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**LSG Floor Report For Emergency Calendar-Senate Bills- Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

<p><b>SB 21</b>          By: Birdwell           SP: King,          Phil</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications, duties, and limitations of Texas delegates to a convention called under Article V of the United States Constitution.</p>	<p>State &amp; Federal Power &amp; Responsibility, Select</p>	<p>SB 21 is the enacting legislation for SJR 2 which many have objection to and creates rules and procedures that provide governance for a hypothetical Article V Convention of States. While this bill seeks to implement a process by which an Article V Convention will operate it lacks the overall authority to take meaningful effect. If an Article V Convention were called it would create an entirely new governing body that has no guaranteed safeguards. This bill also operates outside the bounds of what the state of Texas is capable of doing. There needs to be at least 38 states to trigger a Convention. Currently, advocates estimate that 28 states have an active application for a balanced budget amendment. Another major concern is the likelihood that if a Convention is convened they would adopt rules that are contrary to those adopted by the Texas Legislature. Superseding anything we pass and allowing the will of the Convention to set guidelines without the state’s input. This bill is a misguided and won’t be able to fulfill its purpose to limit unauthorized votes as its author intends. It’s generally understood that the US Congress may have the authority over the makeup of the delegation. The Convention would also set their own rules and have full authority to remove delegates. These understood provisions again reinforce the fact that this bill lacks the ability to be effective if an Article V Convention is called.</p> <p>The bill adds the following definitions: “Alternate delegate”, “Article V Convention”, “delegate”, and “unauthorized vote”. The bill provides that the Governor will serve as a delegate to a convention called by the United States under Article V of the Constitution. The Governor will also serve as the head of the state delegation. SB 21 also provides procedures by which the legislature will appoint delegates and alternate delegates will be selected to attend the Convention. This is dependent on the number of delegates allowed to represent Texas at a hypothetical Convention of States. The bill provides how vacancies will be filled and how a delegate or alternate delegate is recalled. A delegate or alternate delegate is not entitled to compensation as a delegate however is entitled to reasonable reimbursement for expenses acquired during official duties.</p> <p>The bill provides the official oath for delegates and alternate delegates to take and file with the Secretary of State’s office. HB 21 stipulates that delegates and alternates can’t receive certain items from a person which includes a corporation, non-profit, or individual who is required to register as a lobbyist.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b>          Evaluated by:          Ana Ramon          210-382-4295  <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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			<p>The legislature, through the adoption of a joint resolution, will adopt rules for delegates and alternate delegates for the officers at the Article V Convention. The bill also stipulates a certain scenario that would bar the adoption of instructions. A joint resolution can be used to change the instructions at any time. This requires the alternate delegate to take the place of a delegate in their absence at the convention. The bill explains what votes cast by delegates and alternatives are considered unauthorized. It further explains that if a delegate or alternate casts an unauthorized vote they will be deemed disqualified from serving in their official capacity.</p> <p>SB 21 will also establish an Oversight Committee which will be comprised of 10 members and establishes joint committee members. When not in regular or special session, the Committee will subject to call of the Joint-Chairs when a Article V Convention is called. The bill further explains that a vote cast by a delegate or alternative can be ruled unauthorized if seven or more members of the committee vote on whether it was unauthorized. This bill states that the rules and procedures for this bill will be implemented through concurrent resolution.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendment Calendar-Senate Joint Resolutions- Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

<b>SJR 38</b> By: Estes  SP: Darby	Rescinding certain applications made by the Texas Legislature to the United States Congress to call a national convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for proposing any amendment to that Constitution.	State & Federal Power & Responsibility, Select	<p>SJR 38 rescinds, repeals, revokes, cancels, voids, and nullifies any applications from the Texas Legislature prior to the 85th Legislature. The only applicable application is H.C.R No.31 from the 65th legislative session relating to a balanced federal budget. The bill also stipulates that the application from the 85th Legislature will essentially be cancelled if an Article V Convention is not called within 8 years of the last legislative vote on the application from the state.</p> <p>There are serious concerns regarding the balanced budget amendment that was placed on this SJR 38. This has the capability of reaching the 34-state threshold that would trigger an Article V Convention. Balanced budget advocates estimate around 28 active applications in the United States.</p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a>
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**LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business- Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<b>HB 1755</b> By: Neave	Relating to jury summons questionnaires.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	Current statute requires counties to send with a jury summons a written questionnaire that provides the court with background information on the potential juror. This bill allows counties the option to send either the paper questionnaire or a postcard with an electronic link to an online version of the questionnaire. Counties that send the postcard instead of the multiple page paper questionnaire in an envelope would save hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. In Dallas county, the estimates are \$225,000 in taxpayer savings, amounting to a 50% reduction in costs. As it currently stands in Dallas County, ¾ of people summoned for jury duty do not fill out the paper questionnaire and wind up filling it out electronically at the courthouse. Sending a postcard with a link to fill out the questionnaire online is a much more cost-effective approach for counties such as Dallas County. Taxpayer dollars saved may be spent on other necessary services for working Texas families. In counties where this may not be the best practice, HB 1755 does not mandate any obligation to partake as this would be an optional approach to jury summons questionnaires.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4294 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1102</b> By: Hernandez	Relating to providing a telephone number for certain governmental purposes.	Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence	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.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Serena@Texaslsg.org">Serena@Texaslsg.org</a>



<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 1635</b> By: Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the commissioner of insurance to request a state innovation waiver for certain small group health benefit plans of certain federal actuarial value and level of coverage requirements.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill would give the commissioner of insurance the ability to negotiate with the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to obtain a waiver under 42 U.S.C. Section 18052 for small employer health benefit plans of the actuarial value requirements.</p> <p>This bill specifically targets small employers, and the actuarial value requirement it refers to concerning the percentage of health care costs that the insurance plan covers. The bill will authorize the commissioner to submit an application on this specific aspect so that small businesses could offer plans that cover less than half of their employee's costs. It would not affect the premium or deductible subsidies that individuals can receive in the Marketplace. While this would save companies money, it opens the door to massive financial burdens for their employees. This could essentially allow small employers to provide sub-par plans with higher deductibles.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House w/Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 2417</b> By: Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of the Texas Historical Commission.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation, &amp; Tourism</p>	<p>HB 2417 increases the number of members in the Texas Historical Commission (THC) from nine to fifteen. This bill requires that one member of the THC be a professional archeologist, one member be a professional historian, and one a professional architect. The architect must be licensed in Texas, proficient in architectural preservation, and architectural history. The remaining twelve members of THC must represent the general public. HB 2417 permits persons as detailed in current code to be ineligible for member appointment, to be eligible upon passage of this bill. Increasing the number of members on the THC expands its ability to be more effective in protecting and preserving the state's historic resources by increasing ethnic, gender, and geographical diversity.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 214-659-3072 <a href="mailto:Fabeain@Texaslsg.org">Fabeain@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 1924</b> By: Elkins</p>	<p>Relating to the availability of certain hotel occupancy tax information.</p>	<p>Government Transparency &amp; Operation</p>	<p>HB 1924 would exclude the taxable receipts of an individual business that was previously reported in regards to the Hotel Occupancy Tax. This information is still considered public information and shall be made available to the general public but will no longer be placed on a public internet website. The Comptroller currently provides the service by which individuals can search by county or city for specific hotels and their taxable receipts.</p>	<p><b>Favorable w/concerns</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>LSG Floor Report For Emergency Calendar- Wednesday, May 3, 2017</u></b></p>				
<p><b>HB 2465</b> By: Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to political contributions by corporations and labor organizations to certain political committees.</p>	<p>General Investigating &amp; Ethics</p>	<p>This bill amends the Elections code to comply with a decision issued in the case of <i>Texans for Free Enterprise v. Texas Ethics Commission</i> (2013), where the court stated that corporations and labor organizations are permitted to donate to PACS that are not affiliated with a candidate. PACs receiving these contributions only qualify if they have filed an affidavit with the TEC declaring their intention to comply with the restrictions included in HB 2465. The bill clarifies acceptable procedures for campaign contributions and provides guidance to entities looking to make the contributions.</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 2470</b> By: Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to permitting the Texas Ethics Commission to provide seminars and charge an attendance fee for those seminars.</p>	<p>General Investigating &amp; Ethics</p>	<p>Authorizes the Texas Ethics Commission to provide seminars relating to laws administered and enforced by the commission, and authorizes the commission to charge a fee to cover the seminar costs, including costs of providing food and nonalcoholic beverages to attendees. Currently, the Texas Ethics Commission is authorized to provide seminars for persons required to register under Chapter 305, Government Code, including lobbying and political contributions and expenditures. HB 2470 simply extends this provision to include seminars related to the commission's laws, and specifies that attendance fees for both of these seminars can include the cost of food and nonalcoholic beverages.</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 2471</b> By: Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting political contributions and political expenditures made by certain persons with public funds; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>General Investigating &amp; Ethics</p>	<p>This bill adds language to the Election Code prohibiting the employees of any political subdivision from spending public funds on political actions or campaigns. Violation of this prohibition is to be enforced by the creation of a Class A misdemeanor. The actions codified in HB 2471 are already commonly accepted procedures that belong in statute.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>

**LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendment Calendar- Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

