified if the appropriate licensing authority discovers that the individual has committed a Class A misdemeanor or higher category offense following the receipt of a certificate. The change in statute provided by HB 1426 would apply to those persons eligible for a certificate of relief upon the date of successful completion of deferred adjudication community supervision or community supervision, regardless of when the offense was committed. This bill takes effect immediately if receiving the required 2/3 vote from all members of each house; otherwise it would take effect September 1, 2017.</p> <p><b>1/3 of men of working age in Texas are unemployed due to a criminal background, causing the state to lose over \$3 billion annually in GDP.</b> For those attempting to reintegrate into society following successful completion of deferred adjudication community supervision or a term of community supervision, their efforts can be instantly diminished by the stigma attached to a criminal conviction on one's record. HB 1426 would provide individuals with a criminal record history an opportunity to move forward with their lives, as research shows that the chance of reoffending is significantly less for previously incarcerated persons that are employed. This change in statute would be monumental for vulnerable populations that want to make a positive change in their lives.</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>HB 1543</b> By: Burkett</p>	<p>Relating to access to records that pertain to the testing for, and fitting and dispensing of, hearing instruments.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1543 requires individuals licensed to dispense and fit hearing instruments to release a client's entire record for any client who makes a signed and written request to the license holder. Currently, it can be difficult for a person to obtain their own records and HB 1543 seeks to alleviate this burden for patients.</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>HB 1793</b> By: Pickett</p>	<p>Relating to the inspection of certain commercial motor vehicles that are not domiciled in this state.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>This bill exempts certain commercial motor vehicles from inspection requirements within the Transportation Code in an effort to maintain a shipping-friendly business environment in Texas. Currently, any commercial vehicle involved in transporting goods through Texas is required to undergo annual inspection through the Department of Motor Vehicles; HB 1793 would waive this requirement as long as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vehicle does not reside in Texas,</li> <li>• Has a valid certificate of inspection from its home state that complies with federal motor carrier safety regulations, and</li> <li>• Is registered in Texas or under the International Registration Plan.</li> </ul> <p>The owner of qualifying vehicles would still be responsible for fees associated with an in-state inspection, but the provisions of HB 1793 would serve as a cost-saving mechanism for carriers by keeping their fleet on the road instead of traveling to Texas specifically for inspection purposes.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 3063</b> By: Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to agricultural liens.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p>	<p>Allows an agricultural producer a lien on agricultural crops for their market value when they deliver or transfer such crops to a warehouse. In most cases, farmers deliver their harvested crops to be held in storage at processing plants, warehouses or other buyers until it is sold. The farmers receive payment at an established date. In the event of the storage facility's bankruptcy, a farmer can be left unpaid for their crops. This can happen because the warehouse's lenders may claim superior liens to the stored crop over the farmers'. Currently, the property code does not allow for liens for the crops when transferred to open storage, or licensed and bonded warehouse facilities. HB 3063 broadens the agricultural lien eligibility to these facilities, thus giving farmers an additional tool to vouch for ownership of the crops they grew and harvested.</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>HB 1544</b> By: Burkett</p>	<p>Relating to a client's access to certain records of hearing instrument fitters and dispensers.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1544 amends the Occupations Code to require that the Texas Department of Licensing and Regular (TDLR) to provide records to a client of a hearing instruments fitter and dispenser that are in possession of TDLR due a complaint filed on the license holder. In order to obtain the records, the client needs have previously been or currently to have filed a complaint of the license holder or practice. It is important that individuals have access to their own medical records, especially if they are in the process of filing a complaint about a hearing instrument dispenser or fitter.</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>HB 2065</b> By: Phillips / Isaac / Burns / Wray</p>	<p>Relating to fines collected by a county or municipality from the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety standards</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>This bill creates reporting requirements for municipalities relating to commercial motor vehicle safety standards within the Transportation Code. Under current statute, municipalities are permitted to keep a portion of fines collected for this purpose to defray the cost of their enforcement activities, to a maximum of 110% of their expenses for the previous year. HB 2065 requires those local entities to submit a report to the comptroller detailing the fines that they retain; municipalities that fail to submit the necessary reports face a penalty equal to the amount of the fines retained. These reports will allow the Department of Transportation and the Comptroller to more accurately assess statewide enforcement activities relating to commercial transportatio</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 2774</b> By: Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the installation of unsafe motor vehicle tires; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>This bill amends the <i>Transportation Code</i> by creating a criminal offense for individuals that install unsafe tires to their vehicles. An individual commits an offense if the tire is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has tire tread less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep</li> </ul>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a localized worn spot that exposes the ply or cord through the tread</li> <li>• has a tread or sidewall crack, cut, or snag as measured on the outside of the tire that is more than one inch long and deep enough to expose the body cords</li> <li>• has any visible bump, bulge, or knot apparently related to tread or sidewall separation or partial failure of the tire structure, including bead area</li> <li>• has been regrooved or recut below the original groove depth, except for a special regroovable tire that has extra under tread rubber for that purpose and is identified as a regroovable tire</li> <li>• has been repaired temporarily by the use of a blowout patch or boot</li> <li>• has worn tread wear indicators that contact the road in any two adjacent major grooves in the center or middle of the tire</li> <li>• does not otherwise meet applicable DPS safety standards for the tire adopted</li> </ul> <p>If an individual is caught with an unsafe tire, then they will be committing a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500.