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**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar-Senate Bills- Sunday, August 13, 2017**

<p><b>SB 16</b> By: Taylor, Larry / et al.  SP: King, Phil</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a commission to recommend improvements to the public school finance system.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>This bill would create a Texas Commission on Public School Finance. It details who would make-up the commission and how the members would be appointed. The governor’s appointees must have a background in education and include: an administrator from a public school, an individual with a background in local taxation, a member of the business community, and someone civically engaged. The Speaker of the House and Lt. Gov. will both have three appointments. The appointees must be ethnically and geographically diverse. The presiding officer is appointed by the Governor and appointees may receive compensation for activities in association with the board. The bill requires staff from the Texas Education Agency to provide administrative assistance. The bill allows for public meetings if deemed necessary. The Commission would be charged with making recommendations and report their findings to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house by Dec. 1, 2018. The Commission will be charged with reviewing the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the school finance system</li> <li>• How it relates to local and state funding</li> <li>• What levels of M&amp;O tax, sinking fund tax, etc. would be necessary to bring public education funding into compliance with the Texas Constitution</li> <li>• Policy recommendations for students within different demographic and ethnic categories</li> <li>• Other policy areas relating to public school finance.</li> </ul> <p>While this Commission is neither harmful nor malicious it will do little to address the inequity of funding within our school system. With formulas not updated in the last 30 years and state funding steadily decreasing over the last couple of decades the legislature is refusing to take the necessary steps to fund our public-school finance system. For example, the Cost of Education Index which helps update the size of the district and other adjustments hasn’t been changed since 1989-1990.</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>SB 17</b> By: Kolkhorst / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to maternal health and safety, pregnancy-related deaths, and maternal morbidity, including postpartum depression.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>Texas’ maternal mortality rate is alarmingly high; a 2016 study in The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology revealed that it is not only higher than the national average, but is the highest in the developed world. Maternal deaths can be caused by cardiac events, drug overdose, mental illness (specifically postpartum depression), and other health issues. It is important to note that maternal mortality disproportionately impacts Black women; while Black women account for just 11% of total births in Texas, they constitute 30% of all maternal deaths. The Department of State Health Services’ (DSHS) Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force was formed in 2013</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>

<p>SP: Burkett / Davis, Sarah / Klick / Walle / Thierry / et al.</p>		<p>to study the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity and to make recommendations for ways to reduce incidence of pregnancy related deaths among Texas women.</p> <p><b>DSHS Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force</b>                  This bill would extend the Sunset date for this task force to Sept. 1, 2023. Allowing for the continuation of a vital Task Force that will help protect the mothers and future of Texas. SB 17 adds the following items to what the Task Force and Health and Human Services Commission to study in review regarding maternal morbidity: trends, rates, disparities, at risk populations, the socioeconomic status of mothers, and best practices used in other states to reduce maternal morbidity. The Task Force may also consult with the Perinatal Advisory Commission when determining recommendations in reducing maternal morbidity rates. This bill also allows the Task Force to choose whether they will review randomly selected cases or all cases brought before the Task Force.</p> <p><b>Screening and Educational Materials for Substance Abuse:</b>                  The Task Force and DSHS will be tasked with providing materials for physicians and individuals who screen expectant mothers for substance use. The materials will provide guidance on best practices for screening, list of substance use treatment resources in each geographic region of the state. They will also be tasked in reviewing and promoting the use of materials that will help educate individuals on the consequences of opioid use during pregnancy.</p> <p><b>Report on Pregnancy Related Deaths, Severe Maternal Morbidity, and Postpartum Depression</b>                  Review different strategies to help reduce pregnancy related deaths focusing on the most common causes of deaths as identified by the report generated by the Task Force. The bill also asks the task force to determine possible treatment options for post-partum depression amongst economically disadvantaged mothers. For cases involving severe maternal morbidity and chronic illnesses, the Task Force and DSHS are charged with finding ways of lowering the cost of Medicaid and provide much needed care to populations with the greatest need. A report containing a summary of HHSC’s of the aforementioned tasks and summary of the required biennial report will be provided to certain interested parties.</p> <p><b>Maternal Health and Safety Initiative</b>                  SB 17 will require the Task Force and DSHS to create a maternal health and safety initiative to institute materials which will detail best practices to help mortality and morbidity. These materials will be provided to health care providers around the state. Develop evidence based protocol and procedures to lower maternal morbidity.</p> <p><b>Feasibility Study Related to Maternal Health and Safety Initiative</b>                  SB 17 requires a feasibility study with the goal of adding quality metrics in the Medicaid program that are determined by the Maternal Health Safety Initiative.</p> <p><b>Cause of Death Data Improvement</b>                  SB 17 requires DSHS to submit a report on the complications on collecting cause of death data and determine alternative ways to collect and improve the quality of the data on deaths of mothers in Texas.</p>	
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