<p><b>HJR 37</b> By: Johnson, Eric</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.</p>	<p>Investments &amp; Financial Services</p>	<p>HJR 37 allows credit unions and financial institutions to offer prize-linked savings programs to Texans with legislative permission for the purpose of promoting savings and experience with mainstream financial services.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<p><b>HB 22</b> By: Huberty / Bonnen, Dennis / Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to public school accountability.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 22 makes significant changes to the state's A-F public school accountability system. The current system is heavily criticized for the disproportionate weight it places on standardized testing and socioeconomic disparities. HB 22 takes steps to improve the current system but it is not a complete fix. Many superintendents are not in favor of an A-F label of any kind, but support this bill because it would give parents a more holistic view of student, school and district performance. HB 22 makes the following significant changes to the public-school accountability system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STAAR Testing limited to 50% of overall scores</li> <li>• Reduces the current five-domain model to three domains</li> <li>• Removes the summative A-F rating and rates each domain separately</li> <li>• Public Education Grant is still available to schools that receive an unacceptable rating in the Student Achievement and School Progress domains</li> <li>• Differentiates between D and F rating and makes policy changes to the intervention strategies for both ratings</li> <li>• Disaggregates data based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status</li> </ul> <p>Under HB 22 schools would be graded based on three domains: student achievement, school progress, and school climate. The student achievement domain would have new achievement indicators that include enrichment courses and extracurricular participation. The bill lays out several other indicators for this domain including but not limited to: dual credit courses, career certifications, occupational licensures, college preparatory classes, and graduation rates. Student performance on standardized testing</p>	<p><b>Favorable w/concerns</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p>may not account for more than 50% of the districts grade in this domain.</p> <p>The school progress domain focuses on the growth and academic progress that is achieved by each school. Indicators in this domain are intended to measure improvements in student, school district, and campus progress. This domain would account for growth rates on standardized tests, performance compared to similar campuses, English language learner reclassification rates, rigorous coursework that leads to postsecondary readiness, and additional school progress indicators.</p> <p>The school climate domain is intended to portray the factors that make a school district a unique learning environment. This domain includes teacher quality indicators, health and wellness indicators, full-day pre-K participation rates, and postsecondary readiness course completion rates for economically disadvantaged students. The bill specifies that 50% of the performance rating for this domain must be attributed to community and school engagement indicators. The bill also directs the commissioner of education to incorporate a school climate survey as an indicator for the school climate domain. For each domain, the bill includes indicators that are grade level specific. HB 22 postpones implementation until 2019.</p>	
<p><b>HB 23</b> By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to a grant program to fund innovative programs for public school students with autism.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>When compared to other students in public schools, students diagnosed with autism require specialized attention to achieve their educational goals. Currently, many public schools across Texas lack the resources needed to accommodate autistic students. Necessary evidence-based methodologies pertaining to autism in children are also lacking. HB 23 establishes an innovative grant program that targets the personalized needs of students with autism. HB 23 requires the commissioner of education to establish a grant program that provides advanced services for autistic children in public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. The program must include evidence-based designs, empirical data on achievement and improvement, parental support and collaboration, set enrollment priority for autistic students, and be generalizable.</p> <p>HB 23 states that a school district or charter school may not charge a fee for the program, require enrollment, place a student without parental consent, or continue a student's placement in the program if the parent revokes consent. The bill grants the program flexibility to alter school length days, adopt staff specific qualifications, and admit students without disabilities or other disabilities upon the commissioner's approval. Per the bill, 20 million dollars would be set aside by TEA for a maximum of 10 programs with a 1-million-dollar cap for each program. The commissioner must prioritize programs that result from collaborations between school districts, charter schools, or both. Eligible programs are only those that operate separately from a campus from which the program could be housed. The commissioner must select programs and award grant funds to those programs beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. The program selected will be funded for five years.</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 1917</b> By: Raymond / Price / Zerwas / Longoria / Davis, Sarah / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to contract requirements for prescription drug benefits provided by Medicaid managed care organizations.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>CSHB 1917 pushes back the date for which the contract provisions for Medicaid prescription drugs under the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) can be upheld, from August 31, 2018 to 2023. As Medicaid has moved into a managed care model, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) would take over the contracts as of 2018. HHSC has managed to ensure the least costly prescription drug usage regardless if it is name brand or generic. The Medicaid prescription drug program requires oversight and transparency. This bill would delay the movement of a multi-billion dollar contract for 6 years, while maintaining transparency through contracting with a public entity. Beyond this maintaining the contracts with allow the state to continue receiving CMS and Supplemental rebates, which saves the state money. While private MCOs play a valuable part in the prescription drug market, as Medicaid continues its transition into the managed care model, moving the contract could be detrimental to patients accessing prescription drugs for serious medical needs.</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 550</b> By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to sound-producing devices on vessels.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism</p>	<p>HB 550 updates Texas state law to match federal laws, by requiring non-motorized vessels to have a sound producing device relating to ensure the safety of Texas waterways. As described in the Water Safety Code the vessel must have an efficient whistle or other sound-producing such as an airhorn.</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>HB 967</b> By: VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the powers of the TexAmericas Center.</p>	<p>Special Purpose Districts</p>	<p>HB 967 amends the Special District Local Laws code to allow the TexAmericas Center the ability through resolution to create nonprofit corporations under the Business and Organizations Code. These nonprofit organizations would be specifically undertaking projects on behalf of the authority for construction, operation, development, redevelopment, maintenance, and expansion of new and existing businesses and infrastructure; these organizations may also participate in activities that will bring economic development to Bowie and Adjacent counties. This bill lays out the stipulations for board member appointments and participation. The nonprofit corporation will not be able to exercise the power of eminent domain.</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 1566</b> By: Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to mediation of the settlement of certain out-of-network health benefit claims involving balance billing.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>This bill amends the Insurance Code to apply statutory requirements for out-of-network health benefit claim dispute resolution to an administrator of a health benefit plan, not including an HMO. The bill also replaces the language wherever the statute refers to a facility-based physician to a facility-based provider. The bill adds to the Insurance Code the requirement that notice and information is to be provided to the enrollee. Any bill or an explanation of benefits sent to the enrollee by the provider for an out-of-network benefit claim eligible for mediation must contain an explanation of the mediation process including information on how to request mediation. It must include information on the ability for the enrollee to reduce some of their out-of-pocket costs if eligible for mediation by contacting the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). The information provided must include the TDI website address and phone number. If an enrollee contacts an insurer, administrator, facility-based provider, or emergency care provider the mediation information, TDI website address, and phone number must be provided. The bill repeals statute requiring a mediator to report bad faith mediation to the insurance commissioner or the board, after the conclusion of the mediation since the newly stipulated statute addresses these issues.</p> <p>Surprise out-of-network medical bills happen when insurers and doctors fighting over prices end up passing the cost to the patient who received out-of-network care against their knowledge. When patients have access to the mediation system, it typically works well. Disputes are almost always resolved with a phone call between the doctor and insurer, usually without actual mediation.</p> <p>Unfortunately, very few Texas patients have managed to access the system and it is estimated that 250,000 Texans with a mediation-eligible plan will get a surprise out-of-network medical bill within a two-year period. Currently, only a small portion of Texans who have surprise bills get help. Surprise billing protections should benefit all patients, not just the few who are able to understand complicated medical bills, eligibility, their mediation rights, and navigate the process.</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 1633</b> By: Rodriguez, Justin / Cortez / Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to bill payment assistance programs offered by certain municipalities.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1633 removes “threat of service disconnection for nonpayment” from the list of conditions for eligibility for certain bill payment assistance programs offered by certain municipalities with populations of more than one million but less than two million. In effect, the bill only applies to an assistance program for CPS Energy and San Antonio Water Systems (both in San Antonio); many low-income families who would otherwise be eligible for these vital assistance programs do not receive them because they have never been threatened with service disconnection. While this is a sign of extreme need, not all families who could benefit from bill payment assistance have been in such a dire situation as a threat of service disconnection. Removing this eligibility requirement for assistance will allow these programs to help more vulnerable Texans who are struggling to maintain their utility service provision.</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 1776</b> By: Ashby / Huberty/ Price</p>	<p>Relating to including a civics test in the graduation requirements for public high school students and to eliminating the United States history end-of-course assessment instrument.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>This bill eliminates the end-of-course United States history exam and replaces it with the same civics exam administered to people applying for United States citizenship. HB 1776 allows a student who answers at least 70 percent of the exam questions correctly to have fulfilled their graduation requirement for U.S. history. The questions must be presented in a multiple-choice format, and the student's U.S. history teacher or school counselor would determine when the student is prepared to take the test. This bill eliminates a test that is overly burdensome for teachers and fails to cover issues of historical importance, and it ensures that students have demonstrated an understanding of key events and concepts in U.S. history upon graduating from high school.</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 1753</b> By: Farrar / Smithee / Neave</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing a beneficiary designation that transfers a motor vehicle at the owner's death.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Authorizes a beneficiary designation outside of probate for owners to transfer their vehicle upon their death. This designation is revocable and changeable by the owner at any time without the beneficiary's consent, and the beneficiary does not have any rights to the vehicle while the owner is still alive. The bill also mandates a procedure for the transfer when there are joint owners of the vehicle, which requires all joint owners to agree to the beneficiary designation. Additionally, the beneficiary will take subject to all encumbrances, contracts, liens, and any other interests, as applicable. A lienholder will still be able to pursue debt collection against the beneficiary if necessary, and will be provided full contact information so that pursuit of payment would be easy.</p> <p>Currently, there is no mechanism to transfer ownership of a motor vehicle upon death without going through probate. This is a very expensive process because a person can only represent themselves in probate court in rare situations; thus, a person must pay for an attorney, filing fees and, also, a legal notice to creditors in the newspaper. For many low-income Texans, a car and money in the bank are often their only assets, and the cost of probate can be more than what the vehicle is worth. Last session, two bills were passed that made it easier for Texans to designate heirship for their money in the bank and their home without going through probate; since that time, the Transfer on Death Deed (TODD) forms have been downloaded over 25,000 times. HB 1753 creates this process for motor vehicle transfers to a sole beneficiary effective on the owner's death, allowing for more accessibility of all working families to the legal process for transferring property to their loved ones.</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 2468</b> By: Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to a study on the assessments used by the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make parole decisions.</p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>HB 2468 would require the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) to conduct a study on the effectiveness of assessment components used to determine which individuals should be released on parole. The study must collect information on individuals considered for parole from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017 from the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and any other criminal justice agency with relevant information regarding the recidivism of inmates sentenced to the institutional division and persons released under division supervision. Provisions in the bill require BPP to compare and analyze recidivism rates and parole guideline score of those individuals studied, and must determine for each category or score within the parole guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of individuals released on parole and are subsequently convicted of a misdemeanor offense following release;</li> <li>• The number of individuals released on parole and are subsequently convicted of a felony offense following release; and</li> <li>• The number of individuals released on parole and subsequently had parole revoked for a reason other than a new conviction.</li> </ul> <p>HB 2468 further allows BPP to use information for a select group of inmates based on an acceptable research methodology, yet does not specify any parameters for what factors to consider when selecting a certain "group". BPP must submit findings to the governor, lieutenant governor, and each member of the legislature by January 1, 2019 and must include any recommendations to improve the parole decision-making process, including changes to the assessment tools utilized, parole guidelines, or recommended parole approval rates. The bill would take effect immediately if receiving the required 2/3 vote of all members of each house, and expires August 31, 2019.</p>	<p><b>Favorable w/concerns</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p><b>Concerns:</b> Evaluating assessment tools that can have a considerable impact on an individual’s life and treatment is important for creating evidence-based practices. The BPP currently uses parole guidelines and static and dynamic risk factors to review individuals eligible for parole. While this study could possibly offer insight into the effectiveness of assessment tools when determining which individuals are prepared for parole and have low chances of recidivism, the first three years following release and subsequent placement on parole is when an individual is most likely to recidivate. The study will look at those individuals being paroled and will not look at those persons who have successfully completed parole. Evaluating those individuals who do not recidivate will also provide necessary information to what type of treatment or circumstances are ideal for success.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2529</b> By: Meyer / Thompson, Senfronia / Parker / Burkett</p>	<p>Relating to the definition of coercion for purposes of the offense of trafficking of persons.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Specifies actions that constitute “coercion” in offenses related to the trafficking of persons. “Coercion” in these situations is clarified to mean certain actions including: destroying, concealing, confiscating or withholding from a trafficked person their actual or purported government records, identifying information or documents, or proceeds of activities related to prostitution.</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 3921</b> By: Parker / Price / Anderson, Charles "Doc" / Thierry</p>	<p>Relating to the financial exploitation of certain vulnerable adults.</p>	<p>Investments &amp; Financial Services</p>	<p>Financial exploitation of elderly and disabled adults can have devastating consequences on their financial stability and security. It is estimated that only 1 in 44 cases of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults is reported, leaving many cases unaddressed. CSHB 3921 seeks to protect these individuals by requiring employees of financial institutions to report to any suspected financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult who is elderly or disabled that is an account holder at the institution. Once they have been notified, the institution is responsible for assessing the suspected financial exploitation and submitting a report to DFPS detailing the suspected exploitation; the bill outlines details to be contained in the report and the date by which the report must be submitted to DFPS. CSHB 3921 authorizes financial institutions to notify a third party reasonably associated with the vulnerable adult, such as a relative, of the suspected financial exploitation. This will allow for an individual not directly involved in the exploitation to intervene on behalf of the vulnerable adult to prevent further exploitation. It also authorizes financial institutions to place a hold on any transaction suspected to be exploitative of a vulnerable adult for up to 10 business days. This hold may be extended for up to 30 days at the request of a state, federal, or law enforcement agency that is investigating the claims of exploitation. The bill offers civil and criminal liability protections for financial institutions and employees of those institutions who report suspected exploitation in good faith. It also requires that financial institutions provide access to records relevant to investigating suspected exploitation to DFPS, law enforcement agencies, or the prosecuting attorney’s office upon request. Additionally, the bill would require financial institutions to adopt internal policies and procedures related to the enforcement of the provisions of this bill.</p> <p>CSHB 3921 establishes similar requirements for securities professionals, including investment advisors, dealers, and their legal representation, to follow should they suspect that a vulnerable adult is being victimized by financial exploitation. These professionals, however, are required to report suspected exploitation to the Commissioner of the Texas State Board of Securities in addition to reporting to DFPS. The same reporting requirements, deadlines, abilities to place holds on transactions, authorization to report to a third party, civil and criminal liability protections, and procedural requirements apply to professionals reporting under this section.</p> <p><b>Overall, CSHB 3921 creates sensible guidelines for professionals to assist in the protection of vulnerable elderly and disabled adults who are disproportionately impacted by financial exploitation.</b></p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>