</p> <p>On average by year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers in the United States put more than 2,969 billion miles on their tires</li> <li>• There are nearly 11,000 tire-related crashes, and almost 200 people will die in those crashes.</li> </ul> <p>An offense under the provisions of the bill is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500. Costs associated with enforcement and prosecution could likely be absorbed within existing resources. Revenue gain from fines imposed and collected is not anticipated to have a significant fiscal impact.</p>	<p>210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 3130</b>                  By:                  Parker /                  White /                  Rose /                  Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of an educational and vocational training pilot program for certain state jail felony defendants.</p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>HB 3130 establishes an educational and vocational pilot program to provide employment and reentry services to defendants placed on community supervision for a state jail felony. The bill provides judicial discretion per case as a judge can suspend the imposition of the sentence and place the defendant on community supervision for a period of no more than 270 days, with the conditions that the defendant submits to confinement at the beginning of the term of community service in a state jail felony facility for up to 90 days and participates in the pilot program. Eligibility for the provisions in HB 3130 exclude any defendant who has or has been previously convicted of an offense against the person. Prior to placement on community supervision, the defendant must be assessed using the Risk &amp; Needs Assessment instrument, or a similar instrument that takes their prior criminal history into consideration.</p> <p>By September 1, 2019, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) is required to establish the pilot program, and consult with interested parties and stakeholders in determining eligibility criteria for defendants participating in the program, including requiring the defendant to arrange for housing while participating in the approximately 180-day program. The program is to have no more than 4 locations in various areas of Texas with consideration for a variety of population sizes as well, with no more than 45 participants per quarter per program location. Further provisions require TDCJ to issue a request for proposals from public and private entities to provide employment-related services and support through the pilot program for at least \$40 per day for each participant, including job placement services, assistance in obtaining a high school diploma or industry certification, life-skills and budgeting/money management training, and counseling and mental health services. A judge is authorized to revoke a defendant's community supervision should the participant violate terms of community supervision requiring full participation in the pilot program.</p> <p>The provisions in HB 3130 apply only to a defendant who receives a sentence of confinement in a state jail on or after September 1, 2019, and the bill takes effect September 1, 2017. The Legislative Budget Board predicts an impact of 0\$ through the biennium ending</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>                  Evaluated by:                  Katherine Kirages                  210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p>August 31, 2019. However, there is an estimated cost of \$2.4 million in General Revenue beginning with the 2020-2021 biennium. The LBB further estimates that the bill's provisions would result in net savings of \$1,215,342 in FY 2020 and each subsequent fiscal year.</p> <p>Educational and vocational training programs can reduce recidivism rates by 7-9%. Providing more services and life skills for individuals participating in the pilot program to continue to use later in life can be greatly beneficial in encouraging a positive change in lifestyle for someone who is working to turn their life around.</p>	
<p><b>HB 3370</b> By: Craddick</p>	<p>Relating to certain limitations on the increase of a premium, cost, charge, administrative expense, or fee associated with a life insurance policy.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill seeks to limit the ability of life insurance companies to raise the costs associated with a policy to 10% in any given year, unless the customer is notified about potential increases when the policy is issued. The prohibition includes premiums, costs, charges, expenses, and fees. HB 3370 protects individuals from unexpected cost spikes on their policies by requiring disclosure by insurance companies.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 3165</b> By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the duties of a personal bond pretrial release office.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>This bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to remove certain reporting requirements for a personal bond pretrial release. Some offices have been found that the annual reporting requirements place an undue burden on the workers. HB 3165 removes the requirement to report those who were convicted of the same offense within the past six years. This also cleans up language, clarifying some reporting requirements such as ensuring that only those who were arrested for any other offense, only be reported if they were also released on personal bond in the same county they were released in. Often annual reports can be cumbersome and tedious for office workers, this bill simply removes any unnecessary requirements while leaving important criteria.</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>HB 3591</b> By: Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of the aviation advisory committee.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>This bill grants the Texas Transportation Commission broader authority in appointing members to the Aviation Advisory Committee. The minimum number of members for the committee is set at six, although a greater number is authorized. Presumably, TTC would settle on an uneven number of members to avoid potential gridlock. The other specified requirements for committee membership, namely five years of minimum experience within the aviation field, remain in place.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 1102</b> By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to providing a telephone number for certain governmental purposes.</p>	<p>Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Requires inclusion of a prospective juror's telephone number in the jury wheel card. This was a recommendation by the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence to the 85th legislature Interim Report. In some counties, as many as 80% of the individuals summoned for jury duty do not appear. If there is more reliable contact information in the jury wheel, juror participation would increase as they could be reached to confirm whether or not they received the summons.</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>HB 435</b> By: King, Ken / Bailes / Springer / Flynn</p>	<p>Relating to the application of certain weapons laws to and liability for certain actions of volunteer emergency services personnel licensed to carry a handgun.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p>	<p>This bill permits a person to use their status as a volunteer emergency service personnel as a valid defense in court against violations of Sections 30.06 and 30.06 of the Penal Code, which cover concealed and open carry of a firearm. This group includes volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services volunteers, but does not include law enforcement personnel. The permissions within HB 435 only apply when the individual is actively engaged in providing emergency services. The bill also includes an exemption from liability for associated governmental entities if the firearm is fired by applicable emergency personnel. In effect, HB 435 allows first responders the ability to carry personal protection in situations where police response may be delayed but their efforts are necessary for the preservation of human life.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a></p>





