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LSG Floor Report For General Calendar-Postponed Business- Monday, August 14, 2017

<p>SB 16 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"> • Purpose of the school finance system • How it relates to local and state funding • What levels of M&O tax, sinking fund tax, etc. would be necessary to bring public education funding into compliance with the Texas Constitution • Policy recommendations for students within different demographic and ethnic categories • Other policy areas relating to public school finance. <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>Favorable Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 Ana@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HJR 27 By: Leach</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HJR 27 is the Constitutional Amendment that would authorize the Legislature to amend the disability rating for veterans with a disability rating of 80% but less than 100% to be eligible for a homestead exemption equal to the disabled veteran’s rating. Surviving spouses who qualify for the exemption if the spouse has not remarried, the property was their residence when the disabled veteran died, and remains their residence homestead. Surviving spouses can transfer the same percentage of the exemption on their previously owned property. While it’s important to give back to our veterans and honor their service there are concerns that this HJR</p>	<p>Favorable w/concerns Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295</p>

	of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran based on the disability rating of the veteran and harmonizing certain related provisions of the constitution.		and the enacting legislation will have a negative impact on local taxing units and the revenue they can generate. The LBB projected a \$212,566,000 revenue loss by August 31, 2021.	Ana@Texaslsg.org
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