<b>HB 2646</b> By: Martinez, "Mando"	Relating to advance acquisition of real property for a transportation facility.	Transportation	This bill gives the Department of Transportation permission to obtain land for later use in the construction of roads and highways before federal or state agencies have completed their environmental evaluations of a project. The Department already has permission to purchase property in situations where a potential project may occur but has not been finalized. This additional authority can be an effective cost-saving strategy for the Department's highway planning and construction initiatives, allowing appropriated tax dollars to fund more infrastructure improvements.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2771</b> By: Phelan	Relating to the elimination of a fee collected for an on-site wastewater treatment permit application	Environmental Regulation	HB 2771 amends the Health and Safety Code to eliminate the \$10 permitting fee for on-site wastewater application processing, since this fee is not utilized for a specific purpose. The bill also expands the ability for the commission to receive gifts to be used for on-site wastewater research.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3537</b> By: Geren	Relating to the use of money subject to restrictions under federal law that is credited to the deferred maintenance fund account.	Appropriations	This bill adds clarifying language regarding the use of the Deferred Maintenance Account Fund to comply with federal fish and wildlife regulations. During the 2015 session, the legislature diverted funds from two funds to the DMAF for maintenance projects within the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. This movement of funds could jeopardize future federal draw-down for fish and wildlife management in excess of \$50 million, so HB 3537 seeks to prevent any such issues in the future by ensuring that the fund meets the requirements outlined in the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act and Wildlife Restoration Act.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3593</b> By: Bernal / Capriglione / Cortez / King, Phil / Bohac / et al.	Relating to instruction in career and technology education provided by public schools, including instruction in technology applications, cybersecurity, and computer coding, and to consideration of completed practicums and internships in school accountability ratings.	Public Education	The cyber security field is a lucrative and important industry that is experiencing a growing shortage of practitioners. HB 3593 seeks to prepare high school students for work in the cybersecurity field by requiring the State Board of Education (SBOE) to approve courses in cybersecurity for credit for high school graduation. In the interest of efficiency, the bill also allows districts to offer cybersecurity courses without SBOE approval if they are in partnership with an institution of higher education that offers an undergraduate degree program in cybersecurity. This bill adds cybersecurity and coding to the list of STEM endorsement categories, entitles a teacher to a subsidy for cybersecurity related exams, and adds computer coding as an acceptable substitute for credits in a language other than English. HB 3593 also expands the use of the New Instructional Facility Allotment by allowing districts to use these funds to renovate an existing instructional facility for the purposes of a dedicated cybersecurity computer lab. Effectively, HB 3593 would incentivize student interest in cybersecurity programs and help foster the growth of a skilled workforce in the state's cybersecurity industry.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 4237</b> By: Moody / Coleman / Price / Lozano / Turner	Relating to mental health first aid training for university employees.	Public Health	HB 4237 expands the list of individuals eligible to participate in free mental health first aid training to include university employees at public and private higher education institutions. Mental health first aid training is grant funded and delivered by local mental health authorities; it teaches participants to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse in a safe manner. The training also decreases stigma and improves overall awareness of the mental health and substance abuse issues that individuals (and college students) are often faced with. The bill does not expand grant funding or mandate university employees to complete this training, but rather expands their access to the training by adding them to the list of persons eligible to have the training costs waived. Mental health and substance abuse issues are prevalent among college students; 75% of mental illnesses	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>



			present by the age of 24, and students are under mounting educational and emotional stress daily. University employees are interfacing with students regularly; it is critical that they are able to identify students experiencing mental health crises so they can help these students access necessary resources.	
<b>HB 855</b> By: Capriglione / Goldman / Simmons	Relating to the management and investment of the economic stabilization fund and the Texas legacy distribution fund, including the determination of a sufficient balance within the economic stabilization fund.	Appropriations	<p>This bill restructures the Economic Stabilization Fund so that portions of its balance can be invested to increase the state’s available revenue in future cycles. Under the proposed plan, the corpus of the ESF would be divided among three accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Stabilization Fund - the current ESF, with a minimum sufficient balance set at 8% of appropriated GR spending. This new balance would set the FY 18-19 balance at approximately \$8.5 billion as opposed to \$7.5 billion under the current model.</li> <li>• Texas Legacy Account - money within the ESF beyond the TSF balance, to be invested so that earnings can be deposited to the Texas Legacy Distribution Fund</li> <li>• Texas Legacy Distribution Fund - earnings from the TLA are available to appropriate for long-term concerns such as pension obligations and state infrastructure.</li> <li>• The redesigned ESF would preserve the original intent of the Fund and offers the legislature appropriation options that do not affect the primary balance.</li> </ul> <p>The Comptroller’s plan as outlined in HB 855 would still require that the TLA follow existing requirements for prudent investments as outlined in statute. More explicit language to mandate a cap on the fund’s assumed rate of return, in the range of 3.5% to 5.0%, would help protect the state’s funds from the instability inherent in the financial markets. Exclusion of alternative investments with higher risk (e.g. hedge funds) would encourage prudent investment decisions at the cost of slower growth in its returns. It would also be advisable to include requirements for the Comptroller’s office to submit reports to the legislature regarding its investment portfolio to maintain oversight over the Fund.</p>	<b>Favorable with concerns</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1808</b> By: Meyer / Thompson, Senfronia / Parker	Relating to the prosecution and punishment of certain trafficking and sexual offenses.	State Affairs	<p>Prosecutors and human trafficking advocates have long asserted that in order to eliminate human trafficking, our laws must address the demand-side of the issue instead of continuously focusing on the supply-side. HB 1808 attempts to address the demand for trafficking victims by adding clarifying language to the Penal Code establishing that an individual who engages in conduct with a minor that constitutes certain trafficking or sexual offenses commits the offense regardless of whether they knew the age of the victim at the time of the offense. The offenses this provision applies to include continuous sexual abuse of a young child, sexual assault of a child, aggravated sexual assault of a child, sexual performance by a child, and employment harmful to children.</p> <p>This change is a recommendation from the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Task Force due to previous cases of individuals who have solicited sex from minors as young as 13 and have not been found guilty because they claim they didn’t know the minor’s age at the time of the offense. Adding this simple clarifying language will allow prosecutors to convict offenders more easily, lessening the demand and ensuring that perpetrators of sex-crimes against children are held accountable.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3849</b> By: Zerwas	Relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts, the dedication and rededication of revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated money from use for general	Appropriations	<p>This is the 85th Legislature’s bill to close unnecessary or defunct GR-Dedicated accounts and roll their balances into General Revenue. This routine measure exempts the following types of GR-D funds from consolidation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds created to comply with federal laws that require separate accounting,</li> <li>• Trust funds and bonds,</li> <li>• Accounts created by Texas constitutional requirements,</li> <li>• Previously exempted funds from before the 85th Legislature</li> </ul>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>



	governmental purposes.		Any accounts outside of those exceptions are to be consolidated after the budget is certified by the comptroller. Programs and initiatives funded by GR-D accounts subject to consolidation become funded by GR. HB 3849 keeps the state’s budget from becoming bogged down with unnecessary siloing of funds.	
<b>HB 2639</b> By: Pickett / Zerwas / Raymond / Wray / King, Phil / et al.	Relating to an alert for a missing senior citizen or person with Alzheimer's disease.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	This bill expands the Silver Alert for individuals that have Alzheimer’s Disease. Currently, Silver Alert is only for senior citizens (65 years old+) who are missing and have an impaired mental condition. While Alzheimer’s disease typically strikes people 65 and older, a rarer form of the disease known as young-onset or early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, presents in people as young as in their 30s and 40s. Alzheimer's is a disease of the brain that causes a steady decline in memory, thinking and behavior that is severe enough to interfere with everyday life. This brain disease is a terminal illness. Alzheimer’s disease affects 350,000 Texans. This disease is not only about memory problems; it also affects a person’s ability to function day-to-day such as, becoming lost while walking or driving. It is assumed the costs to implement the provisions of the bill could be absorbed in existing resources.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3976</b> By: Ashby / Zerwas / Huberty / Bernal / Bonnen, Dennis	Relating to the administration of and benefits payable under the Texas Public School Retired Employees Group Benefits Act.	Appropriations	<p>This bill changes health care coverage requirements for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to provide options for individuals who are not eligible for Medicare at the time of their retirement. HB 3976 adjusts the health care plan so that members younger than 65 must pay a gradually increasing premium, starting at \$200 per month and rising each year until 2022, with an exception for enrollees who currently receive disability benefits through TRS and are not eligible for Medicare until the 2022 benefit year. For members 65 and older, a Medicare Advantage plan will be offered with a fixed premium of \$146 per month.</p> <p>The authors acknowledge that this is only the first step in the lengthy process of reforming the teacher retirement system. The issues facing this system are similar to those faced by other health care options and pensions across the nation, with higher enrollment straining these systems’ ability to meet their members’ needs. For retirees who retire before the age of 65, even the lowest tier of the proposed premiums equates to 10% of their monthly payment, which can be prohibitively expensive. The provisions of HB 3976 are projected to cost \$347.2 million over the next five years, with \$162 million of that happening in the 2018-2019 biennium; this cost is offset somewhat by the \$500 million additional funds from the Economic Stabilization Fund that are included in CSSB 1. TRS has outlived its projected lifespan by more than two decades, and members should be prepared for significant effort during the next session if it is expected to persist.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1410</b> By: Ortega / Wu / Frank	Relating to the ability of foster parents to intervene in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship.	Juvenile Justice & Family Issues	Current law is unclear about when a foster parent can request to intervene in an original suit that is between the Department of Family and Protective services and the child’s parent to request possessory conservatorship. HB 1410 provides that clarity and basically uploads current law, which allows a foster parent to intervene when they have had a child in their possession for at least 12 months. Foster parents play an incredibly vital and important role in the process of taking care of youth in care, but they were never intended to be included as party able to intervene before twelve months. Reunification is the primary goal in almost all cases, and this bill helps ensure that possibility.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 935</b> By: Zerwas / Darby / Kacal / Longoria /	Relating to emergency medical air transportation funding.	Appropriations	This bill creates a new General Revenue - Dedicated account for emergency medical air transportation services within HHSC, funded through traffic fines collected by the state. Air transport services are an important option included in local and state portfolios to respond to medical emergencies, regardless of the patient’s ability to pay. HB 935 reduces the portion of revenue from traffic fines that goes to GR from 67% to 50%, with the 17% change being designated for the air transport account; the remaining 33% to trauma facilities and emergency medical services is not affected. Although the reallocation of those dollars leads to an estimated \$26.8 million decrease in GR for FY 2018-2019, the resulting fund helps ensure that Texan families retain access to potentially life-saving services during a crisis.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joel Kissell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Joel@Texaslsg.org">Joel@Texaslsg.org</a>