<p><b>HB 626</b> By: Workman</p>	<p>Relating to late applications for certain exemptions from ad valorem taxation.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>This bill extends the delinquency date for homestead exemptions applications. The delinquency date is one year, and there is no timeline for which notification of approval by the chief appraiser is to be sent to the resident. HB 626 extends the delinquency date for applications to two years for most residents and five years for veterans. This also creates a 30-day deadline for residents to be notified of their approval for the homestead exemption. If the taxes have already been paid this bill adds a deadline for which the collector will pay the refund to the resident at 60 days. This will allow for more people to save money on property taxes.</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>HB 1103</b> By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to excluding a person on the suspense list from jury duty and the use of the address of a person submitted by the voter registrar to the secretary of state in preparing a jury wheel.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>For the purposes of reconstituting a county jury wheel, when a person has two different addresses between the lists provided by the county voter registrars and the Department of Public Safety (DPS), HB 1103 requires the secretary of state to include only the address submitted by the voter registrar. This bill gives the secretary of state clear guidance on which address to choose when they conflict between these two lists. Making the voter registration list the default mailing address in the creation of a jury wheel was a recommendation by the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence to the 85th legislature Interim Report. The voter registration list has been found to contain more up-to-date address information than a person's driver license.</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>HB 486</b> By: VanDeaver / Howard</p>	<p>Relating to the calculation of the rollback tax rate of a school district.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>HB 486 would revise the rollback tax calculation procedure for certain school districts by removing the requirement to hold a second election to adopt a tax rate exceeding the district's rollback tax rate. This legislation would impact school districts whose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2005 maintenance and operations (M&amp;O) tax rate was \$1.50 or less per \$100 of taxable value,</li> <li>• Adopted tax rate was approved in a 2006 election or any subsequent tax year, and</li> <li>• Adopted tax rate has been equal to or higher than the rate provided by the new procedure for any tax year in the preceding 10 tax years.</li> </ul> <p>However, the new procedure would not apply to a district if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school district adopted a tax rate with a M&amp;O tax rate that exceeds either the current rollback tax rate calculations for M&amp;O, and the adopted tax rate was approved at an election for the 2007 tax year or any subsequent tax year before 2016,</li> <li>• For tax year 2016, the district adopted a M&amp;O tax rate that exceeds either of the current rollback rate calculations for M&amp;O, and is lower than the highest M&amp;O tax rate that a school district adopted for a tax year described above and approved at an election, and</li> <li>• The adopted tax rate has not been approved during an election since the 2016 tax year.</li> </ul> <p>This bill would establish that for the purposes of an election to ratify school taxes, the rollback tax rate for an affected public school district is either higher than the amount provided by state contributions or the sum of the district's current debt rate and the highest M&amp;O tax rate adopted in 2007 or any subsequent tax year in which the adopted tax rate was approved by an election.</p> <p>The Legislative Budget Board estimates that the proposed rollback tax rate calculation procedure may have a fiscal impact resulting in higher tax rates, and effectively a gain, in some districts. Provisions within the bill excluding certain school districts without an election-approved adopted tax rate since 2016 after the district lowered the M&amp;O rate in that year after a subsequent election-approved higher M&amp;O rate in the previous year will decrease the total of higher tax rate instances. However, the exact impact cannot be determined as the number of instances that the calculation would result in higher district tax rates cannot be determined, nor can</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p>the probability that a district would utilize the additional flexibility in order to lower or raise a tax rate in the future. The changes in statute would apply to the ad valorem tax rate of a district beginning with the 2018 tax year.</p> <p>Currently, districts wishing to lower their M&amp;O tax rates are required to hold an election to raise the tax rate to a previously-approved voter level. School districts would still have to satisfy the effective tax rate calculation, preventing a large increase in the tax rate in one year. Without the provisions in HB 486, districts wishing to provide tax relief to taxpayers would face undue financial burden and uncertainty, as they would need to increase the tax rate the next year in order to meet the state recapture obligation. The school district would then have to make significant programmatic cuts in order to adjust to the budget hole as a result of an unsuccessful election. The provisions in HB 486 would allow districts discretion through local control and the flexibility to adopt a budget and tax rate reflective of current instructional philosophy and economic needs.</p>	
