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**LSG Floor Report For General Calendar-Senate Bills- Tuesday, August 15, 2017**

<p><b>SB 19</b> By: Nelson, et al.  SP: Zerwas/ Darby/Van Deaver/ Howard/ Ashby</p>	<p>Relating to an appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund to decrease participants' health insurance costs for certain health benefit plans administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>This bill seeks to help address the shift of costs to retirees and stop putting off the obligation of our state and help our retired educators. In this biennium, the retired educators will take up around \$520 million of the cost for TRS Care while the State and Local ISDs will be obligated to pay \$480 million. During the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, Teachers Retirement System (TRS) projected a deficit of \$750 million for TRS Care in the next biennium. This is an economic solvency issue that needs to be addressed by the Legislature. The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) reports that the average retiree receives \$2,035 per month from the TRS Pension. With the rising cost of healthcare many teachers are placed into difficult financial situations, forcing them to choose between their healthcare and other necessary expenses.</p> <p>SB 19 will appropriate \$212.7 million from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) to help the costs afflicting our state's retirees and their families. TRS is obligated to use the appropriation to decrease premiums and reduce costs for an enrolled adult child with a mental disability or physical incapacity during the 2018-19 plan years. This bill will help retirees over the age of 65 reduce the costs of deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses, and dependent premiums. The appropriation from the ESF needs to receive a two-thirds vote in each chamber to go into effect.</p> <p>During the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, the Texas Legislature made the most conservative withdrawal from the ESF in the history of the fund. This withdrawal proposed in SB 19 is a modest and necessary amount that will ensure that TRS Care doesn't miss a payment and retirees receive the funds to address their healthcare needs. There are around 207,000 retired educators and 54,000 dependents whose health insurance is at risk if the Legislature does not act now.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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**LSG Floor Report For Item Eligible for Consideration- Tuesday, August 15, 2017**

<p><b>HB 7</b> By: Phelan / Geren / Darby / Larson</p>	<p>Relating to municipal regulation of the removal of trees or vegetation on private property.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p>	<p>HB 7 was sent to the Senate as a compromise bill and was agreed upon by many stakeholders. Unfortunately, the version sent back is vastly different and seeks to erode local control. It's the recommendation of the LSG to NOT CONCUR with Senate amendments and request the formation of a conference committee.</p>	<p><b>Not Concur with Senate Amendments</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
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SP: Kolkhorst				
<p><b>HB 30</b> By: Zerwas / Huberty / Giddings / Guerra / et al.</p> <p>SP: Nelson</p>	<p>Relating to the transfer of certain appropriations to the Texas Education Agency and the adjustment of appropriations for public school finance.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>The most striking change between the House and Senate versions of HB 30 is the reduction in appropriations for public education. The House version allocated over \$1.9 billion to our public schools. The Senate version reduces that to \$351 million and gives only a fraction of what the House initially funded. The bill also changes the funding mechanism from the ESF to a payment deferral to the HHSC. It's the recommendation of the LSG to NOT CONCUR with Senate amendments and request the formation of a conference committee. Overall the House version is a better bill and the House should send it to a conference committee to make the bill closer to the original version.</p>	<p><b>Not Concur with Senate Amendments</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>
<p><b>HB 21</b> By: Huberty / Zerwas / Bernal / et al.</p> <p>SP: Taylor, Larry</p>	<p>Relating to the public school finance system.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>The original version of this bill provided the first steps towards making our public-school finance system equitable. The version received from the Senate strips a lot of what was debated on the house floor and adds some troubling measures. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't increase the Basic Allotment</li> <li>• Adds facility funding for Charter Schools</li> <li>• Excludes the increase to the Bilingual allotment</li> </ul> <p>It's the recommendation of the LSG to NOT CONCUR with Senate amendments and request the formation of a conference committee. Overall the House version is a better bill and the House should send it to a conference committee to make the bill closer to the original version.</p>	<p><b>Not Concur with Senate Amendments</b> Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 <a href="mailto:Ana@Texaslsg.org">Ana@Texaslsg.org</a></p>