Price / et al.				
<b>HB 1407</b> By: Sheffield / Paddie / Darby / Bernal	Relating to the establishment of the emergency medical services assistance program.	Public Health	<p>Shortages of emergency medical service (EMS) personnel can create serious health consequences, particularly in rural areas. CSHB 1407 addresses this issue by instructing HHSC to establish an EMS assistance program to provide financial and educational assistance to eligible EMS providers. The Executive Commissioner of HHSC will establish all rules necessary to implement the program, including eligibility requirements for grant recipients and educational curriculum requirements for qualifying postsecondary educational institutions. These rules must require grant recipients to demonstrate financial need and meet all qualifications for grant eligibility. The bill also establishes a distance-learning educational curriculum to provide training to rural EMS personnel. All postsecondary educational institutions that receive program grants are required to provide this distance-learning instructional curriculum to rural EMS students. This distance-learning model would allow EMS students in medically underserved areas.</p> <p>Funding for rural EMS programs currently comes in the form of local project grants funded through the tobacco endowment fund; this fund is slowly being depleted, therefore it is critical that an alternative funding source is identified. Grants administered under this bill will be made from the permanent fund for EMS and trauma care; the bill identifies a funding mechanism for these grants by allocating 3.3% of funds collected from state traffic fines (collected under Transportation Code Section 242.4031) and dedicating them to the credit of the permanent fund for EMS and trauma care up to the amount of \$3 million. Additionally, the bill requires that at least 60% of grants be provided to rural areas, ensuring that the program is targeted toward increasing healthcare access in medically underserved communities.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2804</b> By: Price	Relating to the emergency scheduling of certain controlled substances for the purpose of the prosecution and punishment of certain offenses under the Texas Controlled Substances Act; expanding the application of certain criminal offenses.	Public Health	<p>Synthetic drugs, often produced in an effort to to circumvent drug laws by mimicking common controlled substances, can have detrimental public health consequences. New synthetic drugs are being produced every day, therefore it is challenging for the State to adequately ensure that synthetic drugs are kept off the streets. During the 84th Legislature, a bill was passed allowing the Executive Commissioner of DSHS in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety to emergency schedule certain synthetic drugs as controlled substances should those drugs pose a significant public health risk. This legislation has been difficult to implement, however, due to ambiguity in what qualifications a synthetic drug must meet to qualify for emergency scheduling.</p> <p>HB 2804 clarifies these ambiguities and allows the Commissioner to more easily emergency schedule a drug if they have consulted with DPS and are scheduling the drug in accordance with recommendations provided by DPS. When determining whether or not to emergency schedule a substance, the bill requires the Commissioner to consider the scope, duration, symptoms, <b>or</b> significance of abuse; currently, they are required to make all of the aforementioned considerations. The bill would also allow for an extension for an emergency scheduling of up to one year; to notify the public, details regarding the emergency scheduling must be published in the Texas Register. HB 2804 also requires the Commissioner to submit a biennial report to the Legislature outlining each emergency scheduling action that has been taken. Allowing for emergency schedule serves a critical public health function, as it keeps potentially addictive and lethal substances from being widely circulated.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2575</b> By: Meyer	Relating to certain requirements imposed on a sex offender who enters the	Criminal Jurisprudence	HB 2575 would require individuals who are registered as a sex offender to notify school administration of their presence on campus during standard operating hours and their status as a sex offender. Provisions within the bill allow school administration to provide a chaperon to accompany the individual while on school premises. This requirement would not apply to a student enrolled at the school	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages



	premises of a school.		or a student from another school participating in an event at the school. This bill would further alter the notification requirements for a local law enforcement authority providing an individual with a registration form for verification by requiring the law enforcement authority to include a statement and description of the individual’s duty to provide school administration notice, if applicable.	210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1586</b> By: King, Tracy O.	Relating to the services that require a structural pest control license; changing the applicability of an occupational license.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	This bill amends the Occupations Code to ensure that those businesses advertising for certain services hold a license in said service. In particular, CSHB 1586 requires that those advertising as pest control must hold a license to be able to to advertise as such. This will protect those utilizing pest control services to ensure they are receiving legitimate services.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1629</b> By: Coleman	Relating to the development of a quality-based outcome measure for the child health plan program and Medicaid regarding certain persons with HIV.	Public Health	HB 1629 would require HHSC in coordination with DSHS to develop and implement a quality-based outcome measure for CHIP and Medicaid to annually measure the percentage of CHIP and Medicaid recipients with HIV whose most recent viral load test indicated a viral load of less than 200 copies per milliliter of blood. One of the most significant means of reducing HIV transmission is to ensure maintenance of a low viral load; in addition to reducing transmission of the virus, maintaining a viral load under 200 copies per milliliter can prevent HIV from developing into AIDS and significantly improve health outcomes for patients. Development and implementation of this quality-based outcome measure will allow us to evaluate how well we are managing HIV as a state; additionally, it will reveal geographic areas where the issue is more critical and more targeted outreach and education may be needed. There is no fiscal note associated with implementing such a measure, and it will provide a clearer picture of HIV in Texas to inform both legislators and the public.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1645</b> By: Lozano / Guillen / Oliverson / Koop / Anderson, Rodney / et al.	Relating to requiring certain school districts to allow students who participate in Special Olympics to earn a letter on that basis.	Public Education	Currently, some districts that allow students to earn a letter for academic, athletic, or extracurricular achievements do not have provisions allowing a student’s participation in a Special Olympics event to earn them a letter. This bill addresses that problem by requiring districts that allow students to earn letters to also allow students to earn a letter of the basis of participation in a Special Olympics event. The intent of this bill is to ensure fairness and allow students who participate in a Special Olympics event to receive recognition for their achievement.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2070</b> By: Smithee	Relating to the enforcement of certain warranties for a new motor vehicle.	Transportation	This bill defines the requirements by which owners and vendors to settle disputes related to defective vehicles. An owner cannot claim that a vehicle is irreparably defective unless the defect remains after one of the following conditions is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four or more repairs are attempted before the warranty expires, or 24 months or 24,000 miles have elapsed;</li> <li>• A serious safety hazard exists and two or more repairs are attempted before the warranty expires, or 24 months or 24,000 miles have elapsed; or</li> <li>• The defect significantly impacts the vehicle’s resale value and require at least 30 days out of service for repair; days where the owner is provided a loaner vehicle do not count toward the 30-day total.</li> </ul> These provisions establish a clear set of guidelines for what constitutes a violation of the state’s “Lemon Law” for the protection of all parties. Motor vehicle retailers are given protocols to fix good-faith oversights while customers retain access to legal protections for a major purchase.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Andrea@Texaslsg.org">Andrea@Texaslsg.org</a>