<p><b>HB 681</b> By: Wu</p>	<p>Relating to restricting access to certain information that relates to a person convicted of or granted a dismissal after deferral of disposition for a fine-only misdemeanor offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 681 provides confidentiality of criminal records or files, electronic or otherwise, for fine-only misdemeanors five years after the date of final conviction or dismissal after deferral of disposition. Notable exemptions within the bill include opinions issued by an appellate court, as well as instances in which criminal record information may be open to inspection by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges or court staff, a criminal justice agency, the Department of Public Safety (DPS),</li> <li>• The attorney representing the state, the defendant, or the defendant’s counsel, or</li> <li>• An insurance or surety company authorized to write motor vehicle liability insurance in Texas, if the offense is a traffic violation.</li> </ul> <p>The bill applies only to the disclosure of information on or after September 1, 2017. HB 681 seeks to destigmatize fine-only misdemeanor offenses on a person’s criminal record by granting confidentiality for any related information. Criminal convictions follow a person for the rest of their lives, including minor offenses. Furthermore, collateral consequences have the potential to disproportionately jeopardize an individual’s education and career goals, as well as housing and other opportunities to progress in life.</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>HB 834</b> By: Parker</p>	<p>Relating to regulating the custody transfer of an adopted child; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice &amp; Family Issues</p>	<p>HB 834 ensures that when parents make the decision to dissolve an adoption, they follow a process clearly laid out in statute that involves the approval of the appropriate court system. The bill establishes this process by amending the Family Code to include the term “regulated custody transfer of adopted child” which details the correct protocol if an adoptive parent is seeking to dissolve an adoption. The bill also amends the Family Code to include the term “unregulated custody transfer of adopted child” and creates a criminal offense for the act. Unregulated custody transfer is defined as the transfer of the permanent physical custody of an adopted child by the parent, managing conservator, or guardian of the child without receiving the required court approval of the transfer.</p> <p>HB 834 amends the Penal Code to create a third-degree felony offense for a person who knowingly conducts, facilitates or participates in the unregulated custody transfer of an adopted child. The penalty is increased to a second-degree felony if an individual commits this offense with the intent to commit certain crimes including compelling prostitution and trafficking of persons. The bill makes exceptions for the application of the offense for certain situations, including the placement of a child with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the placement of a child with an adult relative. Unfortunately, there are many instances in which a child can be exposed to the heinous crimes of abuse, prostitution, human trafficking and exploitation. Unregulated custody transfers add to the instances in which children are made accessible to predators. HB 834 seeks to prevent the abuse of an adopted child by ensuring that the transfer of permanent physical custody of the child are taken into careful consideration by the court system. The bill</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			also seeks to help adoptive parents by requiring licensed child-placing agencies to provide prospective adoptive parents with post-adoption support information.	
<b>HB 4054</b> By: Murphy	Relating to the application of sales and use taxes to certain food items.	Ways & Means	HB 4054 amends the Tax Code to require that heated bakery items be exempt from sales tax. Cold bakery items are sales tax exempt, as are bakery items sold without being served on a plate or using utensils. This bill would allow for heated bakery items and items served with a plate or utensils are exempt from sales tax. This would clean up any loopholes in the Tax Code as well as reduce confusion for employees of the bakery.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3903</b> By: Burkett	Relating to certain political contributions by judicial candidates and officeholders and certain political committees.	General Investigating & Ethics	This bill removes some of the restrictions surrounding judicial candidates and officeholders and their ability to engage in the political process. HB 3903 gives members of the judiciary the same ability to participate in local party-affiliated organizations as other elected officials without giving them permission to officially endorse candidates or lobby. Judicial candidates and officeholders would be permitted to make contributions to specific-purpose committees in primaries and general elections. The Texas Democratic and Republican Parties both endorse the measure.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3784</b> By: Holland / King, Phil / Price / Wray / et al.	Relating to persons approved by the Department of Public Safety to administer online the classroom instruction part of the handgun proficiency course.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	This bill creates a new framework authorizing the Department of Public Safety to offer an online version of the License to Carry (LTC) instructional course in addition to the classroom version. Online courses must be supervised by a qualified instructor and would be required to meet the same training objectives as the traditional format, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of deadly force and laws relating to weapons,</li> <li>• Handgun safety, including retention methods and open carry procedures,</li> <li>• Dispute resolution, and</li> <li>• Proper storage protocols for firearms.</li> </ul> <p>Background checks and in-person range instruction requirements remain in place under HB 3784. Providing an online alternative for those wishing to obtain their LTC permit makes the training more accessible to Texans, particularly those in portions of the state where training courses may not be regularly offered. This training leads to a more informed population with regards to gun safety and current state laws.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3675</b> By: Paddie / Raymond / Rose	Relating to the provision of eye health care by certain professionals and institutions as providers in the Medicaid managed care program.	Human Services	This bill amends the Human Resources Code to require that Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) provide non-surgical eye care. Currently, most Medicaid MCOs require prior authorization to provide non-surgical eye care such as examinations. This can put some patients at risk for undiagnosed eyes related health issues. More so, some patients resort to utilizing emergency rooms, resulting in a high cost for the State. HB 3675 lays out the stipulation for which eye health care services shall be provided through MCOs that contract within the Medicare Managed Care model. Providers considered for eligibility under this bill include optometrists, therapeutic optometrists, and ophthalmologists. As Texas moves more into the Medicaid Managed Care model, necessary changes need to be made to ensure all medical and health needs are met. Allowing for eye health care to be covered without prior authorized with both protect vulnerable patients, while providing a reduction in emergency costs for the state.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>HB 1980</b> By: VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the high school graduation of a student who transfers to a public school in this state after the student's junior year of high school.