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LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar- Tuesday, August 8, 2017

<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 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.</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 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.</p>	<p>Favorable w/concerns Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 Ana@Texaslsg.org</p>
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LSG Floor Report For General Calendar- Tuesday, August 8, 2017

<p>HB 129 By: Leach / Guillen / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the appraised value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran based on the disability rating of the veteran.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 129 uses “disabled veteran” and “disability rating” as defined in Sec. 11.22 of the Tax Code and includes a schedule of disability ratings. For a disability rating of at least 10% but less than 30% is up to \$5,000 of the assesses value of the homestead. This goes up to \$12,000 for a disability rating of 70% or above. This bill amends the disability rating for veterans with a disability rating of 80% but less than 100% to have 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.</p> <p>While it’s important to give back to our veterans and honor their service there are concerns that this bill 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.</p>	<p>Favorable w/concerns Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 Ana@Texaslsg.org</p>
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<p>HB 115 By: Bonnen, Greg / Raney / Guillen / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to deferred payment of ad valorem taxes for certain persons serving in the United States armed forces.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 115 removes a provision that would allow active military to defer delinquent property taxes. Current law requires that the person on active duty can only seek the deferral during a war or a national emergency declared. The bill allows for these aforementioned individuals to pay delinquent property taxes without penalty within 60 days after one of the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual is discharged • The individual returns to Texas for more than 10 days or; • They return back to non-active duty reserves <p>Under this bill, an eligible person now includes those transferred out of state on active duty or a person on active duty sent out of state. Through these increases in tax delinquency deferrals this bill could have an adverse effect on local taxing units.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 Ana@Texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 214 By: Smithee / Phillips / Bonnen, Greg / Bonnen, Dennis / Laubenberg / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to health plan and health benefit plan coverage for elective abortion.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>HB 214 prohibits qualified health plans through either a health benefit exchange by the federal government or under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act from providing coverage to elective abortions. This will force people to purchase supplemental coverage under a health insurance plan.</p> <p>The definition used to describe “elective abortions” is derived from SB 8 which was passed during the 85th Regular Session. It defines an abortion as, “an act or procedure performed after pregnancy has been medically verified and with the intent to cause the termination of a pregnancy other than for the purpose of either the birth of a live fetus or removing a dead fetus. The term does not include birth control devices or oral contraceptives.” This provides for little to no guidance on what scenarios aren’t subject to these provisions. Only abortions that are deemed medical emergencies are clearly carved out of these provisions. The definition used for “medical emergency” includes: “a life-threatening physical condition aggravated by, caused by, or arising from a pregnancy that, as certified by a physician, places the woman in danger of death or a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function unless an abortion is performed.”</p> <p>The supplemental insurance must be provided separately from health insurance plan through the health benefit issuer. The enrollee must pay the premium separate from the other health insurance plan. The health insurance issuer must calculate the premium for the coverage of the entire procedure. The premium must cover the full estimated cost of the abortion. The average abortion patient pays \$470 for a first trimester procedure in the United States. These costs balloon as the pregnancy progresses with each additional week in the second-trimester; for example, the average cost for an abortion at 20 weeks is \$1,500. The bill also prohibits health insurance providers from providing a discount or reducing the premium on other plans based on their supplemental elective abortion coverage.</p> <p>The Insurance Plans included in this bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any small or large employer health benefit plan. • A federal health benefit exchange plan. • A health maintenance organization health benefit plan. • State employees and officers coverage plans. • Public school employee coverage plans. • UT and A&M employee coverage plans. • Various other health benefit plans: group hospital service corporation; fraternal benefit society; stipulated premium company; multiple employer welfare arrangement; nonprofit health corporation health benefit plan. 	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Ana Ramon 210-382-4295 Ana@Texaslsg.org</p>



			<p>HB 214 requires health benefit providers to issue a notice that informs the enrollee that the coverage for elective abortions is separate from other health insurance plans provided by the issuer. The notice must also include information on the premiums for their insurance and that the elective abortion coverage is optional.</p> <p>The National Women’s Law Center reported, “Fifty-eight percent of abortion patients say they would have had their abortion earlier if they could have. Nearly sixty percent of women who experienced a delay in obtaining an abortion cite the time it took to make arrangements and raise the money to pay for it.” This bill has the potential to harm women and punish them for seeking out access to basic healthcare.</p>	
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