			<p>HB 2070 also streamlines the notification requirements for individuals seeking a refund or replacement for a defective vehicle. Owners must notify the vendor in writing and give them a chance to fix the defects. The vendor is afforded 150 days to process the request and issue a final order detailing how the replacement will proceed and who holds financial responsibility for the replacement, after which time the owner may pursue legal action. The Department of Motor Vehicles must create and maintain a toll-free number to provide information relating to the processes outlined in HB 2070.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2101</b> By: Frullo / Villalba</p>	<p>Relating to the issuance of a food and beverage certificate to holders of certain alcoholic beverage permits and licenses.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>HB 2101 amends sections of the Alcoholic Beverage Code for the issuance of food and beverage licenses to facilities with beer and wine, mixed drinks, or private club permits. The bill defines location as the physical address of the permit and includes all areas where alcohol is served and immediately consumed even if some areas are occupied by other businesses. Whereas previously receipts needed to equal 50% or less the percentage is increased to 60% or less of the sales are alcohol. The location also may not be issued a permit if there is not a permanent food prep facility with the ability to make multiple entrees. Concessionaires at events may be exempted from the provisions of percentage of sales and permanent food services facilities. Under Election Code in an area where mixed beverage permits are voted for if the permittee does not renew or is denied their food and beverage permit, then their liquor license is revoked as well. A permit can be denied for renewal if they fail to meet the percentage of alcohol purchased, food prep facilities and the ability to make multiple entrees. If the permit holder knowingly violates the provision to be able to make multiple entrees their permit can be cancelled. In the instances of cancellation or denial a permittee will have to wait one year from the decision by the Commission to receive a permit.</p> <p>Since the price of alcohol has risen keeping the stipulation of 50% or below of alcohol sales lowers the viability for establishments to obtain a food and beverage license. HB 2101 relaxes the requirements on alcohol sales which will have a positive economic benefit for these locations.</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 2370</b> By: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to the participation of deregulated telecommunications companies in the lifeline program.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>HB 2370 removes statutory provisions requiring deregulated telecommunications companies to participate in the lifeline program. The lifeline program is a state benefit for those at or below 150% of the poverty line to receive a monthly discount off their basic landline telephone service. Currently, the average lifeline program monthly benefit is \$6.42 per household per month; many people do not utilize the benefit anymore due to advances in technology and available federal benefits that can apply to wireless phone plans. If deregulated companies are no longer mandated to participate in the program, it is critical that we ensure families currently utilizing the benefit are made aware of other telecommunications providers in their communities that offer a similar benefit.</p>	<p><b>Favorable w/concerns</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 2577</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of bingo games; authorizing fee refunds.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>HB 2577 revises statutory provisions pertaining to the regulation of bingo and authorizing fee funds. HB 2577 mandates that the Texas Lottery Commission appoint a nine-member bingo advisory committee. Upon request, the commission must refund organizations their \$25 temporary license fee by the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the request, only if they don't use the license before it expires. If an organization requests to withdraw their application for a temporary license prior to it being issued, the commission may retain no more than 50% of the license fee for admin costs. After a withdrawal request or application denial, HB 2577 requires the commission to refund fees for an initial or renewal license to conduct bingo after an organization, and an initial or renewal license for commercial lessor licenses, manufacturer's licenses, distributor's licenses, unit manager licenses, amending licenses, and registration applications. The bill requires the lottery commission to issue these refunds by the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the withdrawal request or denial, and requests specific amounts to be retained. Per the bill, a licensed organization must remit to the commission 5% of the amount of all bingo prizes awarded greater than \$5.</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 2578</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the elimination of certain fees for licensure and the disposition of certain fees collected by the Texas Lottery Commission under the Bingo Enabling Act</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>This bill amends the Occupation Code to remove application fees for bingo licenses make the state’s bingo administration self-funding. All references to application fees within the code are removed, and the Texas Lottery Commission must refund a prorated portion of any application fees issued during the portion of 2017 before the bill takes effect on September 1. The removal of these fees constitutes the first phase of HB 2578’s implementation.</p> <p>Phase two would be implemented on September 1, 2019 with the creation of the Bingo Administration Account. Licensing fees for commercial lessors, manufacturer, and distributor licensing fees would be deposited to the account; prize fees would also be deposited, with the TLC redistributing their portion of the fees back to municipalities at the end of the fiscal year. HB 2578 streamlines the state’s bingo operations and makes charitable bingo a more accessible fund-raising option for non-profits in the state.</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 2377</b> By: Larson / Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to the development of brackish groundwater.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 2377 amends portions of the water code to allow for permits for development in production zones for brackishwater. The bill designates several of these production zones and a district may be formed to issue permits. If a person with a legally defined interest in groundwater sends a petition to the district than no later than 180th after the petition is filed. Projects included for these production zones may be a municipality to treat brackish water for drinking and electric generator to treat water to quality standards to meet the project's needs. Rules adopted by the district must include how applications will be processed, how much water can be withdrawn, creating permits to be no shorter than 30 years, the implementation of monitoring systems, and measuring the level of subsidence in the Gulf Coast Aquifer. An application by the permittee must include a well field design, requested max groundwater withdrawal, and number and location of monitoring wells. A report will also need to be submitted on proposed effects to the groundwater, what model of simulations is used, and supplying sufficient information for a reviewer. The district will submit a report to the Texas Water Development Board(TWDB), which will compare the findings of the application. The TWDB will also investigation what affects the projects are projected to cause. Once the report is returned back to the counties a hearing may be held for the permit. At this time the permit may be amending to be more compatible with production limits and approve a mitigation plan. To the extent available permits are required to be issued based on the level of brackish water within the groundwater production zone. Development of brackish groundwater will strengthen Texas’ future water needs.</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 3172</b> By: Button / Alvarado / Springer / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of an electronic information and application system for state incentives for economic development purposes.</p>	<p>Economic &amp; Small Business Development</p>	<p>This bill creates an internet portal where businesses considering relocating to Texas can efficiently learn about and apply for economic development and tax incentives available to them. There are several economic incentives available to businesses that seek to relocate to Texas; as it stands, however, there is no clear method by which businesses can decipher which incentives they are eligible for. This bill would both create a portal that would effectively assist businesses in learning what economic incentives are available to them as well as create a more simplified application process for those incentives. HB 3172 will incentivize businesses to relocate to Texas by informing them of benefits available to them and reducing duplicative applications; ultimately, it will contribute positively to Texas’ economic growth.</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 3379</b> By: Paddie / Giddings / Perez / Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility process for customer service benefits.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>HB 3379 provides for the development of an automatic process by which the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) can identify low-income utility customers who may qualify for utility-assistance benefits. The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and PUC currently have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in which HHSC provides PUC with a list of individuals who qualify for Medicaid or TANF, allowing for PUC to easily identify customers who may qualify for utility assistance. PUC then passes that information onto the utility companies, who have ultimate authority in deciding how to administer utility assistance benefits. HB 3379 allows for the current MOU between PUC and HHSC to continue, and allows for the MOU to be amended as necessary to achieve the goals of this legislation. Additionally, the bill prohibits the PUC from requiring utility companies to offer assistance benefits to customers. <b>This bill will allow PUC to easily identify Texans who would greatly benefit from utility assistance, ultimately making it easier for Texas families to obtain the assistance they need.</b></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 3529</b> By: Capriglione / Alonzo</p>	<p>Relating to the comptroller's investment of certain money held outside the state treasury.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill would require that funds outside of the state treasury be invested in an effort to increase the revenue available to the legislature in future sessions. The author acknowledged during his layout that a comprehensive list of these funds does not currently exist, making it difficult to determine the extent of funds that would qualify for investment. Funds that exist outside the Treasury because they are dedicated to a specific project or institution's operation, and would be excluded from the requirement to invest. HB 3529 leverages the dollars within eligible funds to maximize their value, which could be beneficial in future years when the revenue is limited.</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 3664</b> By: King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a program for marketing, promotion, research, and education efforts regarding Texas wine; authorizing assessments.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p>	<p>Creates the Texas Wine Marketing, Promotion, Research, and Education program. Producers of many agricultural commodities have established assessment programs to encourage the production, marketing and use of an agricultural commodity under Chapter 41 in the Agriculture Code. HB 3664 simply enables and details an agricultural commodity assessment program for the Texas wine and grape industry. The Texas Wine Foundation would be the certified organization that plans, implements and operates the program. The Foundation may petition the Commissioner of the TDA for the election of a Commodity Producers Board. The bill allows the Board to establish, and for the Foundation to operate, a state wine check off program that is separate from any check off program established by federal law. Lastly, it would allow the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Foundation, to propose a maximum assessment amount on vineyard growers and wineries through a referendum, and the bill details the rules regarding such a referendum.</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 3295</b> By: Klick</p>	<p>Relating to the delivery of certain Medicaid services to persons with an intellectual or developmental disability.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>This bill pushes back the end date for the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) pilot program on service delivery models for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Current statute has the program ending August 31, 2018. During the 83rd Legislature the senate passed a bill that would redesign how services for IDD patients would be delivered. Following this in the 84th Legislature a House bill was passed to push back the start date but did not push back the end day. This bill simply pushes the end date from 2018 to 2019, allowing the pilot program to sustain through the allotted time period. CSHB 3295 is a reasonable way in which to lay out a program that redesigns the delivery of services for an important need.</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 3051</b> By: King, Phil</p>	<p>Relating to the categories used to record the race or ethnicity of persons stopped for or convicted of traffic offenses.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p>	<p>The bill would amend the <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i> and the <i>Transportation Code</i> to include categories of race or ethnicity for persons stopped for or convicted of traffic offenses. The categories for race or ethnicity that this bill proposes are: Alaska native or American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, black, white, and Hispanic or Latino. In current state law on the collection of race and ethnicity data, does not conform to the nationally recognized standards. DPS reports that the costs to implement the provisions of the bill could be absorbed in existing resources. Confirming to these standards will help ensure reporting accuracy and minimize confusion. Additionally, it is recommended to add an additional category name as "Other" for individuals that identify with more than one of these racial or ethnicity categories, or give the option to identify with more than one category.</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 3026</b> By: Phelan / Rodriguez, Justin / Dean / Walle</p>	<p>Relating to the abolishment of the used oil recycling account, deposits of used oil recycling fees, and use of the water resource management account.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill transfers funds and responsibilities from the Used Oil Recycling Account to the Water Resource Management Account and abolishes the UORA. The influx of the UORA's existing balance, estimated at \$21.3 million by the end of FY 2017, as well as the \$2.2 million in annual collections, would allow the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to avoid raising its fees associated with the WRMA. Local governments are primarily responsible for the WRMA's fees, so HB 3026 would avoid increasing their expenditures. The programs funded by both accounts would continue after the consolidation.</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 2442</b> By: King, Ken</p>	<p>Relating to the minutes of operation required for public school districts, charter</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>The intent of this bill is to address the unintended consequences and implementation problems with HB 2610, legislation enacted last session that changed the measurement of time for the required operation of public schools from 180 days to 75,600 minutes. The bill</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day</p>





	schools, and other education programs and to calculating the average daily attendance for certain education programs.		removes the requirement for a full day of instruction to be 420 minutes. Schools would still be required to meet the minimum number of minutes for the year, but would be able to do so with the flexibility necessary to meet their school’s needs.  The bill also specifies that a district is eligible to receive the half-day average daily attendance calculation if their pre-K program provides at least 32,400 minutes of instruction to students. This reduces the current 210 minute requirement to 180 minutes, which allows for the teacher’s break to be accommodated. The bill allows the commissioner of education to use an alternative minimum number of minutes of operation when calculating the average daily attendance for schools that serve at-risk populations. In order to address the unintentional funding cuts to some charters, the bill creates a grandfather clause for charters schools who were receiving full funding before the passage of HB 2610 and do not qualify for funding under the current system. HB 2442 does not create an avenue for additional charters to get full day funding for half-day instruction.	210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2435</b> By: Wray	Relating to public improvement projects financed by or through assessments levied on property by municipalities and counties.	Urban Affairs	CSHB 2435 updates Chapter 372 of the Local Government Code, regarding Public Improvement Districts (PIDs). PIDs finance public infrastructure by allocating the costs of community improvement projects according to the benefits received. PIDs allow a municipality or county to have control over a community improvement project rather than the developer. In cities such as Austin this has been an effective tool in development by financing projects such as the states fully geothermal community, Whisper Valley. This bill updates and current statute by clarifying any issues that have come up with the utilization of PIDs. This also expands eligible PID projects, adding in renewable energy, among other eligible improvements. Along with this the bill adds in stipulation and clarification regarding the issuance of refunding bonds, this reduces cost savings assessments. This bill will ultimately increase the availability of PIDs and assist municipalities and counties in improving their communities.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kylie McNaught 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Kylie@Texaslsg.org">Kylie@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2572</b> By: Deshotel	Relating to the deployment of advanced metering and meter information networks in certain non-ERCOT areas.	State Affairs	HB 2572 would allow certain investor owned electric utilities that function in non-ERCOT areas and fall under the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council (SERC) to install advanced meters and meter information networks and to recover reasonable and necessary costs from consumers through their monthly utility payments. Investor owned utilities in ERCOT areas were previously authorized to install these advanced meters and recover costs; all Public Utility Commission rules and consumer protections that applied during that process would also apply under this bill. Updating meters and meter information networks benefits both customers and the environment, as they allow for better energy management.  In effect, this bill would only apply to one utility provider, Entergy Texas. The bill outlines an exemption for Entergy customers who receive service at transmission voltage; these customers are already required to have advanced metering capability and therefore should not incur additional costs for the deployment of this technology for residential customers.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tyler@Texaslsg.org">Tyler@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2381</b> By: Frullo	Relating to the applicability of the sales and use tax to certain insurance services.	Ways & Means	This bill exempts certain insurance-related services performed by a certified public accountant from the sales tax. Taxable insurance services currently include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss or damage appraisal,</li> <li>• inspection and investigation,</li> <li>• actuarial analysis or research,</li> <li>• claims adjustment or processing, and</li> <li>• loss prevention services.</li> </ul> Under HB 2381, any services performed by a CPA firm relating to one of the services listed above would not be taxable as long as the total cost of those services does not exceed 1% of the firm’s revenue for the calendar year. This clarifies some confusion around how to apply the sales tax at this intersection of insurance and accounting services, as accounting services are not currently subject to the sales tax.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Katherine@Texaslsg.org">Katherine@Texaslsg.org</a>