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>The intent of this bill is to help students who transfer into the Texas public school system from other states graduate from high school on time by providing local school authorities with the flexibility necessary to accommodate them. Some students encounter difficulty when they transfer because of differences in credit requirements from state to state. HB 1980 authorizes a school district's Individual Graduation Committee to determine whether a student is qualified to graduate based on several factors including the student's performance on the Texas Success Initiative assessment, teacher recommendations, and the student's overall preparedness for postsecondary success. This bill helps students who would have been on track to graduate on time before relocating to Texas stay on track.</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>HB 1076</b> By: Oliverson / Howard / Sheffield / Meyer / VanDeaver / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the mandatory spinal screening of public and private school students.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>Current law mandates that children are screened for scoliosis in grades 6 and 9. However, this mandate is no longer supported by current medical research and best medical practices. HB 1076 removes the legal requirement specifying that scoliosis screening be done in grades 6 and 9 and gives the executive commissioner of Health and Human Services the responsibility of determining appropriate ages for screening scoliosis based on the most recent nationally accepted and peer reviewed scientific research. The bill also requires the commissioner to work with the Texas Education Agency to develop a process for notifying parents of screening requirements, the purpose of the screening, and a method for declining to comply with screening requirements. This bill helps ensure that practices regarding scoliosis screening align with current medical research and best medical practices.</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>HB 714</b> By: Wu / Alvarado / Thierry / Elkins / Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to the civil prosecution of offenses involving certain municipal parking ordinances; authorizing a civil fine.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p>	<p>HB 714 amends the Transportation Code to allow for a municipality with a population of 1.9 million or more, to set an ordinance regarding the parking of a vehicle on the front or side yard of a single-family residence. In some neighborhoods in the city of Houston, individuals park their cars on the lawns, which in many cases is in violation with the Homeowners Association (HOA). It has even been found that individuals may even run used car lots off of their front lawn. This bill simply puts into statute the availability for certain municipalities to create ordinances which add this as a violation and the ability to create a civil fine.</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>HB 1449</b> By: Simmons / Workman / Paddie / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting local governments from imposing certain fees on new construction.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>CSHB 1449 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit municipalities from imposing fees, or demands on new construction that would offset the cost of rent. It has been found that fees charged for by political subdivisions for new residential construction projects can increase rent. This bill prohibits said fees from being place, while exempting certain residential construction projects. As affordable housing becomes increasingly sparse steps must be taken to mitigate high rent costs.</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>HB 2286</b> By: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications for service as a grand juror and to the selection of grand jurors.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 2286 would allow a district judge more discretion in impaneling a grand jury by revising qualifications for service as a grand juror and provisions for excusal from service. Under proposed statutes, district judges can select the number of prospective grand jurors they deem necessary to ensure an adequate number of jurors for an impaneled jury. The bill amends current grand juror qualifications so that the requirements become permissive, and to align certain terms with the Election Code. These revisions would provide clear language and more accessible statutes within the code.</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>HB 2650</b> By: Villalba</p>	<p>Relating to the presumption of membership initiation deposits as abandoned property.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p>	<p>Mandates that membership initiation deposits are not abandoned personal property under the Texas Unclaimed Property Act under specific conditions. Abandoned personal property in this context means that there is no right for the property to be returned back to the initial owner. Membership initiation deposits, as defined by this bill, is a payment made to join a recreational club, such as a country club or health club. Under most contracts, these deposits are to be returned to the initial owner after 30 years. Until that time, these initiation payments are used as working capital by the business, and thus the business must treat these payments as taxable income on either state or federal tax returns. Currently, if the initial owner of the membership initiation deposit does not reclaim their deposit, this money escheats to the state. HB 2650 allows for the sustainability of these businesses since they use these payments as working capital, while ensuring they still have the deposits to give back to the initial owner per the terms of their agreement. The state would continue to benefit from the tax payments on the membership initiation payments.</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>HB 2205</b> By: Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to a report of child abuse or neglect made by an employee of a school district or an open-enrollment charter school.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 2205 would require an employee of a school district or open-enrollment charter school to report instances of child abuse or neglect to both the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and a local or state law enforcement agency. The current process by which public and open-enrollment charter school personnel must report instances of child abuse and neglect, including child trafficking can result in children returning to abusive environments. However, requiring employees to report instances of child abuse or neglect to both DFPS and a local or state law enforcement agency could lead to increased trauma for the child and family due to premature law enforcement involvement.</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>HB 2931</b> By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the non-substantive revision of certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, including conforming amendments.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 2931 seeks to make the Code of Criminal Procedure more accessible by making non-substantive revisions of statute. These revisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repealing and codifying Articles 18.20 (“Detection, Interception, and Use of Wire, Oral, or Electronic Communications”) and 18.21 (Pen Registers and Trap and Trace Devices; Access to Stored Communications; Mobile Tracking Devices”) as new chapters 18A (“Detection, Interception, and Use of Wire, Oral, and Electronic Communications”) and 18B (“Installation and Use of Tracking Equipment; Access to Communications”), and</li> <li>• Repealing and codifying Chapters 60 (“Criminal History Record System”) and 61 (“Compilation of Information Pertaining to Criminal Combinations and Criminal Street Gangs”) to 66 (“Criminal History Record System”) and 67 (“Compilation of Information Pertaining to Combinations and Criminal Street Gangs”).