<p><b>HB 2228</b> By: Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to deadlines for performing various functions in connection with the ad valorem tax system.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>This bill adjusts four distinct filing deadlines relating to ad valorem taxation in an effort to align more closely with appraisal district timelines and reduce confusion among taxpayers. These deadlines are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freeport exemptions for non-petroleum goods that are only in Texas temporarily for production or manufacturing, to a maximum of 175 days, before being shipped to other states or countries. The current deadline for filing an application is April 30, and HB 2228 requires appraisal districts to process applications received up until June 15.</li> <li>• Allocations related to commercial water and aircraft. The deadline is moved from May 1 to April 1 with an automatic 30-day extension provided.</li> <li>• Statements of rendition, where property owners submit an accounting of all their property to the appraisal district for evaluation and certification. This deadline is moved up from April 15 to April 1, with an extension to May 1 upon written request by the applicant. For energy-related property regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, Railroad Commission, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, a separate deadline is established at April 30.</li> <li>• Appeals to a personal property tax assessment. This deadline is moved from May 1 to May 15, or thirty days after the property owner receives notice of their assessment, whichever is later.</li> </ul> <p>The adjustments contained in HB 2228 are staggered in such a way that they conflict less with other tax deadlines, such as federal taxes being filed on April 15. Giving appraisal districts more time to conduct their work and prevent inaccuracies on the tax rolls.</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 2130</b> By: Roberts / Dean / Simmons</p>	<p>Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Education Agency regarding the statewide assessment program in relation to students in special education programs.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>This bill requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to conduct a study on the impact of the statewide assessments with regards to students in a special education program. The bill details the requirements of the study including a requirement to determine whether the administration of alternate tests to students in a special education program complies with the Every Student Succeeds Act and a requirement to determine whether state-required assessment instruments accurately assess the academic achievement of special education students. The bill directs the TEA to identify specific recommendations to improve the impact of the statewide assessment program on students in a special education program. HB 2130 will help future legislators identify how Texas can best assess the academic achievements of special education students.</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 1081</b> By: Arévalo</p>	<p>Relating to the new instructional facility allotment under the foundation school program.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>Currently, only schools that build brand new facilities are eligible to access the New Instructional Facility Allotment (NIFA). HB 1081 expands eligibility for the NIFA to allow districts to use these funds for a repurposed instructional facility and a leased facility operating for the first time as an instructional facility. By maximizing the use of an underutilized allotment, this bill benefits public schools all across the state</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 1985</b> By: Flynn</p>	<p>Relating to debt cancellation agreements offered in connection with certain retail installment contracts and leases for vehicles.</p>	<p>Investments &amp; Financial Services</p>	<p>HB 1985 allows consumers to purchase a debt cancellation agreement (DCA) in connection with a retail installment contract in the case that insurance coverage is required for a vehicle as part of the retail buyer’s responsibility to the holder. The bill re-designates Subchapter G (“Certain Debt Cancellation Agreements”), Chapter 348 (“Motor Vehicle Installment Sales”) as Chapter 354 (“Debt Cancellation Agreements for Certain Retail Vehicle Installment Sales”); this change clarifies language referring to retail installment contracts and expands eligibility for all “covered vehicles”, which is defined as a self-propelled or towed vehicle designed for personal use and includes an automobile, truck, motorcycle, recreational vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, camper, boat, personal watercraft, and personal watercraft trailer. A DCA refers to a contractual arrangement modifying a contract term under which a retail seller agrees to cancel all or part of an obligation of the retail buyer to repay an extension of credit from the retail seller on occurrence of the total loss or theft of the covered vehicle, but does not offer to pay a specified amount. Notable statutes amended within the bill outline required language for DCAs and procedures regarding refunds for DCAs.</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 bill further adds Chapter 397 (“Debt Cancellation Agreements for Certain Vehicle Leases”) to Title 5 (“Protection of Consumers of Financial Services”), Finance Code. Provisions within this section exempt leases that are retail installment transactions under bailment, and expressly clarifies that a DCA is not a substitute for insurance. Further provisions outline limitations on certain DCAs, required and exclusion language, additional requirements, and refund requirements. Should the Attorney General believe a person is or is about to violate these provisions, they may bring an action in the name of the state against the person to restrain or enjoin them from violation. The bill has an effective date of September 1, 2017.</p> <p>In 2011, the Texas Legislature passed statutes that allowed for consumer protection as well as a predictable regulatory framework as a result of negotiating with the debt cancellation industry and the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner. Adding these provisions allows consumer choices within this framework.</p>	
<b>HB 1569</b> By: Ashby	Relating to the disclosure to public schools of certain records of students placed in residential facilities.	Public Education	Several school districts are responsible for providing educational services to students in residential treatment facilities. This bill requires a residential treatment facility to provide any information related to a student’s arrest records, behavioral history, and school records to a district or open enrollment charter school that provides educational services to a student placed in the facility. The intent of this bill is to provide school districts with pertinent information that could be used to better educate at-risk students and ensure the safety of students and staff.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1342</b> By: Parker/ et al.	Relating to child sexual abuse prevention training for public school students.	Public Education	Current law requires each school district to provide a child abuse anti-victimization program as well as adopt and implement a policy addressing the sexual abuse of children. Districts are required to include their sexual abuse awareness policy in their district innovation plan as well as any informational handbook provided to students and parents. HB 1342 seeks to extend the preventative measures currently being taken in schools by providing direction as to what a district’s child abuse anti-victimization program should include. Under this bill, the program must include annual age-appropriate, research-based child sexual abuse prevention training designed to promote self-protection, prevent sexual abuse and trafficking of children, and reduce child pregnancy. HB 1343 requires each student to attend the annual child sexual abuse prevention training, and the bill requires school districts to submit a report on the number and percentage of students who attended the training. Children who experience sexual abuse may suffer a range of detrimental consequences including lifelong negative social, emotional, mental, and behavioral health outcomes. This bill seeks to provide children with the skills, knowledge, and language they need to avoid, resist and report sexual abuse.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Arielle@Texaslsg.org">Arielle@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3158</b> By: Flynn / Villalba / Koop / Alonzo / Meyer / et al.	Relating to the retirement systems for and the provision of other benefits to police and fire fighters in certain municipalities.	Pensions	<p>Pensions have been a prominent topic of discussion for years in the Texas Legislature and around the country. In Texas, public pensions have become money-consuming entities with little stability and dire consequences if they are unsuccessful. If workers are unable to collect their benefits they may be forced to live in poverty and utilize social programs to survive. These public pension funds lift up workers to be able to support themselves and their families for the rest of their lives. Many who pay into public pensions do not pay into Social Security (30%) and therefore are ineligible to collect these benefits.</p> <p>Right now, many cities in Texas, such as Dallas and Houston, are facing a crisis. Hard-working people are getting closer and closer to losing their pensions and retirement savings. Those who have paid into the system for their entire career with the promise of public pension benefits are concerned about losing their retirement savings. Currently, Dallas’ \$3.7 billion pension shortfall has caused many to contemplate the possibility of a municipal bankruptcy. Under the existing plan structure, the fund is expected to become insolvent within the next 10 years.</p>	<b>Favorable with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org">Elizabeth@Texaslsg.org</a>



		<p>As the pension crisis looms, our cities are increasingly falling behind. Many of our defined benefit plans are hemorrhaging from bad investments and are in need of intervention. CSHB 3158 seeks to address the pension obligation shortfall and legacy liabilities of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System (DPFPS).</p> <p><b>Actuarial Adjustments and Contribution Rates-</b> According to the City of Dallas, it is estimated that with the enactment of CSHB 3158, the city would be required to spend an additional \$22.8 million in FY 2018 and approximately \$162 million over the next five years. It is believed that under the provisions of this bill, the current unfunded liability of \$3.7 billion will be reduced to \$2.3 billion.</p> <p>The bill enacts the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises the City of Dallas’ contribution rate from 27.5% to <b>34.5% to be paid biweekly with an additional biweekly payment of 1/26 of \$11 million between September 2017 and September 2019</b></li> <li>• The additional \$11 million contribution would not be made if the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) is not projected to be paid off within 35 years as a result of the added \$11 million contribution</li> <li>• Each <b>Group A</b> member of the combined pension plan will have <b>13.5% (currently 6.5%)</b> of base pay deducted from their wages on a <b>biweekly basis (currently monthly)</b></li> <li>• Each <b>Group B</b> member will have <b>13.5% (currently 8.5%)</b> of their computation pay deducted from their wages on a <b>biweekly basis (currently monthly)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The market value investment returns are assumed to be 5% in 2016, -1.74% in 2017, 5% in 2018, 6.5% in 2019, 7% in 2020, and 7.25% thereafter. These rate of return assumptions were provided to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) by the System.</li> <li>• If the bill is enacted, the amortization rate is assumed to change from infinite to 58 years</li> <li>• The plans actuarial analysis feels that although the retirement system is not expected to reach 100% funding within a 30-year time frame, it is anticipated to become fully funded eventually</li> <li>• Per the LBB, the benefit and DROP distribution changes proposed in the bill would improve the plan’s funded ratio from 36.8% to 48.6%</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)-</b>This bill makes changes to future cost of living adjustments (COLA) which will impact current and future retirees and beneficiaries. Currently, pensioners classified in the Tier 1 group receive a simple COLA of 4% annually. Pensioners classified in Tier 2 and Tier 3 currently receive an Ad hoc COLA which may not exceed the 4% simple COLA on the base benefit. CSHB 3158 adjusts Tier 1 to match Tiers 2 and 3 and make the COLA contingent on reaching a specific fiscal benchmark. The stipulated benchmark is the market value of assets divided by the pensions actuarial accrued liabilities (AAL), which must be greater than or equal to .70. The bill also prohibits DROP accounts from receiving a COLA.</p> <p><b>Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates the interest rates for DROP (DROP Account interest rates are 2.75% for current retirees)</li> <li>• Prohibits an active DROP participant from receiving a distribution from the DROP account</li> </ul>	
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			<p>The code specifically lists that in order to create a new plan it must first be approved to be actuarially sound, approved by the majority of the board, and requires that 65% of the votes cast by membership of each of the collective plans within the pension system are in favor of the change. <b>Therefore, by repealing this section, the right of the pensioners to have a voice in the changes to or creation of a plan are eliminated. This would allow the board of trustees the ability to create a defined contribution, hybrid, or other alternative pension system without a vote of approval by the members of the system as long as stipulated criteria are met.</b> The bill gives authority to the board of trustees to adopt a rule if it is reviewed by the Pension Review Board and they find that the implementation of the rule complies with the stipulated requirements.</p> <p>There are many who believe that switching from defined benefit pensions to defined contribution plans will help the pension crisis. Unfortunately, the evidence says otherwise. The states who elect to switch to defined contribution plans find themselves in an even greater pension hole. West Virginia, Michigan, and Alaska have all implemented defined contribution plans found that it did not save the state money and in turn exacerbated the funding issues and increased the pension debt.</p> <p>Defined contribution plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not decrease the existing Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) or relieve any of the previously incurred pension debt</li> <li>• Increase retirement insecurity</li> <li>• Are dependent on the worker saving the money and funding their own plan</li> <li>• Do not come with a guarantee</li> <li>• Require workers to choose their own investments, of which they may have little to no knowledge</li> </ul> <p>While this bill does not explicitly create alternative pension plans, the board is given the ability to establish these systems, all without member approval. By giving the board the authority to make these changes on behalf of pensioners, the pension system is exposing members to the risks of defined contribution plans and the retirement insecurities they bring.</p>	
<p><b>HB 14</b> By: Murr / Davis, Sarah / Springer / Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the carrying of handguns by license holders on the property of state hospitals; providing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 14 gives state hospitals the authority to prohibit carrying of handguns on hospital premises by posting signage alerting visitors, staff, and patients of such prohibitions. When the legislature passed open carry in 2015, an exception was made for hospitals; this exception didn't explicitly include state hospitals, however, and consequently created a loophole allowing people to carry handguns onto state hospital premises. Patients in state hospitals often suffer from severe mental illness or have committed crimes; it is imperative to keep patients, staff, and visitors safe by ensuring firearms are not easily accessible to patients. In addition to safety concerns, state hospitals also have problems with patients attempting to obtain contraband, including firearms; allowing state hospitals to ban handguns at their facilities will help to address this issue.</p> <p><b>The language of the bill is permissive and applies only to the 10 state mental health hospitals in Texas.</b> The bill stipulates specifications for the signage including text size, language requirements, posting requirements, etc. The bill creates a civil penalty for those who violate the posted signs by carrying a handgun onto hospital property of \$100 for the first violation and \$500 for each subsequent violation. Allowing state hospitals to prohibit handguns on their premises is a necessary component to ensure the safety of all patients, staff, and visitors.</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 2040</b> By: King, Phil</p>	<p>Relating to the building code standards for new residential construction in the unincorporated area of certain counties; affecting the prosecution of a criminal offense.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, Local Government code authorizes counties within 50 miles of the border and with a population over 100 to mandate all homes in unincorporated areas be built to applicable building codes. The builder is subject to a Class C misdemeanor if proper documentation is not shown for to prove compliance to building code.</li> <li>• H.B. 2040 amends the Local Government Code to authorize a county to bring a suit against a builder or refer a builder for prosecution, if the builder does not indicate in the inspection provided to the county that the inspection showed compliance with the applicable building code standards.</li> <li>• This bill establishes an affirmative defense for builders if the failure to submit a proper notice of inspection showing compliance to building code standards- if the builder's failure to submit a notice is due to the inspector's failure to provide documentation to the builder for submission to the county.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tiffany Williams 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tiffany@Texaslsg.org">Tiffany@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 2662</b> By: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact waste disposal facility.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>HB 2662 amends the Health and Safety Code regarding the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact. The bill eliminates capacity designations that previously limited the amount low-level radioactive waste for states outside of the compact. However, the executive director of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission(TLLRWDC) after a study can prohibit the authority from continuing to accept waste from nonparty states. This provision will not limit the authority to review, approve, deny, or place condition on importing waste. At least once every 4 years TLLRWDC will conduct a study on the capacity and can also request a study be done at any time. 4 million cubic feet of space for radioactive waste must be set aside for states within the compact. The operator and TLLRWDC must ensure that the reservation is maintained until the completion of decommissioning of all the nuclear electric generation facilities in the party states and 20% of the volume is reserved for party states is allotted to waste generated in Vermont. When 80% of the disposal cell is filled, the operator will stop receiving waste from nonparty states. Receiving waste can resume the building of a new cell with additional one million cubic feet of space or when the operator executes a performance bond that is acceptable to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This provision does not change the authority of the TCEQ or the TLLRWDC. Several sections are repealed with the bill concerning the importation of waste from nonparty states. The initial capacity study will be done by December 1st. This compact is between Texas and Vermont for the purposes of storing low-level radioactive waste. While there is need for other states to utilize the facilities in Texas, overloading the facilities with imported waste would not be prudent for Texas. The bill would also authorize that a new waste cell be developed without going through a permitting or licensing process.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Erin@Texaslsg.org">Erin@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 2207</b> By: Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to procedures and fees for the deposit and safekeeping of wills and other fees collected by court</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Clarifies and provides clearer statutory guidance for county clerks who receive wills. Currently, county clerks have little guidance and direction when they receive a will. HB 2207 simply clarifies for such clerks the procedure for safekeeping of wills, including the process for notifying an executor.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:serena@texaslsg.org">serena@texaslsg.org</a></p>





	clerks in probate matters; authorizing and increasing fees.			
<b>HB 2991</b> By: Phillips	Relating to the confidentiality of files related to complaints to and investigations by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	This bill protects the confidentiality of information relating to investigations by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement by restricting access to privileged information under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure or Evidence. Licensed officers are currently allowed to obtain a copy of any formal complaints made against them, but HB 2991 would remove the privileged portions from the report they receive. Information contained in TCOLE investigation files are exempted from disclosure requirements the Government Code, except for individuals and agencies involved in the investigative process; the outcomes of investigations, however, are not similarly protected. HB 2991 mitigates the potential for retaliatory actions by peace officers under investigation by limiting their ability to access information about the individual who filed the complaint. In doing so, the bill may help the public overcome some of their suspicions about law enforcement and participate in investigations.	<b>Favorable w/concerns</b> Evaluated by: Andrea Elizondo 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:andrea@texaslsg.org">andrea@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3417</b> By: King, Tracy O.	Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit.	Natural Resources	HB 3417 would require Groundwater Conservation Districts to assess the effects on wells that are exempt from obtaining a permit when issuing new permits or permit amendments. Taking into consideration these specific wells is important for the overall health and vitality for the wells and groundwater.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:erin@texaslsg.org">erin@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 3237</b> By: Moody	Relating to when search warrant affidavits become public information.	Criminal Jurisprudence	HB 3237 clarifies that a sworn affidavit setting forth substantial facts and establishes probable cause only becomes public information when the search warrant is executed. Current law requires a sworn affidavit that puts forth substantial facts and establishes probable cause to be filed in every instance a search warrant is requested, and the warrant itself is executed. Differing interpretations of the current statute have left some people to understand this as affidavits are public at the time it is signed, which allows parties that are subject to issued search warrants to become aware of the impending search due to public availability of warrants filed before execution. This bill seeks to establish a uniform protocol without reducing public transparency.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:katherine@texaslsg.org">katherine@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2482</b> By: Miller / Zerwas / Reynolds	Relating to the authority of certain counties to operate a roadway clearance program; creating an offense.	County Affairs	As current statute stands, Fort Bend County does not have the authority to operate a roadway clearing program which would allow for timely removal of vehicles on the road that may be causing congestion due to an accident.  H.B. 2482 amends the Occupations Code to authorize the commissioners court to enter into an inter-local agreement with such a program as Safe Clear. Participation in this program would alleviate traffic in the Fort Bend area if an accident occurred.  In order to prevent tow trucks that are not on tow rotation list from showing up and removing vehicles from the freeway or shoulder, HB 2482 creates a misdemeanor offense for a towing company to operate against the provisions created by the Sheriff or Commissioners Court.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tiffany Williams 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Tiffany@Texaslsg.org">Tiffany@Texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 2369</b> By: Nevárez	Relating to municipal fees charged to public school districts for water and sewer service.	Natural Resources	HB 2369 amends to Water Code to prohibit a municipally owned utility from charging a public-school district water or sewer fees based on the number of students and faculty within the district in addition to rates for service in the district. If the municipal utility is not in compliance a district may appeal the charge with the Public Utilities Commission, which will decide if there was a violation. The municipality is in charge of providing burden of proof for the allegation. If noncompliance is found within the new statute the Public Utility Commission must: fix or eliminate the fees, establish the original effective date that is not in compliance, require the municipal	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295



			<p>utility to refund the money, and, may allow the district the recover any costs incurred from the overcharging. This section expires on September 1, 2020.</p> <p>When a public-school district has no alternative for utility providers the district can easily be taken advantage. All too often providers can overcharge or fail to provide proper services. This bill will give a school district the recourse for restitution of undue charges.</p>	<a href="mailto:erin@texaslsg.org">erin@texaslsg.org</a>
<p><b>HB 296</b> By: Muñoz, Jr.</p>	<p>Relating to a deceptive act or practice related to the sale, marketing, packaging, or advertising of nitrous oxide.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p>	<p>Prohibits businesses from representing nitrous oxide for a purpose other than the lawful uses of the product. Nitrous oxide can be misused and purchased in various smoke shops and common retail stores such as Walmart. Also, known as “whip-its”, individuals inhale from a whipped cream or balloon filled with nitrous oxide gas for recreational purposes of a euphoric feeling. The side effects can be very dangerous, especially when used over time or in large doses, including: damage to the mouth from the cold temperature of the gas, lung scarring, brain damage from oxygen deprivation, heart attacks, coma and death. “Whip-its” are especially popular among young individuals because they are relatively cheap and easily accessible. This recreational use of the drug has directly caused several automobile accidents and fatalities. HB 296 mandates that businesses who misrepresent the use of this product are engaging in a deceptive trade act or practice. Ensuring against misleading representations of nitrous oxide would help protect young individuals and consumers from casually purchasing “whip-its” with no understanding of its negative effects on the human body.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:serena@texaslsg.org">serena@texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 2780</b> By: Paddie / Darby / Ashby / Geren / Phelan / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the purchase of iron and steel products made in the United States for certain governmental entity projects.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>In recent years, many iron and steel manufacturing facilities in Texas have been forced to close due to foreign countries that violate trade laws and subsidize their iron and steel products to sell at rates significantly lower than the US market value. Over 1.5 million tons of foreign steel were imported and sold in Texas last year at below market rates; with foreign products available at such low prices, it is almost impossible for US iron and steel manufacturers to compete. This has not only negatively impacted the Texas economy, but has created significant job loss within the manufacturing industry.</p> <p>CSHB 2780 would require state contracts for remodeling, constructing, or altering any buildings or infrastructure to include in the documents provided to contract bidders a provision that any iron or steel product used in the project must be produced in the United States. The bill outlines exemptions for certain projects where the entity determines that use of US iron and steel products will increase the total cost of the project by more than 20%, there is inadequate availability of these products, or complying with this law does not serve the public interest. These type of domestic preference laws are widely utilized on major projects, such as the federal aid highway program, to promote domestic purchasing. This “buy America” bill ensures that Texas is investing its money in products that promote both economic prosperity and job growth for the US and Texas. Additionally, it will put many iron and steelworkers who have been laid off back to work, which can restore devastating effects on families and communities.</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 2509</b> By: Parker / Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of certain victims of trafficking of persons for an order of nondisclosure.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Extends to a victim of trafficking of persons, who has been placed on community supervision and whose conviction has been set aside, the authorization to petition the court for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information in conviction cases of not only prostitution, but theft and drug possession. These charges must have been direct results of their trafficking victim status. Victims of human trafficking may accrue theft, drug possession and prostitution charges as a result of their victim status. These convictions often block their ability for a stable and safe living environment, employment in desired fields, pursuing higher education, obtaining professional licenses and so on. HB 2509 simply affords these victims the right to petition for an order of nondisclosure of specific criminal history record information that were a direct result of their victimhood in the trafficking of persons. This authorization is already legal in Texas law for prostitution convictions, and this bill extends this authorization to charges related to theft and drug possession.</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 2334</b> By: Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the imposition of a criminal penalty for the violation of a rule adopted or order issued under the Flood Control and Insurance Act.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 2334 amends the Water Code for malleability in what constitutes a violation under the Flood Control or Insurance Act. This bill would include for a rule adopted or an order issued to be added within the scope of violation. This allows for the criminal and civil penalties to be more synchronized and does not increase punishment, only the scope of what can be deemed a violation.</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 1345</b> By: Dale</p>	<p>Relating to a photograph on a driver's license.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p>	<p>Currently, the photograph on Texas driver licenses are in color. This bill makes it optional for offices to print in black and white photographs if they wish to do so. This legislation makes DPS have flexibility when the state government gets enhanced technology soon to start laser printing in black and white. Six other states are starting to print in black and white driver licenses that are captured in high-resolution color but, are laser engraved (as opposed to traditional printing) on the license resulting in a grayscale image. A laser engraved image vastly increases the overall security of the license thus, making it harder to counterfeit it. It is assumed any costs associated with implementing this bill could be absorbed within current resources.</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 471</b> By: Johnson, Eric</p>	<p>Relating to permitting credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.</p>	<p>Investments &amp; Financial Services</p>	<p>HB 471, or the "Texas Savings Promotion Act", allows credit unions and financial institutions to offer prize-linked savings accounts and programs to Texans with the intent of promoting savings with legislative permission should the associated proposed constitutional amendment, HJR 37, is approved by Texas voters. Per proposed statute, eligible financial entities include a federal credit union operating within the state, an organization composed exclusively of credit unions, and an organization composed exclusively of financial institutions. Provisions in the bill outline program requirements for participating entities offering savings promotion raffles through savings accounts or other savings program, emphasizing that each program must be conducted in an equitable and sound manner that does not mislead consumers. HB 471 requires credit unions and financial institutions offering prize-linked savings accounts and programs to maintain all records that the Credit Union Commission, or financial regulatory agency of Texas having jurisdiction over the participating financial institution, determines necessary in order to examine the raffle. The bill further offers statutes excluding authorized savings promotion raffles from laws relating to sweepstakes, charitable raffles, and gambling.</p> <p>As more than 1 in 3 Texas households don't have a savings account, and more than half of households do not have sufficient funds for three months' worth of basic expenses in the case of an emergency, many families get caught in the vicious cycle of utilizing payday lenders. 22 states have adopted legislation for prize-linked savings accounts and have seen success in that 54-70% of people who make deposits end up keeping their deposits. This type of result can be a highly impactful opportunity, as approximately 30% of participating households in other states are low-income families.</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 515</b> By: VanDeaver / Isaac / Deshotel / Ashby / Huberty / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to assessment of public school students and providing accelerated instruction and eliminating performance requirements based on performance on certain assessment instruments.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>This bill seeks to reduce state testing to only what is necessary to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). For that purpose, HB 515 eliminates the requirement to assess eighth graders in social studies and the required United States History end-of-course assessment. The bill also instructs the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to modify the method for assessing fourth and seventh graders in writing and to conduct a study to develop a writing assessment method that could serve as an alternative to standardized testing.</p> <p>HB 515 also removes the requirement not to promote students to the next grade who fail to perform satisfactorily on a math or reading standardized test. For students in certain grades who fail to perform satisfactorily on a math or reading standardized test, HB 515 instructs districts to establish an accelerated learning committee (ALC) to be responsible for developing an educational plan that provides the necessary accelerated instruction for the student to achieve appropriate grade level performance. The ALC would replace</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Arielle Day 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:arielle@texaslsg.org">arielle@texaslsg.org</a></p>