</li> </ul> <p>The bill further adds conforming amendments to other statutes so as to ensure the changes made are non-substantive to statutory provisions not codified as part of the proposed new chapters, including assigning definitions to an “immediate life-threatening situation” and “readily accessible to the general public”. HB 2391 provides clarification by simplifying statutory law, and has an effective date of April 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>HB 3025</b> By: King, Tracy O. / Murr</p>	<p>Relating to open, uncovered, abandoned, or deteriorated wells.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 3025 amends the Occupations and Water Code to further regulate the repair or plugging of abandoned or deteriorated wells. A landowner or lessee who learns that their well is abandoned or deteriorated must plug or cap the well within 180 days after the notification by the standards adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Language in the bill further identifies the difference between a deteriorated well and an abandoned well. When a well is plugged, there is a new stipulation added that the cap must not be easily removeable. If a landowner or lessee refuses to plug or repair a well then, an employee or other designated persons by the Groundwater Conservation District on a date no than 10 days after the notification repair or plug the well. HB 3025 also authorizes an employee from Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater Conservation District to cap or plug an abandoned well or repair or plug a deteriorated well if the employee has had the proper training within a specific topographic area. This bill is an important step to to further protect from the hazards of open or deteriorated wells that could increase pollution of the state's water.</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>HB 3872</b> By: Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to a motion for forensic DNA testing of certain evidence previously subjected to faulty testing.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 3872 would allow courts to grant relief to defendants requesting court-ordered DNA re-testing if the initial test resulting in the conviction was conducted by a laboratory during a period in which faulty DNA testing practices were used, as determined by the Texas Forensic Science Commission (TFSC). In June 2016, the Austin DNA lab was closed after the TFSC determined incorrect methods were used; as a result of these findings, 2,200 cases may be eligible for review due to improper testing. This bill will provide due process for defendants who file an application for a writ of habeas corpus and must present grounds for relief, requiring the defendant to show with a preponderance of the evidence that they would not have been convicted on the remaining evidence alone, if the DNA evidence had not been presented at trial. Provisions in the bill pertain to a person filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus seeking relief from a felony conviction without a death penalty, a judgment imposing the death penalty, or a felony or misdemeanor case in which the person seeks relief from a judgment of conviction ordering community supervision. Should a convicting court order the requested DNA testing to be done based on affirmative findings that the evidence still exists and is viable for further DNA tests, the court can use discretion in selecting an accredited laboratory, regardless of whether the defendant establishes a preponderance of the evidence or not. The bill would take effect immediately if receiving a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house, and September 1, 2017 otherwise. HB 3872 serves to provide equity and accountability in the criminal justice system by giving people convicted on DNA testing through improper methods a second chance.</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>HB 3788</b> By: Koop / Rose / Miller / Keough / Anchia</p>	<p>Relating to child-to-caregiver ratios and group sizes in licensed day-care centers and reporting certain information related to child safety.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>CSHB 3788 implements the use of data collection by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) on day-care child-to-caregiver ratios for children 4 years and under. Texas is tied at having the highest child-to-caregiver ratios. A 2015 report found that Texas had the 3rd most Child Care Licensing (CCL) facility violations in the nation. The high ratios of child-to-caregivers can be directly tied to this and has been found to put children at risk for injury or death. Research has found that day-cares with lower child-to-caregiver's ratios are 41% safer. The bill includes the specific data criteria that will be collected during monitoring inspections. This data will be utilized to make any necessary new standards for day-care ratios. This bill is will potentially protect children who may currently be at risk due to the high number of child-to-caregiver ratios</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>HB 3746</b> By: Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the permissible uses of the floodplain management account.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 3746 amends the Water Code to allow the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to allow the floodplain management account to be used for: the collection and analysis of floodplain information; flood planning, protection, mitigation, or adaption; and, public outreach education.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 3323</b> By: Deshotel / Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the evaluation of and improvements to the quality of the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program.</p>	<p>Economic &amp; Small Business Development</p>	<p>The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) offers subsidized childcare that serves as a lifeline to low-income Texans by allowing them to work while ensuring their children are safe and well cared for. CSHB 3323 improves transparency and accountability relating to TWC subsidized childcare programs and to provide parents, policymakers, and educators with clearer information about the quality of care provided. The bill updates TWC reporting requirements, many of which are related to the Texas Rising Star childcare quality rating system which seeks to improve the quality of TWC subsidized childcare. The bill adds the following reporting requirements to be updated annually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average price of childcare in each local workforce development area</li> <li>• Number of slots reserved for participants in the childcare subsidy program out of the total number of children enrolled at any given childcare facility</li> <li>• Number of childcare providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program, including the number of 2-star 3-star and 4-star facilities, in each local workforce development area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of childcare providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program in each local workforce development area as a percentage of the total number of subsidized child care providers in that area</li> <li>• Number of children enrolled in subsidized childcare at Texas Rising Star facilities</li> <li>• Number of subsidized children enrolled at Texas Rising Star facilities as a percentage of the total number of subsidized children enrolled at any childcare facility in each local workforce development area</li> </ul> <p>CSHB 3323 also instructs TWC to collaborate with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to evaluate the progress of the commission’s subsidized childcare program regarding improving coordination between the child care program and pre-k programs. TWC is instructed to coordinate with TEA to assign a Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) number to each child younger than six that is enrolled in the subsidized childcare program, allowing for increased continuity between childcare and educational instruction delivery. Additionally, the agencies are instructed to collaborate on pre-k improvement efforts, efforts to increase coordination between childcare providers and school districts/open-enrollment charter schools, and facilitation of childcare provider enrollment in the Texas Rising Star program. This collaboration is critical for ensuring that childcare providers are delivering high quality care and meeting the needs of the children enrolled in the TWC subsidized childcare program. Investing in quality care and service delivery for low-income Texas children will improve education outcomes and help ensure academic success in their future.</p>	
<b>HB 2615</b> By: Goldman / et al.	Relating to the licensing of towing operators and vehicle storage facility employees by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	<p>This bill removes overlapping licensing requirements for individuals who work in vehicle storage facilities. Under HB 2615, an individual would only require one of the following licenses to work in a storage facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle storage facility operator,</li> <li>• Incident management towing operator, for tows initiated by a peace officer,</li> <li>• Private property towing operator, for tows initiated by a parking facility owner, or</li> <li>• Consent towing operator, for tows initiated by the vehicle’s owner.</li> </ul> <p>While individuals would still only be authorized to perform the functions specified under their license, the new system would remove barriers to their employment and allow these facilities to operate more effectively.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2483</b> By: Parker	Relating to the prosecution of criminal offenses regarding unauthorized recordings.	Business & Industry	<p>Clarifies that manufacturing and sales of hard-drives, flash drives, memory cards, and other digital storage devices filled with unauthorized sound recordings may not avoid criminal prosecution under state law. Musical piracy is harmful to the business of music retailers, artists, songwriters, record labels and other associated parties. It is also harmful to Texas families as there are no local, state or federal taxes collected on the sale on these unauthorized recordings. Thus, on the one hand, HB 2483 is beneficial in that it simply updates the code to include these new digital trends in the manufacture and sales of fraudulent music products, so that they are not exempt from criminal prosecution.</p> <p>On the other hand, HB 2483 also mandates that the court shall order a person convicted with an offense of music piracy to pay restitution to the owner or lawful producer of a master recording. This is on top of imprisonment sentences up to five years, fines not exceeding \$250,000, or both. Requiring the court to order restitution payments to a person convicted with music piracy along with very high imprisonment sentences and fines may be hurting more than helping working families in Texas</p>	<b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1976</b> By: Sheffield	Relating to a study of the use of a patient-reported outcomes registry in conjunction with health coverage for certain	Pensions	<p>This bill requires the TRS and the ERS to jointly conduct a study of the benefits and disadvantages of establishing a patient-reported outcomes registry for musculoskeletal care provided under the plans of group coverage administered by the systems under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act, the Texas Public School Retired Employees Group Benefits Act, and the Texas School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage Act.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>



	governmental employees.		<p>The bill requires the study to identify the musculoskeletal conditions and injuries that result in the highest cost for health care in the plans of group coverage; identify the percentage of the total cost for health care under the plans of group coverage that is spent for such conditions and injuries; estimate the cost for the systems, or for the entities administering the plans of group coverage on the systems' behalf, to establish and administer a patient-reported outcomes registry for musculoskeletal care; evaluate the potential benefits of such a registry for the populations served by the plans of group coverage; and identify potential partners, such as medical schools located in Texas, that could assist the systems in establishing and administering such a registry.</p> <p>This legislation requires TRS and ERS, not later than December 1, 2018, to report the results of the study to the speaker of the house of representatives, the lieutenant governor, and the standing committees of the house and the senate with jurisdiction over TRS, ERS, and insurance. The bill requires the report to specify whether establishing one or more patient-reported outcomes registries for musculoskeletal care would be beneficial and effective and, if appropriate, to be accompanied by recommendations for legislation. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2019. ERS and TRS assume any additional work associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.</p> <p>Currently, there is difficulty in comparing the effectiveness of different treatments for musculoskeletal care due to a lack of patient contact after initial treatment. The patient-reported outcomes registry could benefit both the TRS and the ERS by providing the retirement systems with data on which musculoskeletal treatments are most effective for various patient populations.</p>	