			<p>the grade placement committee, and they may provide accelerated instruction to students during the school year as well as in the subsequent school year.</p> <p>Currently the State Board of Education is responsible for administering standardized tests. HB 515 reassigns that responsibility to the commissioner of education and directs him to work with school districts to adopt a testing schedule that minimizes the disruption of classroom instruction. The bill also promotes college readiness by essentially requiring students to take the SAT, the ACT or the Texas Success Initiative diagnostic assessment before graduating from high school. Under this bill, a student who does not perform satisfactorily, as determined by the commissioner of education, on the SAT, the ACT, or the Texas Success Initiative diagnostic assessment may not receive a high school diploma. Effectively, HB 515 reduces standardized testing and promotes college readiness.</p>	
<p><b>HB 17</b> By: Lozano</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the Texas Higher Education Innovation Accelerator for public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 17 establishes the Innovation Accelerator program to accelerate innovation in educational delivery at institutions of higher learning, and to advance the state’s educational and workforce goals. The program aims to create different avenues for non-traditional students to achieve degrees. The commissioner of the Higher Education Coordination Board, collaborating with institutions, and other stakeholder groups must establish eligibility criteria for an institution to participate in the program. The criteria must require that institutions demonstrate success in quality educational opportunities to all students especially the low-income, historically underserved, and those enrolled in adult degree programs, and any state and institutional advancing in education and labor market goals. Per HB 17, an institution that wishes to participate in the program must submit to the commissioner a letter of intent and innovation plan that summarizes major themes pertaining to programs to be offered under the accelerator, specific delivery methods, career placement, academic success, and student demographics.</p> <p>Upon approval of the innovation plan, the institution is exempt from any state statutes for proper implementation of the plan, but may not receive exemptions from federal statute, statute that limits authority of the governing board, requires mandatory tuition, fees, or waivers.</p> <p>An institution’s participation in the accelerator may not be less than four years, and the term of an innovation plan may not be less than three years or more than five years. Under HB 17 the commissioner is responsible for ensuring transparent and accurate reporting from the participating institutions, and facilitating meetings to allow for cross-institutional collaboration. The commissioner must submit an annual report to the legislature and each institution’s governing board, that evaluates progress made by all participating institutions. Additionally, a participating institution with one or more private and nonprofit organizations must evaluate their innovation plan and its success. The commissioner may remove a participating institution from the accelerator if the institution fails to meet eligibility requirements for at least two consecutive years.</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>HB 214</b> By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to a recording of certain proceedings of the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals and the publication of the recordings.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Requires the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals to make a video recording, or other electronic visual and audio recording, of each oral argument and public meeting of the court; then, these recordings must be posted on the court’s Internet website. HB 214 clarifies that this is only required if appropriated funds or donations are available in the amount necessary to cover the cost.</p> <p>Recording and making such proceedings publicly available of the highest civil and criminal courts in Texas promotes transparency, and allows the public to view the court’s arguments and evaluate the efficacy of the Texas judicial system. Generally, this allows for greater awareness of the court and its proceedings, just like recordings of committees in the Legislature made publicly available. Since 2007, the Supreme Court of Texas has provided video recordings made available on their website, and thus there is no fiscal note for this court. Initially, St. Mary’s Law School funded the program, and today the State Bar of Texas is funding it. For the Court of Criminal Appeals, there would be payments of \$250,000 for first-time equipment installation, and then maintenance and operations costs for</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:serena@texaslsg.org">serena@texaslsg.org</a></p>



			each subsequent fiscal year in the amount of \$48,000. Unless there are appropriated funds or donations, these recordings are not required.	
<b>HB 385</b> By: Murphy	Relating to the elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for students enrolled in accelerated, affordable baccalaureate programs at public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education	HB 385 amends the Education Code by removing specific formula funding, and dropped course restrictions for students enrolled in affordable accelerated baccalaureate programs at public higher education institutions. The Higher Education Coordinating Board discovered that nearly four million Texans, ages 25 and over have some college experience, but no degree. Many of these students are often non-traditional single parents, or students who have been out of school for an extended period. HB 385 seeks to close the gap for these students looking to complete their degrees quickly by providing reasonable and fast-tracked programs that use competency-based models, and offer year-round flat rate tuition. Thereby, increasing the state's college completion rates, and supporting the 60x30 goals. HB 385 exempts student enrolled in accelerated program from dropped course limitations, and prohibits the coordinating board from excluding hours earned by students in accelerated program that previously generated formula funding. Additionally, the bill requires the coordinating board to include credit hours earned by students in accelerated baccalaureate programs in formula funding for undergraduate credit hours. If enacted, HB 385 would only apply to institutions that choose to start an accelerated baccalaureate program. Furthermore, there is no estimated fiscal impact until 2020, as institutions will rely on appropriations given from their last reported enrollment	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Fabeain Barkwell 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:fabeain@texaslsg.org">fabeain@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 338</b> By: Burrows	Relating to acreage contracts and quantity contracts for the purchase of agricultural products.	Agriculture & Livestock	Requires that a contract between a producer and a purchaser regarding an agricultural product must clearly and conspicuously state whether it is an acreage contract or quantity contract, as applicable. Acreage contracts require producers to deliver to purchasers all of the specified agricultural product grown on the land described by the contract, whereas quantity contracts require producers to deliver to purchasers a specified amount of an agricultural product regardless of how much they grow. These definitions are clearly laid out in the bill.  HB 338 further mandates that a purchaser may not file suit against a producer under an acreage contract unless the producer knowingly fails to deliver to the purchaser all of an agricultural product grown on specified land, as provided by the contract. Because the practice of agriculture and related industry can be unpredictable, farmers and producers often are not able to accurately predict crop yields. This has led to disputes between large multinational agricultural product buyers who have dedicated litigation budgets against smaller producers without these resources. This bill simply requires these contract type disclosures in a purchase agreement of an agricultural product to help avoid these disputes.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Serena Ahmed 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:serena@texaslsg.org">serena@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 423</b> By: Wray	Relating to the computation of cost of goods sold for purposes of the franchise tax by taxable entities that transport ready-mixed concrete.	Ways & Means	This bill grants permission for companies that transport ready-mix concrete to deduct the cost of machinery necessary for its processing when calculating their franchise taxes. While the specialized nature of the mixing trucks needed to transport this type of concrete is a valid expense to these companies, the changes would significantly impact to the Property Tax Relief Fund revenue stream and, by extension, the Foundation School Program and the state's public education system. HB 423 would lead to an estimated \$2.16 million decrease to the PTRF after it takes effect during the 2020-2021 biennium.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:katherine@texaslsg.org">katherine@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1242</b> By: Schofield	Relating to requirements relating to an application for a place on the ballot.	Elections	HB 1242 amends the Elections Code to alleviate challenges on judicial candidates and adds a provision for required signatures to a petition to preclude those without a reasonable investment in candidacy. This bill applies to candidates for: chief justice or justice of a court of appeals that serves a court of appeals district in which a county with a population of more than one million is wholly or partly situated; district or criminal district judge of a court in a judicial district wholly contained in a county with a population of more than 1.5 million; and, a judge of a statutory county court in a county with a population of more than 1.5 million. HB 1242 moves the day when a petition can be challenged from the first day of early voting to the first day when ballots are mailed out to an address in the	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Erin Eriksen 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:erin@texaslsg.org">erin@texaslsg.org</a>



			jurisdiction. The authority is only required to review the petition if a challenge is made. When a challenge on a petition occurs, the authority may only review what the challenger identified as noncompliant to the requirements as to form, content, and procedure. To be placed on the primary ballot a candidate who chooses to pay a filing fee is also required to get 250 signatures on the petition. If a filing fee is not paid then the signature requirement increases to 500. Signatures obtained may not be on the grounds of a county courthouse or courthouse annex. A candidate for chief justice or justice, supreme court, or presiding judge or court of criminal appeals who chooses to pay a filing fee must also obtain is 50 from each court of appeals district.	
<b>HB 477</b> By: Collier	Relating to the provision and use of health coverage information to educate consumers purchasing individual health benefit coverage.	Insurance	This bill requires that all agents acting on behalf of a health benefit plan issuer with respect to the sale of the plan must provide the consumer with health coverage information about their individual health benefit plan. It prohibits an agent who receives coverage information from selling or obtaining an application for an individual health benefit plan by the issuer that provided the information, until the agent gives the information to the potential consumer of the individual health benefit plan. The bill mandates the commissioner to adopt the form and content of the required information. It also stipulates that the information be intended to educate a possible buyer of an individual health benefit plan about policy and coverage provisions. This includes information on copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, provider networks, and financial responsibilities. Many who are looking to purchase individual health coverage are unaware of what is included and excluded in their coverage. This bill would supply consumers with pertinent information on their health plan coverage before choosing a plan.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Hann 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:elizabeth@texaslsg.org">elizabeth@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1370</b> By: Springer	Relating to sales and use tax information provided to certain local governmental entities.	Ways & Means	This bill amends the Tax Code requiring the comptroller's office to share information relating to municipal, county, and special purpose sales taxes collected within their jurisdictions upon request. Local governmental entities are currently able to obtain aggregated versions of this data, but HB 1370 expands the reports to provide detailed information on each business collecting the tax. All other requirements associated with these sales tax reports remain intact, including those surrounding the confidentiality of information obtained and its exclusive use for forecasting and internal auditing.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:katherine@texaslsg.org">katherine@texaslsg.org</a>
<b>HB 1404</b> By: Allen / Guillen / et al.	Relating to the eligibility of a criminal defendant for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information.	Criminal Jurisprudence	CSHB 1404 allows persons convicted of a misdemeanor and has completed their sentence to file a petition for nondisclosure, regardless of sentence type. Provisions in the bill specify that deferred adjudication community supervision applies only for nonviolent misdemeanors that receive a discharge and dismissal regardless of when the offense was committed.  This bill removes the portion of the code that states that one who has been sentenced to confinement is not eligible for an order of nondisclosure. The bill also amends the code to read that rather than those being ineligible in regards to a fine only offense under the Transportation Code, all fine only traffic offenses are ineligible. Those who serve deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense requiring registration as a sex offender, certain intoxication or organized crime offenses, or violent crimes against the person would not be eligible for nondisclosure of criminal records.  Individuals with certain misdemeanor convictions may be faced with difficulty in finding a job or housing. In some cases individuals who have degrees of higher education have trouble obtaining employment due to the disclosure of their criminal records. This bill will help those who have served their sentence to have the ability to order a nondisclosure, relieving a burden on many hard-working Texans who have already met the consequences of their actions.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Kirages 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:katherine@texaslsg.org">katherine@texaslsg.org</a>