<b>HB 1480</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to a writ of mandamus by a court of appeals against an associate judge in certain cases	Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence	Authorizes writs of mandamus against associate judges appointed under certain provisions of the Family Code. Currently, the courts of appeals are not authorized to issue writs of mandamus against associate judges who may commit an abuse of discretion, even though a writ of mandamus may be issued against a judge of a district or county court. In larger counties, the bulk of family law practice is often in front of associate judges. Having to go through a different process, such as a de novo appeal, to rectify situations of an abuse of discretion is a costly and timely process for clients. HB 1480 simply clarifies this inconsistency so that associate judges appointed under the Family Code can be issued a writ of mandamus just as district or county judges.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 913</b> By: Alvarado / King, Phil / Koop / Moody / Phelan	Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of the possession, manufacture, transport, repair, or sale of certain prohibited explosive weapons.	Criminal Jurisprudence	<p>HB 913 seeks to add an "improvised explosive device" as a prohibited weapon and classifies possession of such as a third-degree felony. An "improvised explosive device" refers to a completed and operational bomb that is designed with the intent to cause serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage. The definition provides exemptions for military components and unassembled components that can be legally purchased and possessed without a license, permit, or other governmental approval. The provisions in HB 913 apply only to an offense committed on or after September 1, 2017. While there is no fiscal note, the expansion of the list of behaviors that constitute a third-degree felony (punishable by 2-10 years in prison and/or a fine of \$10,000) has the potential to result in increased demands on correctional facilities and resources of a county or the state.</p> <p>HB 913 addresses a loophole in which a person can legally register a bomb in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record or as a relic with the US Department of Justice. Adding provisions to prohibit completed and operational bombs will positively impact public safety and serve to prevent any possible future threats of violence. Specific provisions within the bill specifying that unassembled parts are exempt serves to provide protections to exhibitors or weapons enthusiasts at gun shows, as well as giving law enforcement a way to differentiate between those individuals who plan to utilize explosive devices for harmful purposes.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>HB 579</b> By: Turner</p>	<p>Relating to notice by a state agency regarding certain contracts for which the actual cost exceeds the contracted amount.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill requires that state agencies report to the leadership and each member of the legislature within 30 days of a contract going over budget by \$1.0 million or more, and must include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the amount by which the contract is over budget,</li> <li>• reasons for the overage, and</li> <li>• attempts by the agency to mitigate the overage once discovered.</li> </ul> <p>These reports will also be provided to the Legislative Budget Board and State Auditor’s Board for review. Failure to submit a required report may result in a corrective plan by the LBB that can include targeted audits, enhanced monitoring of the agency’s contracts, and involvement of the Contract Advisory Team. Corrective actions may be lifted once the LBB is satisfied that the contract issues have been resolved. HB 579 emphasizes the importance of disclosure in agency operations and helps the state respond to contracting issues in a proactive manner.</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>HB 446</b> By: Bell</p>	<p>Relating to refunds of certain bingo licensing and registration fees.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>This bill would require the Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) to issue a refund of licensing and registration fees associated with bingo operations upon request by an applicant, including non-profits and commercial organizations. This refund provision applies to unused temporary licenses, which authorize an organization to conduct bingo for no more than four hours in a single day, and permanent licenses that have not been fully processed at the time of the request. Applications for licensure by bingo supply manufacturers, distributors, and individuals signing up for the Registry of Approved Bingo Workers are also entitled to these refunds. There are many reasons that an individual could request that their application be withdrawn, and HB 446 provides a mechanism to make sure that those requests are honored.</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>HB 1500</b> By: Giddings / Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>Expands the indicators of achievement used for evaluating the performance of high school campuses and districts under the public school accountability system by simply adding to the list of metrics one item: the percentage of students who earn an associate degree. Some Texas high schools allow students to earn associate degrees during their high school career. These programs have a variety of benefits for students, including helping those who might not otherwise go to college to get motivated to do so, and helping students get more familiar in a certain subject area so that they may better succeed in their postsecondary education. HB 1500 ensures that parents and community members have a more accurate understanding of the ability of districts and schools to prepare their students for higher education.</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><u>LSG Floor Report For House Resolutions Calendar- Tuesday, May 2, 2017</u></b></p>				
<p><b>HCR 105</b> By: Bonnen, Dennis / Phelan</p>	<p>Encouraging Congress to pass legislation allowing the State of Texas to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery out to 200 nautical miles.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism</p>	<p>Resolution to encourage Congress to pass legislation or adopt policies that would allow Texas to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery out to 200 nautical miles. For four decades, the federal management systems have regulated the recreational red snapper fishery. However, they have used the same tools specifically designed to manage the commercial sector, despite how these systems are incapable of accounting to the level of specificity for the recreational harvests. Additionally, the federal management fisheries system allows commercial operators, who own or could own shares in red snapper, to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and cast votes on issues that directly benefit them financially.</p> <p>In 2016, there was the shortest recreational fishing season to date in the gulf for the catch of red snapper. Numerous studies, including NOAA fisheries, have indicated the greatest economic engine in the gulf reef fishery is the recreational angling sector. Federal control of this sector should be relinquished to the State of Texas. The state is dependent on this vital resource, and needs to implement regulations and seasons that are not consistent with the federal management system.</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>HCR 106</b> By: Deshotel / Perez / Faircloth / Roberts / Cain</p>	<p>Urging Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the construction of a storm surge barrier along the Texas coast.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p>	<p>This resolution urges the U.S. Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the development and construction of a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast from storm surges. It also urges the U.S. Congress to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design and construction process. Since the Gulf Coast region is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, it seems only logical that there be funding for a coastal barrier which will mitigate damages from severe weather and hurricanes.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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